Going where the work is

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the work is
Going Where

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School

I was born in Scarborough in Jamaica.

My mother leave the district when I small.

I didn't know my mother.

I leave with my father and my mother-in-law.

Well, I went to infans school.

I could remember I used to sleep in the class.

I start to cry and hide from school.

I wouldn't go to school any more.

I couldn't put mine up.

the others pull their hand up.

When the teacher ask a question

I just feel I didn't learn anything.

I wouldn't go to school.

and went to the ordinary big school.

I leave the infans school.

I leave around on the common.

and then stop on the way.

Like I go to school.

I leave the home.

In the room.

There were different classes.

This is like my school.
I could remember one day I found a mix
And I have to help he work.
My father take me to the farm
You're going to need to read and write.
I left on.
You're going to be sorry later on.
"Go to work with me," he said.
He stayed since I won't go to school.
I think this where told him.
Come home nine o'clock.
To work on the farm.
He leave home early in the morning.
My latest didn't know what was going on.
To go back to school.
Then from that day I got scared.
And catch my pants and rear in.
Two of his brothers came into it.
We and another boy catch a fish.
I could remember one day.
I don't know why.
I wouldn't learn.
Then she send me to another school.
She moved me from there.
I still wouldn't go.
She still send me back to the school.
The evening I came home, she beat me.
I wasn't going to school.
One of my friends told her.
I knew itawy.
I know itawy.
I knew itawy.
I know itawy.
In the morning, for lunch.
When my mother gave my money
Farm Work

When we plant corn, peas, potatoes and turnips,
My mother used to grow a lot of onions and coffee.

When I went to work,
I could remember my first job when I went to work.

I had to help prepare the ground for planting.

When you have rough ground,
We use a cultivator to clear away the browse.

After that we have to weed the grass.

We use a hoe or a fork.

We have to use our hands.

We don't have any machines.

The hoe is not like when you call a hoe here.

We weed the grass with a hoe.

And we have to dig the hole.

I have to give you back address.

If you have a short bundle,
I put inside the hole

When I go to the market,
I wrap it for the Yam.

When we plant the Yam,
I have to go to the park.
in my district in Scarborough.
and went back home.
I leave the job when it finishes.

I did happy at that time.
and some on the seashore.
Some of them was high on legs with the sea under
He did build tourist house in the sea.
and mix the cement.
Building work - I used to carry the bricks.
I used to work with a white man.
When I was with my cousin.

I stayed with my cousin in Scarborough.
After my father came to England.
They write and say, "you could come too."
I had come to England.
All the men he was friendly with.
Then he decided to come to England.
and that time I was growing up.
I work with my father.

From Bethany to Scarborough

I sit on the chair in the kitchen and sleep.
Sometimes I dont have a wash.
I could hardly eat my dinner.
When I go home in the evening.
I used to sleep alone.
I so used sometimes I walk like and sleeping.
At 6 clock in the morning to work.
I get up sometimes.

If I dont give the food the taise he should.
and we dont like each other.
we have to use fertilizer.
If we dont use the push for instead.
and he same in the ground.
and I have to carry it.
Then be proper in because them grow stronger.
Most people use bamboo.
Grown men can carry four or six.
In my size I have to carry one or two.
The sticks are very heavy.
They grow very well.

You know, like you pull sticks for Jenner beans.
And he cut sticks for the vines in the hills.
He spread it out for manure the vine.
After he finish all the hill.
So I have to carry the push to the field.
and he start to cul bush.
Then after that
But I did want to go to America, and I didn't have the money. I didn't want to come to England.

There are more workers over there than over here. There are more Christians than here. I believe there is a Christian church in the West Indies, and people think more of God there. You have people coming from different districts.

We need to go to the church in the day. The church back home is more enjoyable than back here. I used to like the church.

On Sundays we used to go to church.

On Saturdays we used to go to school. We just hung around in the shop.

If I had a chicken, it would be a special day. If I had a monkey, that would be great.

Then I play in the street.

And then I go to my aunt's to eat. After I come in from work, I have a wash.

We didn't eat alone.

At my mother-in-law's house, I eat. It's the reason why I didn't eat there. I had to work there. I went to my aunt's to have tea. I eat in the morning, have a wash, and wash and sleep there. I stop at my mother-in-law's house.
I go the the
nerous,
The day I take the rises.
if you have any disease.
They test your blood if you sick.
The telegraph report, "Come to Kingston for iris!"
and ask her to read it for me.
I take the telegraph to a lady
She give me the telegraph to go to America.

and couldn't find me.
She say she been walking from morning.
I say "Yes, that is my name."
who is walking, it we know Choisson.
One day a lady come up and ask two of us
hold for him and hold for me.
A friend gave me the hand to plant it,
I prepare a piece of land to plant corn and peas.
After I come back to Scarborough

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was the man who gave me the card.
My father brother will brother-in-law
The telegraph come for you to go to Kingston,
and when the time comes,
he give me a card,
and he knows I'm in it.
He look up on a person
"Could I have one of those cards?"
So you have to go and ask him,
Everybody wants to go,
and give him a certain amount of cards.
They come and see the big man for the district
they have to come over and employ you.
I go to America is not like coming here.
and they'd have to pay more money.
but if they employ Australians, they would
We don't have any union
and if you're any trouble they send you back.
I never liked them for cheap labor from Jamaica.
with no one else but your employer.
You're not allowed to work
because it's cheaper.
but I could not stay
I would like to stay in America.

That's the way it is.
Nothing else to do.

That's the game.
Right boys back on the Rock - Jamaica.

They reply no.

He didn't have anything else for us to do.

I never liked them for cheap labor from Jamaica.
The employment kept us there.

We didn't have any work.
Most of the time we were there.

A truck takes us to work and back home.
Four rooms in a row. All men.

We live in a hospital.
and there's rooms on one side and rooms on the other.
You come through the door.
It's like a building with one story.
We live in a camp.
and finish half hour or else.
We start work half seven in the morning.

After we get to work, we pick peas.
After that we get corn.

Pack it in boxes.
and women on top of the machine
put it on the moving belt.
I cut the celery with a knife.
You get it near the machine.
You set it near the machine.
and two at the head.

About 20 men on one side.
You got two wings and the body.
You have a machine like a plane.
My first job is to cut celery.

I stay in Lake Arthur in Florida for three months.

The part they save, they send back to Kingston.
and give us a part on our hand.
and then save a part for us.

You have a machine like a plane.
When you get over there.
They pay our fare to and come.

and everything is small, like this rubber here.

When I go in the plane, I look out of the window.
might be money, might be a parcel.
because they send something back for them.

Everybody said when someone leave.

Two days after I fly off to America.
I stay at one of my cousins house in Kingston.
My mother was up there, so I went there.

Then after that, I leave and go to St. Mary.

So you have to work a day here, a day there.
where you employ for a long while.

You see, our district doesn't have a factory
sometimes two weeks.

I work with a person for a week,
I go and work with them.

If anybody wanted a day worker
I still hang around in Scranton, there.

and buy a bicycle.

I sold it
after the pig snow, this

Then here on,
to do my little garden for myself.

After, I start to work,
and I buy pigs.

Then I went back to Scranton, they

I stayed in America three months.

Back on the Rock

Two on top and one in the hand.

That's the way I used to carry it.
Coming to England

Back home, the trees don't drop the leaves. "They die?"
What's the matter with all them trees? I look at all the trees. When I first came, I... So I came over.

You have to do it. If they told you to do anything, but if you live in your family house, I want to go to America again. I didn't want to come to England. I was just driving away. I didn't have a proper job. So they tried to get me out of trouble.

My auntie sent for me to go to England. Then I come back in Southampton. Sometimes I pick coconuts... carry bananas, cut grass. My mother employer, I work with a white man. I stay with my mother. So I could go where I liked.

My father was not home to keep me back.
Orange on the tree.

If it shocks me and I decide not to buy it.

When I came here, and see one little one,

Wash it and boil it for one or two.

My mother go the hostel and dish it,

We don't buy it, we sell it.

Except by a hundrend dollars,

We never buy sweet potato by the scale.

I see them sell sweet potato in the scale.

I think we came in this country.

If come to about 1/3 of an orange.

and weigh it.

The man put it in the scale,

I bought an orange in Fulham Park,

because we have plenty.

I never do it anyway.

We buy it by the dozen.

We just take it up and ask the price.

and if we see a orange

We used to go to the market

by the pounds.

We never used to buy orange.

how them sell orange.

I did surprise when I came in this country.

in Holland Park Road.

I went to stay with my brother.
Just waking up after the builders' gone.

But when I went, it was just me alone working.

The job is building.

The exchange sent me to a job in Caledonian Road.

I off work for about four weeks.

He said, 'I'll take your cards off Friday.'

I told him my stomach hurting me.

The same thing again apply — load the lorry.

I went back to work the following morning.

I still went to work.

And I didn't know the rule of the country to go sick.

He gave me some pills.

I went to the doctor.

I feel my stomach start to pain me.

To help load a lorry with Coal.

Then one Monday morning, the foreman asked me.

I working on a machine cutting up metal.

My first job — a scrap metal yard.

I came to this country in March 1960.

The accident
I think them must have pull me to sleep.

Take my coat off.

They take the clothes off.

They take me to the Royal Northern Hospital.

I didn't have gloves on.

I scream out, 'The Foreigner come.'

Just pitch a hand straight in to the knife.

I left the weight of where didn't cut.

I rest out till the wire didn't.

I have a peace of where inside of it that didn't cut.

I had been back in the job one hour.

At nine o'clock the accident happens.

And drop the metal.

It comes down, up, down and up.

Just the top one more.

It stand still.

The one at the position don't move.

There are two blades.

I have to take up the metal and keep the knife.

At eleven o'clock 7 start to work.

So went back the Saturday morning eight o'clock.

And didn't know the country.

I heard you had to travel round.

I head it was back in the winter.

I didn't like the building job.

Why I went back it was much nearer to me.

If I want back the job I can have it.

My cousin told me that my first employer say.

When I come home one evening.

I work at that job about three days. I think.
Me in the neither ramming the leaf down.

and I've been there still now.

Anyway, I said I'd try it for a couple of weeks
because it was too much money.

I didn't want the job.
The job was to work in the gardens.

They have concerts by the lake.

In the summer

with a muisin or the horse in it.

Kenwood is a big park.

Then the exchange send me

I could do the job.

and fill out the form.

I couldn't read and write.

I didn't answer the questions.

I went to an interview.

in a shop in Holloway Road.

The exchange sent me to a job.

They have nothing else.

They could only have me back in the same job.

After I get better, the exchange tell me

I still do.

I did feel proud.

When I learned to use my left hand

They call me left-handed stairs.

My family used to tease me about left-handedness.

and I felt used to do everything with my right hand.

I used to use my right hand after the accident.

I used my left hand with everything.

I did left handed.
I've been here two years now.

And there's the way I'm here.
The Reading Comune

They give him the address of this place.
Then ask where I live. He told them.

Then the phone in the B.C.

So I said to him, "Could I phone for me and exchange.
If you don't want anything to go."

Then he said, "Why you don't go and learn to read?"

I said, "Yes, I do."

So he say to me, "You hear when I say?"

I didn't answer when he say their to me.

I didn't really interested at the moment.

He say, "Why you don't have a go at it?"

I told him yes.

My employer ask me if I watch the reception.

Monday morning I went to work.

Then I write it down the same time.

When she finished she give you the phone number.

It look easy.

and thinking about it.

I put my hand on my eye

How you make the words.

When she start to talk about read and write;

start about Reading and Writing

A baby come over.

Sunday afternoon.

I was sitting down watching the television

Starting to learn happened like this:

I can make our some of the words.

When I see a Letter

Now since I start to learn to read,

I feel something is leave out:

I don't get the understanding.

If someone read it to me

I have to ask someone to read it.

When I have a letter to write.

I feel small.

and I cannot read it.

and see everyone reading paper

When I go to work and sit down.

If you walk down the street you see with

you have to fill out a form

If you go to a Factory

you need reading.

Everything you need to do in England

Well, England is important.

I realize my read was right about reading.

It was when I came to England
I would like to see Jamaica.
I would like to see all my family.
They take bulldozer and turn up the land.
because of the banktie company.
where everything mess,
and see the distress where I born and grow up.
I would like to go back
because it's a long time since I don't see her.
I would really like to go back and look for her.
before she die.
She would like me to come and look for her.
She would like to build a house.
She would like to build a house.
Now she lives with her sister.
I take away.

My mother lives at Saint Ann's,

Going back home?

and they must take it now.

I didn't get any
not even half day from school.

I don't want them to stop.
and them reading very nice.
I have two daughters.

I'm going to school now.

I'm very happy in my life.
I very happy.

I have a family.

We get married twelve years ago.

since I met my wife.

We very lonely.

When I come in this country.

Overall I want is a little encouragement.

and I would like to keep it up.

I feel I'm getting on good.

P.O.
They take bulldozer and turn up the land:

That’s the truth.

But I can’t afford to go back now.

That’s what I can do.

I like farming.

I would be doing farming.

I would work for myself.

I wouldn’t draw a pay packet every week,

If I in Jamaica,

and have nothing to show for it.

I go to work every day.

and I don’t see what I’m working for.

I was in this country since 1960.

Why I would like to go back home.

There is two reasons.

I think everybody should do on them born sport.

My body getting old now.

I would like to go back now and stay.
March 1978
Isaac x Fluid

and I hope other people like to read it.
I like to do it.
and she isn't with it down.
and I am telling you about my life.
So we decide to put it together.
Then it getting interesting.
and it growing more and more.
We start off.
Then is work we do over one year and 6 months.

Afterword