

Dorris Moore, Her home, 10-25-09 at 2:01 pm

Key D= Dorris (interviewee), J- Jenny(interviewer)

J- What is your name?

D- Dorris Moore.

J- Are you aware that this is being recorded?

D-Yes ma'am.

J- When were you born?

D- I was born September 26, 1926.

J- Where did you grow up?

D-I grew up in Hayesville, NC that's Clay County.

J-Now um, did you grow up there all of your life or did you move around?

D- Um let's see my daddy got transferred from his highway job to Waynesville, NC. And we were there 2 years and then he got transferred again to Whittier, NC we were there just one year and then we came back and uh I was in the fourth grade.

J-Uh what kinda of job did you have in your community?

D- The first job I had was a summer job. At citizens bank in Hayesville, NC and that was the summer of 1944. And I taught business courses in Hayesville High School the year 1945-1946 school year. And in 1946 to '61 and then on to 1986 I was secretary for the NC extension office service in Hayesville, NC and in the Farmer's Home Administration a government office.

J- And what kind of jobs did you have within your own family?

D- During the time I lived at home with my family, which consisted of my mamma and daddy and seven children, I did chores, I liked to work outside. So I worked in the garden pickin' wild dewberries and blackberries for my mother to can, and I had to help do the family laundry. I sorta helped look after some of the younger children too when I had to. My sister who was two years older than me, she was my mom's helped with the house chores.

J- So what were you able to do in your free time?

D- I liked to read books pretty much and uh so an that's what I done some in my free time. And then some of my younger friends we'd get together and we'd play outside and do things that children do.

J- Can you remember any specific games that you'd like to play?

L- Oh we played Hop-scotch or ring around the rosies oh lots of things, I've forgotten about.

J- Oh yes. And did your family have a car or how did they get around?

D- My family didn't always have transportation so my dad he would someone from work would pick him up when they went to work but then it wasn't long he got, he owned some trucks. There for a good while and uh later on he'd get second hand cars and I remember they were mostly chevorlets.

J- Oh Yes. So what was your daily life like once the war started?

D- I graduated from high school in April of 1943. At that time at the first of the war it was kindly insignificant at my school and in my family too. I attended Western Carolina Teacher's College 1943-44 and 1944-45. And in all this changed.

J- And so what was your experience like at Western?

D- Let's see what did I have that after

J- Uh like your experiences

D- In the summer of 1943, there was one of the teachers at Western came to Clay County on a recruiting job recruiting high school graduates because outlook for attendance there was looking very grim because of the war and that wasn't good at all. And I think that sic of seven out of my graduating class did enroll at Western. And most of us, most all of us were given work scholarships to pay most all of our cost for uh for that year. And when we left to go to college it was a long trip up for us. We felt like we was way up out of the county. And when we got to college we found out the enrollment was 12 males and less than 200 female students

J- And can you remember uh can you remember about how much tuition was back then?

D- I can't remember real well. Uh if I hadn't had a work scholarship I mean I think it'd probably be \$500.00

J- Right. And uh, what would you do on the weekends?

D- Well most all of the students stayed on campus on weekends and uh I had got me a work scholarship and that was waiting on tables in the cafeteria. So I just did this through the weekends and uh then we sorta visited in the dorms where we lived uh the other other students.

J- And um so you said

D- And the dorms, now I didn't tell ay, the men's dorm for 12 was Madison, Madison hall and the women were divided between Moore and Robertson.

J- And uh I know that you had the work study job so you weren't able to go home a lot uh how often were you able to go home?

D- Well I wouldn't have gotten to go home until Christmas but my older sister got married so uh we arranged mamma and daddy arranged so I could come home for that weekend.

J- Ah man, and were you involved on campus with any kind of activities and uh clubs and things?

D- No there's not not any clubs or organizations and uh no sports that I remember anything about that year.

J- And uh what kind of an impact would you say that the war had on your school?

D- Well a lot of the students did have family members, unlike myself, and they had boyfriends who were in the war. And a few were married and their husbands were involved in the war. And I remember this one student one we all loved. She was a Junior and she had married a Western former student but he went on to the war. And then she got the word of her husband's death and this affected every one of us in a big way.

J- I can imagine that would be tough. And uh what kind of impact did the war have on your community back home?

D- Well back home they had a big part of the people that had close family off in the war. And some close neighbors of ours they had sons that were overseas and uh so anyway we all sorta banded together, the adults especially and uh just tried to help people out by each family and a lot by church attendance.

J- And uh why did the community as far as your family and the church reacted the way they did to the war?

D- I think its cause we were a small county and you knew everybody and knew who everybody's grandma and their mom and daddy and you know just a lot about them. And uh so everyone just helped out as much as they could.

J- And uh how would you say that the church helped out?

D- Well they had uh uh I remember my mamma telling me about that one of the things they did at Wednesday night prayer meetings. That they held hands and gathered around the pulpit and had prayer for them. And uh anyway I don't know it was just anybody would help out anyway that they could for the church.

J- Yea and um, how did the economy of this time period affect your family?

D- Well my daddy was luck that he had a good stable job and there wasn't any way that he was going to lose that job. And uh he was too old to be drafted into the uh uh army. We didn't really know too much difference so uh that was the way it was.

J- Well uh what kind of job did he have? Can you remember?

D- He worked for the department of transportation for the state of North Carolina. He drove mortar graters and he did a lot of different kinds of work what ever they had to have done.

J- So you would probably say that there really wasn't a different from before the war and while the war was going on?

D- That's right.

J- And um did you or your family buy war bonds?

D- No.

J- What about rationing was your family rationed any or uh?

D- Well yes there was rationing. That er I sorta hadn't remembered that real good. So I could talk a little about that but I don't remember if that had a big impact on us or anything there in our county.

J- It was just something that happened right?

D- Yeah, just had to do it.

J- Kinda like paying taxes you just had to do it.

D- Yes.

J- And uh did you try and help the war effort?

D- There wasn't anything really that uh I had the opportunity to help out with the war effort.

J- And uh what were other people doing in your community or back at school to help the war effort?

D- Well there was lots of families and uh some of them was the whole family but mostly if they had a children or a wife the children stayed in the county but they there was jobs available in Atlanta Georgia and they went to Atlanta Georgia and they were mostly employed by where they built airplanes.

J- Who do you know that served in the war and what was there relationship to you?

D- Well there was a real close neighbor to us, whose youngest son I knew, I'd knew him all my life and he was just two years older than me and he was drafted. And uh he went into the air force and he was there uh I know he went in in 1942 and I'd say he stayed probably until 1945. And uh the way that I kept up with him was uh just from the family what he said in the letters he wrote and mailed them.

J- And um can you remember how um or what his reaction was when he found out he was being drafted?

D- I don't remember anything but I don't believe I don't believe that that would have bothered him at all.

J- And uh how did this person's military service affect you?

D- Well uh not to a big degree uh, it was just uh he was gone. And he was one person I knew that was overseas.

J- And uh was what were your attitudes or feelings about the war?

D- Well I felt real bad about it cause you did hear about what was going on and ya know, and uh I had a bad feeling about it.

J- And um so um was there a lot of stuff about the war in the newspapers or radio around you?

D- Oh a lot on the radio. I don't remember reading any newspapers myself.

J- And um what was your life like after the war as far as a job, what you did in your free time?

D- Ok. After the war I was employed as a secretary and office clerk in Hayesville, then uh I got acquainted with uh my husband. And we were married in 1948. In 1956 we had one daughter but I kept, continuing working except for two years I stayed off when she was born. I stayed off with her and I worked thirty-nine years and retired. 1986 I retired.

J- I know that um I know that uh your husband uh and you were not together during the war, but um after y'all were married, did he mention anything about his time in service and how it affected him?

D- Well when he got out of service the first thing he did was he went to Atlanta and got a job where those other people had gone cause some of them were relatives. He had a relative that lived down there and uh and he stayed with them. And uh but that was one thing he dearly loved to talk about was his time that he spent in the service. But uh he didn't have to go overseas he uh he was in Denver, Colorado he was he had uh just a sergeant or whatever ya call em. But he was to trainin' new troops that came in there at the training camp. And um he liked that and uh I won't say the uh colored people- (in a whisper) But anyway then when he got out of the service, everybody has heard about it all since.

J- And um is there anything that uh you can think of to say that maybe I haven't asked or maybe that you'd like to volunteer?

D- Well I am thankful that um that my older brother and my older sister were not of the age that they would have to go into the army you know during the war that war. But uh my brother he did serve in Korea. But uh, we prayed again.

J- Oh yes.

D- As a church and all that because I was married and uh and uh that ws something we did get a taste of being out of the family.

J- Ok well thank you very much.

D- Well thank you.