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Interview with  
Mr. Daniel Moore  
May 28, 1969

Place of Interview: Portland, Texas  
Interviewer: Dr. A. Ray Stephens  
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(signature)  
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Oral History Collection

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Interviewer: Dr. A. Ray Stephens

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Dr. Stephens: This is an interview with Mr. Daniel Moore in Portland, Texas, May 28, 1969.

Mr. Moore: Well, I did arrive here in 1909 but originally came from San Antonio, Texas, out on the Kleberg Road about sixteen miles out of San Antonio. My mother taught school there for a number of years. And we came down here, moved out on the farm, and I worked there for quite a long while. And I don't know just what else that you'd like to have from right at this point now.

Dr. Stephens: Well, you might tell us what the country looked like when you first came, what you wanted to see, and how . . . and then the economic development of it when you were here.

Mr. Moore: Well, this whole area when we came here was mostly brush country, and this little town of Portland where you are today was hardly on the map. The railroad ran through here at that time. But all around Gregory it was grass and weeds and brush everywhere. And we didn't have any roads, you might say, because it was a buggy and a horse and mules because when it rained down here in those days with no roads, why, you

stayed home for two weeks at a time. You didn't go anywhere.  
And what now . . .

Mrs. Sparks: Just why did you happen to come had your father and mother hadn't have moved down here?

Mr. Moore: Move here? Well, my father had a brother here. R. E. Moore, that used to be at Sinton, Texas, R. E. Moore. They lived out there on the old Green Ranch houses in between Taft and Sinton. There's a bunch of houses all along in there, and they lived there. And they kept telling us about what a wonderful farming country it was, and that's how we came to come to this country.

Mrs. Sparks: And you came . . . did you buy land from Mr. George H. Paul?

Mr. Moore: No, not at that time. No, we rented for years and years and years. And we moved from that place then out to what is called Sodville, Texas, and that is when my dad purchased this 160 acres of land, where I'm living now, at that time.

Dr. Stephens: Wasn't Sodville built by George H. Paul? Did he sell . . . that's west of Taft, isn't it?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes, he used to own that land.

Dr. Stephens: Yes.

Mrs. Sparks: But after Mr. Moore lived on Gum Hollow which is north.

Mr. Moore: Well, at that time we lived there at . . . out in that farm community, Sodville, in a building there for a number of years. And that's when my dad bought this place out here. And we stayed there for . . . I don't know, just a number of years on an old place called the Rues place. Some people in

San Antonio owned this ground and lived back and forth, as we all do. Some people still do it here. But after that then we moved off this place here for a number of years. And the 1919 storm . . . do you remember that?

Dr. Stephens: Yes.

Mr. Moore: Well, we left this place out here then and living in Mexican houses . . . what we called Mexican houses. And it didn't tear it up but picked our garage up and carried it clear across the road and tore everything all to pieces. We stayed there a number of years. And then in 1919 I left home and bought me a . . . eighty acres of ground out there about six miles south of Taft. I've been, you might say, right in this area ever since and bought more land from time to time. And what . . .

Dr. Stephens: I was interested in the general subject of land speculation. And you got here after the George H. Paul Land Company operated.

Mr. Moore: Well, they were in business here then.

Dr. Stephens: They were still in business?

Mr. Moore: They were in business then.

Dr. Stephens: Can you tell us something about their operation particularly the homeseekers' special trains they ran?

Mr. Moore: Well, I know they did run those things. Of course, I didn't have the opportunity ever to ride one. But I know they did run them, and I know people came down here and bought . . .

maybe I shouldn't say this.

Dr. Stephens: Go ahead.

Mr. Moore: But they did some advertising. And I know people that bought land have what's called swales in this country. And it bought that land. Some of them stayed a few years and had to get up and go back because they couldn't make it on the swale land. But they didn't know their land when they come here.

Dr. Stephens: What percentage of the people returned?

Mr. Moore: Stayed?

Dr. Stephens: Yes, well, stayed then.

Mr. Moore: Stayed. Well, I'd say 85 per cent of the people stayed here, and they prospered by it.

Dr. Stephens: And were satisfied.

Mr. Moore: Satisfied with it.

Dr. Stephens: What sort of tactics did the land company use?

Mr. Moore: Well, it was very simple. They would sell them on a long time basis. In other words, rate of interest was very low at that time. And I know this land that when we moved here this land out there north of Gregory sold for \$10 or \$11 an acre.

Dr. Stephens: Did the land companies make any exaggerated claims of the productivity of the land?

Mr. Moore: Well, I thought they did. I thought they did. And I think that those . . . in those days people did that the fact because people didn't know . . . this was new country. Mrs. Sparks, you remember that it was brand new country.

Mrs. Sparks: So.

Mr. Moore: So what else?

Dr. Stephens: Well, I was wondering what sort of hardships did the people undergo? After, say, a person came in a homeseeker train and bought a piece of land and set up housekeeping, then how much time would it take before they could make the land productive, clearing and plowing and settling?

Mr. Moore: Well, it wasn't too long for the land was productive. All they had to do then was to get a . . . what we had in those days, what they called a steam plow. They'd get it out by steam. And they'd flat break this land, cut the brush and everything--clear it--and in . . . in . . . I'd say in three years, because the first year after you put it in you didn't realize much out of it. It would take the second year and the third year you should, say, make a good crop . . . a good crop the third year. That's the way it worked here for us.

Dr. Stephens: So a person would have to have money when he came, first. Even though he bought the land on credit, he'd still have to have something to sustain him for . . . until the third year.

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes. For a few years, yes, you would.

Dr. Stephens: About how much would . . . would have been average?

Mr. Moore: Well, things were so normally in those days that it's hard to tell, because I know we lived very hard. We had, maybe, two or three cows and some chickens and things like that. And, as you said, I churned many a night with a half-gallon

jar. I churned. That's the way I made . . . I got our butter.

Dr. Stephens: And you raised your own vegetables?

Mr. Moore: Vegetables, yes.

Dr. Stephens: And raised your own meat, at home?

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Dr. Stephens: So then just the very basic staples was all you had to buy at the store?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir.

Dr. Stephens: And I suppose you had credit until . . .

Mr. Moore: Well, the McKameys . . . the McKameys were . . . in those days lived in the county. You remember those people. They were great. They had a big store. They sold everything from socks to anything you might want. And that's the way . . . where we got our groceries, in Mr. McKamey's store there at Gregory, Texas.

Dr. Stephens: Did they charge high interest rates?

Mr. Moore: No, no.

Dr. Stephens: For carrying you until the end of the season?

Mr. Moore: No, sir, they didn't, no, sir.

Dr. Stephens: Nothing like the general company store attitude of . . .

Mr. Moore: No, no, no.

Dr. Stephens: . . . of country store in the South or company store in the industrial North? That is, once they had you they took advantage of the situation.



- Mr. Moore: No, Mr. McKamey didn't do that.
- Mr. Bell: You can't use that term "high interest rate" in this building (chuckle).
- Mrs. Sparks: You said you walked to school, Mr. Moore.
- Mr. Moore: Yes.
- Mrs. Sparks: Tell us a little bit about the schooling in those days.
- Mr. Moore: All right. The schooling in those days was a little old one-room schoolhouse there in Gregory. And another thing I remember in those days. Mr. Joseph F. Green, he lived at La Quinta at that time. And we kids would go out there and open the gate for him. He'd always pitch us a quarter or fifteen cents or a little money like that. And that was some of the days there. And another thing about Mr. Joseph F. Green was that he went to the same church there we all went to. And I noticed one thing there because I worked . . . Sunday school I worked a lot and I know when it went around . . . they passed the plate around Mr. Green nearly always put a dollar in it. And to me that was lots of money. He always put a dollar in that plate. That was something he always did.
- Mrs. Sparks: Well, a dollar was a lot in those days.
- Mr. Moore: It was in those days.
- Dr. Stephens: Still is (group chuckling).
- Mr. Bell: You know, the thing that I think about that you're . . . that you're talking about on that? I think maybe you ought to turn that thing off, but I lived in the lower Rio Grande Valley for

a while. And the stories that they tell like you've heard, I'm sure, and like . . . and truthfully that we always used to run by and holler "sucker." This was a brand new word to call somebody a, what I call a mullet now, was a sucker then or a chump or a . . . a gullible person anyway. And they'd bring . . . have all these Cadillacs and Packards just loaded with huge numbers and whitewash up on the windshields, front and back, and there was maybe 101 cars all for . . . they'd brought them down from Chicago primarily and drive them around. And the children would all holler "sucker." And they'd . . . they'd say, "The children want penny suckers. Throw them some change. They're just accustomed to seeing the wealthy people driving these big cars throwing them money." (Chuckle) So they'd throw out a few pennies and nickels. And they talk about this one guy that was driving down somewhere in the Las Fresnas area, and around the bend the man put a huge sign, "Go no further for perfect black land for sale here at yea price," which was cheaper than . . . this man had to go by this sign to get to his property that he was selling. He said he was always saying, "I'm not a very religious man but . . . but sometimes it just . . . I have the urge to pray. If you'd all bow your heads in prayer for a minute." And he'd pass on by there as they drove by the sign of the man selling his property (chuckle). This is probably what you were . . .

Mr. Moore: Yes, angling . . . angling for.

Mr. Bell: What you were getting at. And this is the . . . I don't know whether it happened here but I . . .

Dr. Stephens: Did it happen here that you knew?

Mrs. Sparks: I don't believe that they exaggerated in this area because the Valley was developed, as Mary Wise said, later. I don't believe they exaggerated as much here as they did in the Valley.

Mr. Moore: No, they didn't.

Mr. Bell: Now we were talking about the late '20's . . .

Mrs. Sparks: Yes, I know.

Mr. Bell: . . . and in . . . I mean sometime immediately prior to '29 is when they were doing all this in the Valley.

Mrs. Sparks: I know.

Dr. Stephens: They catered to a different type of customer, too, didn't they?

Mr. Bell: Well, I think that they . . . they weren't asking . . . they weren't looking, yes, for the farmer to come down here to till the soil. They were looking for the investor to come buy the ground and then they were . . . had management companies.

Mr. Moore: I know.

Mr. Bell: John Shary, of course, is a very, very wealthy person and so is Mary Alice who is Allan Shivers' wife. Who is . . . Mary Alice is John Shary's daughter. And you know what great wealth they enjoy. A good part of it is from . . . (group laughing).

Mrs. Sparks: Tell us about this Black Land Special that put you out here. You apparently went on the trip. What was this all about?

Mr. Moore: Well, the Black Land Special train that was run from this country here was originated in Corpus Christi. Mr. Matson Nixon, the man that has passed away, I guess, now. But he was the originator of that thing and what it was it was all over Texas to advertise South Texas and show everything we raised here was on that train. And we made I don't know how many towns but the biggest part of Texas. And that was some forty years ago.

Dr. Stephens: Do you have a negative of this picture?

Mr. Moore: No, sir, I don't.

Dr. Stephens: That's the only copy?

Mr. Moore: That's the only one that I know anything about because when this was all over they were just getting rid of all this stuff, and they didn't care for it. And they asked me if I'd like to have it and I told them I would.

Dr. Stephens: You ought to put it under glass.

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Mrs. Sparks: Well . . . Mr. Moore is the father of Portland and the first mayor and has done a great deal for Portland. Did you always . . . did you always feel that Portland had a big potential as . . .

Mr. Moore: Well, we did, yes. We did when we were organized, when it first was organized. But I will admit not as big as what it's

doing right now.

Mrs. Sparks: Well, it's running away.

Mr. Moore: It is. The little town is going, but I did have the pleasure of being the first mayor and I served three terms and I worked hard for it.

Mrs. Sparks: Oh, I know you did. Has two streets named for him.

Mr. Moore: I gave them the first lights, and I built the first city hall and gave it to them. And I paid for almost half of that fire department down there. I did that for the city. I handled it just like I tried to handle my business.

Dr. Stephens: Yes, well, now, you . . . you've been in the banking business for . . .

Mr. Moore: Well, about eleven or twelve years. We organized this bank right here.

Dr. Stephens: But before then, when you were mayor, what was your occupation?

Mr. Moore: I was a farmer. I was a farmer.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, a farmer.

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes.

Mrs. Sparks: Well, when did you go into the First State Bank? Hasn't that been longer than that when you went from the First State Bank in Taft?

Mr. Moore: I guess it's been a little bit longer than that, yes. Somewhere along in there. But, of course, naturally, I was a farmer all this period of time. But I'd lived in Portland for a number of years when they tried to incorporate here. But after three

terms I felt like I'd spent enough time here, and I told them I was going back to farming. I did. I moved back to where I'm living now. But this little town has done wonders, I think.

Mrs. Sparks: It certainly has.

Dr. Stephens: Well, you might tell us what the town was like when you first moved here as far as the . . . how much business it took care of and how it grew.

Mr. Moore: Well, when I first moved into Portland there was a man here by the name of Demuse. Had a little grocery store down close to the railroad track over there. At the same time they had a shed there. That's where they shipped vegetables. Used to have quite a few vegetables around here at that time. It was a place to go down there on Sunday night and watch the train come in and watch . . . watch them load all the stuff in and out. And at this same time when I moved to Gregory, we had three passenger trains a day, just think about it, both ways in this railroad right here, and now we don't have one. That's a change.

Mrs. Sparks: Well, tell us a little bit about the vegetables.

Mr. Moore: Well . . .

Mrs. Sparks: There . . . there were vegetables grown right around Portland?

Mr. Moore: Right around Portland. Yes, there was. There were quite a few of them because they shipped worlds of them out of here, even lettuce, and things like that, and worlds of tomatoes.

They were wonderful. Portland had a good name for the good quality of stuff we shipped out of here. Of course, cotton was the predominant money crop, cotton. And, of course, now, this grain. At that time there was very little grain planted here. Now and since these last few years grain has come in. And now it's cotton and grain.

Dr. Stephens: And where is the port, Corpus Christi? Or where is the transportation?

Mr. Moore: Well, it's . . .

Dr. Stephens: You sent it on trains or . . .

Mr. Moore: We . . . we loaded it right here . . . at the depot right here in Portland.

Dr. Stephens: Well . . . well, then where does it go?

Mr. Moore: It was shipped to the North.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, from here.

Mr. Moore: In refrigerator cars.

Dr. Stephens: Do you send much by ship now, or is it all still by train?

Mr. Moore: Oh, no. It's by ship now. The . . . well, of course, the trains do carry worlds of it yet in the big refrigerator cars, you see? That's the way it's handled now. But in those days it all went on the train. You might see . . . there was very little trucking. Of course, there's a lot of trucking. Of course, there's a lot of trucking that goes on now.

Dr. Stephens: I want to ask you about the Taft Ranch. What . . . what has been your relationship with the Taft Ranch before it went

out of business?

Mr. Moore: Well, I never was very close to the Taft Ranch, but I dealt with those people . . . a fellow by the name of Brooks way back there ran the main store in town. And that's when the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company was handling it. You see, I began to buy my stuff . . . and it was just like I was from Mrs. Sparks' father. So I didn't deal directly much with them. And I've accumulated one piece of ground after another in the last forty years. And . . . what now, next?

Dr. Stephens: Well, did you know Joseph F. Green?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir, I sure did.

Dr. Stephens: And what sort of person was he?

Mr. Moore: He was a wonderful man. Just like I was telling you a while ago and he . . . he was always in church. That man was in church every Sunday.

Dr. Stephens: But I mean after you grew up to be a man then. Was he still . . .

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes, he was never . . . he was never anything but a gentleman as far as I could find out. In dealings with Mr. Green was wonderful, and he did a lot for the country.

Dr. Stephens: Are you . . . are you a Mason?

Mr. Moore: I joined one time, but I never did finish.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, were you a Mason at the time that he had his difficulty with the Lodge?

Mr. Moore: No, sir.

Dr. Stephens: You . . . knew about that?



Mr. Moore: Well, I'd heard . . . I have heard a few things but I never . . . those things like that, I don't inquire into it much. I think the less you can say the better off you are.

Mrs. Sparks: Well, that's right.

Dr. Stephens: You might tell us your experiences with the 1919 hurricane.

Mr. Moore: All right, I'll be glad to do that. We lived right out here then in what we called, oh, two little Mexican houses. All right. That morning that thing happened then somebody . . . one of my friends up there about two miles up the road came down on a horse and told me, said, "Dan, come down to the Bay. We've found some dead people down here." So I got on a horse, put a blanket on it, and went down to that Bay. And we got down there. We took my blanket and made a stretcher. And during the morning, oh, I guess with thirty or forty people that came down, but I worked there for two days and nights carrying out the dead in that period. And we had a schoolhouse, the West Portland School out here then, and we'd laid them side by side just like you would cordwood. And some of them had clothes on and some didn't. It was a pitiful thing. But they . . . we filled the schoolhouse plumb full, and on down . . . down on the Bay front down in there, it got so many, we dug trenches . . . just a long trench and buried the people there. If they had any rags on at all we'd take the head of them and put it on a stick or something and put it at

the head of that so people looking for their folks they knew how they were dressed, well, they could come there and they could find them. And I don't know how many people we did bury like that. But we filled the schoolhouse up there . . . anywhere they tried to do something with them, but finally they had to move them, too, it got so bad. And that was one of the worst storms we've ever had in this country. We've had a few since but 1919 was the worst.

Dr. Stephens: Did you see the storm building up?

Mr. Moore: Yes, yes, but we didn't get any reports like we do now-a-days. We knew it was terrible when it started building up, but we couldn't do anything about it. Of course, we didn't know it was going to be that bad, but it was a terrible thing. It just rocked and rocked that . . . it seemed like that little house, it would take it plumb off the ground and drop it back on those little old blocks we had. It was just a wonder that we lived. But it picked our garage up there. It picked it up and carried it clear across the road and just tore it into a hundred pieces.

Dr. Stephens: Well, why . . . why did all these people get killed then? Were they living in low-lying areas in Corpus?

Mr. Moore: They lived in Corpus Christi out there, what they called North Beach. Oh, at that time, that area in there was beautiful. Some of the beautiful homes all in there. But, see, the rains came in there and just cleaned that thing and brought them

all to our shore back in here. The homes . . . and it brought a lot of the railroad trestle at that time. Tore the railroad trestle out, and brought it and threwed it right on our beach over here, you see, that's what caused the terrible death, was North Beach in there. Now the main town of Corpus Christi, they weren't hurt too bad. But where those . . . that water could come through and get to them, well, it just ruined it. And the old Braker's Hotel that's over there now, that was the only thing left out there when that thing was over. And it was gutted, the first floor was, to where you could see right through it. That was all that was left. And they had streetcars back in those days in Corpus Christi all over town. Well, the streetcar tracks over on North Beach, it just looked like toys. It had just twisted those things until they looked like pieces of string, the tracks, you know, were scattered so.

Dr. Stephens: Now did this . . . did this hurt land speculation in this area?

Mr. Moore: Well . . . you see I was pretty much of a kid right at that time.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, you couldn't see any definite change.

Mr. Moore: I . . . I had nothing of my own. I was still at home working for my daddy at that time. But I got out right after that.

Dr. Stephens: It didn't kill any people on this side, then . . .

Mr. Moore: No, sir.

Dr. Stephens: . . . of the Bay?

Mr. Moore: No, sir.

Dr. Stephens: Well, I was wondering . . . we talked about that Black Land Special a while ago and I should have asked the question then, did . . . do you know of any definite results that that Black Land Special had as far as encouraging individuals to come?

Mr. Moore: Well . . . well, of course, I didn't directly talk to but a few of the men that was on that train. The Gandys, there were two Gandy brothers on that train, and they told me later that they had worlds of people that came here and got so much inquiry to the country. And some came . . . and a lot of people came and did buy ground from that train.

Dr. Stephens: These are the actual farmers, not just speculators?

Mr. Moore: Yes, this . . . the Gandy brothers . . . no, they were really land farmers, right, no, they were . . .

Dr. Stephens: No, I mean the people who came were . . . were really farmers and not investors.

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes. No, no. Real farmers. People came and bought the ground and went and moved on it.

Dr. Stephens: So this was, for the most part, a new country then?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Just young . . . young people making a living for themselves and their families and developing in that way?

Mr. Moore: Oh, sure it ~~was~~, surely.

Dr. Stephens: More so than you were talking about in the Valley where investors in the '20's . . .

Mr. Moore: No, that . . . that . . . I've heard of that on that Valley down there. This was not anything like that. The train wouldn't . . . the train was run but not for that cause.

Dr. Stephens: Did you make the trip?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir, I did.

Dr. Stephens: Did you hand out brochures or literature?

Mr. Moore: Oh, worlds of it, worlds of it.

Dr. Stephens: Who made the literature up?

Mr. Moore: How's that?

Dr. Stephens: Who . . . who composed the literature?

Mr. Moore: Well . . .

Dr. Stephens: The Chamber of Commerce?

Mr. Moore: The Chamber of Commerce in Corpus Christi and the Richard Nixon or . . . this . . . not Richard Nixon but . . .

Mrs. Sparks: Matson Nixon?

Mr. Moore: Matson Nixon, yes. And they were . . .

Dr. Stephens: And who was that? Matt . . .

Mrs. Sparks: Matson.

Dr. Stephens: Matson?

Mr. Moore: Matson Nixon, yes. He was a big man there in Corpus Christi. He was one of the leaders, and the Flatos, they were mixed up in it. You remember them, don't you?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: And different ones. But, of course, Mr. Matson Nixon, I knew him. I had gotten acquainted with him and I was closer to him, I guess, than any of them. That was a wonderful trip and I think it did a lot of good.

Dr. Stephens: And so you . . . you did . . . you did hear that many persons came to this country as a result of that Black Land Special?

Mr. Moore: Well, that . . . yes, I say there was quite a few people came from all over Texas, North Texas and East Texas, came down here.

Dr. Stephens: And relatively, where did they buy their land, from the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company, from the Driscoll Ranch, or who had . . . who had the big land for sale then?

Mr. Moore: At that time?

Dr. Stephens: Yes.

Mr. Moore: Well . . .

Dr. Stephens: The . . . the newcomers, where would they go when they did come?

Mr. Moore: Well, you take the . . . well, some . . . I know some of them went around Rocktown, the area back in there. Well, I don't think the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company handled that back in there.

Dr. Stephens: No.

Mr. Moore: No, their stuff is around here. But I do know people went

back in that area and over here south of Corpus Christi. Petronillo and that part of the country, people went there from it.

Dr. Stephens: But it was for the most part the area around Corpus Christi, the various counties around Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes, absolutely, yes, that's right.

Dr. Stephens: So everybody was cooperating in this.

Mr. Moore: As a result of this train.

Dr. Stephens: And did the price of land go up when . . . when they started getting good results from the . . .

Mr. Moore: Well, it didn't go . . .

Dr. Stephens: . . . Black Land Special?

Mr. Moore: It didn't go . . . it went up some, it went up some, naturally, because you can see where it's come from since 1909.

Dr. Stephens: No, no, I mean as a result of the people becoming interested. Did the price of land suddenly go up?

Mr. Moore: Well, it wasn't no big rush, no. You could still buy land at a reasonable price.

Mrs. Sparks: Mr. Moore, you were probably . . . do you remember much about the auctions, when they started auctioning off the blocks in Taft and the land around Taft?

Mr. Moore: No, I don't know much about that, but I'll tell you what. I'll tell you one thing I did do in Taft. I worked up there in the hard times up there when that town was going. And I dug

ditches there six-foot deep. I think it was \$1.50 a day.

Dr. Stephens: In Taft?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir. I got right down in the bottom of those ditches because we didn't have any money. And I worked there at that time.

Dr. Stephens: Do you remember when the town of Taft had its big auction and they had the blocks for sale?

Mr. Moore: I remember something about it.

Dr. Stephens: You weren't there.

Mr. Moore: I don't know a thing about it. But I didn't live . . . I've never lived there. I never did live in town. I've always lived in the country.

Dr. Stephens: I didn't know, maybe you had visited the area.

Mr. Moore: Oh, I was in . . . in and out.

Dr. Stephens: The auction . . . did you go on auction day?

Mr. Moore: No, no, I didn't.

Dr. Stephens: That was what, June 1st?

Mrs. Sparks: I don't know. I remember I . . .

Dr. Stephens: 1921?

Mrs. Sparks: I was there.

Dr. Stephens: Mr. Moore, what did you do for amusements as a young person when you were here, and then later on as . . . as an adult?

Mr. Moore: Well, back in those years in the . . . say, when I was just getting started, there was only one place for amusement. And that was Corpus Christi with the picture show. Now that's



all we had. There was nothing here at all. There were no shows in Taft.

Dr. Stephens: How about dances? Didn't they have a Dance Pavillion here in Portland?

Mr. Moore: Oh, in those days I was working so hard I didn't have time to dance now. I didn't have time to go to those kind of things.

Dr. Stephens: Well, what about for other persons?

Mr. Moore: There was not too much of it I don't think, as well as I can remember. I don't think there was too much of a thing like that.

Dr. Stephens: Well, entertainment perhaps then. Did you have any Fourth of July celebrations?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes, we had those things. We had the Fourth of July.

Dr. Stephens: Can you describe some of those?

Mr. Moore: Well, the only Fourth of July celebration I can remember much about was held in Corpus Christi and go over there and see the beautiful fireworks and maybe a parade or something like that. And that was about all there was to it.

Dr. Stephens: What about June 24th for Mexicans?

Mr. Moore: Well . . .

Mrs. Sparks: You're not . . . you're thinking about . . .

Mr. Moore: Cinco de Mayo.

Mrs. Sparks: Cinco de Mayo, aren't you?

Dr. Stephens: No, the Taft Ranch had St. John's Day for Mexicans on

June 24th . . .

Mr. Moore: On June 24th.

Dr. Stephens: . . . had Juneteenth Day for the blacks and the Fourth of July for Anglo-Americans, the whites.

Mr. Moore: I see.

Dr. Stephens: And had that on several occasions. This was mid-summer and it was a break from . . . from work and . . . and everybody had a chance to, you know, relax a little bit? And have Thanksgiving and Christmas in . . . in wintertime and this would give them . . . gave them a summer break.

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Dr. Stephens: And they didn't have those too often. Once in a while they did. And then on January the 1st they had Open House at La Quinta. Did you make any of those?

Mr. Moore: No, sir, I didn't . . . I made it one time down there. I went when they had it on . . . I believe that was on the Fourth of July, I believe. And they had a race there. I know I ran it that day and won a knife, a pocket knife (chuckle).

Dr. Stephens: This is while you were a child?

Mr. Moore: Yes, yes.

Mrs. Sparks: I have read or heard a great deal . . . you mentioned Mr. . . . that was Grandfather McKamey's store.

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Mrs. Sparks: And I've read about that and heard about it. Must have been really something.

- Mr. Moore: It was. It was a general store. You could buy anything in the world in there. And I thought . . . it's not on there, is it?
- Dr. Stephens: Yes.
- Mr. Moore: Well, cut it off please for a minute.
- Dr. Stephens: Okay.  
(Tape temporarily cut off.)
- Mr. Moore: If she's living, that they never had a loss. I reckon that's what he meant by it.
- Mrs. Sparks: Yes, I guess so.
- Mr. Moore: Yes.
- Dr. Stephens: That wasn't . . . oh, this was an expression that was current with the day, then?
- Mr. Moore: With him . . . with him . . . him . . . it was personally Mr. McKamey. That was his own idea about that, that he loved to make one hand watch the other. And he ran his store in just that way. I know we never had no trouble getting groceries there, I know that.
- Dr. Stephens: I see.
- Mr. Moore: He was a wonderful person.
- Dr. Stephens: Okay, then. Let me turn to something else. Can you tell us about the banking industry in this Coastal Bend area? That is, as far as the Taft Ranch or neighboring communities is concerned.
- Mr. Moore: Well . . . well, one . . . one of the banks we first ever

had any dealings with was in Gregory there. Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company had a bank there. And from there, then, into Taft. They had a little bank there on Main Street there . . .

Dr. Stephens: After it opened up in 1921?

Mr. Moore: Yes. A man by the name of Mullins was running it. And I did banking there for a number of years with those people. And then the Cage Bank came along, and I got in with them. And I've been with them for around forty years. And, let me see, Mr. Sparks, W. C. Sparks, he was there first and now his son is there now in the . . . the First State Bank of Taft. And I still work with them, too.

Dr. Stephens: And . . . do you remember when the McKameys' store kept people's money in their safe, when they didn't have any banks as such, but it served as . . . it served as a bank?

Mr. Moore: Well, I didn't know that. I was too much of a kid at that time, you see? When I was there, I was too much of a kid to know anything inside of those kind of things.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, I see.

Mrs. Sparks: You probably were more interested in the candy they had.

Mr. Moore: I guess so.

Dr. Stephens: What about education?

Mrs. Sparks: Do you mean . . .

Mr. Moore: My education?

Dr. Stephens: Educational facilities in this area.

Mrs. Sparks: Is that . . . he said he went to a one-room schoolhouse.

But did you know anything about Bayview College?

Mr. Moore: Bayview College?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: Yes, I know it. Clark is his name, wasn't it? Professor Clark?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: We did have a college way back there. And that was way back yonder. But I never did get to go to it. But I remember that very well. And it was a wonderful little college. It was a small college here, but it was a wonderful thing, wonderful institution.

Dr. Stephens: Now this land has always been quite productive, as far as you remember?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir, it sure has.

Dr. Stephens: What has been the economic change brought on in recent years by oil?

Mr. Moore: Well, oil has been, you might say, a lifesaver for this country. Because I know out in our area here, there's nothing but the leasing of it. If a man will take care of it and lease his land from time to time, it's a wonderful help. It has done so much good. And it's still some oil activity down in here now, but most of it is north of Taft. Now White Point down here, that's a wonderful field but it's been there so long it's gradually slowing down some. But the oil has been a wonderful saver for this country, I think. Don't you, Mrs. Sparks?

Mrs. Sparks: I certainly do.

Dr. Stephens: What about the cattle industry? You've seen the cattle industry go out and farming come in in a big way since you first got here.

Mr. Moore: Yes, yes, at that time there were worlds of cattle here all around us, but it was . . . very few cattle here now.

Dr. Stephens: And the . . . it's too productive . . . it was too profitable to use the land for . . .

Mr. Moore: For cattle.

Dr. Stephens: Row crops right now. What sort of cattle did they have here before they went out?

Mr. Moore: Well, the only cattle that I remember seeing around when I was growing was just simply old plain Longhorn steers. Now that's all that . . . all that I . . . there wasn't no special breed of cattle much.

Dr. Stephens: Did you . . . were . . . were you around Joseph F. Green's Shorthorn prize herd?

Mr. Moore: Not . . . very little, very little.

Dr. Stephens: But that didn't influence the general breed of cattle at that time?

Mr. Moore: Well, I don't think so, and it's because it seemed like the majority of the people they didn't . . . they couldn't . . . Mr. . . . Mr. Green had money and he had the company back of him. That's the one had the slaughter house here in Taft, you know that too, don't you? But . . . that's about all I can say in that respect.

Dr. Stephens: Well, do you remember when the Brahmas first came in . . .  
Brahma blood was first introduced in this area?

Mr. Moore: No, sir, I don't. Okay. In that respect to the labor.  
Back in those days from say forty to forty-five years ago,  
we didn't have any labor troubles in those days. It seemed  
like everybody was satisfied to work, and we brought our  
Mexicans in . . . hauled them in by trucks from San Antonio,  
from everywhere, when cotton picking time came. We'd go  
get them, bring them down here, when they got through carry  
them home. We furnished them houses and wood and water.  
But as time went on, why, it got a little bit worse and a  
little worse up to the present time until now-a-days it's  
hard to get anybody. It seems like nobody wants to work.  
So now it's . . . it's a proposition for a young man to start  
out farming now. Because equipment is so high, and labor is  
so high, and they expect so much it's very difficult. That's  
the way I look at it, at the labor end of it right now,  
Mrs. Sparks.

Mrs. Sparks: Yes. Well, tell us, do you remember how they used to  
celebrate their cotton picking season? Can you describe . . .

Mr. M-ore: On the weekends?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: Well, yes, after . . . after . . . after we come and pay  
them off, say, Saturday at noon, pay them for all of their  
wages. They'd go to town. They'd have a big dance. They

called them bailes. Bailes in those days. Well, the Mexicans gathered up there in those places, I know Taft up there had one, and they'd . . . they'd stay there the biggest part of the night. They went on and on with the dancing music and the people had a wonderful time. And for . . . of course, for our part of it, like I say, I didn't have much of those . . . that part of life. But the Mexicans did. It was wonderful. So they'd get out there and even on the ranch, that's where we had them. We'd have maybe forty or a hundred of them there on the ranch. And they'd sit down and sing those Mexican songs and just be as happy as a lark, you know. Well, they're not . . . they're not that way any more. It seems like you can't satisfy anybody. But those days they were happy and contented. And what's causing all this friction now, I don't know.

Dr. Stephens: Do you remember how much they were paid?

Mr. Moore: Yes, they were . . . cotton picking was 40 cents and 50 cents a hundred.

Dr. Stephens: And did you employ them the year round?

Mr. Moore: Oh, no, no, no. No, we went and got them . . . when the cotton got ready, we'd bring them in in our own trucks and haul them in here. And our labor in those days. You'd give a Mexican a dollar a day, that was a Mexican's wages, about a dollar a day, and a house to live in. And now at this present time it's eight . . . from \$8-10 a day and they want a house



to live in, and they want this and they want that and they want, want, want. That's all you can hear.

Dr. Stephens: Do you remember about going to the Valley in . . . in . . . well, I see . . . on the Tex-Mex Railroad the Taft Ranch went over with some boxcars and loaded up hands and brought them back. Did . . . did you remember that?

Mr. Moore: I remember . . . I remember that, yes. I know . . . they sure did. They used to bring them in here by the hundreds and put them on the Taft Ranch here. Mr. Wash Hunt . . . do you remember him? Did you ever know him?

Mrs. Sparks: I didn't know him, but I know of him.

Mr. Moore: Well, never mind about it, Mr. Wash Hunt up here at Gregory. He married Mr. Green's daughters, I believe two of them.

Mrs. Sparks: I know them, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Yes.

Mr. Moore: And he was a great man. He handled worlds of that kind of stuff there. See, as we were living around Gregory, I knew Mr. Hunt very well, also the Clines there. You've heard of the Clines?

Mrs. Sparks: Oh, yes, I know them.

Mr. Moore: Yes. And M. K. Hunt, do you remember him? Did you ever know Mr. Hunt?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: I guess you didn't, did you?

Mrs. Sparks: I . . . I met him.

Dr. Stephens: I understand that those Mexicans they brought from Laredo and various places were suffering from malnutrition and they had to feed them a few days to get them strong enough to pick cotton.

Mr. Moore: I just . . . I just sort of doubt that, I'll tell you, because I've seen a few of them around and I . . . I've never seen anybody suffer from malnutrition.

Dr. Stephens: Did they do their own cooking . . .

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Or did you have a central cafeteria for them?

Mr. Moore: Oh, no, no. They did their own cooking. It is just like I'd make . . . we'd run . . . they . . . they'd bring their equipment with them and get out there and make their food and enjoy it and be happy.

Dr. Stephens: Did you have any tents or did you have houses?

Mr. Moore: Well, yes, there were a few tents. When they got a big crowd in, they might have a few tents. Yes, sir.

Dr. Stephens: Did they cook on camp fires?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes.

Mrs. Sparks: It was like a big picnic to them. I remember my mother was in the Taft Hospital once, and she said she could hear the Mexicans singing and dancing . . .

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Mrs. Sparks: . . . and . . . it was when my little brother was born. And she could hear them by moonlight nights and that was . . .

Mr. Moore: Serenading . . . serenading . . . you know . . . just put on a big show.

Dr. Stephens: What do you remember about the health . . . the health facilities such as the Taft Ranch Hospital?

Mr. Moore: The Taft Ranch Hospital? It was a wonderful little hospital. That's the one out there . . . remember Mr. Guedin, remember him?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: He died nearly in that Taft Hospital there. No, it was a wonderful . . . it was a small hospital but the . . . the services were good, very good.

Dr. Stephens: And expensive?

Mr. Moore: No, sir; no, sir.

Dr. Stephens: Do you remember any particular epidemics?

Mr. Moore: No, I don't. I . . .

Dr. Stephens: Wasn't there a flu . . . flu epidemic in . . . 1918?

Mr. Moore: Oh, flu. We had one or two epidemics of the flu in the last forty years here. I forget what year it was way back there, but I know there were quite a few people around Taft and Sinton died from the flu.

Mrs. Sparks: There was a bad one in 1918.

Mr. Moore: 1918, yes, right along in there, yes.

Dr. Stephens: We've talked about farming. What about mechanization now. When did tractors first start coming into this area after the steam plows had . . . the plows . . . the root plows and such.

But then just for normal cultivation, when did tractors start?

Mr. Moore: Well, they must have started in about . . . let's see, '15 or '16, maybe '18. There were a few tractors around because I know my dad--and I was still at home then, that was before I left home--bought an old John Deere, he was one of the first here to have one of those things, two . . . and two . . . and only had two cylinders. Somewhere in those years right along in there.

Dr. Stephens: And how many people had them?

Mr. Moore: Very few people.

Dr. Stephens: Until . . . until when? When did tractors first start coming in in a big way?

Mr. Moore: Oh, I'd say about '24, '25, '26, somewhere along in there beginning a few of them. I guess in 19 . . . after 1930, though, they began to really get thick.

Dr. Stephens: Any particular reason?

Mr. Moore: Well, you could just do so much more work and labor began to get a bit harder then because we had all those mules and things here. Before the tractors came in you had to have twenty, twenty-five, thirty mules to work much ground. And now you can take four tractors and work 1,000 acres.

Dr. Stephens: Well, do you think there's a relationship between the discovery of oil and people could afford tractors?

Mr. Moore: No, I think credit . . . credit . . . their credit was pretty

good. Where they'd go ahead and buy a tractor and take three to four years to pay it out. I think that's really what started it.

Dr. Stephens: Did you see a reduction then in family farm units?

Mr. Moore: It didn't show up for a long time, no. That hasn't shown up until . . . it . . . it's showing it now, in this day and time, but not . . . not in those years. Twenty-five or thirty years ago it didn't show up much.

Dr. Stephens: Tell us about the handling of mules, Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore: Well, I'll just tell you a little bit of mine. I started off with four of them. We'd work all day and I was, like I say, I was alone batching in those days. And work all day and come in home and try to prepare food and get out and feed those old mules that night. Get up the next morning early and feed those old mules that night. Get up the next morning early and feed them again. Take a comb and curry their neck all out and curry the cockleburrs out of their tail and such stuff as that. And have to fix all that food for them, it was hard . . . it was a hard go. Farming with . . . with the mules. It was hard and the poor old mules would get sore up there by the collars you know from . . . I don't know whether you've ever farmed or not but a mule would get sore right up on the back of the neck there and even on the shoulders here. They'd get so hot they'd scald, what they called "scald it." And I've just seen the whole . . . the skin slip off

those poor things. Pitiful.

Dr. Stephens: And you ran four mules at once or two each half day?

Mr. Moore: Well . . . no, four mules to a plow to break the ground or anything like that. I'll tell you something funny about my mules now. I had one old mule that when he come in at dinnertime, he'd drink too much water and get sick and take colic. And I'd go out there and get up on top of that mule with my knees kind of like a chiropractor did and work that old mule. And believe it or not in thirty minutes the old mule would get up and go to work. Doesn't that sound funny? But I did it.

Dr. Stephens: Did you have names for all of them?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes. Each . . .

Dr. Stephens: Each had his own . . .

Mr. Moore: Each had his own name.

Dr. Stephens: . . . personality . . .

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Dr. Stephens: . . . and temperament.

Mr. Moore: That's right.

Dr. Stephens: And how temperamental were the mules in your experience with mules?

Mr. Moore: Well, they were . . . some of them . . . they're different, sort of like people. Some were temperamental and others didn't have any it seemed like. They were just pure mule and that's all there was to it (group chuckling).

Mr. Moore: No, those were hard days. And no one can imagine how hard it was.

Dr. Stephens: Now when you got more prosperous did you have mules for each half day's work?

Mr. Moore: No, no, no. Not these, no. They worked all day when I was there. I worked them all day.

Dr. Stephens: And then how much feed does it take for a mule year round per animal?

Mr. Moore: Well, in those days we fed them mostly bundle feed. We'd take a binder and cut this grain that we have now and, at the same time, in those days we'd cut the heads with knives. We'd get a whole bunch, maybe, we'd cut the heads off and pile them down this row and let them stay there three days and let it get dry. And then we'd go back and pick it up and put it in a wagon, then go haul it and put it in the barn. We fed them that way some.

Dr. Stephens: You pick it up by fork or by hand?

Mr. Moore: Mostly by hand because you see a fork would lose too much of it. But that's the way we handled it.

Dr. Stephens: You'd throw it on a wagon.

Mr. Moore: Throw it on a wagon and then take it and pitch it up in the barn and take a pitchfork and get up there and then pitch it on back up in there.

Mrs. Sparks: And sometimes snakes would get in it, too.

Mr. Moore: Yes, that's right. You betcha.

Dr. Stephens: Well, how many acres would you think it would take to keep a mule going--that is an acre of feed?

Mr. Moore: Of feed?

Dr. Stephens: Did you have to use a lot of your land just to grow feed?

Mr. Moore: Yes, yes. Oh, I don't know. I think though that, say you make 3,000 pounds to the acre, two acres would almost do it, because we'd feed them not only the grain . . .

Dr. Stephens: Two acres per animal for a year's time.

Mr. Moore: What? Yes, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Because you had to feed them year round.

Mr. Moore: Had to feed them year round.

Dr. Stephens: Even in . . . even though you had grass you still had to feed them grain to keep them strong.

Mr. Moore: Yes, to keep them strong enough to work. Yes, sir.

Dr. Stephens: And then with the innovation of tractors this extra land would go into . . . go in a cash crop.

Mr. Moore: Yes, well, to help pay for the . . . to help pay for the engines and stuff you were buying; you see. Or had to get rid of the mule. Let the mule just fade out. At one time I'd been . . . well, I was . . . I used to . . . when the first tractors came in I thought, "My gosh, we can't use those things." And I didn't believe in those days that you could even farm without a mule. But we found out we could.

Dr. Stephens: And what were the . . . what was the price paid for mules?



Mr. Moore: Anywhere from \$100 to \$150.

Dr. Stephens: Depending on how good an animal it was?

Mr. Moore: How good an animal it was, yes, sir.

Dr. Stephens: What was the working life of a mule, from age what, two?

Mr. Moore: Oh . . . about three, two to three to twelve years old.

Dr. Stephens: And then you had to faze him out?

Mr. Moore: Well, not really. You'd generally trade him like we do a car. We'd trade him off and get another . . . get something better.

Dr. Stephens: So you had to be pretty expert in knowing the soundness of a mule?

Mr. Moore: Well, now, that's true. Yes.

Dr. Stephens: How do you develop this ability?

Mr. Moore: Experience, experience is all I can tell you. You come up with them. You know them. You learn them.

Dr. Stephens: And I suppose some people in the community were better mule traders than others?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes, sure.

Mrs. Sparks: I bet you were a good one.

Mr. Moore: Well, I don't know, Mrs. Sparks, I don't know. I just know what I've done. The way I've gotten along all these years. And I did without an awful lot to get a start. I did that. I did without to get something and get a bedrock to get started on, a piece of ground. And then I . . . from that one piece of ground I began to grow.

Dr. Stephens: Could you tell by the mule's mouth or teeth how old it was and what condition it was in?

Mr. Moore: Well, you could . . . you could tell something about it, yes, sir.

Dr. Stephens: Then would you punch them or how would you know of their soundness?

Mr. Moore: Well, just . . . just by . . . just by feed . . . see if the animal is in good shape. And you feed it and they stay plump and strong and well, why you know they're all right.

Dr. Stephens: I see. You can . . . you can tell . . . you can tell pretty much . . .

Mr. Moore: By their actions.

Dr. Stephens: How . . . oh, and watch them. Before you bought it you would look at that.

Mr. Moore: Yes.

Dr. Stephens: Did you raise any of your own?

Mr. Moore: No, sir. No, I bought everything.

Dr. Stephens: Did most everybody buy them?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Where did the mules come from then, from somewhere else?

Mr. Moore: Oh, they'd go up here to North Texas and up in there and buy them. I don't know just where it was. But they'd go up there and buy them maybe six, eight, or ten at a time and bring them down here and sell them.

Dr. Stephens: Oh, you had people who did this for . . .

Mr. Moore: Yes, people did this for a living, you know.

Dr. Stephens: But in this part of the country the land was too productive to fool with just raising mules.

Mr. Moore: They raised very little stock here.

Dr. Stephens: You were better off using your . . . putting your capital in something else than raising . . .

Mr. Moore: Absolutely. That's the way I worked it. When I bought my stuff--my land--I tried to make every foot of it produce something to carry me on and make me grow. That's the way I worked mine.

Dr. Stephens: Well, how did you take care of the badlands such as the swale land and . . .

Mr. Moore: Well, I'll tell you. I . . . I . . .

Dr. Stephens: Did you have any drainage ditches, too?

Mr. Moore: I'll tell you my land, I didn't buy any land with any swale on it. Now that's the only way . . . the way . . . what I did. I didn't buy any of that badland.

Dr. Stephens: Oh. Well, how did those people make that pay off that bought the swale land?

Mr. Moore: Well, I don't know. I know a few of them went broke doing it.

Dr. Stephens: And did . . . what about drainage ditches?

Mr. Moore: You mean now or then?

Dr. Stephens: Then.

Mr. Moore: We didn't have any. We just didn't have no drains in those

days.

Dr. Stephens: When did they start being conscious of the need for drainage?

Mr. Moore: Oh, I'd say maybe twenty or twenty-five years ago they began to do some of it. Now Sodville, I mentioned Sodville to you a while back in there. When we lived there, I know the place we lived on was a rented place and they had this . . . one of these big swales you're talking about. Well, we stayed there I guess ten or twelve or fourteen years. But now they have drainage in that community that takes that water out of there and takes it clear to the Bay. And we've got some here . . . we've got some drainage here. We need some more yet.

Dr. Stephens: Did Joseph F. Green have any drainage ditches on his farming land?

Mr. Moore: Well . . . not too much because I know this big place right out here about, oh, ten or fifteen years ago they . . . when they put a big ditch from Gregory plumb back to the bay. Do you remember that, Mrs. Sparks? You know it's across the road right there at Gregory? That . . . that's some of the late stuff that they had. And when . . . way back yonder, why there just wasn't no drains in this country much. It was all flat.

Dr. Stephens: And what was the average rainfall that you remember?

Mr. Moore: I . . . I don't know about that average rainfall, I really don't. What is . . . Mrs. Sparks, what is it today, do you know?

Mrs. Sparks: I . . . I don't . . . I think it's supposed to be just under thirty inches a year but . . .

Mr. Moore: Now?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes, now. Of course, we've had more than the average. There have been years when it's been real low.

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. There were a few of them. But it seems like . . . now last year it was terrible down in this country. I don't know whether you know that. It just rained and it rained and it rained and it just ruined us.

Dr. Stephens: Are you still farming now?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir, I'm still farming.

Dr. Stephens: How many acres do you look after?

Mr. Moore: 960 acres.

Dr. Stephens: You still . . . you look after it yourself, supervise it?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes, yes. I have . . . I have four families now. I have four families that I work and take care of them. Just like last year, I gave to them right at half a bale of cotton and we didn't make a quarter of a bale of cotton. But I gave them . . . my Mexicans after . . . just on my own, to carry them over.

Dr. Stephens: Well, now, this idea of a social conscience hasn't always been in this country, has it?

Mr. Moore: How do you mean? What do you mean?

Dr. Stephens: Well . . . this taking care of, you know, your hands and helping to tide them over when the times are bad.

Mr. Moore: Well, I . . . I don't know . . . I think it has been pretty good that way. I think that . . .

Mrs. Sparks: I think it has, too.

Mr. Moore: Yes. I think that people that have farmed here, they're conscientious enough to know they want to take care of their people. Don't you, Mrs. Sparks?

Mrs. Sparks: Yes.

Mr. Moore: I do. I do, yes.

Dr. Stephens: Well . . .

Mrs. Sparks: I know that Walter always said and I know that I . . . I've talked to people . . . I know the McKameys always said . . .

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes. I think the people . . . they've been good to the Mexican people. I think . . . I know that I have.

Mrs. Sparks: Yes, I know you have, too.