

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center
Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview With

Harmon L. Moody
North Richland Hills, Texas

June 24, 2017

USS John W. Weeks, DD-701

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer, today is June 21, 2017. I am interviewing Mr. Harmon L. Moody by telephone. His phone number is 817-428-1287. His address is 7116 Harwick Lane, North Richland Hills, Texas, 76182. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Harmon, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Moody:

Well you're welcome.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum to make sure this is okay with you.

"Agreement Read."

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Moody:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the next thing I'd like to do is get an alternative contact. We find out that sometimes several years down the road try to get back in contact with a veteran he's moved or something. So do you have a son or a daughter or someone we could contact if we needed to, to find you?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, I have a grandson lives pretty close here.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, what is his name?

Mr. Moody:

Michael West.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you have a phone number for him?

Mr. Moody:

817-437-7814.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what town does he live in?

Mr. Moody:

He lives in Bedford, Texas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Hopefully we'll never need that, but you never know.

Mr. Moody:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay now what is your birthdate?

Mr. Moody:

6/26/27.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you born?

Mr. Moody:

Utica, Mississippi. U-t-i-c-a, Mississippi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Moody:

It was eleven in our family.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many brothers did you have?

Mr. Moody:

It was five brothers, we were six altogether counting me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then five sisters, uh?

Mr. Moody:

Right. One of my brothers died when he was eighteen months old.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were any of your brothers in World War II?

Mr. Moody:

One of my brothers went down on the *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor. He was killed there. And another one of my brothers he was in World War II and his ship was sunk in the Pacific and he stayed in the water fifty-two hours but he was rescued.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is he still living?

Mr. Moody:

No, uh-uh, he's gone.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, but you're one brother was on the *Arizona* and he was killed there? Have you ever been to Pearl Harbor to the Memorial there?

Mr. Moody:

No, I hadn't been over there, hadn't been able to get over there. His name was Robert Moody.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And now what is your mother's and father's first names?

Mr. Moody:

My mother was Linney Moody, Linney Irene Moody. She went by the name of Irene Moody.

And my dad was Robert Moody.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You grew up during the depression, how did the depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Moody:

My dad was a farmer in Mississippi, we lived out on a farm. And he was a sharecropper, he lived on this guy's place and they furnished him everything and he give them 25% of what he made every year.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you all have a garden?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, we had gardens, we were picking blackberries and plums. And my mom was canning all through the summer, winter, and spring, and summer.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have a cow or anything?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah we had a cow, a milk cow.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have chickens?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah we had chickens too. We had hogs, chickens, hogs.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you had plenty of food then?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, we was mostly self-sufficient. We didn't have too much problem during the depression.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Moody:

Went to Utica, Mississippi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what year did you graduate there?

Mr. Moody:

Well I quit high school and joined the Navy when I was seventeen.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me back up here, on December 7, '41 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, oh yeah. Me and my dad was out in the pasture when they delivered the message to us.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Who delivered the message?

Mr. Moody:

I forgot who it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Some other person though?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you heard that how did you think that would affect you?

Mr. Moody:

Well I didn't know, I was worried, kind of concerned about my brother. I knew he was there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

He was already in the service of course.

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, um-hum.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And he was in the Navy?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long had he been in?

Mr. Moody:

I think since '39.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So several years then, a couple of years?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So then when did you go into the service?

Mr. Moody:

I went in the first of '45, I think it was the last of January '45. I think it was the last of January.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when was your last high school?

Mr. Moody:

I was in senior high school at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were a senior, okay. And you went into the Navy?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you choose the Navy?

Mr. Moody:

Well this old boy in high school, well my two brothers was already in the Navy. And my brother that was sunk out there on that ship, he told me that they'd sunk the Japanese, the main fleet,

they'd sunk all of it. And I figured that since they was gonna, looks like we was fixing to invade Japan and we still had the war going on with Germany and I didn't want to hit them beaches in Japan.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now your other brother that was in the Navy, what happened to him? How did he get to be in the ocean?

Mr. Moody:

Well his ship was sunk out there in that last battle, big battle of war. He stayed in the water fifty-two hours, but he was rescued. And he got back.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ship was he on?

Mr. Moody:

He was on the *Johnston*, 557 Destroyer, DD-557.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where was it sunk at?

Mr. Moody:

It was a battle at Luzon.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay that would have been in January or so.

Mr. Moody:

That was in October of 1944.

Mr. Misenhimer:

October of '44.

Mr. Moody:

Uh-huh. Well they told me it was Luzon, it could have been the battle of Leyte. The main fleet was getting the Japs, well getting MacArthur back on the Philippines.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, that's Leyte.

Mr. Moody:

Oh okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The battle of Leyte started in October of '44, the battle of Luzon started in January of '45.

Mr. Moody:

Okay, it was the other one then.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, Leyte. Now when you went into the Navy where did you go for your boot camp?

Mr. Moody:

Great Lakes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you travel up there?

Mr. Moody:

Well we went by train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how was that train trip?

Mr. Moody:

Oh it was good, it was one of them old coal burners.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had you ever been very far from home before?

Mr. Moody:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was your furthest trip?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all did you do in boot camp?

Mr. Moody:

Well I went in, I already had two years, they'd formed home guards back then to protect the women and all the men had been drafted in them small towns. And I joined the home guard when I was fifteen and I knew all the basics. We marched with rifles and in Army uniforms and everything. And to make sure that people knew that the marshal there in town had back up, just in case they need it. So I went in boot camp and I was promoted to 2nd Class Petty Officer. And I lead the march and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you paid the salary of a 2nd Class Petty Officer?

Mr. Moody:

No, this is just a temporary appointment.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So your boot camp was pretty easy then?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, it wasn't too bad.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long was the boot camp?

Mr. Moody:

Seven and a half weeks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were your drill instructors pretty tough on you?

Mr. Moody:

Oh no, no. I liked it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you finished boot camp then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well I had a ten day leave and then I caught a troop train in Chicago. And went to California and caught a troop ship out of California. Went out to Eniwetok and caught a destroyer, which was the *John W. Weeks*, 701.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You went to California, where in California?

Mr. Moody:

Well we went to, well it was San Francisco I think.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what kind of ship did you leave there on?

Mr. Moody:

Well a troop ship, it had a lot of troops on it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you went to where?

Mr. Moody:

Went to Eniwetok.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that ship over there?

Mr. Moody:

It was good, it wasn't too bad. We didn't have much air condition. But it was pretty good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About what date did you leave to go over there?

Mr. Moody:

Let's see it was seven and a half weeks and ten week boot camp, that was probably, it was less than three months after I got in.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So it was probably March then?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah. No, probably the first of April.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was there any sea sickness on the ship over?

Mr. Moody:

No I didn't have any, it was a bunch that did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything in particular happen on that trip over?

Mr. Moody:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever attacked by Japanese submarines or anything?

Mr. Moody:

No Japanese, we wasn't, I mean submarines. We wasn't, but I was in one battle and that was kamikaze planes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was later though, okay.

Mr. Moody:

Yeah that was later.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On that trip over were you in a convoy with other ships?

Mr. Moody:

No, we was by ourselves. Two destroyers I think.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Two escorts, okay. And about how long did it take you to get to Eniwetok?

Mr. Moody:

Eniwetok, it didn't take very long, Eniwetok was just outside of Pearl Harbor over there. It took

us about two days.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what happened there?

Mr. Moody:

Well I got on that destroyer at Eniwetok.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, joined your destroyer. And the name of that destroyer?

Mr. Moody:

John W. Weeks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And the number of that?

Mr. Moody:

701.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was your job on the ship?

Mr. Moody:

Well I was supposed to have been a torpedo man's mate. But when we went on to the Philippines and joined a fleet there we had to get out ahead of the fleet. And as we left a guy jumped over the side, he was a gunner's mate. And after we couldn't pick him up, so you know he's swimming for the hospital ship, he'd had enough, and we went on out. And they come to me later and they said in battle you're going to be in that 5-inch gun mount, you're gonna be fuse setter.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had you had any training for that?

Mr. Moody:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So what happened then?

Mr. Moody:

Well we just, and every time we get in any dangerous waters the Captain would say, he'd say, "Destroy everything from here on in, on the water and in the air." And so we went on out and we never did have any problems until the last day, the day they dropped the second atomic bomb. That's when, they said it was five kamikaze planes. And later on I was told it was three, so I don't know how many it was. But one got through and they said it was smoking from one end to the other. And he flew over us and dropped a bomb and missed. And missed us and went out and banked and dove in on the ship next to us, which was *U.S.S. Borie, 704, DD-704*. My ship was 701 and the ship next to us was 704, it got hit by the kamikaze plane. They lost forty-eight guys and sixty-six wounded. But we got shot, we got shot in the side with a 5-inch gun mount from one of our other ships, it was shooting at that plane, it shot too low and hit us. We lost one guy and seven wounded.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How much damage did it do to your ship?

Mr. Moody:

It didn't do any really. It hit the top of that wale, and went up when it exploded.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now that kamikaze plane that hit the 704, how far from you was that?

Mr. Moody:

Well I'd say it probably wasn't fifty yards or so.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh, it was real close to you then.

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, we was pretty close together there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did it sink that ship or what did it do to it?

Mr. Moody:

No it didn't sink it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well we stayed out there looking for survivors, about four hours and we didn't find any. That's the reason I knew the ship didn't get sunk.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well we just went on and I guess I don't know what happened to the other ship but we went on and then got to the fleet again. Then we went back into Tokyo Bay and searched it out before the old *Missouri* went in to sign the peace treaty.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you mentioned about the atomic bombs, tell me about how you heard about that and all.

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah. Well September 2nd they come around and asked a bunch of us, they said, "Who wants to be Occupation Forces to Japan?" And we wanted to get that thing over so we figured we was going to stand guard or something. And they took us directly into where they dropped the atomic bomb at Nagasaki. And they say it was a center point, it covered fifteen square miles.

And everything in that, we went into the center valley and everything in that valley was turned to dust except right in the center of that valley there was twenty steel framed buildings. Ten of them were partly melted one way and ten partly melted the other way. That's the reason they called the center point, or zero.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when they dropped the bomb on August the 6th did you hear about it then?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what reaction did people have when they heard that?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, well I don't know how we got the information but we heard about it. And then we heard about the one that, August the 9th too.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah on Nagasaki, right.

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of celebration when you heard those things?

Mr. Moody:

No, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then you went in to Tokyo Bay?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you when they had the surrender on September 2nd?

Mr. Moody:

I was standing on the deck, we was patrolling back and forth, behind the *Missouri* about fifty yards out. And I saw MacArthur walk down the deck, the *Missouri*.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, so you were real close there then?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well we stayed around and well we were taken in and exposed to atomic radiation and after we escorted the *Missouri* back to the fleet. After they took us in and exposed us to that we left Japan and went to some little old island over there and stopped at it. And they called, they come down in and handed me a 45 and a scabbard and said you're going to deliver this letter over to the dock, over to the beach. And they had a little boat waiting for me there. I went over and delivered it. I walked on the beach about fifty yards and a guy sitting in a little booth there and I delivered it and come back. And it wasn't long after that Executive Officer called me up to his office and wanted to know why I hadn't put in for a promotion. And I told him I'd been pretty busy, I hadn't thought too much about it. And he said the 1st Class and the Chief had recommended me, so my name was on the board down there. So I got 3rd Class Petty Officer.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And about what date was that?

Mr. Moody:

I can't remember what date it was. Let's see I'd been in there about a year I guess, in the Navy.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So that would have been in January of '46 then?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Something like that, okay.

Mr. Moody:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well we come back to the States and we got liberty in San Diego. And we stayed there a couple of days. Then we went around through the Panama Canal and went to Norfolk, Virginia. And all them big homes in Norfolk, Virginia had signs on them, said, "Sailors and dogs stay off the grass." So they compared us to dogs.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

And then we went on up to..., let's see we stopped in Boston. And I got a thirty day leave. And I come back and caught the ship, it'd gone on to Portland, Maine. And I caught the ship back in Portland, Maine.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

And after that I was transferred to the 732, it was *U.S.S. Hyman*, H-y-m-a-n, I was transferred to it since I was getting out. All of us that was getting out left the *Weeks* and got on the *Hyman*.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

And I went home, I got a discharge.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what date did you get your discharge?

Mr. Moody:

In July of '46, last part of July I think.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did you get that at?

Mr. Moody:

Let's see, Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

Well, I started looking for me a job and I went to work at AT&T, a temporary job for AT&T running underground cable from Memphis to Jackson.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

And then I went to radio engineering school, I got _____ off there. I went to radio engineering school, we went eight hours a day, fourteen months straight, five days a week for fourteen months. At the end of twelve months we went down got our second class test. We had to go to New Orleans take a Federal test. Got our second class and then come back went two more months and got our first class license.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now where did you take that school at?

Mr. Moody:

In Jackson, Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what kind of school was that again?

Mr. Moody:

Radio engineering school. Okay I forgot, I started back to high school and this guy told me they was giving tests in Jackson at a college up there if you finished the ninth grade the Federal government would give you, if you passed that test you could get your diploma. So I went up there and took that and passed it. Got my diploma first and then went to that radio engineering school.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now did you go to that school on your G.I. Bill?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you use your G.I. Bill for anything else?

Mr. Moody:

No I didn't use it for anything else. I joined the Reserves when I got out, I was in the Reserves for eight years.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You didn't get called up?

Mr. Moody:

No I never did get called up. I was glad I didn't. I guess it was my rating, they didn't need torpedo men anymore so.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me go back and ask you some other questions here. On April the 12th of 1945 President Roosevelt died, where were you when you heard about that?

Mr. Moody:

I probably just got on that ship. I can't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you remember hearing about Roosevelt dying?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what reaction did people have when they heard that?

Mr. Moody:

I don't know, I can't remember that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now May the 8th of 1945 Germany surrendered, did you all hear about that?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Any kind of a celebration or anything?

Mr. Moody:

No, we didn't have any, we was at sea out there. We was worried about the Japanese.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now how was the morale on your ship?

Mr. Moody:

It was pretty high seemed like, most of the guys that I met. Except you know two or three of them that had enough. And that one jumped over the side and another one threatened the Captain with a hammer, he was a boatswain's mate. And I had to go up and steer the ship, the Executive Officer pointed at the wheel and said, "You're going to steer this ship." And that was the first time I ever got sea sick. And I told the Executive Officer better take the wheel, I gotta go. And if I'd a been a split second later it'd hit the Captain right side the head.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home from World War II with any souvenirs?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, when we went into the atomic bomb area I found a cup, a teacup, they didn't have handles on them. And I brought one of those back at where they dropped the bomb and it had dust over the bottom of it, it was turned upside down. And I picked it up and I brought that back, it still had the ashes imbedded in the pores. And I had a Japanese rifle, it was a 31 caliber that somebody stole from me, I don't know who got it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home with it? Did they steal it before you got home?

Mr. Moody:

No they stole it in my house.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you were overseas what would you consider your most frightening time?

Mr. Moody:

Well I really didn't have time to get frightened. I guess you'd say it was the time we were attacked by them kamikazes. But if we'd have got too frightened we couldn't have done the job we done.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now did you ever see any USO shows any time?

Mr. Moody:

No, uh-uh, no I didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Moody:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Nothing at all? Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah, I heard her lying. They had a radio aboard ship, of course she was telling that Japanese were winning and I think it was the day that them big battleships were bombarding Japan. We was out in front of them, they were sitting out on the horizon firing them big guns.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of her?

Mr. Moody:

I didn't think much of her, I knew she was lying about everything, that's all I knew.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever cross the equator?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah. You had to to get to Japan.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of a ceremony when you crossed the equator?

Mr. Moody:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They didn't make you into a Shellback?

Mr. Moody:

Uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you got out did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Moody:

Oh no, uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

None at all, huh? Did you use your G.I. Bill for anything besides that school?

Mr. Moody:

That's all I used it for.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you had any reunions of your outfit?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Which ship, the 701?

Mr. Moody:

The *Weeks*, 701, DD-701.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many of those did you go to?

Mr. Moody;

Oh I didn't go, no I didn't go to any of them, I'm sorry. They was having a reunion in New York and I didn't want to go up there. I never did go to one.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you keep up with anybody you were in the service with?

Mr. Moody:

No, uh-uh. I didn't know but about three or four guys, really know them. That we went on liberty right after we come back to the States. But I didn't know some of them, they were from all over the country. So I did, I went to this meeting down there, we have a meeting once a month, the last Friday of every month, the World War II vets and all the vets can come now, but it started out World War II vets. And I went in one day and the guy that run the place and he had this girl, grabbed her by the arm and he said, "We've got a surprise for you." So we went up there next to this stage at a table and there was a guy that was on the same ship I was on during World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Moody:

Well I got one for ..., I don't know I got several ribbons but I don't know. I got one for Iwo Jima and other than that I don't where that come from. But it was sent to my mother and she gave it to me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was that a battle star?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah I got one, that day those kamikazes come over us. August 9th when they attacked us, that's the only star I got.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you been on the honor flight to Washington, D.C.?

Mr. Moody:

Yes I have.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that?

Mr. Moody:

It was great.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was there quite a group that went with you?

Mr. Moody:

Oh yeah it was a ..., I forgot how many they said it was. The plane was more than half full of veterans.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long ago was that?

Mr. Moody:

That was in 2013, October I believe, 2013.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else do you recall from your time in World War II?

Mr. Moody:

Oh that's about it. That's about all I recall now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of the officers you had over you?

Mr. Moody:

Well I liked them, they was real great.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They didn't give you any trouble?

Mr. Moody:

Well no I didn't get in any trouble.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was your career in civilian life?

Mr. Moody:

Radio engineering, the reason I come to Texas. I went to Littlefield, Texas as a radio engineer, maintenance at the radio station. And then I moved up in Kansas and worked a little bigger radio station.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what?

Mr. Moody:

And then my wife, I met my wife in Littlefield, Texas. We got married and she was originally from Fort Worth so she wanted to come back down here. And I came back and moved back down here. My oldest twins had been born when we was in Kansas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What does a radio engineer do?

Mr. Moody:

Well we kept the radio station on the air. We maintained everything. And at one place we had to have a program, up in Kansas we had a one hour western show that we had to spin records and one thing and another. But we mainly just, what we had to do was to maintain and keep the radio station on frequency, we had to run frequency tests for the FCC and stuff like that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is that what you did your whole career?

Mr. Moody:

No, uh-uh. When I came down to Fort Worth they didn't have nothing in my line, so I went to work at a full-time service station. The guy wanted me to buy his brother-in-law out and me and him run it, but I didn't do that. So a guy come along that worked at General Motors and he wanted to know if I wanted a job over there. So I went to work at General Motors. Worked over

there until I got laid off. And I went down to Fort Worth unemployment office and they said you're over qualified for anything we've got. And I said, "Look I'm not over qualified for anything, I want a job, I don't want no unemployment." And so they sent me out to what used be General Dynamics, it's an aircraft place. And I went out there as a machine operator and about a week later the foreman come down out of the office and wanted to know if I'd run a sheet metal for him. I told him I'd never run a sheet metal machine before but I'd give it a shot. So I worked there awhile and he wanted me to go down and help a machinist that they just started these machines. And he was trying to get the machine, he told me later that the reason he sent me down there, he wanted me to run one of them machines, but he was trying to get them away from the union course I didn't have enough seniority. But I got laid off after that and I went to work for Dillard's as a sales supervisor down in Northeast Mall. I stayed there about a year and a guy come along from Tandy and said he was running a little warehouse, they had one computer center open. And he wanted to get out there and sell by telephone in that store and they needed somebody to straighten their warehouse out and get it moving. So I said yeah I'll come down and give it a shot. So I went down there and I found out right off that it was people, the guy that hired me and he was stealing the most and the people in the store was taking what they wanted and was robbing stuff out of boxes and everything. So I started shipping what they were selling and stocking and everything. Some of it was feeding, was sending information everyday what was happening at his warehouse. So they moved me up on the third floor and fenced in the area and gave me a key. And give me one girl to work for me and we were stocking and we're saving, stocking and shipping what they had. And the second day up there they told me that I'd doubled ship out in California. And I told the guy if I did he

(End of side one of tape.)

(Beginning of side two of tape.)

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay go ahead, then what happened?

Mr. Moody:

And she started to make a copy of everything that come up and we started a file and so we had inventory and they was a third short on merchandise. And the way they covered all that up, they never did pay any bills for over a year, they'd been sitting there over a year at that little warehouse in that one computer center. So when we had all that and it was a third short, was Tandy hired an outside firm to get everything paid and everything and told the people to get out there and open me forty-five computer centers in thirty days. So we, me and that one girl, opened seventeen computer centers off the third floor of the Tandy center. And I was stepping on a lot of Radio Shack toes so, and they didn't like that. And so they merged me with a bigger warehouse and the first day out there, come down out of the office, a guy did, and he said, "I hired you six temporaries." And I said, "Who hired them?" He said, "I did." I said, "Look, you couldn't handle anything before I got here and I'm going to hire my permanent people and show them what I want to do and we're going to open those stores right." And that stepped on the vice-president of Radio Shack's toes, so. They were taking gifts and girls, or gifts and everything. So it went in another inventory and I had those girls, I told them what I wanted done and they was pulling all the stock and all. And I had one girl checking every box to make sure it went out right, that she was checking all the stock numbers according to the orders there. And they went out right. And so we merged into another bigger warehouse and they had another inventory and we was only \$1,600 shortage, I don't know how many million dollars and how many stores we'd opened up, they left me in charge. And when we come up just \$1,600 short, they said there ain't nobody that good. Well I wasn't that good, but the girls that I hired and told what I wanted to do was that good. And those computer centers that we'd opened up, they told them downtown, we was known as TEW, and they said it was TEW said they sent it, we got it. So they didn't like that downtown because they wasn't use to nothing like that. So anyhow this old vice-president come out there and chewed me out. Well we had another inventory first that come out the same thing. And this little gal from downtown, she's supposed to come out there and this order and tear me up and she looked at the second pallet and she said, "I don't see that much on that pallet." And I said, "Well it looks like," she had a little

calculator going, I said, "Looks like six boxes." And I pointed at my head and I said, "I believe eighteen to the box, I believe that's a hundred and eight." I said, "What'd you get?" That made her mad and we went over another ten pallets then. But anyhow, and then that vice-president come out there and chewed me out for getting a little bit behind and didn't hire no more help, kept opening computer centers. So he told me to throw anything in a box and get it out, they'd correct mistakes. But I knew, me being in the selling business before, I knew that that computer business was tough business if you didn't do it, either meet or beat the competition you wasn't going to stay. So anyhow, he said throw anything in a box and I didn't do that so they decided to get rid of me and they hired a guy in over me and one under me and put the squeeze on, you know. And so it wasn't long this guy come down from this big warehouse, he heard about me, and he wanted me to run his receiving department. And I'd run a quarter of a billion dollars through that warehouse every year. So I went up there and took over receiving, the guy had been over receiving for seventeen years, wanted to take him out of there and give him a break. So I run it for eight years. And the guy that come down there, he was old fellow about sixty-eight, and he wanted to move me to shipping and him and his assistant had a big argument that day and he went home and passed away. So anyhow, when I left there, every time this assistant manager, him and his buddy in shipping up there, they wanted to, they made him assistant manager, made him the manager after the old fellow died. And they was opening doors and everything at night after I'd leave out there. And they'd call me at night to come out there, and they was supposed to take care of that but they was trying to run me off. But anyhow when I got to be sixty-two I checked it to them and said, "Bye."

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you retired when you were sixty-two then, right?

Mr. Moody:

Yeah, I had planned on going to sixty-five but I decided, and my wife was sick at that time too. She had cancer, stomach cancer, so I had to stay home, take care of her.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is your wife still living?

Mr. Moody:

No, she died at seventy-four.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Sorry to hear that. Well, Harmon that's all the questions I have unless you've thought of anything else.

Mr. Moody:

Okay, well I'm sorry about got carried away and mouthing too long.

Mr. Misenhimer:

No problem, no problem. Okay Harmon thanks again and we'll keep in touch.

Mr. Moody:

Okay I thank you and I'm glad that you're still around with us too, so.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thank you, right.

(End of interview.)

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July 24, 2017

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