

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
WITH  
NEWELL MOORE

6 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE  
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW #QMS.021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH  
NEWELL MOORE**

**Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**INTERVIEW #QMS.021**

**FORSYTHE:** This is a continuation of the interview with Dr. Newell Moore. Today is Thursday, July 6, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the Gore Research Center, Room 111 of the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. Let's continue talking about people in the history department. Dr. Bart McCash?

**MOORE:** He was the chair when we got computers, and he came to me and said "If we provide you with a computer, will you promise to try to learn to use it?" I said "Just as long as I don't have to promise you that I will learn." But I soon learned it and within a few weeks some of the younger ones were coming in and asking me how to use it. I got so dependent on it that before I retired. I said that was one thing that I was going to miss.

**FORSYTHE:** Who were the secretaries while you were there?

**MOORE:** I can't remember who was before Shirley Reed, but she was for years.

**FORSYTHE:** Joe Black Hayes?

**MOORE:** Joe was the coach at Cumberland University where I started teaching. Joe and I were in a skit one night in which we were asked, this was a church group, to dress up like women. Each one of us dared the other as to what we would do on the stage. I guess you might say he is typical of a coach, but is a very likable person.

**FORSYTHE:** Mary Hall?

**MOORE:** Miss Mary is an institution. I remember her. She looked as old then as she did when she passed away. I remember she was very active in the Stones River Manor, which is a retirement home maintained by the Churches of Christ. She asked my wife to serve on some committee or something and my wife said, "I don't belong to your church." She said, "We are all headed to the same place, that doesn't make any difference."

FORSYTHE: Howard Kirksey?

MOORE: He was the principal in my high school, and I also had one level of English under him. I would see him every once in a while when he was in graduate school at Peabody. Then I came and worked under him. His father was the depot agent in my home town. Dr. Kirksey's brother, Showboat, he was an alcoholic all of his life. But one night he and his brother got an old inner tube and put it between two trees, and they found a rock and they pulled it back. And there was a black church there, and they pelted that church.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Phi Gamma Mu

MOORE: That is an international social science honor society. I became a member of it at Peabody College as a junior. Then I believe we established the chapter here around 1960. Dr. Strickland served as the sponsor until he left in the fall of '72. Then I became the sponsor. It is open to all students that have about twenty hours in any of the social sciences with a B average. We usually held two membership drives each year. We would take in any where from six to twenty-five.

FORSYTHE: What would you do?

MOORE: At first we would sponsor programs and often did with Phi Alpha Theta, but in recent years you didn't get anyone out. So we actually do help sponsor a child for Christmas and things like that.

FORSYTHE: How has the equipment changed since you have been here?

MOORE: Well the audiovisual that we had when I came here consisted of maps, chalk, and an eraser. I used to say that you wrote on the board that was the video and as you wrote on the board the chalk squeaked that was the audio part. But now we have projectors and computers, which has revolutionized everything from running your outlines on to tests. The program has developed with the implementation of historic preservation and public history. And as I say, the equipment and the textbooks are much better today.

FORSYTHE: Thank you for coming out.