

Damesha Boone: On behalf of Cross Roads to Freedom, Rose College ____ I want to thank you for take the time to share your story with us today. I'm Damesha Boone. And --

Rodtavis Miller: I'm Rodtavis Miller.

Damesha Boone: And I'm honored to meet you and learn from your inspirational story. Today's interview will be archived online in Cross Roads of Freedom website. Today's date is June 25th, 2014.

Can you state some basic background for information, for the record what is your name?

Lou Emma Moore: Lou Emma Moore.

Damesha Boone: If you don't mind me asking what year were you born?

Lou Emma Moore: 1944.

Damesha Boone: Were you born and raised in Memphis?

Lou Emma Moore: No I was born in a town they call **Bof**, Mississippi. It's about 190 some miles from here.

Damesha Boone: What is or what was your occupation?

Lou Emma Moore: In Mississippi or here?

Damesha Boone: Here.

Lou Emma Moore: Oh, I worked as ____ that's where I got my first job at.

[0:01:00]

I was making 75 cents an hour. And that was in 1967.

Damesha Boone: Did you enjoy your job?

Lou Emma Moore: It was making money. And I was -- that was the only job -- the first job I had, so I yes, I like it, because it helped feed my family.

Damesha Boone: Did you marry?

Lou Emma Moore: I was married when I moved to Memphis.

Damesha Boone: What was or what is your spouse's name?

Lou Emma Moore: He was named Roosevelt Moore. My spouse died in 2009.

Damesha Boone: Did you have children? If so what is their names?

Lou Emma Moore: I have two daughters, Mary, and Linda Moor.

Damesha Boone: How old are the two?

Lou Emma Moore: 50 and 48.

Damesha Boone: Now let's talk a little bit about your experiences growing up. Can you tell me about the neighborhood you grew up in?

[0:02:02]

Lou Emma Moore: I grew up in Mississippi. And we -- all the thing we did was play with each other, then pick berries and plums and during the summertime. And that was basically all we did in Mississippi.

Damesha Boone: What was your home life like?

Lou Emma Moore: To me it was nice. It was the only thing I knew at the time.

Damesha Boone: Who were your parents and what were their lives like?

Lou Emma Moore: My mother was named -- my mother was named Mary Murray. My father's name ___ Murray. And they was very nice parents. And I really loved them. We had a big family. There was ten of us in the family. So you know.

Damesha Boone: What schools did you attend?

[0:03:00]

Lou Emma Moore: WC ___ was a drama school I went to. And I went to high school in ___ High.

Damesha Boone: In the drama school you attended was it nice? Did you like it?

Lou Emma Moore: Oh, yes, I always liked the school. There's where I got my learning done.

Damesha Boone: What churches did you attend and what were they like?

Lou Emma Moore: My church I was a Method and it was named Plain State Church in ___, Mississippi. When I moved to Memphis I joined the Redamount ___ Church on Willington.

Damesha Boone: Did you like the Greater Mount ___ Church?

Lou Emma Moore: Of course.

Damesha Boone: Can you share some of the memories from childhood that influenced you later on in life?

Lou Emma Moore: Well, I always wanted to be nice to people and treat people as I wanted to be treated. And to respect other people and was hoping they would give me the same respect.

[0:04:00]

Rodtavis Miller: Let's talk about your life in the south now. Exactly what does this mean to you?

Lou Emma Moore: When I came here to the south it meant finding a job, trying to make a better life for me and my family.

Rodtavis Miller: So are you saying like a life coming here was a little difficult for you?

Lou Emma Moore: I think it's better.

Rodtavis Miller: It's better.

Lou Emma Moore: Because I was trying to get away from the south, the deep south.

Rodtavis Miller: What was -- exactly what was going on in south Memphis like around '60's and the '70's?

Lou Emma Moore: When I came here there was a lot of marching. You know ___ ___. Martin Luther came and visited. And you know it was kind of very ___ ___ at the time, because to me it was scary.

[0:05:00]

Rodtavis Miller: So experiencing like that -- experiencing that like -- how does that make you feel like today? Like knowing that you lived during that time? How does that make you feel?

Lou Emma Moore: I think it makes me feel like I helped somebody get a life. When he did a lot of you know me going to meetings and I marched a little, but not too much. So I'm thinking I made life better for the next generation to come along.

Rodtavis Miller: Exactly how were the marches for you?

Lou Emma Moore: Scary.

Rodtavis Miller: How is south Memphis different from then than it is now? Like how much different is it?

Lou Emma Moore: You know just like I said. I lived here for four years in south

Memphis I don't have no input on what's happening around here in south Memphis now.

Rodtavis Miller: What are some places in south Memphis that remain good places ___ ___ in your four years what were the places in south Memphis that ___ ___?

[0:06:08]

Lou Emma Moore: I think this area is a very good place to live, because I like living over here. ___ ___ both apartments these senior citizen apartments. The apartments and housing and things are better. So you know this area is a good area to live in.

Rodtavis Miller: Oh you mean ___ Park. So exactly how was it back then?

Lou Emma Moore: College Park.

Rodtavis Miller: That's what it's called now.

Lou Emma Moore: Yeah, well it was Highland over here and they was -- wasn't too good of housing. You know stuff like that. So they built an area off -- little apartment off -- I don't know what the name of those apartment down there. It wasn't down there. It was housing in that area at that time.

Rodtavis Miller: Okay, and what is the best thing about south Memphis that you like -- in your opinion what is the best thing about south Memphis?

Lou Emma Moore: Inspirationally this place can grow ___ ___.

[0:07:01]

Rodtavis Miller: I'm sorry. What do you think would make south Memphis a better place?

Lou Emma Moore: People treating each other better.

Rodtavis Miller: ___.

Lou Emma Moore: Going to school, you know learning how to read and write that would make south Memphis any area a better place.

Rodtavis Miller: Okay with new renovations things like College Park are you hopeful about the future of south Memphis?

Lou Emma Moore: Oh, yes, definitely. I think anything -- any place can improve.

Rodtavis Miller: Do you have any fond memories that you would like to share about south Memphis that you had or --?

Lou Emma Moore: At the time it was just like I said when I moved -- when I was in here it was challenging. ___ ___ because there was marches and just you know very scary for me at that time, because I just had moved here in the south and people was marching just very difficult at the time for me.

[0:08:10]

Rodtavis Miller: Okay, how would you compare Mississippi whereas to living in Memphis -- I'm from Mississippi myself, so I want to know what it's like? How would you compare the two?

Lou Emma Moore: Yeah, pretty much the same, because Mississippi had ___ just standard and living and everything. So Mississippi at the time was just country houses and ___ ___. You know living ___ stuff like that.

Rodtavis Miller: Well, is there any advice you would like to give young people in south Memphis?

Lou Emma Moore: Yes, just be themselves and try to be nice to other people and treat them as they want to be treated and respect everyone even each other.

[0:09:04]

Because I think respect is due to everybody.

Rodtavis Miller: Is there anything else you would like to add ___ ___ I might have missed?

Lou Emma Moore: No, I don't think so. You know.

Rodtavis Miller: Okay, well, thank you for participating Cross Roads to Freedom ___.

Lou Emma Moore: Thank you very much.

[End of Audio]