M.M.: "I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT T. M. MOODY."

S.S.: "OKAY."

 $\rm M.M.$: "T. M. MOODY. . THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE BEFORE GRIFFIN WROTE HIS BOOK. AND IT WAS BEFORE SCHOOL WAS INTEGRATED. AND THERE WAS SEVERAL WHITE GUYS CALL T. M. MOODY, WHICH LIVED RIGHT WEST OF US HERE AT THE END OF THIS PIECE OF PROPERTY. THEY THREATENED TO COME OUT AND KILL HIM.

THEY HUNG A 'REFUGEE' ON MAIN STREET OF T. M. MOODY. AND THEY CALLED HIM THAT EVENING AND SAY THEY'S COMING OUT TO KILL HIM. AND THEY WAS...
REALLY, IT WAS ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE OR THIRTY OR MORE, THAT WAS GETTING
TOGETHER TO COME OUT AND RAID HIM. I GUESS THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT. AT
NIGHT, AFTER DARK-NOT DAYTIME.

"BUT IT WAS SEVERAL OF T. M.'S FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER AND WAS WITH HIM HERE. THEY NEVER DID SHOW UP. IT WAS GOOD THEY DIDN'T, BUT THEY DIDN'T SHOW. AND BEFORE T. M. EXPIRED, HE WAS WELL THOUGHT OF. EVERYBODY RESPECTED HIM. BUT AT ONE TIME, EVERBODY WAS GOIN' TRY TO KILL I'M AND EVERBODY. . ALL THE BLACKS GOT WITH T. M. SAY 'WELL, IT'S JUST GOIN' BE A SHOWDOWN' THEN, SURE ENOUGH. .. AND HE RECOGNIZED THE MAN'S VOICE THAT WAS ON THE TELEPHONE, AND HE TOLD HIM, UH. . . "

S.S.: "WHO WAS IT ?"

M.M.: "UH. PERRY. HE TOLD HIM 'MR. PERRY, YOU COME ON. ANYTIME YOU GET READY. IN CASE YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE TO COME OUT TONIGHT, YOU CAN COME TOMORROW NIGHT OR WHENEVER. I WILL BE HERE AT HOME. YOU WELCOME ANYTIME YOU WANT TO COME TO MY HOUSE."

S.S.: "THAT WAS OVER. . .HE WAS TRYING TO ATTEND. . .GET HIS CHILD TO ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL HERE?"

M.M.: "NO. . .HE DIDN'T HAVE. . .HE NEVER HAD A CHILD. HE WAS. . .HE WAS JUST PUSHING TO HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR THE BLACKS. JUST. . .YOU KNOW. . .WE'D GET THE BOOKS, BUT IT LIABLE TO TWO KIDS STUDYING ONE BOOK. IT WAS. . . SOME OF THE

S.S.: Stan Solamillo B.B.: Betty Benjamin F.L.: Fred Lawson

M.B.: Maggie Jackson Briscoe M.M.: McClendon Moody (Mac) S.W.: Shirley Larue Barton-Washington L.L.S.: Lillie Lawson Sheppard M.E.B.: Mary Eliza Burr M.E.: Michael Evans

Mansfield Oral History Project

(Unabridged Transcript)

M.M.: [CONTINUED] WHATEVER-IN GROCERY STORES, MARKETS, EVERTHING-FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY EVENING. THEN SATURDAY EVENING, YOU'RE SEGRECATED. SUNDAY MORNING YOU GO TO YOUR CHURCH-BLACKS GO TO THEIRS IT WAS THAT-A WAY THEN, AND ITS THAT-A WAY NOW. IN SEVER HAVE UNDESTOOD THAT ITS THE SAME NOW, AS IT WAS BACK THEN YOU WORK SIDE BY SIDE, EVEN SUSS OF TO LIKE THE CHURCHES SHOULD HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED FIRST. THATS... TO ME, I DON'T KNOW."

S.S.: "U-M-M-M... I WANT TO GO BACK TO GRIFFIN AND UH..."

M.M.: "I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT T. M. MOODY."

S.S.: "OKAY."

M.M.: "T. M. MOODY, . .THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE BEFORE GRIFFIN WROTE HIS BOOK. AND IT WAS BEFORE SCHOOL WAS INTEGRATED. AND THERE WAS SEVERAL WHITE GUYS CALL T. M. MOODY, WHICH LIVED KIGHT WEST OF US HERE AT THE END OF THIS PIECE OF PROPERTY. THEY THREATENED TO COME OUT AND KILL HIM.

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