

Henretta Moore Interview Excerpts C  
Shawnee College Oral History Program

SHAWNEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: Henretta Moore

Interviewer: Edward Whitaker

Subject: The 1937 Flood in Cairo; Camps for Flood Victims  
in Wolf Lake

Date: November 6, 1975

W: Did they have houses [for the people in Wolf Lake]?

M: No, CCC camps. Small children stayed in tents. People that didn't have kids also stayed in tents. It was a big place with over a thousand people. People would drive up in cars and sit and look at the people. . . . They wouldn't let the people drink out of ditches; they had pretty clean water to drink.

W: Did the Blacks and whites stay together or were they separated?

M: The white people went to a different place.

W: Did a lot of the houses get damaged by the water?

M: Well, not too bad.

W: How did it affect you?

M: My husband and son stayed here, then I come back home.  
There was a dog jumping ditches like he was in the country,

because the water was all in the streets. Let me tell you it was cold.

When we went to Kentucky, we stayed in the courthouse. We had to ride the boat over there and ride the boat back. . . .

W: After the flood you didn't have too hard a time.

M: No, there was just people getting back.

W: Did they have relief?

M: Yes, they give them packages. If they stayed there [in Wolf Lake] until they released them, they gave them some food.

W: So they gave most of the people food?

M: Yes.

W: Did they give out clothes?

M: Yes, the people overseas sent ships of clothes to help the people. They had a house there with shoes and clothes from overseas, and you could go up there and get them.