

Replies to StoryWorth Queries

What are some of the most important elections you've voted in, and what made them important to you?

Election 2020

I have voted in every election since 1954. I take pride in voting. I remember when I was a little girl my Father would send my Grandfather money to pay poll tax so he could vote.

I was excited to vote in 1960 because I was pregnant with my first child. My husband and I looked at both conventions on television and discussed the issues. The next time I was excited for an election was in 2008.

I was able to go to Washington in January 2009 to the Inauguration of the First Black President. We stayed in Baltimore and got up early to take train to DC. It was a very cold day but a beautiful day. We walked and walked we were in the Orange Section we could not hear or see anything but that did not matter because we were there. It was a beautiful sight to a crowd that large and very peaceful. A lot of smiling faces. America at her best.

From 2016 to 2020 were troubling years because it seemed that I was reliving some of the things were in the past. This was sad. I had watched CSPAN for many years and could not believe all of the negative things that was going on. This was worse than the 50's. What a poor example for our children.

I was extremely excited to vote in 2020.

Are you a regular at any of your local restaurants or cafes? What is that relationship like?

Favorite Restaurant

On Sunday after Church some of us go out to lunch. Prior to the pandemic we would rotate where we went to eat. In 2020 we decided we would go to one of the places that was clean, safe and had great food. It was also close to Church we didn't have to drive all of the cars. We could leave some of the cars at Church and carpool to the restaurant two per car.

The Eatery is a small family-owned restaurant on East 30th Street in Indianapolis. The menu is large enough that it would take weeks before trying everything. It is a soul food restaurant. The menu offers salads, vegetables, pastas, sandwiches, fish, chicken, pork chops. There is also homemade dessert, cornbread and waffles. The food looks good and taste good.

We go there often the waiter knows I want black coffee and the others want Arnold Palmer or sweet tea. I usually order green beans, fried fish, and mashed potatoes with gravy. No bread. The others order a variety of food. We are always happy with the food.

The Chef always greet each table during the dining experience. At least three times when it has just two of us dining when the get ready to pay, we are told someone has already paid for our meal. We then give extra tips.

Were you involved in any organizations in high school?

High School Clubs

In 1950 when I entered high school things were very different. We had passed the Standard Achievement and had excellent grades we had to take an additional test to be accepted to this high school. After having to measure the distance from home to school we were accepted.

A group of us decided we would start a club. Our club was The NBG club which stood for Nothing But Girls. It was set up similar to a Sorority without any initiation. Our's was active for 12years.

We had bylaws and conducted meetings once a month. Officers were elected for one year. The parliamentarian used Robert's Rules. We had many professional people talk with us educational opportunities and alternatives to four-year colleges. We held meetings in our homes.

We mentored the elementary school Camp Fire Girls also served a camp counselors at summer camp in Flat Rock, Indiana. We volunteered at our Churches. Each November we would fill Thanksgiving baskets. We sold candy, dinners and had bake sales.

We had parties. One of our members designed a lapel pin with NBG we had this made at a local jewelry store. We had a Sweetheart Ball with live music.

Looking back our club was good for us at that time.

What is the best job you've ever had?

Best Job Assignment!

I retired from my primary job in 1992. In 1999 I went to work for local airline as a reservation agent. I really enjoyed this job because of the flight benefits and it was a pleasant work environment.

In the summer of 2005, the airline announced they were moving reservations to the Philippines. At that time the company as if any of the agents would be interested in going to the Philippines to train the trainer. I applied and selected. I had a passport and went to my Doctor to see if everything was okay. No problems I could go.

In September 2005 I flew to Manila Philippines with several others. I had a total of three round trips to the Philippines. The first three months we stayed at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and the last three months we stayed at Fraser Place in Makati City. The call center was located in the Allied Bank Building.

The trainees were excellent. They were young people between age eighteen and middle twenties and we'll prepared. After a few days one young lady asked me if it would okay to call me "Granny" I said sure because I am a Grandmother and Great Grandmother. From then on, they would greet me as Granny and asked how is My Granny today? We had a really good working relationship. They were thankful for the job and gave 100 percent.

Our group from Indianapolis and Chicago would take tours in our scheduled days off. On Sunday some of us went Mass at Malate Catholic Church. We also took the following tours.

Manila American Cemetery

Mayon Volcano

Tanay Waterfalls

Corregidor

Rice Fields

The company encouraged us to take advantage of opportunity. We also had outings for the trainees.

I purchased a charcoal of my daughter's family made from a photo that I had. The artist did a wonderful job the images are remarkable.

This experience is the highlight of my 50year work life.

Who did you go to prom with?

Senior Prom!

We were looking forward to the Prom because this could be the last time to see everyone. Some would be going away to college, getting married and going to the Military.

My girlfriends and I were looking for dresses. We looked in catalogs, fabric shops and department stores. We had to make a decision, did we want to buy a dress or have one made. We changed our minds several times before getting the one.

I was going to the Prom with a good friend. My dress was white with red ribbon trim and my date wore a white tux with red tie. We thought we were looking good. Our group had planned to arrive at the same time so we could table together.

Our Prom was held downtown Indianapolis at the Indiana Roof. The entertainment was the Count Basie Quartet. We were really excited. We had a wonderful time dancing and talking about our futures. I introduced my date to a girl that later became his wife this was always a happy memory.

After the Prom we went to one our classmates' home for a breakfast buffet.

Where did you go on vacations as a child?

First Vacation!

Up to the age of nine both parents were schoolteachers. We traveled a lot in the summer taking short trips. Daddy had a large garden and raised chickens he didn't want to be away too long. My uncle Richard who was old didn't mind feeding Tobie our bulldog and Old Dan the horse but didn't work the garden.

The summer when I was seven years old Daddy didn't plant a garden or have chickens.

He was going to Detroit to work in a foundry for the summer. He told my brother and I about the foundry and said Mama was going to take us on vacation.

My Mother, Brother and I went on vacation to St Louis, Missouri. We went on the train I excited to ride on the train. My brother and I were excited to see the scenery Daddy had taught us to identify name of trees by the leaves. When we went through little towns, we were to see people.

When we arrived in St Louis it was so big, lots of cars, people and the Mississippi River. We took a Cab to Auntie Fisher's apartment. Auntie and her husband had three boys, Mama and Albert were going to stay with them. Aunt Til lived in in an apartment across the street from Auntie. Aunt Til and husband had a daughter and niece, I stayed with them. I was happy to meet all of my cousins.

We were in St Louis for two weeks. We went to Forest Park Zoo this was my first time going to a zoo. I didn't know there were so many different animals. We rode the streetcar to the zoo another first. On Sunday we went to Church. After Church we had a large family dinner. During the week we helped our cousins with their chores and played. Aunt Til 's husband worked for the streetcar company in his day off he bought tokens and took us on a long ride.

When it was time to back home were happy and sad. We were sad to leave our cousins but would be happy to see Daddy. We took the train back home my brother and I thought we got back home faster Mama smiled and said no it was the same distance.

How did you get your first job?

My First Job!

My memory full time job was at RCA (Radio Corporation of America). RCA manufactured Radios, Tubes, Televisions, and Vinyl Records. I saw an ad in the newspaper and applied at the plant. The application process was simple no test.

When I was notified to come in and complete paperwork, I was really excited. It was a group of us hired the same day. We were given a tour of the Television plant. This was the first time I had been in factory and it was scary but if they could do it so can I.

I was assigned to line that soldered wires on a printed circuit board. The soldering iron was above shoulder level in a holster. What I didn't know was this was setup for right-handed people. I am left-handed and had to learn to do this with my right hand. I was good keeping up the solders were good but I couldn't keep up. Before my 30-day probation period the group leader and union steward to the supervisor that I be terminated and rehired in the Tubes Department. I was off from work for one week and rehired in the Tubes Department.

The Tubes Department was much different than the Television Department it cleaner and quiet. Music was played over the PA system. Tubes was on fourth floor and Records was on first floor of this building.

We assembled cathode ray tubes. This kind was also set up for right-handed people, but I didn't have to solder. If I had to use left hand to keep up didn't have to worry about getting burned. However, I was able to make production with my right hand within the 30-day probation period. We primarily used pliers to wire tubes. We wore thin white cotton gloves because the cathodes were sensitive to moisture. The quality control supervisor and the time study engineer would monitor to make sure gloves were worn. The Tubes would short out and sound like popcorn if defective. We were always happy when those tubes did not come from our line. Quality was just as important as production to our supervisor.

I worked there for six years until the Tube Department moved to New Jersey. Times were changing in this industry. This was a wonderful time of my life and I went to work a civil service job until my retirement.

What were your grandparents like?

My First Memory of My Grandparents!

My paternal grandparents were deceased before I was born. My maternal grandparents Will and Sophie Cole were a big part of my life. My first memory of them I was about five years old. We lived in Lebanon Tennessee and they lived in Kenton Tennessee.

My parents Albert and Willie Jane Moore and my brother Albert William Moore went to visit our grandparents in Kenton. It seemed like a long ride. When we arrived it was in the morning. Their yard was full of yellow daffodils and blue iris. I had seen daffodils before first time seeing iris. My grandparents saw us drive up and ran out to meet us. They hugged and kissed us.

My grandmother was fair skinned, and my grandfather was dark skinned, I could see my grandmother's veins in her arm. She told me we were all Negros and there all many skin tones in our race.

My grandmother had fixed a big breakfast. My brother couldn't wait to get one of the golden-brown biscuits and put some strawberry jam on it I wanted the ham with the red gravy. After breakfast we outside to play.

The children that lived next door to my grandparents came over and asked if we wanted to play. We had a good time. I thought I saw a white cat in the tree they laughed and said that is a squirrel. I said our squirrels are brown they said they have brown one too.

When it was time to get ready for bed we put on our pajamas and sat on the floor by the piano and Mama Sophie played and sang to us. We were happy.

The next morning, we got ready to leave to go home. I remember how different our home was from my grandparents. Several years later they built a two-bedroom house with bath no more outdoor toilet.

At this time, my grandparents had eleven grandchildren. They loved all of us and we all loved them.

My Dad

Albert Allen Moore was born February 14, 1896. He was the first in his family to finish High school and college. He never talked about his childhood at the time he had five sisters that he loved dearly. The first nine years of my life our family lived in Lebanon, Tennessee. My Dad was the Principal of the Colored High School and my Mother taught in a school in Wilson County.

During this time Daddy designed and built a house. I don't remember where we lived before. He would show my brother Albert and I where he had blasted the limestone from. Daddy a happy person and loved his family. He liked to sing and recite poems.

We were in the car a lot of the time taking my Mother to her school and coming back to school. The grade school was next to the high school. When traveling back and forth Daddy would sing happy songs. He fell us about the trees and flowers. It seemed like he thought we were his high school students. We could read and count before first grade and we knew the chemical formulas for salt and sugar. When Daddy had meetings in Nashville at Tennessee State before going back home, he drive pass the Parthenon and tell us about the building. We never went inside.

In 1945 we moved to Indianapolis where Daddy had to sisters living. Our house was different from our house in Lebanon we now in the city. Houses were close and street was busy. Daddy's New job was at Camp Atterbury, Indiana this was over a hours drive. He would leave early and get home late. My Mother did not work outside the home. My brother and I were excited about our new surroundings but sad we did not the day to day with our Dad. We still went to Church together just as we had in Lebanon. My aunts lived on another side of town often we would have Sunday dinner with them. After dinner we would play checkers.

Three years later he changed jobs now working close to home for Flanner House. Flanner House was a nonprofit organization. Daddy was over the garden project. People could sign up for a plot to plant a garden. Flanner House provided the land. Daddy would meet and give instruction on gardening. At harvest time Daddy was over the Canning project. There the gardeners could can their food in tin cans just like the can food in the grocery. We could go to work with Daddy again and take our weekend trips. We were happy. In 1948 my brother John was born. My brother Albert and I thought this was the greatest thing. We would race to see who could hold him first.

In late 1949 Daddy became ill and was hospitalized for several months. In 1950 he was back home again. He was always in the teaching mode and made sure we were keeping up our grades. He wanted us to think about college and what careers we were

interested in after college. My Mother had now began working for the government at Fort Harrison. Daddy was not feeling well from time to time he continued to work, and we still would go on our weekend trips. I finished high school in June 1954 and Daddy passed in July 1954.

I cherish the time I had with him. He taught us to love God, Family and Country.