

Jaimee Hallum's  
interview with  
Frank Moody

①

This is Jaimee Hallum and it is February 19th and I am interviewing Frank Moody in National Mine at Nishouse to find out about his occupation

me - 1st I have to ask you some background questions: when + where were you born?

Frank - April 21st, In bed in National Mine, Right here

me - what were your parents names?

Frank - Frank + Maud Moody

me - what are they names of your brothers and sisters?

Frank - I have a sister Helen, and a brother James Moody

me - where and when were you married?

Frank - In Gwin, June 6th 1941

me - what is your spouses name?

Frank - Angelina

me - what did your parents do for a living?

Frank - My father worked for Hurculees powerplant, my mother was a house keeper

me - where did you go to school?

Frank - National mine, Northern Michigan University, + the Univer sity of Kentucky

me - what special memories do you have of growing up in this area?

Frank - all good

me - what special features stand out in your mind about the cities of Ishpeming + Neganee?



Frank - they always had good ski events, dog races horse races and all + we always had good parades, and they always had alot of good music programs

me - have the cities changed at all?

Frank - yes

me - what kinds of things did you and your friends do when you were younger for entertainment?

Frank - mostly school related, basketball + alot of grammar plays we had a lot of in National mine, played alot of ball

me - where did the kids like to hang out when you were a teenager?

Frank - Well, where the Brown derby is now that was called the chocolate shop

me - where was that?

Frank - Right on main street; On the corner of main and Pearl street

me - Do you have any interesting stories to share about the early days in Ishpeming or Negaunee?

Frank - You could say it was a lot of fun; Cops would chase you every once in a while but beside that; We always had an old junky car or something that never had a licence on it and all of the kids from National mine we'd be all piled in there, cops would chase you home, they'd come as far as the tilden township club here and then they'd let us go because that was the where the



city line was, and they never bothered us any more <sup>(3)</sup>  
they'd call our parents and they'd tell our  
parents that we kept on getting caught by them.

me - now old were you found your 1<sup>st</sup> job? <sup>where</sup>  
Frank - 18 years old; worked in the Barnum mine (CCI), <sup>did</sup>  
In Ishpening <sup>you</sup>  
<sup>work</sup>

me - what types of duties did you perform on your  
1<sup>st</sup> job?

Frank - underground mining

me - was there any dangers?

Frank - Well sure, explosives

me - what stands out most in your mind about  
your 1<sup>st</sup> job?

Frank - Payday; it was depression days, nobody had  
any money, when we used to get paid  
that was the biggest event of all. you wait-  
ed for that, two weeks, every two weeks

me - were you ever in the military?

Frank - Yes, United States Marine Core, 3<sup>rd</sup> marine  
division

me - could you describe your experiences there  
a little bit?

Frank - Some good, some bad, all depends on where  
we were, we were in the Pacific all of  
the time. Guam, Saipan, Honolulu, Hero-  
gema, Chichigema, China, Japan

me - How many total years have you worked in  
your life time?



Frank - well I started when I was 18 and I retired when I was 62

me - During your lifetime where were you employed the longest?

Frank - I think for state department of corrections

me - How or why did you choose this career?

Frank - I was transferred into it, I worked for employment security then they transferred me there. I worked in the prison down state and here in Marquette

me - Could you describe your duties working at the prison

Frank - Oh yeah, in the olden days when they were in prison they were locked up, now they wander all around like geese, they were separated, the lifers, then the long term ones & then the short term ones we had different rules & regulations for them

me - did that job require special training?

Frank - Yes, the job that I had you had to have a college degree.

me - what special equipment or clothing did this job require?

Frank - white shirt and tie, colored shirt and tie, suit, everyday

me - did it have special rules?

Frank - Yes sure, you had different duties at different times of the day and certain jobs to fulfill by the end of the day & report about them



at the end of the day

me - how long did you work there?

Frank - well I went there in 1971, but before that I worked for the employment security, then I was principle in Dywright School for 6 or 7 years

me - what was the most rewarding part of your career?

Frank - again it was payday

me - what was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Frank - adjusting to the different personalities

me - how did the duties of your job change over the years?

Frank - I'd say it got harder because the prisoners got more and more priviledges & when they got more, they abused more.

me - Did any family members work for the same company or same job?

Frank - No, my brother worked in the mine too, but he worked for the department of employment, and my ~~big~~ sister was a school teacher for 40 years

me - Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

Frank - Oh sometimes,

me - Could you describe any of them?

Frank - Sometimes the prisoners would have a knife, sometimes they'd have a homeade shank, they'd take



Frank - a nail + file it down + they'd stick it in a chunk of wood + they'd use it like a pocket knife + lots of them used to have razor blades up in their hair they'd split the end of their toothbrush and they'd put the razor blade in there and let it stick out a little bit and cut each other up, the black guys and the hispanics

me - Could you describe what your co-workers were like?

Frank - ya, good bunch of guys, everybody had to get along together, if you had any problems with each other you shouldn't have been there.

me - Could you describe some interesting or humorous events about your career?

Frank - It was fun to go to work sometimes and it wasn't fun to go sometimes, it all depended on what you had to do. I think the most fun or numerous part is I had never met any old black grand - mothers before + most of the kids in the prison were raised by their grandmother and each of the old grandmothers would sit down and talk to you, same with the older Mexican lady they were all nice! You'd do them a little favor and it was a good day.

me - at any time did you feel like changing careers?

Frank - Oh sure, every time you'd get ticked off you'd want to quit, It was a good job, so you stayed

me - what were your biggest responsibilities of the job?

Frank - well I was a supervisor, I was in charge of 290 convicts, there was 7,000 convicts in the Jackson place, that's the biggest prison in the world, the most heavily populated one in Jackson Michigan



me - did you recieve any awards from your employer and were you recognized any way for your job performances

Frank - Oh sure from the Mexican community & then from the blacks too.

me - during your days of employment and on what has been your favorite leisir activity?

Frank - bumming, bumming ever yday, working for my daughter in the tavern, coming home and sleeping, Bumming with my good wife in the car, going to camp

me - so you work in a tavern in the morning?

Frank - yeh, in Ishpeming, my daughter owns a tavern

me - do you have any stories about this?

Frank - not really

me - have you been involved in any clubs or organizations?

Frank - Oh sure, I belong to the Amvets, I belong to the UFW, I belong to the National Legion, I belong to the Lions club, On the Salvation Army board in Ishpeming, I was on the school board.

me - what was the Lions Club?

Frank - the Lions club is a club that provides sight + leader dogs for blind people.

me - what special moments stand out in your mind about this aspect of your life?

Frank - Well I think I'd say the snowmobile races that we used to put on with the lions club out at Cedar Lake, I think that was the high light, It would take us all year to plan, we used to have alot of fun

me - Did you race in them?

Frank - No, I didn't race in them

me - was there alot of people that went to them?



Frank - Oh yes, we figured we had about 3,000 people at sometimes, yeh Cedar Lake is a big place you know, there's room for a lot of people and I suppose we would have 50 or 60 machines out there racing at one time.

me - Over all what are your fondest memories of your working days and your career?

Frank - That's hard to say, coming home, to my family, having a good supper, jumping \* in the car and going dumming, payday, what else do ya want?, got to know a lot of people

me - Were you a member of a Union?

Frank - Yes, Steelworkers and I worked in the mine.

me - Could you describe any interesting moments that occurred as a member of a Union?

Frank - Sure, when they had the strikes, they used ball bats on some of the guys cars when they were going through the picketing line, and seeing one guy get a half of a hair cut, one day in the barber shop ~~was~~ he went to work when he wasn't supposed to and he was sitting in the barber chair and the barber had half his hair cut, the guys came in there and he jumped out of the chair and ran for home and another one shot one of the guys in the leg, they had their ups + downs

me - Have you lived in National Mine for most of your life?

Frank - most of my life yes

me - Did you raise any animals?

Frank - Yes, we had ponys + horses, + we always had a dog and a cat

me - If you had to do it all over again would you pick the same career?



Frank- No  
me - why

Frank- I'd like to be a teacher.

me - Is that what you liked doing best, teaching?

Frank- Yes, I'd like to be a history & geography teacher.

me - Is that what you taught when you were a teacher?

Frank- Yes, well I taught History, geography, and  
math

me - where did you teach?

Frank- I taught at National mine, Ishpeming, taught  
In dyright, taught in champion, I used to sub  
teach in champion & at National Mine for your  
principle, Mrs Honkala

me - Do you have anything else you'd like to say?

Frank- Oh not really, I enjoy living around here, I en-  
joy the people, some good days, some bad days  
you know, It was fun

me - could you tell me a couple of places again that  
you went to when you were in the military?

Frank- Oh yeh sure, well I started off in South  
Carolina to Paris Island to Camp Legune, to  
Oceanside California to Honolulu to Guam,  
to Sipan ~~to~~ from there to O'Kanawa, but they  
didn't need us there so back to Guam, then  
the war ended then we were sent to an  
island called Chichigema, the Japanese used  
this as a whaling station prior to World  
War II, this is supposedly the place where  
Emelia Ereheart went down, our job was  
to get all of the Japanese and weapons off  
the island, there was over 15,000 Japs & only  
16 of us, later we got about 45 more.



Frank - but there was these three guys standing on the beach, they were called Savories, their parents had come to Boston Massachusetts in 1845 as whalers and they learned to speak Japanese, Chinese and Korean. The neat place about Chichigema Island was it was the leprosy colony for the Orient in the hospital, beautiful hospital. There was no vegetation hardly at all but they survived, they were fishermen & whalers, that's the 1st time in my life I'd ever seen guys dive for octopus & those big sun fish about 2 ft. long, I'd never seen a whale before but there were many whales in the ocean we'd go up on the hill at night and watch them. One day this kid came over here, said he wanted to talk to me, he wanted a little bit of history of National Mine. I looked at him and said you're not from around here, he said no, I asked where are you from, he said you've never heard of this place, I said well tell me, I might of, he said he was an exchange student from Guam & I said well I've been there. He was so happy, he gave me a picture of a road view of Guam, I've never heard from him since, he's gonna be a writer

me - So you liked traveling?

Frank - well, if I was a civilian I would have liked it better but it was still all right in the military because we didn't have to buy any flying tickets, we either rode the boat or the aircraft. They didn't ask you about the old schools before they built westwood? See the 1st school was where the car is parked there, this used to be my grandfathers store here, it was built in 1880 no 1881, where my garage is right here across the road here there was no log house here and there was the grade school then there was the kindergarten - 4th grade, and then where the horse shoe court is; where the Tilden township garage is



Frank- that was the other school house was and that went from kindergarden to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Then where National mine is now there was a wooden building there and I was in kindergarden when that burned down & then we went to different churches around here to go to school before they had the other one built, then they built the one you're in now. Then they had where they have the tilden mine is now was the cliff farm school and they had the well where the Empire mine is now, you know where the big basin is now there was a school right along side of the rock there. And then outside of Ishpeming where Frankie Honkala's garage is there was a school back there and the families that lived back in there 3 or 4 families they would have turns having the school in their house, there's a lot of history in this place. Well there was a mine up there in front of Jerry's house and down below Billy Tong's is 2 and behind Barald Alderton's is 3, up behind Jerry's there was the utb, then the Klondike pit was 5 then the upper and lower shafts is 7 then the Parson mine was 8, then the big pit up here was 9 & the Mitchel mine was 10, yeh there was ten mines here at one time. there was 1500 people in National mine at one time in about 1907. Every-body got along good here. National mine never had one kid who couldn't go to college. The old schools here were a really good. Well is there anything else I can do for you?

me - No I guess we got it all. Thank-you very much for lettng me do this interview.

Frank - No problem, Come back again if you ever need anything else.