# Oral History: Moseley Jack

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| Metadata Field | Description | Data Entry |
| Title | Title of Document |  rebeca\_salas\_with\_moseley\_jack\_4-10-17 Complete  |
| Accession Number | Catalogue Number of the File | (Administrator Only) |
| Interviewee | Name of Interviewee (SURNAME, given name(s), middle initial) |  [Moseley Jack  |
| Interviewer  | Name of Interviewer (Surname, given name(s), middle initial) |  Rebeca Salas  |
| Interview Date  | YYYY/MM/DD |  2017/04/10  |
| Interview Date (non-preferred format) | Eg. November 13, 2014 or MM/DD/YY |  April 10, 2017  |
| Collection ID |  | (Administrator Only) |
| Collection |  | (Administrator Only) |
| Series ID |  | (Administrator Only) |
| Series |  | (Administrator Only) |
| Summary | Brief summary of the interview session (Copy and paste from Form 13 – Session Summary) |  Moseley Jack begins by describing what it was like growing up in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He talks about his family background and what his father did for a living. Moseley discusses the various jobs he held to support his family while his father was in custody. He then moves on to his academic career and how it lead him to pursue a university degree in Vancouver, BC. Moseley explains how he became a teacher as well as a counsellor in Kamloops and Richmond. He reflects on his role as a sports athlete and coach, and its significance in his life. Moseley discusses what surprised him about Canada when he first arrived and the culture shock he experienced. Afterwards, he points out how Richmond has changed for better or for worse during his time there. Near the end of the interview, Moseley provides his opinion on the important role women play in society and how, historically, they have been excluded from social, political, and economic participation. |
| Keywords | Keywords indicating interview subjects (Copy and Paste from “Keyword” section of Form 12 Interview Summary.) |  Race, Class, Education, Poverty, Crime, Work, Soccer, Track and Field, Baseball, Teaching, Counselling, Gender Equality, Relationships, Community, Diversity, Progress, Culture |
| Subject | Subject headings applicable to the Interview. The OHC uses Library of Congress Subject Headings. |  Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, Caribs, Arawaks, Alcoa Steamship Company, Secondary Schooling, Templedora Bauxite Company, Commonwealth Games, Vancouver, Michael Agostini, McGill University, University of Manitoba, UBC, International House, Kamloops School Board, Richmond School Board, Chinese |
| Duration | Length of Interview Session (if applicable) hh:mm:ss |  03:15:03  |
| Interview # |  Number of the interview (interviewees according to date) |  All three interviews transcribed in this document.  |
| Session # | Session # of the recording (X of all interviews in the session) |  All three sessions transcribed in this document.  |
| Location | Where the interview was conducted |  Richmond City Hall |
| Media Type | Audio or Video |  Audio  |
| Restriction Type | Open (Open access)Restricted (Interview has some restrictions detailed below in “Restrictions”)Closed (Closed/No Access) |  Open [[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Restrictions | Details regarding any restrictions on the file’s use (as outlined in Form 6 –Consent) |  N/A  |
| Rights | Release Information regarding copyright and access through the repository (as outlined in the Release Agreement) |  All rights given to the interviewer (Rebeca Salas) and the Oral History Centre  |
| Funding | Information on how the project was funded. |  N/A  |
| Equipment | Equipment used to record the session. (Brand and model number of recorder.) |  H2N Zoom Recorder  |
| Media Format | Digital format. Eg; .WAV, MP3, .doc, .pdf, .tiff, etc |  WAV  |
| Language | Language(s) of the Interview or Document |  English  |
| Type | Document Type. Eg: Oral History Interview, Conference Proceedings, Presentation, Sharing Circle, etc.  |  Oral History Interview  |
| Repository | Location where the project/collection will be stored. |  The Oral History Centre  |

## Transcription Legend:

… = Ellipses used to indicate where an interviewee does not complete a thought.

[?] = Used to indicate indecipherable words or unknown spelling of words.

START OF TAPE PART ONE OF THREE

[00:00:12]

*REBECA*
As we spoke about, let’s start at the beginning with where you were born.

*MOSELEY*
Okay, very interesting, I came across a map of Trinidad and Tobago recently and my granddaughter was over and she’s very interested and very, very much aware. During the Olympics, she learned about Australia because we have some very dear friends in Australia. She knows the Australian flag whenever she sees it she knows that’s Australian. She knows the Trinidad and Tobago flag. I happened to come across a map for the Port of Spain, the capital city. I looked for the street where I was born and looked for the street where I mainly grew up. I thought, “okay, well I’ll get a chance to show her.” I was born in a suburb of Port of Spain in Trinidad on September the thirteenth, 1936.

*REBECA*
Okay, and what was life like growing up there?

*MOSELEY*
Well, I don’t remember much about my early childhood, you know, say, before the age of five or so. One of the things that I became very much aware of, we never got to know our grandparents, any of them. I guess, you know, in a lot of third world countries a lot of people didn’t live much beyond fifty and that sort of stuff but my parents came from Saint Vincent, the island of Saint Vincent and settled in Trinidad. It seems as though in the neighbourhood where we lived was a very poor neighbourhood. Many of the people around us, there weren’t fathers. There would be mothers with children but very few fathers. You know, I guess, and this may have had something to do with slavery. You may not know, but slavery was very, very rampant in the new world. The Spaniards who ruled Trinidad and many of the new world countries, um, they . . . In Trinidad, the aboriginals were the Carib Indians and the Arawak Indians and so on. The Spaniards tried to enslave the Carib Indians to work in the plantations, the sugar cane plantations, stuff like that. The Caribs, well, they were classified as cannibals but what they did to resist enslavement was they killed their children and they committed suicide. A nice old priest named, um, his name isn’t coming to me right away, Bartholomew [Loskasus?], he was a priest. He said to the Spaniards, “look, I know where you could find strong healthy people to work. We could go to Africa.” So there were millions of enslaved black people captured by, also, black people in Africa and Muslims and white people, Europeans. They brought them to the Caribbean area and, um, they, in particular, there were a lot of blacks brought to the United States to solve an economic problem because they worked in the plantations; cotton plantations, and so on. They were the only uninvited, I mean, invited guest that came to North America. Anyway, after slavery was abolished they weren’t allowed to bring in slaves from Africa anymore. So the Europeans who controlled the slaves, they started using the strong, black men as studs. I don’t know if you know what a stud is but they kept all the young women who were of baby, you know, who could bear children, child bearing age, they kept them impregnated. So they had destroyed families and, here, now they were using the men to impregnate the women so that they could have more slaves. So, I guess, maybe a lot of men grew up and they were not committed to any particular, you know, one person. So, probably, that was very common in my neighbourhood. I knew of men who had children with, maybe, two or three different women. I came from a family . . . My mother had four children before she met my father and I was the fifth child.

[00:05:31]

My mother had nine of us. I was smack in the middle. So, you know, it was a struggle from that point of view. A very funny thing happened when I was about nine or ten. My father worked for the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. Somehow they had discovered that he had high blood pressure and he was released from his job. Of course, we didn’t have any social services like welfare and stuff like that. My father was without a job and he had about . . . Well, at that time, two or three of the younger ones weren’t born then. They were born a little bit later and my father ended up with six children to support with no income and he got into some illegal activities and he was imprisoned for a while. So it was a struggle. My mother couldn’t go to the welfare office and say “well, my husband is in prison and I need to . . .” So, that was a very difficult period. I guess, I had a desire for knowledge. I should mention, also, you went to school until you might have been twelve or thirteen because we didn’t have free secondary education. You may not know, but in England they had what they called an eleven plus. You wrote an exam and if you did well, you went onto academic, you know, to high school. If you didn’t do well, you went into a trade or so. The elementary schools that we had in Trinidad, they may have had three or four hundred kids between the ages of, um, we started school at five. We went into grade one at the age of five. In my early years, I did go to a number of private schools. My father was working at the time so he was able to pay for the private schools that we went to. In the elementary schools, the headmaster selected . . . there was one class that wrote this eleven plus exam, not the 300 kids. He selected them. I was going to school in a middle-class area and most of the people who were selected for this exhibition class were well-to-do middle-class people. Not only that, you may not know again, colour was a very important thing and maybe still today. If you were light, you were right. If you were brown, you stick around. If you were black, and poor, well, you had a lot of difficulties. I remember the principal at that elementary school. All his children were in the exhibition class. My mother, when she took me to this school, she asked the principal for me to get into the exhibition class. It’s interesting, I encountered another friend who grew up in the same community and went to the same school. He said, “we weren’t selected for the exhibition class. So we didn’t get to write so that we could move onto secondary school.” What happened, um, at a very early age I got involved in picking up balls at the tennis court. Of course, all the people were white. I had some friends who were doing that, so, I went with them and started picking up tennis balls, you know, in the afternoons between . . . Most people in Trinidad work until four. They start at eight, finish at four. So my father was in custody. I said, “I’ve got to do something to help support myself.” So, I started picking up tennis balls and I went from one tennis club to another club that was [Clara?], and then I went back to the same club. We got involved in a strike. I was involved in a strike for better wages very early in my life around the age of ten or eleven, and then I met some friends who were coming from very far in my neighbourhood but further away from the tennis court. They said they heard about, um, there’s a golf course, you know, maybe several miles away where you can caddy and they paid better wages and you made tips. The people who we picked up the tennis balls for didn’t provide tips, except one family. A man by the name of McGregor, that was his last name. Only on Sunday he would tip us.

*REBECA*
[Laughs].

*MOSELEY*

So, I decided to go up to the golf course and I would go up there and an amazing thing happened.

[00:11:06]

I started caddying for a man who was the head of the Alcoa Steamship Company, a white Major Ed Collins. He was from the U.S. and he had retired from the army and he was the manager of the company. I started caddying for him. His wife, who was also, maybe, from the southern states, um, she probably got interested in golf. The golf pro, who was black, asked me if I could come and pick up balls for her when she did her lessons. She did her lessons around nine or nine-thirty in the morning. I wasn’t in secondary school, you know, because I didn’t get an exhibition to go to school for free. My parents couldn’t afford to pay. My father was in custody. So I went to the golf course there and I started caddying, picking up balls, for this woman. He spoke to me one day and he said, mostly, you know, “I need to talk to you.” He said, “Mrs. Collins has asked why you aren’t in school.” He had told her that my family was too poor to send me. We didn’t have free schooling. As a matter of fact, Trinidad has only had free secondary schooling for maybe twenty, twenty-five years now. Not very long ago. He said, she asked me if I would like to go to school. He asked me and I said “Yeah! I would love to!” So she made the arrangements. She was going to pay for me to go and the arrangement was that I would go to their house on Saturdays and help around the yard and that sort of stuff. This was a big break for me. My mother went to thank this woman. She lived in an exclusive area in a great big house and we were renting a three bedroom house; nine people in the house or something like that. My mother went to thank her and she asked a lot of questions and my mother told her, well, my father was unemployed. Once again, a wonderful thing happened. Her husband was friendly with a guy who was the manager of the Templedora Bauxite Company, where they shipped aluminum bauxite. They shipped that from Trinidad to the U.S. and she arranged for my father to get a job. She spoke to her husband, he spoke to his friend, and they arranged for my father to get a job. Things started to change. I was going to high school. What I would do, I had to take the bus. You know, the public transit. School got out around three o’clock. I would hustle to get home. I’d get home at just about four o’clock and I’ll take the next thirty-minutes and run to the golf course to caddy so that I could make some money to get to school the next day and cover my lunch. Shortly, about a year after, when my family started working, things started to get a little bit better and my mother became ill. She had been ill for many, many years. One morning, she got up and I looked at her and I didn’t like what was happening. I called the kids. I sent, I was the oldest at home at the time, I sent somebody to call and get an ambulance.

[00:15:15]

We didn’t have telephones so they had to go down to the main road or something. They came and took my mother to the hospital and, of course, she passed away. I was sixteen years of age and I had two younger sisters. One was five and one was maybe about eight. So, here was my father with, there were five of us at home then, and he was working. He had to bring somebody to help look after the younger children. I guess, I didn’t follow through with my commitment to go into this lady’s home to work around her house, especially when they were away. You know, you’re sixteen, seventeen, there are other things on your agenda. They were returning to the states but she told me she wasn’t going to pay my fees anymore. So that was a shock. I had to go home and tell my father. I said, “Now it’s up to you. You’ve got to pay.” Well, he struggled. Sometimes I couldn’t pay the fees and I had to go and tell the headmaster at the school, you know, “I haven’t got the money from my father to pay for school.” It was something like, about, 3.50 a month [laughs]. Not a lot of money, but he decided to pay for it and I managed to get my grade twelve. I wrote the exams one year but I went back to school and wrote the exams a second year hoping to get what you call an island scholarship where I’d go on further but I got a higher certification and I got a job in the civil service. I worked in the Department of Education and Culture. Things were beginning to look good. I was helping to support my younger brothers and sisters. There was a man up the road who worked in the Department of Education. I worked for the Department of Culture but we were very close to each other. Talking to him, I discovered that he had some friends who were at university in Vancouver. I had read about Vancouver because of the commonwealth games. You may not know, you’re too young. In 1958 the commonwealth games were in Vancouver. We had a sprinter named Michael Agostini who competed and did very well. So I got to know about Vancouver, but I took geography in school and when you take geography you mainly studied commonwealth countries like New Zealand, Australia, Canada, not so much the U.S. but I learnt a lot about Vancouver. He spoke about these people and I got the idea, “I want to go to university.” I tried to get into the university in Trinidad but there was a five year wait, and, generally, you needed to have about eighty-five to ninety-five percent to get admitted. I didn’t want to wait that long, so, I got this friend who worked near to me to write one of his friends in Vancouver and ask them to send me a calendar. When the calendar came, I looked at it, and I applied to several places in Canada to go to university. I applied to McGill, I applied at the University of Manitoba, and the University of BC. I didn’t really want to go east. I wanted to come to Vancouver because I was told by the people who were going to school here, students are allowed to, you know, they work at the university during the school year and then they could find employment during the off season. I thought, well, this is what I have to do because where was the money coming from? Well, within . . . I started working about April or May 19, what would it be? 1957. I arrived in Vancouver in September 1969, about two years and five months later. UBC didn’t accept me at first because I didn’t have any science. There were two things that happened for me. My sister’s extended relative, a brother-in-law in a sense, you had to show the government you had money while you were going to school in Canada. You weren’t allowed to work. You had a visa, a student visa, and you weren’t allowed to work. He wrote me a letter saying that he had $5000 that were available to me to help me while I was at school but that was bullshit [laughs].

*REBECA*

[Laughing].

*MOSELEY*

My principal also wrote a letter from the school saying that I had done science but there was no science, it was a private school, a cheap private school, not like St. Georges and all the others here where you do everything. I got accepted and I came to Vancouver. I didn’t know anybody. I struggled. I had difficulties paying my second term fees because I was expecting some money from the Trinidad government, some back pay, because they were reviewing majors and they sent and told me “Nope, you’re not getting any money.” So, fortunately, I was hanging out at International House. Did you go to UBC?

*REBECA*

I go to SFU.

[00:21:20]

*MOSELEY*
Okay, well, they had . . . It sort of encompassed all the foreign students; International House. They developed a credit union and I was able to borrow some money to pay my second term fees. Yeah, um, you know, that sort of thing happened. I failed my first year. Coming from a family, I had a sister, she’s still alive, she had five kids, and I saw them every day. I saw my own younger sibling every day, and on weekends I would look after my sister’s younger children while she did her grocery shopping and then I’d go to the golf course and, well, by the time I started working I stopped going to the golf course. So when I came here, I guess, probably there might have been some home sickness, and, you know, really missing . . . I had two groups of friends. A group that was associated with the steel band and I had another group that I hung out with, you know, we were into soccer. Trinidad has a large East-Indian population and, you know, very multicultural because Trinidad housed people from . . . First, to begin, they had the Africans. They had the Carib, Arawak Indians. They had the Spaniards, and what’s amazing, the Spaniards allowed the French to bring in settlers. So they developed Trinidad more than the Spaniards did. The Spaniards were only interested in the wealth but the French were interested in the settlements. Spanish is our second language. A lot of the older people, but I think it has been erased now, they spoke French-Patois. My uncle used to understand French-Patois but in high school we studied French and Spanish. I also did Latin. So, after all those people the British defeated the French, I mean the Spaniards, and they took over Trinidad. So people started to come in from Ireland, Scotland, and, you know, Britain. The British also invited people who came from Syria, Lebanon, and Portugal but after slavery was abolished the British went to India. At the time before India was divided into Pakistan and India. I don’t know if you know the history there but they brought people in from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China. You could see the kind of confusion we have in Trinidad. My mother was half Carib-Indian. Her father was a white person. Her mother was Carib-Indian. So, my father was a descendent of slaves. So, my background is very, very diverse. My mother was what you would call part of the Mongolian racial group. Her father was part of the Caucasian group, and my father was of African descent. So, in my family, we have people of different shades. I had a brother who was very dark. I have a sister who is very light. You’ll find in Trinidad there’s a lot of discrimination against very black people, even among black people. If you know the history of the United States, the same thing, the light skinned blacks, the brown blacks, and the black blacks. If you’re poor and uneducated, your life is bad news. I came to Canada and I struggled, but, you know, I don’t know if this is something that I should mention, you know, but in the first year when we were on vacation from university, I couldn’t find a job. I was dating a girl that I met here. She was very, very kind and generous to me. I couldn’t pay my rent and she was working part-time and for two, three months or so during the summer when I couldn’t find work she gave me money to pay my rent. As we continued to date throughout the years, she started typing my assignments. I would go through four processes. I would do the original, you know, do the proof-reading, and the editing, and then I would do a good copy and send it to somebody to type for me and she decided to do all of that. She removed two steps. She did the editing and the proof-reading, and she did the typing. So she was of great help to me. The relationship sort of dissolved because she went to the interior to teach. Well, she dumped me [laughs].

[00:26:56]

*REBECA*
[Laughs]. That’s honest.

*MOSELEY*

Yes, yes. Well, I think, um, what happened is her parents weren’t accepting of the fact that she was dating a black guy with a funny accent. When the parents learnt that she was dating me . . . When she came from East Vancouver, she went to Vancouver Technical, and there she had a, you know, she dated a Japanese person because the east end of that area had, you know, Japanese who lived in the Powell Street area and so on. When she started dating me, her mother said to her “You’re still with that stupidness, aren’t you?” Anyway, they weren’t too accepting of me and so it might be one of the reasons why she may have, you know, she graduated from UBC, went to teach in the interior, and so with that kind of a conflict from the parents who didn’t care for me, you know, she made something that she thought would be more acceptable, you know. During that time, I met a girl. I was coming home from UBC one evening, you know, it was sometime in March and the house I lived at there were lots of . . . There were about six guys from Trinidad who lived in the same house and some of them had failed UBC. They were going to junior college. It was called, um, well it ended up being Columbia Pacific College but it was called [Shulpas?] in those days. I came home and there was this group of people partying in the house and I asked “Guys, what’s happening?” They said, “Well, exams are finished so we’re having a party.” This was a Tuesday or Wednesday night. So I put down my books, went back upstairs, and I saw this young lady and sometime later on I asked them who she was because, I guess, she looked very elegant, sophisticated, feminine, and shy. I was introduced to her and stuff like that. This happened the same year that the girl dumped me, 1964. A friend of ours, who lived in the same house, was getting married and I was going to be in the wedding party. The girl who dumped me was also going to be in the wedding party because she was friendly with the girl who was marrying my friend, another Caucasian girl. So, I asked the guys who knew this young lady, her name was Kathy, “Is she dating anybody?” Well, no, they don’t know. Um, they said “no.” I got her phone number and I said “Well, look, this friend of mine is getting married and the girl I was dating is going to be in the wedding party and I don’t want her to think that I’m going to be chasing her. Would you be interested in being my escort?” She said, “Sure.” I said, “Well, okay, they’re having a ceremony early in the day but they’re having a reception at the same house that we were living in, later on. When I pick you up I have to stop and run a few errands and then we’ll go back to the house.” While we were at the house my ex-girlfriend decided she wanted to talk to me. She had dumped me and now she . . . There was a situation where I went to visit her and she had a new date. It was their party and a friend of mine who drove me up to [Asuyo’s?]. We crashed the party but she left with the guy and so on. Anyway, I tried to see her and she didn’t respond. So when she came to the wedding I was surprised that she wanted to talk to me. She used to be, you know, hanging out at my house over the years and she said, “Could I speak to you privately? You know, in your room downstairs.” She said, “I’m wondering, do you think you’d be ready to settle down soon?” I said, “Well, why are you asking?” She said, “Well, I’d really like to make up with you.” Are you sure this is something you want to . . .

[00:32:03]

*REBECA*
Please, go ahead.

*MOSELEY*

She said, “If we make up. I would like to know if you could forgive me for what has happened.” I said, “Well, first to begin, I’m totally surprised at this reaction because I tried to see you before but you didn’t respond.” When I asked, she told somebody she would only see me with the presence of her new boyfriend. We had dated for about four years or so. Anyway, I said, “Well, I’m very surprised about all of this and I’m not sure that I’m mature enough that I could forgive you.” This might be embarrassing for you to hear but she said, “Well, I thought I would like to spend a night with you.” I said, “No, I don’t think that’s a very good idea” because I have a lot of principles. After the time went by I had left this young lady upstairs and, being confused, the conversation ended and I said, “I need to go for a walk to clear my head.” This ex-girlfriend and I, we used to walk down the lane to her place. She lived about two blocks away at the time when she was going to university. I said, “I need to go for a walk to clear my head.” She said, “Could I come?” I said, “No, that’s not a good idea” because I was totally confused. I had this girl upstairs, this date, and here was this one wanting to make up and so on. Anyway, I went back upstairs and my ex-girlfriend told me the girl that I had brought just went out of the house. My immediate action was to go out and try to find her and I couldn’t. First girl I ever dated that I didn’t take back home [laughs]. Anyway, I started dating . . . This young lady left and I had no way of . . . I tried to phone her but there was no answer. I didn’t see her until about, the wedding was in May, the long weekend in May, and, um, I didn’t see her until sometime in October when UBC had an open house. I was playing with the steel band then and we were playing music at the open house for UBC. This date that went with me to the wedding, came up with a girlfriend, a friend of hers, and she spoke with me but, at that time, I was dating another girl and this other girl was very close. After we finished playing I didn’t have time to say anything. In New Year’s Eve, the house where we lived was really a party house. The guy who owned the house, he and his wife had separated but he kept the house. We used to have monthly parties at this house. On a Friday night, many people would phone up and ask “Is there a party there tonight?” [laughs]. You know, we were real party people. We didn’t have a lot of money. It was a very difficult struggle. If the steel band didn’t have a New Year’s Eve party that invited a lot of people, we came and paid and we played the music. We provided all the food and everything, but that year we didn’t have a party. We had a party at the house where we were living. Low and behold, this young lady, who left, she turned up with two other girls and we got together. She turned out to be a most beautiful person and we dated for seven months or so but during that time I learnt she was going to Australia. She was attending secondary . . . She was taking her first year of university, hoping to go onto university, and she was going to go to Australia with two other friends hoping to go to university down there. Anyway, she left and after she left, I guess the first weekend I was in shock because every weekend we had done something together. She was a very straightforward person. There was no bs-ing.

[00:37:13]

She was living at . . . Her parents were in Pakistan. Her father was working at the Warsak Dam and she had been to Pakistan between the ages of twelve and sixteen, very world class traveler, you know, travelling to Japan, Vietnam, all those places between the ages of twelve and nineteen. She had come back. She actually grew up in Deep Cove. So, she came back here because the Americans had a school in Peshawar, Pakistan. They only offered up to grade ten so she came back to Canada to do grade eleven, grade twelve, and grade thirteen but she was going to go down to Australia to do university and stuff like that. I knew that and never said to her not to go or anything. I wasn’t ready. I was about twenty-eight years of age and she was, she turned twenty. I met her when she was nineteen. I wasn’t ready for a number of things. I didn’t finish my degree. I failed one course that I needed to graduate in ’64 because I was ill during a period of classes in January and, also, I had to find money to pay my fees and I was working in the waterfront, long shoring. I got sick and I missed about a third of my classes and the professor of this particular course told me, he said, “I could fail you because you’ve missed a third of the classes” but I never connected with anybody in that class and it was a social studies small group. I had to do a research paper. I didn’t have any ideas and I didn’t connect with anybody in that class. So I didn’t graduate that year. I decided I couldn’t go back to school and I applied for a job with the provincial government working in social work. I had to get a car to commute to work in Vancouver. So I was paying off a student loan, I was paying off the loan on the car, I was supporting myself, and I was sending money to Trinidad to help support my two younger sisters who, at that time, were living with a married sister who lived in a house, you know, two room house with about, my sister had five kids. She and her husband made two and now my two sisters were also living there so I was sending money. Marriage was not in my mind. Anyway, the girl left and the first weekend I had absolutely nothing to do and I thought, “My goodness, I didn’t realize how committed I was, and how dependent I was” because, as I’ve said, she was a very straightforward person. She said, “I can’t see you Friday night because I’ve got to babysit.” She didn’t play games. She was a very . . . Although she turned twenty, she was very, very mature. When the parents came . . .

*REBECA*
I’m just turning it towards you [moves microphone].

*MOSELEY*

When the parents came home that year in 1965 she said, “I want you . . .” She was living on twenty-first near Oak. She said, “I’m going to stay over at my parents’” because within six or seven days she was going to be on the boat heading to Australia. She said, “So I want you to drive me over there and I want you to come in and meet my mother and my aunt.” So, I went in, met them, and so on. Her mother was quite pleasant and everything and when I saw her next, a few days later, she said “Well, my mother’s reaction was very interesting.” She said, “My mother said I was too serious.” She said, “Also, you know, I hope you’re not serious about this guy because these kinds of relationships do not work.” I’m seeing an eagle up above there so that’s why I’m looking up.

*REBECA*
Oh, I see.

*MOSELEY*
I’m fascinated by eagles. The mother said, “These kinds of relationships, you know, do not work unless the people are celebrities” and I wasn’t a celebrity. She said, “Also, I think you’re too young to appreciate the kind of difficulties you would experience.” Anyway, um, she left and, you know, I was, you know, totally lost. The boat was going to take three weeks to get to Australia because they were going to stop in Hawaii and New Zealand. She was going on the boat with two other girls. Well, I’ve sat down, I think the Saturday night and wrote a letter. I said, “Well, maybe when she gets to Australia the letter would be waiting for her.” In that letter I asked her to come back. I said, “I know you want to get to know the people and so on.” I said, “But, you know, if you love me you will come back.” She got there and a little while after she wrote me a letter telling me how much in love she was with me but she was in no position to come back just yet because she was going to go to university in January. I said, “Well, you know, if you came back . . .” In the letter I said, “If you come back to Vancouver you could go to Simon Fraser in January and satisfy your father.” Anyway, this went on for a little while and, about, sometime in October I wrote her a letter, another letter. I was corresponding with her regularly. The letter started “Would you marry me.” I don’t know what got into my head but I realized that this was such a beautiful person, the most beautiful female that I had known and, um, [brief pause to pull out a photo].

*REBECA*
Aw, very beautiful.

*MOSELEY*
That’s when she was . . . This one was taken when she was fifteen and this one here was taken . . . These were in Pakistan when she was nineteen.

[00:44:10]

*REBECA*

Oh, wow.

*MOSELEY*
She had turned twenty. This was a party that they had for she and two other girls before they left for Australia. Yeah, anyway, um, she . . . About six days later I got a letter saying, “Yes.” You know, cellphones weren’t available and you either sent a cable but you didn’t phone somebody in Australia in those days because the cost was so prohibitive. She said, “Yes.” Later on, she told her parents that she wanted to return to Canada. Her father was very upset and he was supporting her. He said, “I’m not going to support you anymore.” The mother told her . . . She told her mother she had said yes to me and the mother said, “You know, you shouldn’t go around making empty promises. You’re too young to appreciate the kind of difficulties a mixed marriage would have. You should enjoy your freedom and travel, and you should play the field.” Anyway, she came back on the first of April 1966. I paid her way back. As things happened, we, about a year later, we had a son. It wasn’t really planned. So, you know, I was working at the time and her parents came home and she didn’t tell them. When the mother came . . . They came home, on vacation, they came home every two years to Canada. When the mother called she said, “Mom, I have a surprise for you. When you come you will see.” When the mother came, there was our son. He was three months old at the time. Well, I don’t know if she said anything negative but the first thing I know she did, she went out and brought the crib for our baby son. We didn’t have a crib but he was sleeping in a bassinet at the time and stuff like that. The parents were really wonderful. So, you know, things really worked out well for us because I quit my job, went to Trinidad shortly after we got married and, um, came back and struggled, returned to university a year later, and her parents were just wonderful because they started helping us financially while I was at university. My wife was working and our child was going to a daycare. They helped us financially while I was at school but, you know, my life in Canada has been really wonderful. I have been a very lucky person. Just to bring that to some conclusion, unfortunately, my wife died nine years ago. She came down with colon cancer and it was a shock to all of us because my wife’s mother lived to be eighty-nine. Her grandmother, on her mother’s side, lived to be eighty-eight. The grandmother on her father’s side lived to be ninety-four. I thought my wife would outlive me by a long distance. She was never ill. We were married for forty-one years. I never remember my wife being in bed sick in those forty-one years or anything like that. We have had a lot of good things happen to us. In those days, if I was taking education, I finished my degree, in between I would work, I would go to school in the morning in the summer and I’ll go on work in the afternoon from about one o’clock to about five, and so on. I was still playing with a band and it made some extra money for us. In those days, if you were doing education you had to go outside of the lower mainland to finish your last practicum. I had a friend who was teaching in Kamloops and he agreed to have me stay at his place. While I was doing my . . . The first day I turned out to do my practicum, the principle of that school said to me “Mr. Jack, I’d like to see you in my office during recess.” He said, “I’d like you to join our staff.” There was one black family in Kamloops so I said, “You would?” He said, “Yeah.” I said, “Well, you haven’t even seen me teach or anything.” He said, “No, I would like you to join our staff.” Of course, there weren’t cell phones and I had a wife and child in Vancouver.

[00:49:37]

I was out there for three weeks. I said, “Well, you’ll have to give me time to write my wife and tell her about this and wait for her response so that I could respond to you.” I asked if she’d be interested in coming to Kamloops for a couple of years. I wrote her. It would take about six, seven days for a letter to get to her and then same thing for the return. She said, yes, she’d be willing to come to Kamloops for a couple of years. I decided. I said, “Okay, I will be able to accept the job.” The person who was in charge of hiring in the Kamloops School Board said he wanted to see me. So I went to see him and I said “I understood you wanted to see me.” He said, “Well, all I want to know is if you are going to take the job.” [laughs]. As a matter of fact, he, the director, I think he was more nervous than I was because I guess he hadn’t encountered a lot of black people. Anyway, we moved to Kamloops. There we had two more children and after five years the Kamloops School Board, they offered sabbatical. Do you know what is a sabbatical? Okay, and I decided to apply for sabbatical. I had come down to a number of workshops in Richmond, in Vancouver, and I was particularly interested in counselling. I applied and the Kamloops School Board agreed to give me one of these sabbaticals. They paid seventy percent of my salary. I had three children. I applied to UBC. I applied to the University of Western, Washington. I didn’t want to go there because I didn’t feel that academically they were offering a good situation. UBC accepted me to do a diploma. You didn’t get the master’s degree or so. I came and I started. We settled in Richmond and I went to UBC. While I was there I was getting very good marks on the, my, what do you call it? My advisor, I was taking the course from him, he said “Why don’t you apply for the masters? Change from the diploma to the masters.” I said, “I did” because I was getting ninety and ninety-five and stuff like that. I was just amazed. Anyway, we had to do practicums and we were fortunate. I lived in Richmond and we were doing some, you know, um, work in the Richmond elementary and the junior high. At that time, Richmond didn’t have grade eight to twelve. They had eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. So I did some work at elementary school, secondary school, and senior high. While I was at one of the elementary schools we had soccer games and stuff like that. The principal said to me, “Why don’t you apply for a job in Richmond?” I said, “Well, I can’t. I’m committed to Kamloops for two years.” Anyway, so, I went back to Kamloops and I was teaching there and in the year after I went to UBC I did all my academic work. Normally, most people do it within two years. I completed all my academic work, even with my comprehensive, and all I had to do was to do my thesis. I went back to Kamloops and my family stayed here and I commuted every two weeks, as I’ve mentioned before. This was 1975. When I was . . . In 1976, when I was teaching in Kamloops I got a phone call from the Richmond School Board. They wanted me to come down for an interview for a job. I said, “Well, you know I’m committed here for two years and I don’t know but I’ll be willing to come for an interview.” What was quite amusing, once again why I say I’m lucky, the teachers don’t work on Saturday. I said, “I come down every weekend, I’ll be willing to come in for an interview for Saturday morning.” They arranged to see me on a Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. I came down for the interview and what happened is, when I was there waiting, I’ll tell you, when I finished this training I felt I had the world by its tail. When I went for the interview there were eleven of them and they were saying “Well, how are we going to do this? Are we going to interview him one at a time?” I said, “Gentlemen, I’m prepared to sit down and chat with all of you at the same time.” I was so confident. While they went around the table questioning me about this position, one of the persons who was the director of instruction said, “Well, why aren’t you applying for a counselling job?” I said, “Well, I learnt that the Richmond School Board does not hire counsellors from outside of the District to come in and work as counsellors. They elevate somebody in the system.”

[00:55:06]

A system superintendent was there and they turned to him and said, “Well, is that true?” He said, “Yeah, we like people to come in and work as . . .” So, I didn’t get the job as a counsellor but when I came into the district, eventually I accepted the job. I had to get clearance from the superintendent in Kamloops but I had done some parenting workshops in two different schools. I applied to him asking if he’d release me and he said yes because you had done this work in the community. So I got a job in Richmond. It took me twenty years to get a counselling position. Although, when I came in I was only the second person in Richmond with a master’s degree in counselling psychology. I ended up working at London Secondary. Another female who knew I had the training, they needed a counsellor at London Secondary and she called me and she told the principal about me. He interviewed me. He said, “You’re hired.” So, things have worked out very, very well for me. This country has done amazing things for me. I don’t think I would have had as much success, and, to add to that, my children grew up here. They were all very athletic. My oldest son, he has represented BC for twenty years in the Canadian Championships. He was ranked in the top three in triple jump. He coaches with the Richmond Kajaks, the Vancouver Thunderbirds, he’s now coaching out at UBC in long jump and triple jump. My daughter was an athlete. She represented Richmond in soccer. She competed for Richmond in the Canadian Championships until she was nineteen. My second son, he played soccer. He didn’t play at the very high level, just local soccer or, you know, in BC. My older son, he has three degrees from UBC. One from his masters from UVic. My second son has two degrees from UBC. My daughter has two associate degrees from Langara. My wife also went back to school and got her early childhood certification and was working on a degree in English. She taught English as a second language to people in our home. I have been involved in . . . I’m a lifetime member of Richmond Youth Soccer and I’ve coached with the Kajaks track and field since 1980. That’s my life story.

*REBECA*
I imagine your children took on some of your own qualities as well.

*MOSELEY*

Well, unfortunately, it may not be that good because, um, my kids when they were in school they enjoyed going to school. They often got awards for great attendance because I guess, maybe, I try to be too perfect. All the years . . . When I quit teaching, when I retired, I had about two years of leaves that I could’ve used. Somebody said to me, “Well, why don’t you take medical leave?” Well, why would I take medical leave when I’m not sick? So, you know, um, I think my kids got the desire to contribute. They coached in their schools and my daughter coached and then she was referee in soccer. My son, he has coached. He teaches at Lord Byng Secondary and he has been involved in coaching football and basketball. Now he is focusing on track and field. They have done very well. They have won the Vancouver track and field championships for the past six years. My son, one of my sons, the second one, he passed away five years ago.

[00:59:18]

He was only forty-years old. He had a massive heart attack but he taught at St. John’s Secondary School. He taught track and field. He taught soccer and basketball. So, we have been involved in working with people, all of us. My wife was an early childhood educator. She ran the, there’s a Terra Nova Childcare Centre, she managed that for a number of years until she retired. I haven’t give you the chance to ask any questions.

*REBECA*

No, that’s totally fine. Usually, I’ll take notes or mental notes for myself and then go back afterwards and ask for clarification. Maybe while we’re on the subject, since we’re talking about athletics, one of the things that was shared about your story to me before we met was your involvement in track and field. So, we talked about school and people we’ve come across in life but maybe we can talk a little bit about your athletic experiences.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I came from a background where we didn’t get any coaching because, what I find here is, Richmond is a great area for kids in which to grow up because they’re exposed to so many things athletically. My kids got involved in . . . Byron, my oldest son, he got involved in soccer very early. I played a lot with them in Kamloops when we were there and I even built a rink in my backyard in Kamloops in the cold weather and they would skate. The younger son, he was interested in hockey and he got hockey equipment and so on. When we came down here, they got involved in soccer. All of my kids got involved in soccer and, what would happen is, you know, sometimes two of them, the two younger ones had games on Saturdays and the older one had a game on Sunday. I wasn’t able to get to all of them. They started playing baseball, and my daughter softball. While they were at school it turned out that they had good skills as runners. The older boy was very fast and my daughter was very fast. She went to, I don’t know if you know the BC Elementary Track and Field Championships. They used to get kids from all over the province. She represented her school when she was in grade four and she won five medals. Two gold medals, one in long jump, one in the four-by-one, and she won medals in the hurdles and so on. My older son, who was thirteen at the time, he had never won anything and he competed out there and he went out but on Friday he discovered his sister had won five medals. He said, “Well, I’ve got to do something.” So he got involved. He won the triple jump and they were invited to join the club. They did three sports a year. They would do track and field, soccer, and baseball or softball. My younger son, he did soccer and he did baseball and he did floor hockey. My kids got involved in 1980 and we would go down to Oregon to compete down there. Every year we did that until my daughter was about seventeen. In the meantime, my son was representing BC in the Canadian Championships for what they called the bantams, the juniors, and then the seniors. We have remained very, very involved in athletics. I coached at Lord Byng. I would start with cross country, then we would do volleyball, and then I would do basketball and then I would do track and field. When I moved to the secondary school, I did cross country. I also coached table tennis. I played table tennis for a while, and then I would coach track and field. I remained involved with the club since then coaching. I started coaching distance running because the first coach I worked with to learn was a distance coach. Then I took my training in sprints and hurdles. I have learned about that and I coach, also, long jump. I inherited a lot of information from my son, who was a very good long jumper and triple jumper.

*REBECA*
So your involvement has been mostly on the coaching side or did you compete yourself?

*MOSELEY*

No. I played cricket for UBC and then I played soccer for a group of guys, you know, Caribbean team. Down here when I was in Kamloops I played soccer for a group of teachers. When I came back down here to live I played soccer for a while but, no, I didn’t compete. In Trinidad, we didn’t have much developed for younger kids. I remember at my elementary school, we did the relay. What they would do to select the teams is they would line up ten, twelve of us and take the first four to cross the finish line and we didn’t have lanes. So that was the only time I remember competing but I did play soccer at a competitive level in Trinidad. It was very mediocre. I had two younger brothers who were very, very good soccer players and cricketers. I was never good but I was a better runner than they were. I never really competed. I was beyond that age because when I came here I arrived in Vancouver two days before my twenty-third birthday. So I had lost my interest in competing. With three kids, I was married by the age of thirty and, with three kids, you know, you couldn’t focus on yourself. I focused on my kids.

[01:05:42]

*REBECA*
One thing I was . . . Moving back in time a little bit, I was curious about was . . . Perhaps this related to you being the eldest, at the time, but, uh, you ended up moving forward in school, but what about your siblings? Did any of them move forward in school at all or?

*MOSELEY*
Well, no, um, one of them, my younger brother, he moved to, he immigrated to the states. He lived in New York and he went to high school there. He completed high school there and he started university and many years after I saw him and I did ask why he didn’t finish his degree. I think he managed to get through his third year and, I guess, probably, maybe, he was married and had three children at the time and, probably, it was a struggle so he never finished but he did do some post-secondary training. My younger . . . I have two younger, oh, another younger brother, I think he went to high school. I don’t know if he ever graduated, excuse me, but he ended up working for an oil company in Trinidad. He got married so he didn’t go any further. My sister, she went to what you might call in those days, it was a commercial school where you learned shorthand and typing and English. So she worked as a secretary for many years, was very successful in Trinidad, and then I sponsored her. She came to Canada and she found that the training . . . She said . . . She reminded me that I paid for her to go to the commercial school in Trinidad which enabled her to come to Canada and work in that field. Some years ago after she died, she retired, she wrote me and she said “Thanks to you, I was able to do this.” My last sister is a special needs person. When I left Trinidad, she was about nine or ten and I used to help her with her homework. I realized, at that time, there was something wrong because one of the most difficult things you would discover is that she couldn’t add anything if it was beyond ten. She couldn’t subtract, she couldn’t carry, and I realized something was wrong. So she ended up going to secondary school, which I paid for because, you know, she didn’t get into that eleven plus class and you had to pay if you wanted to go. So I used to send money to pay for her to go to secondary school. She was moving along quite nicely. Reports were good and so on but academically she wasn’t making any progress. Eventually, she left and my mother died when she was five and my father’s married. He got married to another woman and that marriage dissolved and my sister was knocked around from different homes. Eventually, I sponsored her for her to come to Canada to live here. She lived with us for a while but it was very, very disruptive so she went back to Toronto to live with my other sister and they found a group, a situation where she would go to a workshop on a daily basis so she was out of the home. She made a little bit of money but nobody has been as successful as I have been academically. Now, it didn’t mean that I was the smartest. It simply meant that I was interested in knowledge. The way you get knowledge is by being exposed to educated people. I am very interested in learning and I still am because I contribute to a number of medical magazines: Health Nutrition, The Mayo Clinic, and the Provincial Magazine. All of those provide information about what we could do to make our lives healthier and being involved in coaching, I do a lot of things. I run.

[01:10:18]

Right now I run and walk because I was having some trouble with my knees and that’s much better but I try to run three times a week. I also do weight training. I don’t eat red meat. If I do, maybe once a month. I mainly eat fish and chicken. I eat a lot of fruit and vegetables. When I get up in the morning, in good weather, I’m out the door around seven o’clock for my run. I come back and I do some callisthenic exercise, some sit ups, some push ups. I have a cup of coffee and then I have about three different kinds of fruit. And then I would have some Quaker oats healthy cereal. At lunch time I have another three different kinds of fruit and I would have one slice of bread in a sandwich. I use a lot of smoothies. I make smoothies. I always have frozen blueberries in my freezer. I add them to bananas and other fruits that may be in season, like strawberries or avocado. Papaya, I have some papaya. In case you don’t know, papaya has the highest amount of vitamin C of any fruit. Then I will add different juices, a protein powder, and at dinner time mainly fish, chicken, and I always have a salad. Recently, I learned you get the best value vegetables like broccoli and cauliflower raw. You know, cabbages, I use a lot of the purple cabbage and white cabbage and then red peppers. So, there’s my diet.

*REBECA*

Good for the body and for the mind.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, well, I struggled with . . . Many years ago I had trouble with haemorrhoids and I haven’t had any trouble now for about five years because I saw a specialist and he said “You just need to change your diet.” So I have been able to do that.

*REBECA*

Amazing what that can do.

*MOSELEY*
Well, but it’s amazing if you are interested in inquiring and learning. Yeah, yeah. I think we are probably never too old to learn.

*REBECA*
That’s very true. It’s your choice to decide, I guess, if you want to keep learning or not.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I don’t enjoy being, you know, sick. I haven’t had a cold, I’ll say several years now I haven’t had a cold and I’ve never taken the flu shot.

*REBECA*
Mhm, good for you.

*MOSELEY*
I think what turned me off, a friend of mine, we were in a group and he was teaching and he said he took the flu shot and he was sick for two weeks. He said, after that he stopped taking it. I’ve never taken it. As I said, I haven’t had a cold for two, three, years or better. Interacting with younger kids, like my grandchildren, you would think that you would pick up something but I have been very fortunate I haven’t picked up anything from them.

*REBECA*
Your thirst for knowledge seems to serve you in many ways.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, I think it’s very important that we always . . . Well, as you age you learn that you need to use your brain. You need to use your social skills. You’ve got to interact with people. You’ve got to be physically active. For your information, one of the best things to keep your brain active is table tennis. It’s the best activity to keep your brain very active. Think about it, the ball is coming to you. You’ve got to react. I’ve discovered that through one of these health magazines. Of course, dancing, learning a language, and learning to play a musical instrument, all those things are very good for keeping your brain very active.

*REBECA*
Thinking about your travels and your life, would you say, and I think this is implied through what you’re saying, but, uh, when you left home in Trinidad was it your thirst for knowledge that was your, sort of, hopes and dreams at the time that moved you forward to seek education and to seek something new?

*MOSELEY*
Well, I wanted to get ahead. Having come from a very poor family I was fortunate to graduate from high school, which somebody paid for, and then when I was in the civil service I thought I wanted to get more education. Not being able to get admitted to the university in the West-Indies, and if I had been admitted I would have been able to go free, but I wanted to extend my knowledge. So when I came to Canada, it was to get a degree. I had hoped to go into medical school but I discovered a number of things. One, I don’t think I had the determination because if you’re going to be a doctor I think you have to have special skills. Also, I think I didn’t have the brains. I didn’t have the discipline, and I didn’t have the money. Even when I finished my master’s degree, I was hoping to do a PhD but I had a wife and three children. A PhD was going to take three more years. Who was going to support my family in the meantime? So, I had to bypass that. My aim was to get as far as I could in education to make my life better than it was growing up in Trinidad and Tobago.

[01:16:11]

*REBECA*
Following that goal that ended up bringing you to Vancouver, one thing we’re curious about with the program, the oral history program here, is what peoples’ first impressions are of Richmond. For you it would be, I guess, of Vancouver but what really surprised you when you first came to Canada?

*MOSELEY*
Well, I think one of the first things that surprised me was the restrictions on alcohol. Yeah, because I come from a society where I can walk into a liquor store, because we have liquor stores that sell liquor, and I could buy a bottle of rum for my parents or somebody. I couldn’t go in there and drink, you know, but I grew up there. On a holiday my uncle would offer me a small drink of rum or something like that. So, that was one of the things that was different. Also, when I came to Vancouver you couldn’t go to a movie on a Sunday. In Trinidad it was a big day for us to go to a movie on a Sunday. Um, what else, um, well, I was surprised that most of the people were white. There were very few black people around. The black people that I met, they lived on the east side and there were no black people that I knew except people from the Caribbean at that time. One year, there were about three hundred and seventy something of us from the Caribbean islands going to school at UBC. What else would I say? I don’t think I was shocked at anything else, you know, because you’re a new comer and you learned to accept what is there. You may question . . . As I said, the thing that stood out with me was the restriction on alcohol but, of course, you know, there were racial discrimination. I remember when we were first here, a friend from Trinidad, he met us and he took us around to places where they had rooms for rent. We would turn up and they would say, “Oh, sorry, the place was just rented.” We had people who checked with them and the places were still available. So, you now, you learned to deal with a lot, okay? It wasn’t something that I was horrified at because, I gathered, if white people didn’t have a lot of exposure to black people they’ll have some reservations because there were lots of negative stories about black people. To welcome black people in your home maybe was a little bit scary. Eventually, we found places that accepted us and the first place I lived at the people were really from Czechoslovakia who rented to us. They were glad to have us. I remember at one house there must have been about six, seven, or eight of us renting at this house. So we were helping the people to pay their mortgage [laughs]. Then, of course, the other thing that I would say that there were very few black girls attending UBC at the time. From Trinidad and Tobago there might have been about between three and five black girls. Where I came from there were lots of girls around. I enjoyed a lot of attention from young ladies in Trinidad, you know? I’m not being facetious but a lot of young ladies seem to find me appealing at the time. So when I left . . . I remember one time in Trinidad I was dating about five different girls but, you know, these were not, you may say these girls . . . A lot of parents were very restrictive about their and very protective of their daughters. So it wasn’t something that, you know, you see somebody every day or you see them every weekend or something like that. There may be a party or it may be a dance and you may go to the dance together but it wasn’t what you would call intensive, sexual relationships. They were dating, you know, a kiss on the cheek or something like that. The girls who were here . . . I guess, growing up in Trinidad, girls are very, very selective.

[01:21:22]

If you go to a party or a dance and you go and ask a girl to dance she’d look you from head to toe first and then say “No.” She will turn you down and then somebody else will come and ask and she would get up and dance with them. Those are some of the things but we noticed that when you ask a girl here, Canadian girls who attended some of our functions, they’ll say maybe no but they wouldn’t get up and dance with another person. So there was that. If you tried to date a girl she would say, “I’m sorry, I don’t date black guys.” Or, a girl may say “I’m sorry, I’ll be busy but I could take a rain check.” You know what a rain check is. So, what stunned the black girls who were here is when the white girls started accepting dates from black guys. We had a Caribbean association and we would hold dances and some of the girls would come, and the girls from the Caribbean, their eyes started opening because the white girls were dating black guys. They discovered that when the . . . The black girls discovered they would go to parties and they would remain sitting on the bench while the white girls were dancing. I tried dating a few black girls but they weren’t interested in me. In one particular instance, one of the guys who was at UBC, a sister of his came up here and I met her and I got her phone number and there was a dance coming up. Carnival dance is a big dance that we usually would have sometime in February. I called her up on Monday and she said, “Well, it’s kind of early. Why don’t you call me later in the week?” I was asking to take her to the dance. I think I called her Thursday night and she said, “Well, you know, I’m not sure but maybe you could call me, you know, tomorrow night.” I called her again, she wasn’t sure. They were having people over and so on. I realized, you know, this isn’t going to work. So I gave up on that. I met another black girl but she was part of a group from the states. She wasn’t interested because she said if she went out with me the other black guys who came from the states would not be very happy, you know, that she was dating this guy from whatever. Those are some of the things that we managed to face but, you know, I guess, I would say, you know, the white girls here, or many of them, were very receptive and a lot of my friends got married to white girls. I know, in my own particular group, some of my friends, black friends, they have been married for forty-five years to the same white person. One particular person I could think of, my kids and their kids are very close because they were close in age. My older son, um, one person whom we know, this woman was a friend of my wife’s. She married a guy from Barbados and both children, my son, their daughter was born in February 1967. My son was born in April 1967. Another family, a friend who lived in the same house with me who was a teacher, became a lawyer, the same sort of path. His children were just a little bit older than my children and they interacted when we were in Kamloops. I have another friend who lives on the north shore. He went to school with me in Trinidad. He got married to this girl in England and they lived in North Van. They’ve been married for about forty-five, forty-six years and stuff like that. Some marriages have worked out quite well.

*REBECA*
It sounds like you witnessed a few changes in attitude over time.

*MOSELEY*
Yes.

*REBECA*

I suppose what I was wondering is . . . So you came to Vancouver, and then you stayed a little while and you saw some of these changes. In yourself was there any, sort of, point that you remember feeling especially Canadian? Like, “Now I feel Canadian. Now I feel like this is my home.”

*MOSELEY*
Well, I think after I started teaching I think I may have felt that way because at one time I considered going back to Trinidad with my wife but white girls in Trinidad don’t date black guys because black people, well, we are the scum of the society. We’re poor, we may not be as well educated, but even if you’re well educated . . . Quite often, white people live in selective areas so they don’t interact except if you work . . .

[01:26:49]

When I worked in the civil service most of the people were white. The director was white and some of the other administrators but, of course, there were East Indians and mixed black people and so on. So I gave up on that idea because my wife coming from this society, she couldn’t stand the heat. In Trinidad you would get up at six-thirty in the morning and it’s maybe already thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit. So I knew she wasn’t going to be able to stand that. Then I wondered about her being discriminated against, you know, because there’s always that jealously. Let me give you an example. After I was married I went back to Trinidad. I visited an uncle of mine. He learned that we were married. He was very disappointed that I was married to a white woman. He said, “You would think that you would come here and marry a black woman like yourself to elevate her.” So, you get it from both sides. You know? He had his opinion but, to me, my wife didn’t discriminate in that sense. She was very worldly. I guess she talked to me. After we got married her parents, they moved from overseas and they came to live in Kamloops when we were living there for a while. Then, when I went back to school we moved to Vancouver and then they moved to Salt Spring Island. We would spend Christmas. They had two sons and every Christmas we spent with them. I didn’t . . . My mother in law, excuse me, I never seemed to have had any difficulties with my father in law. When my wife passed away my mother in law did say to me, mostly, um, Tim, one of her sons said he thought that Kathleen, my wife, married the best person that he knew. My mother in law also said to me “Mostly, you made my daughter very happy. Thank you for that.” So, you know, but I don’t go around looking for discrimination. I’m a very open person because I am very mixed up in, you know, ethnically. I have Caucasian blood, I have Mongolian blood, I have, you know, black blood. My father was a descendant of slaves. I worked with . . . When I worked at the golf course it was mainly white people. When I worked at the tennis court, mainly white people. When I worked in the civil service, there were, as I’ve said, the directors were mainly white. So, I haven’t had trouble. I would say that, probably, I may have experienced some discrimination in Richmond as a teacher not being able to move up the ladder as quickly as some other people have and having the qualifications. It took me twenty-years, as I said, to get a counsellor position. They had area counsellors where you worked in elementary schools. My background was elementary and family counselling. If you’re going to work with kids you need to be able to work with families. Some of the women here went back and got their training and I was told my training was a little bit old. Women who were just teaching, just got their certification, they got counselling positions and I didn’t. So I would say there was that sort of situation but, then again, one of the things I realized that in Richmond there were four floors. There were no women on the fourth floor. There were only men. Men were in control. Women were kept on the third floor. Now it has changed. There are women who are superintendents and assistant superintendents and stuff like that. There are no men in the upper echelons any more. I’m thinking, this is great. So there has been the change where they have started. I guess women faced a lot of discrimination here, too, especially when it came to employment. I’m glad to see that women have moved up into the higher echelons of our administration.

[01:31:28]

*REBECA*
Are there any . . . That’s just reminding me of a question I had earlier when you were speaking, if there were any other, sort of, major changes that you’ve noticed during your time in Richmond. You’ve been living here for a while.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I don’t know if I could say I’ve noticed any great changes. From my children’s point of view, they went to Grauer Elementary School. When they went to that school they met mixed kids, you know. Just around the corner from where we were living there was another Trinidadian with a white wife and they had two sons. They interacted. On the street just three or four houses away, there was a white family. My kids interacted with them and then my wife interacted with that family. At the school, they were good athletes and they were well accepted. They didn’t face any discrimination because at that school there were kids from Fiji, and the Philippines who were going to Grauer. So my kids never faced a lot of discrimination and I would say I didn’t feel a lot of discrimination because on my soccer team I had black kids and I had white kids and I had East Indian kids, I had Chinese kids. So I felt that Richmond was a very open community. I know that, maybe, as the population started to change with the influx of Chinese Asian a lot of negative feelings maybe have come about because, maybe, because of the financial situations. You may have seen it but right now, I mean, you know, the previous neighbourhood I lived in I drove around there recently. I am amazed at the large houses that they have. They’ve torn down houses and put up these mansions. A friend of mine, who was a podiatrist, he is retired, he lived in a house that was twelve years old. He sold it for two million dollars. They tore down the house. It was a Chinese-Asian family. So there are some of those negative aspects that have come about more now than there was before because I think there’s a certain amount of resentment. You know, especially when you live in a little house like this and then another one comes and it’s right up there. You know, and, the same thing blocking out the sunshine and then you’re not interacting much with the community. If you get in a car and you go away, you have to go and you come back and you get out of your car, the only time you see is when you’re, maybe, working in the yard or something like that. You know, a lot of people aren’t very comfortable with those kinds of things. I have some neighbours who . . . I live in Steveston and I have a white family on my west side and there was a white family on the east side. I got along very well with them. Well, these families who live right next to me they sold their house. A Chinese family bought it; no English. “Hi.” That’s about it. I can’t communicate with them. I used to look after all the property when these people were away and if I’m away my kids would look after my property because they were old enough. So, you know, and for many years the people . . . There’s a Chinese family who lived two doors down. I got to know them because their daughter went to the secondary school where I was her counsellor. They would come in their car and the only time, you know, wave to them. My son also taught at the secondary school where their son was attending so he got to know them. For years, it took them many, many years before they would walk around the neighbourhood and stuff like that. When they isolate themselves they’re not exposed to the general community. As a matter of fact, one of our coaches who coached with the club for years, he has moved to Vernon and I said “Well, Jean Jacque, why are you moving?” He said, “Well, in my neighbourhood there’s not a lot of communication between the people there and there are many of them who don’t speak English.” So, he said, “I don’t feel comfortable in that neighbourhood anymore.” I would say that this is a common feeling for a lot of people. I thought . . . When I retired, I substituted in almost all the secondary schools in Richmond and you would walk into a classroom and I would see seventy-five percent Chinese and, especially in the science classes, in the grade twelve chemistry, biology, math, mainly Chinese-Asian, very few East Indians. Mostly Chinese kids in those classes. Predominance in almost all the secondary schools in Richmond. There’s nothing wrong with that except that, you know, I think a little bit more exposure to the community in general. So I think it has changed negatively from that point of view.

[01:37:00]

*REBECA*

Perhaps this is my assumption, but it sounds like that might be your opinion because throughout all of your life, even back to the question about feeling Canadian, diversity is very important to you and . . .

*MOSELEY*
Yes.

*REBECA*

Acceptance and intermingling with other people . . .

*MOSELEY*
Yes.

*REBECA*

Has been very important in your life.

*MOSELEY*
Yeah.

*REBECA*
Yeah.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I say so because in the soccer team I coached I had a kid from Iran. The kids went to school with him and they said “Dad, we have this kid in the school. He’s a very good soccer player.” I said, “Well, what’s his name.” His name was, I can’t remember his name now, it may come to me. I got the kid on the soccer team. He was a brilliant soccer players, a great goal scorer. The family lived in Richmond and then, eventually, after they finished high school they moved to West Vancouver. I had a kid whose parents were East Asian. No, Indian. I don’t know if they were from Pakistan or India but he played. I had several Indian kids, East Indian kids in my team and several Chinese kids on the team. They interacted tremendously because we won many Richmond championships and so on with these kids and that’s what I am used to. Even in the school system, the same thing. Even in the secondary level there were lots of Chinese and East Indian kids and I was very comfortable. I see kids and they call out to me, you know, kids that I taught in grade four. So, I think Richmond has changed negatively where the population is concerned.

*REBECA*

What about in terms of benefits, what has been one of the biggest benefits for you and your family by living in Richmond.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I think athleticism because all my kids were very involved in athletics. We had to find the money to pay for them for three different sports and there were three kids in three sports. So that I think was one of the best things for us living in this community. Had we lived in Vancouver we may not have had access as much but in a smaller community like this there were lots of things available for us. My wife didn’t like Richmond because it was too flat. She grew up in Deep Cove. Are you familiar with Deep Cove?

*REBECA*

Yeah.

*MOSELEY*
Well, uh, she grew up in Deep Cove and she loved that area. We lived in Steveston. She didn’t mind that because she was close to the ocean. If we went walking or if we went riding or so, we were able to ride along the dike, along the ocean as we go on the west dike around to Terra Nova and stuff like that. So she enjoyed that. I don’t know if Vancouver would have offered us . . . Maybe it would have been easier for us in working and for me, say, I would not have had to . . . I would have had to commute a little bit more further away but in Richmond everything was ideal. My kids went to school two blocks away and I taught maybe five minutes away. I was able to . . . My services were needed in coaching so I have been very, very comfortable here. If I go into the Steveston neighbourhood, I would encounter kids that I taught or kids who went to the schools where I was teaching. This is one of the things that I discover in many places that I go in Richmond.

*REBECA*
So you’ve experienced some real community and family friendly opportunity.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, yes. I would say that we have and my kids have been. My kids . . . One of the things that I think may have helped, I don’t have any, what you might, call biases against any particular ethnic group. So my wife and I haven’t transferred any of that to kids because my son hangs out with . . . He has Chinese friends, he has Jewish friends, he has white friends. All my kids, they hang out with people of various ethnic backgrounds. As a matter of fact, my daughter is married to a white guy and my second son, who passed away, used to date a Greek girl.

[01:42:02]

So we are exposed to a lot of things that we find, you know, as I say, my kids haven’t got any negative views about racial discrimination. We are sort of a, you know, open book or something like that. Yeah, and I have three grandkids and hopefully they will learn a lot about other cultures. It’s important that we learn to live with each other as far as I’m concerned. Well, you know, just an aside, I’m very disappointed six Korean people died on the weekend snowshoeing. That saddens me. It saddens me what’s happening in Syria. You know, any place where these kinds of disasters, it saddens me, you know, knowing . . . When I celebrated my eightieth birthday and my grandkids were there I said, you know, I am very happy where we live because the kids have food, healthcare, you know, and they’re comfortable. I said there are lots of people who don’t have that and they’re normal. None of my three kids, although my daughter just had, she’s going to be forty-six this year, and she just had a son that is four months old and he seems normal and the other two kids seem normal. No medical problems or physical problems or anything. How could I feel anything but great about that sort of thing? I am fairly well known in the community. I have coached thousands of kids and I’ve taught thousands of kids. I don’t have too much of a . . . I don’t think too much of myself. That’s the first thing. I don’t think too much of myself. I just do things not to offend people and stuff like that. This has been a great community for my family. I wish my daughter could live in the community because she has a lot of friends in the community but her partner does not like to . . . He’s an engineer with Chevron and he doesn’t like to commute from Burnaby to Steveston or to Richmond and my daughter works out of, she worked out of Burnaby. She works for Canada Mental Health with seniors but now she is working out of New Westminster. So it’s very difficult for her to live in Richmond and commute because sometimes commuting can be very difficult when you have young children. Now my son lives in the Ironwood community. I don’t know if you know that it’s number five in Steveston. He would have loved to live in Vancouver teaching at Lord Byng Secondary. So he has to leave a little bit earlier so that he doesn’t have to deal with the traffic but, you know, this is where he grew up and he’s comfortable.

*REBECA*

Perhaps this is a good time to ask the question but listening to your story and what your hopes and dreams were in the past, I was wondering what your hopes and your plans are for the future. It sounds like, probably, they would revolve around family, grandchildren, and your continued participation in the community.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, well somebody asked me “When are you going to stop coaching?” I said, “I don’t know because I think it’s out of my life.” My coaching with track and field runs from January to about the end of July, and may is the busiest month. July is an extremely busy month. I could be at the track meet Friday evening all through Saturday, all through Sunday, and then I have that break in August, September, you know, to December. I think that’s very important for me because losing my wife was . . . I’ll tell you it’s had a major shock on me because my wife and me would go for walks when the weather was good or we would ride our bikes. We did a lot of things together. I never go to any gatherings without my wife. I would get together with the guys and play golf occasionally but I didn’t play golf as often as I have in the past since she has passed away. I never left my wife home and went out and hung out with the guys. We were a couple in the sense that we spent a lot of time together. We partied together. We did a lot of things together. When we retired we did a lot of travelling.

[01:47:23]

We went to Australia for the Olympics. We went to England and France in ’97. We went to Trinidad. We used to go to Trinidad every year or every two years. We went to Italy and Greece. We spent a month in Italy and Greece. We went to Portugal, Spain, you know, so we were doing a lot of travelling. Once she left, I still live in the same home. It’s a big house; six bedrooms. What happens is my daughter, when she comes over with her children, there’s lots of room for them. So I’ve kept the house because my neighbours and I get along very well. My doctor, my dentist, my bank, and everything I need is right there in Steveston. I could actually walk to these things. The track and field has given me something to look forward to. My grandchildren also, I look forward to spending time with them. So, I want to see them, you know, do well. That’s the most important thing for me. I enjoy the kids that I work with. Right now we have about thirty-five kids who are in the, you know, who I work with. We have another coach and the other day I saw about six other girls sitting around talking while they were waiting for me. I went to them after a few days and I said, “You know, what I’m seeing there is really great. I’m so pleased all these girls who are grade six, grade seven, are into acting in a very friendly way.” I said, “That’s just beautiful. I love to see that. They may be Chinese girls, there are white girls, and there are East Indians girls and I thought this is just wonderful to see these kids interacting like that.” In the club we have East Indian kids and we have Chinese kids. I had one little Chinese girl who joined us. She was very, very poorly coordinated. No skills at all. She even ended up on a winning four-by-one relay team. She has really come out of her shell and blossomed. This year she hasn’t been out a lot and I noticed she has been back in relay. I told her, “You got to get involved with the girls and get to know them.” But I love to see kids blossom. So that’s a very important part of my life and I’m very fortunate that I am fairly healthy. I’ve been thinking “How long do I want to continue doing this?” But I enjoy it so I don’t know. I think something drastic will have to happen to me for me to give it up.

*REBECA*
Right, right. Perhaps, moving into a little bit of a reflection on what we’ve talked about, before we started the interview you started sharing, maybe, a little bit of a memory talking about going out in the morning to go get mangos. I had a question for you in terms of any sort of favourite memories that stick out for you from home or if there’s anything you really miss from Trinidad and Tobago.

*MOSELEY*
Well, when they celebrated my seventieth birthday, my wife was alive them, and this was in 2007. The kids threw a seventieth birthday party for me and I said to them “I don’t miss Trinidad and I don’t miss the food either” because one of the things that my wife did, she learned to cook a lot of the food that we cooked in Trinidad. One of the best known foods in Trinidad is curry. You’ve heard about your patties but we call it roti in Trinidad. There was an . . . Trinidad has a large East Indian population. An Indian woman came up from Trinidad, she was working with a family as a maid. She would come out to my house in Richmond and she showed my wife how to make this bread, this dhalpuri. My wife started making it and she always cooked curries and so on but there were lots of things that we did in Trinidad that she learned to do. I said, “I don’t miss the food because my wife prepares all of it.” I have learned, also, from my wife about doing a lot of these things. People used to rave about her curried shrimp. As I said, in Trinidad almost until about three o’clock in the morning in the big city you could go out and get roti wrapped up like a hamburger and eat it going along the street. It’s very, very big, East Indian food. Chinese food is also. They claim they have the best Chinese food in the world and that sort of stuff but, no, I wouldn’t say that I miss Trinidad a lot now. When I was younger, probably I did because they have this big celebration, Carnival, where the steel bands played oil drums and people wore costumes and so on and I played with a group. I miss my friends because I played soccer with a group of guys, mainly East Indian guys and a few black guys, and I hung out with the guys going.

[01:52:58]

There were other guys who were interested in dancing and we would go to dances. This is the group that I played with in the steel band. So I miss those things but you move beyond that as you get older and you have families. Your interest is mainly on focusing on your family. So I don’t miss that. No. Now, what makes it worse to Trinidad, it’s not a very nice society. There are lots of murders. A few years ago it used to have an average of 500 murders a year, mainly young men between the ages of nineteen and thirty; kidnappings, drugs, and gangs. Right now I understand they have had about 130 murders and it’s only April. I just read an article that said they’re killing men, women, and children, elderly. It doesn’t matter and people are spending a lot of money protecting their homes because there are lots of break-ins. When people go to work, they’re breaking into their homes and stealing, stuff like that. It’s not a nice society for an outsider. I had a nephew who was murdered. One day after he turned twenty-one, they were at what you might call a drive-in movie place. On the way home with some other relatives in the car, the car broke down and they were waiting for somebody to come and assist them. Somebody came along and started shooting. They shot my nephew, my great nephew, and he died. This happened in 2011. I spoke with my niece when I was in Trinidad in 2014. I was there for my brother’s eightieth birthday. Nothing from the police up to date because if something happens and you’re a youngster and you see and you go home and you say “Mom, I saw . . .” No, you didn’t see because witnesses are being murdered. If you’re an adult and they can’t get you, they get at your child. So what are you going to do? Are you going to risk having somebody in your family kidnapped or murdered because you’re going to be a witness? I have just read they have 800 murder cases waiting in the high court to deal with. So, no, there’s not a lot that I miss from Trinidad because of those circumstances. My wife after . . . Well, the festival happens around . . . Trinidad was a very Christian society so this festival would happen around, before Ash Wednesday, Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, every year. It’s a big joyous festival but there are problems. I enjoy that and my wife and I went back a number of times and participated as spectators. One of the things that I would say I miss, they have steel bands all over the island and they have a competition. The finalists would play on the Saturday night before Ash Wednesday when they have the parades on the street Monday and Tuesday. They have a big thing at one of the major halls where the bands come out with their costumes and the Calypsonians sing their calypsos and stuff like that. The steel bands have a night where they have competitions between 7:30 and 1:30 A.M. and you hear the best steel bands in the country. I enjoyed going to that because some of these groups have 100 players in the band. It’s something out of this world to hear and I used to be a part of that. I never played in that atmosphere but I played on the street and in other competitions. That was one thing that I missed but because of the kinds of things that are happening I have no great desire. I have friends that go every year but I’m not interested. I had a brother in law who would take us around and a brother of mine just passed away a few years ago, no, a few weeks ago. He was eighty-three. You have to be very careful where you go, especially at night. I don’t have that anymore and I don’t drive when I go there. So, I have no great desire to be there. I have concerns for my other families but I can’t do much for them.

[01:58:11]

*REBECA*

You keep your good memories with you and move forward with your life here.

*MOSELEY*
Yeah.

*REBECA*
You’ve started to talk about one of the potential items that they might show at the museum which was the steel drum band and you said that you played some percussion yourself. Maybe we can start talking about some of the other items. You mentioned you had some trophies that you would, perhaps, lend to the museum or take photos of.

*MOSELEY*
Yeah. Okay, well, when I was teaching at Lord Byng Elementary the parents gave me a trophy that had different athletic symbols: soccer, track and field, and different things; about four different things on the trophy. That was one thing I got there and it had jack of all sports. When I got involved with the Kajaks track and field, I got a trophy. Carmen James, she was one of the coaches. She was an athlete with the club. She became a coach and she used to coach my son in long jump or triple jump. I got an award for outstanding contribution to the club and I got other major trophies for outstanding coach. In 2012, I got a BC athletics coach award for stand-in coaching. And then at the school, London Secondary, I got outstanding coaching achievement. I coached three sports. So that’s what the trophies are based on.

*REBECA*
And you’ve kept those? They mean quite a bit to you?

*MOSELEY*
Well, not really because I don’t necessarily appreciate those things. I am more concerned about what I’m doing. I’m a doer. I’m not concerned . . . If people don’t care, I don’t care. I enjoy doing what I’m doing and that’s the most important thing to me. Whenever I get these awards I’m usually pleased but it’s not a significant part of my life. Also, one other thing, I coached soccer for many years. I’m also a lifetime member of Richmond Youth Soccer because I coached soccer for many, many years and I was also on the West Richmond administration. When I was with the Kajaks club I was on the board of directors. I was also the statistician for the younger kids but, no, the trophies . . . Even my academic awards from UBC, they’re not on display anywhere in my house. They’re in my drawer someplace. My bachelor’s degree, my education degree, my master’s degree, I got awards from somebody about, you know, I think it was the labour movement. I took a course in labour management and that sort of stuff. I have these things and, you know, ‘bid deal.’ I’m not too worried about those. It’s more important for me that, you know, what I’m doing. I want to see the kids that I coach. I’m so pleased when they are successful. I like to see them grow, you know, come out of their shell and bloom and achieve. We don’t focus, I say to the parents, we don’t focus on winning. We focus on them doing the best that they could. If they come first, second, or third, after a track meet, when we gather, I ask the kids to share. I’d say, “What was your time? What was your distance? Those are the things I want to see you do better.” That’s the most important thing for me, not showing me your gold medal or anything like that. So that’s what I stress and we work to that. You do the best that you could. So, I guess, I don’t get the satisfaction “Oh, I have a trophy.” No, that’s not important to me.

*REBECA*
I think that makes a lot of sense.

*MOSELEY*
Yeah.

*REBECA*

And I think it keeps things moving forward, too, because it’s your passion that drives you rather than your strive for success, right?

*MOSELEY*
Yes, yes, yes.

*REBECA*
The last item I suppose they were suggesting was a pair of runners and it seems to me that that would pair with your experience coaching? Is that correct?

*MOSELEY*
What’s that?

*REBECA*
The pair of runners they were asking you about, I suppose that would relate to your time coaching? Is that correct?

*MOSELEY*
Yes, essentially because I know that, um, I don’t run as much with the kids now. I just can’t keep up with many of them because we go for, about, a kilometer run around the park and I just haven’t been able to keep up with them but I do run a little with them. I always find . . . Okay, but I also got interested in physical activity. When I was younger I played soccer, I played cricket. When I came here I played cricket for UBC and then after graduating I got involved. I figured that I needed to be active. I worked in a logging camp in between university, in the summers. One year, I got up to 170 pounds and I thought, you know, and I was lean, but physical activity has always been important to me.

[02:03:56]

I would always run or do something to stay fairly fit. If I’m working with kids I will exercise with them. They would go for a run, I would run with them. I would do the stretching with them and stuff like that. No, I’ve always enjoyed physical activity. It’s a part of me. I don’t think I could survive without doing physical activity. So, the runners, it’s just I need good shoes. As I think about it, in 19 . . . Adidas outfits were not very big but I started wearing Adidas shoes in 19 . . . Let’s see, I moved to Kamloops in 1969. By 1970 I had my first pair of Adidas running shoes. They collapsed on me. I paid thirty-something dollars. I went back to the store manager. I said, “Look, I bought these shoes three weeks ago and they’re collapsing.” They replaced the shoes. When I came down to Richmond and I started coaching, you know, my son’s soccer team, he was about seven at the time. We got Adidas outfits so I have pictures with me wearing Adidas clothing. Adidas wasn’t a big thing then. So I was always interested in having the right kind of athletic wear. Even now I buy Asics which are probably one of the best running shoes that a person can buy. I have another pair of Saucony. So those are important if you’re going to feel right. I have shoes for golfing because I golf regularly with a group of guys. I have a pair of shoes for walking because in the winter I don’t run as much because I want to get out early in the morning and the sun doesn’t shine very early in the morning here. So I have a pair of walking shoes so I would walk. Sometimes I’d walk for two hours. Yeah.

*REBECA*

So physical activity and health, again, a big part of your life.

*MOSELEY*
Well, yes. I mean, as you get older . . . I think people, when I was teaching at the elementary level you get kids who were hot shots. I’d say, “You know, I’m not coaching Olympians. I’m coaching you for life.” I said, “I would like to know that you lived to 100 and even up to then you’re still running or walking or something.” What men need is a good pair of walking shoes or running shoes. Unfortunately for women it’s not so. A man could go out and run almost any time of the day. Women can’t do that. The woman who ran out at UBC, she was murdered. They have not been able to find a single clue. Ladner is her last name. That was her married name. It’s kind of sad for me that a woman can’t go out and run any time of the day but a man could. Physical activity is very important for us especially as you get older, and using the brain, too. A lot of people need to realize it doesn’t matter if you just walk for half an hour because a brisk walk is extremely important to people. You shouldn’t be closed up in some little room trying to survive. As I’ve said to my kids, you might excuse the expression, I don’t want anybody wiping my behind and feeding me. When the time comes and I can’t enjoy my life, I don’t want to be here. I don’t want to create a burden for, you know, my family. If your life is sitting in a wheelchair or lying in a bed, why do you want to be here? I’d rather move on. That’s how I feel. Yeah.

[02:08:07]

*REBECA*
Well, I’m very glad that you’ve had a very full and, sometimes, very exciting life. I’m listening to you here and I think we’ve got a very good idea of that and including your experiences with migration, what that was like coming to Canada, and where you came from. I suppose we’re at the point where I can ask you if there’s anything else that you wanted to tell us about your journey to Richmond that I haven’t asked you or that we haven’t . . .

*MOSELEY*
No, I can’t really think of anything. I mentioned the fact that, for instance, the situation where I was offered a job and I came to an interview at Saturday morning at 10 A.M. I was coming down on the weekends and when I told them that I could come in on a Saturday, I wasn’t going to leave my job to come for an interview in Richmond. So that’s a very interesting thing. You know, that I met eleven people in a room like this and had a conversation and I was offered a job and I had to be released by the Kamloops School Board and then having waited that many years to get into counselling. I was able to get into a counselling position. So that’s exciting in that sense. Being able to be involved with the soccer community, and being involved with the Kajaks track and field club this club has done a lot of good things for my son and my daughter. I don’t know what else I could say but I’ve enjoyed living here. I don’t complain about the snow or the rain or anything like that because I look at other things. I’ll tell you, my general feeling is, as I’ve said, at my eightieth birthday gathering I think we live, probably, on the best place on the face of the earth. I truly believe that. I wouldn’t go and live anywhere else. One example I’ll give you. A brother of mine lived in New York and he passed away. In 2008, I went to New Jersey, where his son was living, to attend the funeral. His wife was living in North Carolina and they wanted to bury him in North Carolina. I went down there to the service and I traveled back with my nephews to Brooklyn. We went out for breakfast and we got talking and they said, “Uncle, if you had to do it over, would you come and live in the United States?” I said, “I’m sorry to disappoint you.” I said, “No way. This is maybe the most racist country in the world.” I said, “In Canada, I could go anywhere I want if I have the money. There is no Puerto Rican community, Irish community, Jewish community.” I said, “I could go anywhere and it’s illegal to discriminate against anybody in Canada based on their colour, your creed, or whatever. No, I wouldn’t change anything.” I still feel that this is probably one of the best places on the face of the earth. I don’t complain. If it snows, we had all that snow, I didn’t complain. Shovel the snow and be thankful because it wasn’t as bad as some other people experienced back east. We don’t have famines here. What problems do we have? I’ve touched on some things but maybe you don’t want to record this. We have politicians whom I don’t like. I don’t like our current premier. I think she doesn’t have any integrity. I think she’s in it for herself and the ‘big donors’ as they say.

[02:12:06]

You may have a different point of view but I don’t care for her because what I see is, fifteen years ago she gutted the teachers’ contract, being a teacher. She was Minister of Education at the time. When they took it all the way to the Supreme Court, over fifteen years the Supreme Court said “No, you’re wrong. You lose the battle.” Now she’s saying “I’m glad because more money is going to go into the classrooms and it will be better for our kids.” I thought, “What a hypocrite.” Even our representatives here in Richmond are praising the fact that they’re going to have to spend more money and not one school in Richmond has been seismically upgraded in case there is a major earthquake in Richmond. We’d suffer worse than any other place in the lower mainland. So they are glad that the Supreme Court has said, “No, you have done the wrong thing. You’ve got to reinvest all this money.” So, that’s the only . . . But that doesn’t interfere with my personal life because I have very good income. I have no need for anything. I’m thinking of buying a new car but I may be reluctant to spend the money. I get a little bit of honorarium from the track and field club. I live in paradise [laughs]. Yes. So, no. I’ll tell you, the one thing that makes me think a lot, you know, losing my wife because she was a beautiful person. I’m not talking about looks here. I’m just talking about personality. She loved the children, she loved her friends, she loved her parents, and her brothers, and she loved me. That was, maybe that’s, I think she was the best thing that happened in my life. I haven’t been involved with anybody since she passed away and I’m not really shopping [laughs]. Yeah, you know, because, well, the main reason is there are not too many people close to my age who are as healthy as I am. So, you know, but I’m enjoying . . . My grandkids came along, my first granddaughter came along about, let’s see, my wife passed away in 2008, first granddaughter came around 2012, about four years after, and I looked after her for a while because my daughter and her family lived with me. When she returned to work after maternity leave she couldn’t find daycare for her for three days and I looked after this gem on Mondays and Tuesdays. I got up and gave her breakfast, took her out to the park, gave her lunch, and then sang her lullabies, and put her to nap for the afternoon. When they lived with us I would give her a bath at night and all those things. When they’d come and stay with us, I’m up in the morning getting them their breakfast and sometimes I would help, you know, bathe them and dress them and everything; change diapers and everything. I told my daughter, I said, “They could urinate on me, they could pass, whatever, it doesn’t matter. They belong to us and that’s the most important thing.” As I’ve mentioned, one of them had a nap. She’s three and she was exhausted after we were done with Garry Point. You may not know Garry Point but it’s a beach area in the Western most part of Richmond and when she was asleep the older one who is almost five, we went to the Steveston Park and she was all over the place. I had to be running around looking for her and stuff like that. By the time they left I was exhausted [laughs]. I had no trouble falling asleep last night. What was good is I didn’t have to cook any, you know, lavish meals. I just heated up some stuff and I said, “Okay, time to go to bed.” So, yeah, but, no, I live in a great place and, as I’ve said, I don’t have any financial difficulties. Right now I don’t have any health issues that I have to worry about. So, this is heaven here for me.

*REBECA*

Well, I think with that I want to thank you for sharing so much about your life and your family.

*MOSELEY*
I talk too much.

*REBECA*
No, no, it was wonderful.

*MOSELEY*
Oh, my goodness. You haven’t had your lunch and it’s almost a quarter to two. Quarter to two, yeah.

*REBECA*
I’m fine. It’s worth it. The stop is always worth it. So yeah, I think that’s a good place to end it. I’ve learned lots about you and about your family and about, you know, just what you look for and value in life. The museum wants to thank you so much for sharing.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, well thank you very much and if you have any questions don’t hesitate. I’m not home usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays . . .

END OF TAPE PART ONE OF THREE

[02:17:34]

START OF TAPE PART TWO OF THREE

[00:00:10]

*MOSELEY*

I think I shared with you the fact that somebody wrote a letter to the immigration saying that I had all this money available for me. Well, I mentioned to you that wasn’t quite honest, you know. I’ve considered myself a very lucky man. When I came here, I didn’t know anybody. I’m here at UBC and I met a guy from Jamaica. We roomed at the same place and after that I met some fellow Trinidadians and I hung out with them. They mentioned to me that I could work at the university. I don’t know if you’re familiar but many years ago during the Second World War there was some soldiers stationed out in Point Grey out at UBC. Do you know that?

*REBECA*
No.

*MOSELEY*
They had a Fort Camp and Acadia Camp. These were buildings that they built to accommodate the soldiers and so on because they feared that the Japanese people would attack that area. So that was out, you know, they had a good view of the ocean and so on. After the war was ended, that’s where UBC campus was set up and they had these residences. The students lived there on campus. I didn’t live on campus. I couldn’t afford it but they hired students to work in the dish room washing dishes and packing dishes and stuff like that. Some of the guys said, “Well, you know, come and get a job there.” Of course, they were paying about ninety-five cents an hour in those days, peanuts, but at the same time where I was renting was only twenty-five dollars a month. So I started working there and then one of the guys said to me somebody had moved out from this house. There were about six or seven guys living there but a space was created. “Why don’t you give notice to where you are and come and live there.” Well, I mean, there were about six, seven guys from Trinidad whom I didn’t know but at least I was hanging out with people from the same culture. That worked well. I was disappointed. I was expecting some money from the government in Trinidad for whom I had worked until the end of September, including holidays. I was told that they weren’t going to pay any back-pay to people who were no longer in the service. I managed to pay my second term fees and in those days, when you think about it, I think the fee for the year was about 250 dollars a year. If you think about going to UBC now, you’re looking at 4000 dollars for a year. Anyway, after school was over in April I didn’t know how to find a job and the people with whom I was living, some of them had jobs but many of them didn’t have jobs so we were, sort of, struggling. At UBC, no students were there after the end of April. They had moved onto their various homes and so on but sometime I think in May or so, it might have been June, a church had a convention at UBC and they were there for two or three weeks or so. They were living in the residences and they needed people to work in the dish room. So I worked there for a while. It must have been about two weeks or three weeks and then that closed down. Then, summer school started July, August for about, maybe, six or seven, all of July until about the third week in August. So, once again, I got work there. Then, I also worked as a cashier for the university. As students were registering I worked there as a cashier so I was able to pay my first term fees. I struggled for a while but I think I had mentioned to you that I had met a girl and I had dated her. She helped me to pay my rent. I mentioned that, yeah, okay. So I was very lucky in that sense. I went back, I had failed my year not because I was stupid.

[00:05:10]

I think I was extremely homesick because I came from a family where I had eight brothers and sisters and I had lots of friends around and I was working in the civil services, and here I came. I didn’t know too many people. One person whom I got to know through somebody in Trinidad, they didn’t have time for me because the guy was in medical school and his wife was working as a nurse. We were always struggling. Anyway, the second year, my sister’s extended relative lived in New York and we communicated. When I came from Trinidad I spent about three or four days in New York so we corresponded and I said to him I couldn’t find a job and so on. He said, “Well, you know, if you managed to get into New York, come here, you could stay with me for a while and I’ll help you find a job.” I managed to get into New York. I had a Trinidad and Tobago passport and I’m on a student visa in Vancouver and I had difficulties getting through at the U.S. immigration. The guy who I was going to stay with, he was staying with a family and he go the woman to agree that she would accommodate me and everything would be taken care of. Well, within four or five days I got a job in New York and I worked in a plastic factory for most of June, July, and August. I worked the night shift and the guy who was the supervisor was a Trinidadian guy of Chinese origin. Trinidad had a lot of Chinese people, too. Anyway, I made my way back to Vancouver traveling by train I wanted to see the northern states. I had a little bit of money and there was a World’s Fair in Seattle. The girl I was dating was turning twenty-one in September and my birthday was also in September. So I took her down to the World’s Fair in Seattle. Then, went through school and I managed to pass my year and so on. That was ’61 or ’62. A guy I didn’t know, who was also from Trinidad, had married a girl and moved to the U.S. illegally. It seems as though the marriage didn’t go well and he made his way back into Canada by walking through the border along the beach. He ended up living in the same house. He was finishing his degree in biochemistry. He had worked in a logging camp, Winter Harbour, I don’t know if you know what Winter Harbour is. Well, it’s on Vancouver Island up Quatsino Sound. The guy whom he worked for, W. D. Moore, he owned a logging business and he got to know him quite well and the man really took to him because this guy was good in chemistry and he was helping his son. W. D. Moore’s son who ended up being a doctor. Not necessarily a family physician, but he got his PhD anyway and he was working with Green Peace. Anyway, he went to work in the logging camp and he called me or sent me a letter saying “I have arranged for you to get a job here in the logging camp.” I said, “My god.” I didn’t know what this was all about. Here I was in Vancouver and didn’t know anything about Vancouver Island. Anyway, I just had to go down to a place and get a pair of cork boots and go someplace else and I got flight tickets. The only way into Winter Harbour was through those small planes. I worked there most of the summer and I was flush with money because I was . . . Whereas you might be making ninety-five cents or a dollar an hour in the dish room I was getting paid eight dollars an hour or something like that. So I had no trouble paying my fees. In my first year, the university told us that the post office was looking for casual workers so I worked sorting mail and delivering mail the first year.

[00:10:15]

As things moved along, I went back to the logging camp in ’62 and ’63. I was able to get through my courses. I failed one course. I was to graduate in ’64 and I failed one course because after Christmas in ’63 I was working on the waterfront. I don’t know if you know about Longshore men. I had worked there casually and I got called out to work for a week and they asked us to come back in the meantime university is going on. After I decided I better . . . The job finished after two weeks, I got sick, I had trouble with asthma, and I missed about three weeks of classes. When I turned up to class the professor told me he could fail me because I’ve missed one-third of the classes. It was sociology. I think something like three, ten small groups. Somehow in that class I wasn’t able to connect with anybody in that class. I felt that the prof who was from the states, I felt that he was racist. Somehow or the other, I had to come up with a research paper and I couldn’t. Many of the people in the class were working together. I couldn’t work with, you know, nobody connected with me. Anyway, I failed the course. He did give me an extension until August or so but I still . . . I offered him some ideas and he said none of those things would work. I didn’t go back to school. I applied for . . . The BC government was looking for social workers to work in social work and welfare offices and so on. A guy from Jamaica and I applied and we were accepted. It was a six week training course out in Cassidy. They had a building out there in Cassidy Street near Hastings. Why I say I was lucky, when we were finished the training the Jamaican guy was sent to Cranbrook. Guess where I was placed? Victoria Drive and Broadway [laughs]. I thought, “Well, isn’t this exciting?” Of course, I didn’t think about it at that time but here I was living in Vancouver and this guy was sent to Cranbrook. I worked there for about three years and I had money. I went back to school. It must have been about ’66. I went to summer school. I had vacation but instead of just taking the vacation and not doing anything, I went to summer school to finish my one course that I needed to get my degree. So, I worked half days. I went to school in the mornings and I went to work in the afternoon from one to five and so on. I passed the course. It was a sociology course because I majored in sociology and psychology. When I got married, I mentioned that I got married, um, when I went into education I . . . In those days you had to go outside of the lower mainland to do your last practicum. I don’t think they do that now. You just spend a longer term in the schools in May right in the, wherever you are. I went to Kamloops and I think I mentioned that I turned up at the school on the Monday morning to start my practicum and the principal saw me and he said, “I’d like to see you in my office at recess. Did I mention this? And he offered me a job. In the meantime many of my friends were applying all over the place and I said I didn’t want to prostitute myself. That was the term I used myself. I see it as going all over these places. You’re selling yourself. I don’t know if I had too much of an ego but I didn’t want to go through that. I mentioned that I had to ask my wife if she was willing to come to Kamloops for a couple of years. Before I went there, I had quit my job and went back to UBC. After the program was finished, in May, I applied to the welfare office. The Vancouver City welfare office needed casual workers to fill in for people who were on holidays. I got a job in social welfare and I was working on Ninth Street near Forty-First, or Forty-Nine Avenue. That provided me with some money. You know, with a child and a wife. We moved to Kamloops and things went fairly well. We managed to buy a house. My in-laws loaned us money. This was good. I have a lot of respect for my wife. I didn’t want to pay somebody’s mortgage. I felt if we could get a house it would really help. We’re paying rent, if we could pay a mortgage it would help. I said to my wife, “Would you ask your parents . . .,” they were in Pakistan, “If they could loan us some money to pay down a house?” She said, “No.”

[00:16:22]

She said, “I will not but you could write them and ask them.” My wife wanted to show her parents that we didn’t have to depend on them. She was very independent and I respected that. I wrote them and they agreed. They loaned us 3000 dollars or something like that to pay down a house, which was about 18,000 dollars in those days [laughs]. So, we had moved to Kamloops and we lived in an apartment from September and I think we moved out in January into our own house. We had a second child. This was 1970 he was born. Then we had a third child who was born in 1971, and, you know, things were going fairly well. I tried to work in the summer because my wife was there with three children and, you know, teachers didn’t get paid in the summer. The first year I worked, I think by the end of May I spent all the money [laughs]. So we really struggled through July and August but a couple of times I managed to find some work. I worked for the CN Railroad in Kamloops. They had an area where they experienced slides. They had a nightshift. I had to monitor the tracks to see if there were any slides, and, you know, phone. I had some alarm system that I could press to warn the conductors and the trains and stuff like that. That was horrible. I started eight o’clock and worked until eight o’clock in the morning. I had to walk through a tunnel and I was told if the train was coming and I was caught in the tunnel, just lie flat on the ground so that the wind wouldn’t drag me. So it happened only once. Anyway, things are going quite well. I had a good experience teaching at this school. They moved the principal and they brought in another one. Kamloops was a district that offered sabbaticals, I mentioned that. I think I mentioned that I applied for one of those and I got it. I considered that to be a very lucky break because I had three children. I was going back to school and a special needs sister came to live with me and my wife was at home. I played music with a band and that subsidized what I was getting paid. More luck again when I went back to do my master’s degree in counselling. I worked in an elementary school, a secondary school, junior high, and then high school. When I was working, you know, doing some training at the elementary school the principal asked me why I don’t apply for a job in Richmond. I told him I couldn’t because I was committed to going back to Kamloops for a couple of years. I went back there and my first year back after teaching I got a call and they invited me to come get an interview for this job in Richmond as a special-ed teacher. I thought, “This is really exciting that I got this goal” but I came down for the interview. We were living in Richmond at that time and my wife knew that I would come down every weekend in that weather. It was May, June, that time. They called me and offered me the job and I had to ask the superintendent there if I could be relieved and accept this job in Vancouver, in Richmond. He said yes because of the work that I had done in the community. He could release me and I wouldn’t have to be committed for two years. So I think I was very, very lucky in that sense. It was a struggle. It wasn’t necessarily easy but I had a lot of determination and I didn’t want to go back to Trinidad a failure.

*REBECA*
Uh, oh [laughs]. Let’s just see if this is still on.

END OF TAPE PART TWO OF THREE

[00:21:19]

START OF TAPE PART THREE OF THREE

[00:00:04]

*REBECA*

My first, initial question from listening to your stories of getting yourself through university are less to do with the details, because I think you’ve given a lot of useful details, but it’s always interesting to hear first impressions of migration. It’s interesting to see experiences of new places through someone else’s eyes. We’ve heard this from you about your first time in Vancouver and also in Richmond, but I was interested to hear about your experiences with New York and Kamloops, the first time you went to those places. Your first impressions, what surprised you, what it was like.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I guess when I arrived in New York I was met by this extended relative of my sister. She was married to a guy and it was his brother who was in New York. Of course, going through New York I was looking up at all the tall buildings because in Trinidad the tallest building we had was about five stories. So I was really amazed and, of course, the number of people. The black population didn’t bother me because New York, especially Brooklyn, had a very big black population. I really enjoyed the visit and, of course, I knew of people from Trinidad who had moved to New York and had come back to visit and so on. Of course, these people quite often, they display a different attitude. They have been to New York and stuff like that. You usually get impressed when you hear because, excuse me, many of my family . . . Nobody in my family had traveled, although my parents came from Saint Vincent. I don’t know if you know but it’s in the Caribbean. Trinidad is the southernmost Caribbean island. We are seven miles from the Venezuelan coast. You can actually swim there. There’s Tobago, then Barbados, and then Grenada, and Saint Vincent. So that’s all they had done, traveled from Saint Vincent to Trinidad. Here I was, setting out for Canada, Vancouver. Anyway, a couple of days later or three, four days later I ended up in Vancouver. Somebody from the YMCA, they were meeting students. The guy picked us up and took us to the Y on Burrard Street. I don’t know if you know, there’s a Y on Burrard Street and we were there. The same person came and drove us out to UBC so that we could register and familiarize ourselves. I think I might have been a little bit stunned because these were not high school people. A lot of the students I was encountering, especially in my classes, they must have been eighteen, nineteen, and here I was, I think two days after I arrived in Vancouver, I turned twenty-three. So I had a lot more experience and I was much more mature than those people. So I would say that I was a little bit stunned but the shock was eased by meeting fellow Trinidadians who were going to school. They were in third, fourth year. I met, as I said, two Jamaican guys who were in their first year. So I felt a little bit more comfortable but in my classes I felt isolated a lot because all the people were white and I was black. Of course, I became a little bit more sensitive to that. I must say, there were lots of good looking girls [laughs]. Lots of good looking girls but I had to control myself. Well, lots of good looking girls but that’s not why you’re here [laughs]. Anyway, a few of the girls spoke with me and stuff like that but I had to take, you know, labs in chemistry and this is where I met the girl that I eventually dated.

[00:05:02]

I felt a little bit more comfortable being able to interact with a girl on a social basis. I would say that Vancouver, there were some things that I didn’t understand in Vancouver because where I came from alcohol wasn’t restricted and you could go to a movie on a Sunday. Here, movie houses were not open on Sundays and alcohol was restricted. I’ll give you an example. If my . . . For Christmas or if there were something happening my parents would say “Go down to the liquor store and buy a bottle of rum.” Rum was very cheap because they make rum in Trinidad. There was a liquor store. You could go in and pay and take the bottle home. You weren’t going to sit at the corner and drink it. Here, there was a very rigid . . . The premier at that time, W. A. C. Bennett was the teetotaller so he was doing everything possible to resist drinking. A lot of Canadians would go down to the states on Sundays across the border to Boundary Bay and Point Robinson, all those places, to the taverns there. Eventually, people here realized they’re missing that money that is being spent so they decided to create pubs here and they were opened on Sundays. Some of those restrictions were hard but in the meantime I didn’t have a lot of money so there wasn’t a lot that I could do. So what we mostly did, we lived at the house where we were allowed to have parties but the main reason for that, the guy who bought the house, he was married, and he and his wife separated and she moved out. He got involved with our crowd because the steel band music, he got interested in that, so we started having parties at his house in the basement. When the wife left him, he said “Well, I’ve moved the parties upstairs.” We had more space.

*REBECA*
What about Kamloops? How did you feel when you went there?

*MOSELEY*
When I went to Kamloops there was one other black person I knew. He worked for the Trinidad civil service in the treasury building. I worked in the department of culture. In those days, you didn’t get paid by a cheque. It was cash. You had to go to the treasury with the information and you got the money and then you brought it back to one of the major officer. My department had a dance in instructor, two arts instructors, a music instructor, and a drama instructor, and one of them would shell out the money. Cecil was his name. He was working the treasury. I worked for the department of culture. We ended up living in the same house. He came up a year after me and we were living in the same house. He was teaching in Kamloops and I stayed with him when I did my practicum, and when I went to live there, well, we interacted a lot because he was married to a Canadian girl, to a white girl, from Burnaby. My wife and his wife got along very well. We had children that were one year apart. They had two girls and one boy. We had two boys and one girl. If Cecil’s wife was going to the hospital we would look after the kids during the day and Cecil would pick them up after school and so on and then the reverse for ourselves. There weren’t many black people in Kamloops and, of course, living in Vancouver with lots of television channels and stuff like that, I think, Kamloops had two channels: CBC and some other channel. I think they had one radio station. So I was in a cultural shock because in Vancouver there were lots of things happening, there were lots of movie houses, there were lots of first class entertainment, and not much was happening in Kamloops. So, how did we spend our time? Well, I was coaching soccer and we would exchange visits between Cecil’s family and my family. We would go to their house for dinner they would come to our house for dinner.

[00:09:56]

You find that among the teachers there was a tight group. There were outsiders and insiders. I was invited to some of the second . . . Cecil was teaching at the secondary school. A few times I was invited, we were invited, but we were outsiders teaching elementary. You know, I’m not as good as teachers in secondary and stuff like that. Eventually, the teaching position was really good because the principal was a guy named [Reddy Kup?]. He was very receptive and I was surprised when he offered me the job because nobody on that staff was black but I think there was an East Indian guy from South Africa who was there at the time. So, you know, with the principal I felt a lot more comfortable but I was disappointed with the lack of first-class cultural things in Kamloops. Kamloops has really changed a lot. They have a concert hall and they have . . . We were there, I was there about two years ago and many of the top businesses like Wal-Mart and Costco and, have you heard about the restaurant called Montana?

*REBECA*
Mhm.

*MOSELEY*
I was surprised when I got to Kamloops. There was one time I never heard of it and stuff like that. Kamloops really seemed to be really a big thriving city. My wife had a lot of trouble with her skin. It’s very dry and she had always lived near the ocean. So we didn’t want to settle there because I was totally isolated from the Caribbean community or the Trinidad community and my wife was also isolated from her friends because she came from North Van and she had a lot of friends in North Van. They had gone to elementary school together and stuff like that. She wanted to be able to interact with them. I knew we wanted to be in the lower mainland.

*REBECA*

So that was always just a stop along the way?

*MOSELEY*
Yes, but, as I’ve said, my teaching experience there was very good because even the second principal that I had when I applied to get into UBC to do graduate work, he wrote a letter to the university saying that I was able to get a sabbatical and they were going to pay seventy percent of my salary and blah, blah, blah, how he was really pleased with my teaching ability and stuff like that. A lot of people and white people who, sort of, bent over backwards to me. I remember when we couldn’t pay fees second term. We used to pay fees first term and pay second term. Mrs. Allen in the registrar’s office, we’d go to her saying “Mrs. Allen, we can’t pay our fees. We haven’t gotten our money from home yet.” She accepted the fact that money was coming from home [laughs]. A lot of us went through that. We struggled. She allowed us to attend classes and said “We know the mail is slow to get your money from wherever.” There was no money coming but we managed to pay our fees. So we’ve had a lot of wonderful people, you know, white people who have been very, very open and helpful to us. I don’t have any prejudices against white people. I guess, I mean, a lot of Chinese people have been decent to me, too, and East Indian people. No, I don’t have prejudice. I have prejudice against idiots [laughs].

*REBECA*
Good people and bad people.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, as I’ve said, there’s good people in every group and there are bad people, you know, in all groups. Any other question?

*REBECA*
One question, and this is a simple one and I can move forward into more open ended questions, but, just to clarify, when you did end up in Richmond and you were teaching and you started to really settle in, did you go in Steveston and that was where you stayed or did you go into one other area of Richmond first and then . . .

*MOSELEY*
No, well, what we did we came down, um, my wife and I came down looking for a place to live when I returned to UBC. I was returning so I wasn’t going to leave the family there and come down here. So we decided . . . I know we wanted to live in the lower mainland. We wanted to live in either Vancouver or Richmond but when we came down we couldn’t afford property in Vancouver. Although they were about maybe 70,000 dollars then we looked in North Van and we could have afforded something maybe around 50 – 60,000 dollars. We went to North Van, where my wife came from. We couldn’t afford a house there and we didn’t like the size of lots in Vancouver. They were too small.

[00:15:21]

We couldn’t also afford the money and we checked Richmond. I had a friend who was living in Richmond and there was a house. I think the house was selling for 65,000 dollars and we managed to get it for 62. Even the guy who was developing houses, he was kind enough to lower the price. Since he was a builder, when we . . . It was on [McClew?] Avenue just west of Number One, west of railway, if you’re familiar with Richmond. We managed to get the house but this guy also took a liking to my family. I ended up, one summer, working for him as a night watchman. I forgot about that. In between university I was working as a watchman to find money to provide for my family. Then, as my children grew, we moved in there in 1974 and we started looking around for bigger places because my sons have grown. Two of my sons are over six feet tall. We needed more space so we looked in Vancouver. We looked around and then we got in Steveston. I was teaching, not in Steveston, but just in the north side of Steveston. We made an offer on a house. It had five bedrooms and three bathrooms and I thought, “Well, this is what we needed.” One son was, he was already attending Langara. I don’t know if he was at UBC then and one son was graduating that same year we moved in and my daughter had another year. They went to Richmond High. So it was 1988 when we bought the house in Steveston. So we had lived in the other house for fourteen years. My wife didn’t like Richmond because it was too flat but she liked the Steveston area because it was near the ocean. She lived in Deep Cove which is right on the ocean and she loved the mountains and the trees and stuff like that. She was comfortable in Steveston.

*REBECA*
Some sense of familiarity in the environment.

*MOSELEY*
Yes. Our kids, they got involved in their school, in athletics, taking part in track and field, basketball, volleyball. They were doing everything and they continued when they were at Richmond High. My son should have been named outstanding male athlete because he did football, and soccer, and track and field. One guy, who lead the Richmond team, they won the provincial basketball championship. He did one sport and he was named athlete of the year at Richmond High. My son had done three sports. My daughter followed and a few years later she was named outstanding female athlete at Richmond High. My second son, well, he didn’t do a lot. He did ice hockey and he did soccer but not for the school. He did baseball but he didn’t do much for the school. So he was a very good athlete but he had gained a lot of weight and he wasn’t as agile as the other kids were. They were runners and jumpers and stuff like that. He was a good baseball player and a good, um, hockey player. Yeah.

*REBECA*

I think, one thing that’s important to remember that leads me to another question is, these interviews can be used for educational purposes. So, to think about maybe the types of people who would listen to an oral history like this, and thinking about the process that you went through to finally settle in Richmond and, you know, your family’s comfortable doing these things and part of that is getting through school and working your way through school. So, it’s my, sort of, feeling that maybe people in the same position might listen to an oral history like this. So if you could say something to somebody who’s maybe come to Vancouver, come to Richmond, or just come to Canada and they’re working their way through school or maybe they’re just trying to find where they fit, you know, what would you say to somebody going through what you might’ve gone through?

*MOSELEY*

I would say that, first to begin, you have to have a positive outlook. If you go through life in general with a negative attitude you’re going to have difficulties interacting with people. If you have a positive attitude and you’re open to connecting with people, you’re also friendly, I think one of the main characteristics that has helped me is the fact that I haven’t been negative.

[00:20:48]

I enjoy interacting with people because, as I said, I coached soccer and the kids that I had on the soccer team were of all nationalities: Chinese, East Indians, Negro, white kids. In the school system I coached kids and, once again, most of them were white kids and stuff like that. So, being an open person and being friendly and not being intense and negative, probably, that draws people to you and, probably, people are willing to do things that could help you. If you’re too negative, I think people tend to stay away from you because . . . I’m not a gambler, I’m not a smoker, I’m not a drinker. So, probably, as you interact with people, people enjoy being in your presence or chatting with you and stuff like that. Even asking about Trinidad’s culture and stuff like that. Those are some of the things that I would say. If you are too negative and you think about people in a very negative way regardless of their colour and stuff like that. If you have that kind of a chip on your shoulder you’re going to struggle. I feel that I smile a lot. I understand that my children smile a lot, too. My son coaches with the club I coach and many of the kids would say “You’re son is just like you.” I’m not sure what that means but we are not intense people in a negative way.

*REBECA*

Do you think that’s what compelled you to take advantage of every opportunity that, sort of, came your way? Listening to your story, it seems like you always had somebody saying “Hey, there’s this opportunity to work, or there’s this opportunity to take a job.” It seems like you always jumped in with positive attitude first.

*MOSELEY*
Well, yes, because, um, I was amazed when my friend was sent to Cranbrook and I was working in Vancouver. I enjoyed that experience and I mainly worked with women. My supervisors were women. One of the women who supervised me, she actually wrote a letter of reference for me to get into graduate work. I think I was looking to get ahead. When the job was offered to me in Kamloops, the teaching job, I didn’t have any other opportunities then. I could have, maybe gone into sublets or something like that but I wanted more stability. I could have stayed in the lower mainland and I would have traveled around the lower mainland to substitute or something like that but here was an opportunity to have a job. I would be there every day and I’ll tell you, if you have a family and you care about them you know the first thing you’re thinking about is them. I asked my wife is she would be willing to come and she said yes. I said okay, I’ll take that job. We got organized. When the job was offered here in Richmond, I knew we wanted to be down here. My wife didn’t enjoy Kamloops. I know she wanted to be down here so there was that goal. My wife wants to be in the lower mainland where her health would be better. You know, her skin wasn’t going to be bothering her as much as in the dry climate. I knew I wanted to be in this kind of atmosphere to be able to go to shows and that sort of stuff. I remember I was in Kamloops and they were having a steel band all the way from Trinidad. I knew all the guys. They were from Vancouver. I had played with a group in Vancouver, a steel band.

[00:25:36]

So I was disappointed when these guys came from Vancouver and they’re saying they’re from Trinidad and stuff like that. I knew we wanted to be in the Vancouver area. So when the opportunity came up, okay, I was satisfying my wife’s need and my need. She would be able to see her brothers. Her brothers at that time lived in the Vancouver area and her aunt and her grandmother. So my kids were going to be able to get to know their great grandmother. Their grandmother, on my wife’s side, and the grandfather they were living in Pakistan working there but they got to know their great grandmother and their uncles and stuff like that. So those things were important. Family life, for me, is very, very important.

*REBECA*
Okay. My last question is, also thinking about who might be listening to this type of interview, so it’s related to that but also relate to what we were talking about before I turned the recorder on today, which is, your opinions and perspectives about women. So you were talking about how you really wanted a daughter and also the changes that you’ve seen in society in general and how it’s been important in terms of women’s growth.

*MOSELEY*

Yeah.

*REBECA*

So if I could just hear maybe your opinion on that and we could record it because I imagine there would be a lot of little girls that might listen to an oral history as well.

*MOSELEY*
Well, sometime, I guess, having come from a family with four girls, two older and two younger, um, my two older sisters I looked after one of their children. One sister had five children. I spent a lot of time with them. My younger sisters, when I left Trinidad, I, sort of, almost, deserted them. Once I started working here I started sending money back to Trinidad because they didn’t have free secondary schooling. One sister, after grade seven, she went to commercial school. She reminded me that I sent money to pay for that. My other sister who was special needs, she went to secondary school but she wasn’t making any progress. So I was paying her fees, too. I realized, somewhere along the line, that we have, men in general, have had a very negative view of women. I, somehow or the other, I didn’t have that kind of a view. Having a daughter was very important to me to reinforce my beliefs. Women should be able to do anything that they want, yeah. So I think living with the family, you know, this sort of thing, having sisters reinforced the idea that, yeah, women need to be treated equally. So I would say, you know, the track team that I coached I have a lot of girls. Last year, we were overrun by girls. This year we have a few more boys but I am interested in people making progress whether it’s the boys, I had the boys team that did very well in track and field. It was the only boys team that I had. The girls were also just as successful and that’s important to me. I think, as I said to you before, for most of our life we have not used women’s brains. If you study history, you’ll see that there are very few women who have made a lot of historical things in their lives. The first woman I read about was Cleopatra, and then there was a woman named Boadicea who fought against the Romans. Recently, there was Gold Meir, Margaret Thatcher, and so on. Women have started to . . . Now we have May, who is the prime minister of England. Yeah, women are beginning to . . . And I think the world would be a much better place if women were in charge.

[00:30:09]

I have had this feeling for a long time. Women are not as war mongers as men. We are ready to drop the atomic bomb and all those kinds of things. Women are much more gentle with that. I have always respected my wife. Yeah, I always respected her and I always admired her because she was a very gentle, feminine, calm, woman, and stuff like that. I think the world would be a much better place if more women were in control of countries.

*REBECA*

I think that perspective is important not only for girls to hear but boys, just everybody to, I guess, realize the equality, so, thank you for sharing that. I appreciate it. It came up both in our first interview and the second one. I think it’s nice to have those conversations out in the open.

*MOSELEY*
Yes.

*REBECA*
Yeah.

*MOSELEY*
Well, I feel, I mean, how could you have a daughter and a son, and you push the son to achieve and you ignore the daughter, no. It’s unfortunate, and I have two granddaughters. One is very, the older one is more gentle like my wife was. The second one is a little bit more aggressive but I’d like to see them, you know, develop and be what they want to be and, you know, have the opportunities that men would have to become self-sufficient as much as possible. Yeah.

*REBECA*
Okay, and then the last question as always that I always am sure to put out there is, if there’s anything else that you thought of since we last met that you wanted to share aside from your university years.

*MOSELEY*
No, nothing else that I figure that I hadn’t shared with you. I mentioned working in the summers while I was on vacation as a teacher, July, August. I think I mentioned I worked in Kamloops on the CN tracks and I worked as a night watchman and one year, one thing I missed, I even worked as a swamper. You know what a swamper is?

*REBECA*
I do not.

*MOSELEY*

A friend who lived around the corner, a white friend, white family, he worked at the Bay. He was a manager at the Bay. He got me a job to work with people who were delivering refrigerators and furniture and stuff like that. There was a driver and I worked with him delivering things to people who had ordered. So one summer I also did that. So that was another job.

*REBECA*
You had a lot of different skills; developed a lot of different skills over the years.

*MOSELEY*
Well, when the kids arranged my seventieth birthday and they told people, you know, about some of the things that I had done and we had a party, you know, dance and music and we provided all the food and alcohol and stuff like that. People came as different things. People came as . . . Some women came as bird watchers because I had birds. Some people came as coaches, soccer coaches. Some came as teachers. Some came as, um, well, I enjoyed baking and my brother in law came with a tray. He carried it with him [laughs]. So people came as . . . I drove cab in Vancouver for blacktop. Somebody came as a taxi driver. I worked as a gardener. I worked as a logger. So people came as all these different things.

*REBECA*
Different version of you in the past?

*MOSELEY*
Yes.

*REBECA*

[laughs]. Do you have any photos of that?

*MOSELEY*
Um, we have . . . I don’t think . . . They don’t show much of it but I have some pictures here. A lot of pictures were taken.

*REBECA*
Okay.

*MOSELEY*
I do have some pictures of those but I didn’t bring any of those with me.

*REBECA*
That’s okay. It would be great to see, maybe in the future.

*MOSELEY*
Yes, well, they told me if . . . What’s her first name?

*REBECA*
Sheila.

*MOSELEY*
If she asked, maybe I could bring those and one of the interesting things, um, my wife went disguised as the Jack of Hearts. She had the hat and everything else. So she was Jack of Hearts, yeah, interesting. I even did some barbering, too. I cut, you know . . . White people do not know how to cut black peoples’ hair. Our hair is ‘kinky’ as they say, but I knew how to do it. So, one summer when I wasn’t working I cut the guy’s hair, I charged him a dollar to cut their hair and so I did that, too. So there were lots of different things that I did. As I’ve said, yeah, there are some pictures around.

*REBECA*
That would be great to see. Alright, well, I think that adds one more hour to your interview so that’s wonderful and I’m going to say thank you and turn the recorder off.

*MOSELEY*
You’re very welcome.

END OF TAPE PART THREE OF THREE

[00:35:25]

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)