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Latham Leslie Moore [00:00:10] My mother was also a well-known horsewoman and was seen riding in rotten row almost every morning. She continued riding when she was also enceinte [sic] and she refused to give up riding. Her condition became so evident to the people who stood along the rails watching the riders. One man was heard to remark "I wonder if she would drop her foal in the tam [sic] or get home first." That remark was relayed to my father and he and her father decided the only thing to do then was to take our horses away from us. So they went down to the stables, collected the horses, and set them up to Tattersalls [sic], where they were sold. The next day when my mother went down to ride, she got to the stables and found all the horses had gone. The livery stable, we've been told, they were not to supply with a horse at all. And this made her absolutely furious. She laid the blame of all this on me, her unborn child, and she loathed me from that day onwards until the day she died. When eventually she had to stay in the house and was confined to bed, she produced my, her child at about three [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:02:12] Most of my time down in the stables and the dogs. One Sunday morning when we were quite kids, I, brother and myself were standing on the edge of the moat, watching the fish. We had carp and tension [sic], perch, the ordinary common fish in the place. And my father came along and said, "can you two boys swim?" So we admitted we couldn't. So he said, Well, take off your clothes. Which we did, he then picked us up and chucked us into the deep end of the moat. They said, "now swim after the little blighters." We splashed around, yelled the tops of our voices, and eventually one of the grooms came up and saw us and got in and hauled us out. And he dried us off, and we put on our clothes and went back to the house. My father said, But can you swim now? We said yes, sir, we can. [break in tape]

[00:03:29] And it's a good, healthy exercise for me as a doctor told me I should do. [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:03:40] So I keep an eye on them after a while, better go down to Appet Manor [sic] to see my friends there and stay in the country for a little while. See how the horses are and so on. I went on down, and they were delighted to see me, [indecipherable] I was looking and so on, and I said, I must be in ten days or a fortnight perhaps. I says, But here, come on, let's go over the Brighton and I'll take you and give you lunch at the Metropole, one of these awful hotels in Brighton. So off we went, and we had lunch. We decided to, come on we'll go for a walk along the promenade and get some sea air. And we did this and we walked along about ten minutes a quarter of an hour or so, these two land heirs. And saw a man, he stopped and stared at me. And I stopped and stared at him. And I go I know this follows face somewhere. I don't know who it is at the moment. What part? He said a Tanganyika territory? Tanganyika territory. Yes, that's the East African. It is. Wel he said German East Africa. I said of [indecipherable] changed its name now. Well, tell me what happens to the copy of State when you're out shooting? Oh, he said I think the Africans look after it all right. I said, well, I think it's rather odd thing I think you must have a white man to look after the copy whilst you're shooting at lands and things. I said, when are you sailing? He said, oh not for another week or two. But anyway, I'll, you know, I give them my address and telephone number, Ivan Mannor [sic] and went back. The job was to get a ticket. And it seems to be there's a bit of nonsense about cros. [break in tape]

Latham Leslie Moore [00:05:50] I'm thinking it over the chorus girls doing things in the second class. And it is a terrific show of course we had a wonderful trip, of course. We

eventually got to Mombasa, Kenya, which is East Africa. It was in those days of course. And. [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:06:17] Based on Schedule one and increase the population of the community on the farm considerably. And I settled down all right, and he started to show me what to do about coffee farming and so on. Of course, the first thing I hade to do is learn Kiswahili so I can talk to the Africans. But luckily I got some books, stills [sic] and things like dictionaries, and I started to chatter away and I soon picked it up, enough to get get by with. I couldn't have passed an exam [indecipherable]. What I did know is sort of, kit and kava [sic] Swahili, and then Gray though that I knew enough to carry on by myself. So he. [break in tape]

Latham Leslie Moore [00:07:17] Labor force, found out how they worked things and how they did things. And I got to know something quite a lot about coffee eventually. And Colonel Gray came back. [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:07:34] And I got to Aarusha [sic] went up in [indeciperable] and it was all great. I was quite happy to have been out hunting most of the time I'd been away, I think. [break in tape].

[00:07:49] [indecipherable] it was all great. I was quite happy to have been out hunting. Most of the time I've been away, I think, and we were quite happy together for a while. And he thought, well, I don't know, this fellow knows quite a lot about coffee and I don't really want an assistant here whilst he's. He can probably get a job somewhere else. So we talked it over and I said, Yeah, certainly, I'll go and see what I can do. So I went through into the rushes of the [indecipherable] Jeff Webster, the provincial commissioner, and I saw Henry doing quite well. And I saw him and I said, Look at it, if you get me a job, do you think anywhere? You know, anything going. They said, well, I don't know. They said, have you ever thought of joining the government. I said, No, I said, but why? He said, well, I can get you a job in the government any time you like. We want coffee officers. These Africans on Kilimanjaro the WaChaga started planting coffee, but it never has been up to tell them what to do, or how to do it, or when. If you like a job as a coffee officer, I'll have you nominated straight away. I thought, well, it sounds all right. He told me really what the salary would probably be and how much [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:09:19] And I, sorry about that cough again. I signed on the dotted line. He read through and said, Now you're a government official, I said yes, sounds all right. He said you'll, whats more, you'll be a government official for the next 21 years. I said, What do you mean? Well, that's what you signed on for. I said, dam you, Jeff, about what you tell me I thought I was going to do about six months or so or something. I mean, I got on Kilimanjaro. No you're a government official now, but I thought, that's all right. So I packed up, and Geterman [sic] Turner, said goodbye to old Colonel Gray and. [break in tape].

Latham Leslie Moore [00:10:00] Crops. Whilst I was on safari the, one of the headband came to me and asked about rain. When does it going to rain again? The crops is starting to dry out. And I just looked at the sky in a joking sort of way. Oh, I said you were going to get rain in about three days, 3:00 in the afternoon. And beguru [sic], it did rain then, so the news went round. I could produce rain at anytime, but unfortunately I never tried it again. One good guess is quite enough for me. And then it was wrong. [break in tape]

Latham Leslie Moore [00:10:43] A state that's got another one on the mainland, the same engines inveritably do everybody claims the set and the other thing. And so the whole thing was handed over to the administrator general and he sorted it out and decided to auction off the island. The other one had used the various litigants to deal with it themselves. I sayed up in the bow [sic] of the Seepe [sic] lands. And the auction was going to be in a few days time. In other words, no good going off anywhere just stay for the auction and it was advertised to 10:00 on such and such a day. And I thought well this is all right to see about getting this island some way or other. And the night before the auction, came down about midnight and C.P. Lyons [sic] rooms above the Boma [sic] and I saw the Ascari [sic] was on duty inside the Boma, walked around to see that, nobody pinches the cash box and that sort of thing. And I said, okay, just give me the key to the District Commissioner's office. I want to get some papers out. And so he gave me a key and he walked around doing his job. And I opened the office and got a chair out. And over the door I see one of the big government clocks. And I opened the clocks face and they put their hands on 45 minutes and then closed it up, and put it back and locked the door and give it, the key to the Ascari [sic] and went up to bed and the next morning people kept on looking at their watches and looking at the clock. But anyway, the clock was a government time and that was that. And C.P. Lyons came down because he never looked at anything except stuff on his table at work. And I went and sat in the office and looked at some papers and things like that. And I said to Charles, what about this auction? And I said, Look at the clock. You know, good lord, it's five minutes to ten. I said, Yes, the auction is at 10:00. He said, Yes it's the advertized time. I asked Well, why not start the thing? So he went out and told Akrham [sic] the goanise [sic] clerk, Get a table and chair and that kind of thing, and let's start the auction. And at 10:00, he started the auction and the telegraphic bid of 5000 shillings from Dar Salaam and the advance. So I said 6000. And in general, Arab working in combination, I think. And he said and ten cents, CP Lyons looked, just looked at him and said no bids under 100 shillings, please. And so they put up 100 shilings, I put up 7,000, and they went up 100 and I put up a thousand till they got it up to 10,000. And they were humming and hawing and Lyons said you can bid. And I said, no. I said, Well, I vote 100. I got 10,000, 100 shillings. [break in tape]

Latham Leslie Moore [00:14:23] And the next thing is to arrange payment. So I walked into the the cashier's office and I saw [indecipherable] I said, I want to get down to the island and I'll give you a check for the whole thing. 10,100 shillings. He said, well thats, the regulations are you pay three quarters of the purchase price in court and the other you pay month's notice. I said, Well, I can't possibly do that. I'll give you a check for the whole thing. He said, Well, that's right. So, um I. I got the island. And I got the receipt and all that sort of thing, arranged for a dhow to take me down and got Mike Curtain [sic] took Pang [sic] along, off we went. And I got down to the island and it was a pretty awful state. There had been nothing done since before the 1914 war. And the bushes all over the coconuts and it was a terrible state. But I arranged for the, an indian contractor, a man called Hamid Uddin [sic]. He was a Punjabi. And to come down, and to take on a contract, and clearing all the bush, and getting the labor. Well, in those days we used to get labor from Portuguese east, the Mamboia [sic], odd looking people. They have piled teeth to start with and all over cuts and things that they've rubbed such and and stuff in to disfigure themselves. And they're quite good workers. And of course, we had to collect an awful lot of tools in a the way of, of bush knives, pangas, they call them here, and hoes and saws, and all sorts of things you need at the shop in [indecipherable], got a lot of stuff there. And I portioned practically everything up as I could, and we started work clearing the bush. I fixed up a panga and lift and net and I was on the job to see the Africans working pretty well. And at one time I had 300 people on the, on the payroll and we were cutting this bush out and pilling it up and burning it. Any dead coconut trees were cut down. Ones that were

so weak at the, they wouldn't actually use us. They came down too, and we got the place very properly cleared up. And then I, [indecipherable] a nice has hos sight. So I ambled about the place and I found out the place is a, I thought it was a real beauty. It's right in the middle of a moon shaped bay. The bay goes down about a mile and a half, down one way, and about a mile and a half the other. And just a semi-circle. And I had the house in the middle of that. And so I could look up both, both ways. And then we decided to clear that part and level it all, and built the house there. So I gave them the contract of getting all the, the material up. There you don't get stone bricks and things like that. You simply dig up the coral rock out of the sea, put it on the shore and let it dry off. And the Masons with their little hatchets, cut it up into blocks. And that's the same stuff we use to build your house. There wasn't an ounce of anything in the way of nails or anything used in store. But everything was made of coral rock and we burnt our own lime. I had two or three lime kilns and burnt beautiful lime art in the coral rock, the poles, rafters, the, the roof and so on. The mangrove poles back end of the island and the only metal that was in the place, were some railway lines that I acquired. I had [break in tape]

Latham Leslie Moore [00:19:11] They were incorporated in the roof of all the big rooms and they look quite nice when they've been painted with black bituminous paint. Having decided on the house site, I then picked it out. I got a one of those long steel tapes and picked it out most carefully and got the right angles of absolutely correct and so on. And the house is in a rectangle really and in the middle there's some sort of courtyard say had a big hole, dug, a cement water tank put in to get the rainwater off the the roof. The roof is a house built in the Arab style, with a flat roof and great big, thick walls, small windows, and as cool as could be. But whilst I was getting the house built. I sent the message, that letter up to Pedisable [sic] who'd then take over to the Morogoro [sic] experimental station, and they got some of the most beautiful things in the way of flowering trees and flowering shrubs. So he selected a lot of stuff for me and it was all sent down from Morogoro to the sea and then it got on the zillions [sic] brought down to Mick and Dahli [sic] put it on one of my dhows and brought it on the. I never had a casualty among all those trees that he sent me and they were lovely things. All sorts of colored bougainvillea. The madam but [sic] the and the short one and the white safil [sic] one. And all sorts of bougainvilleas.