

The following is a newspaper story about the Moore Sisters published in 2013 in the *GM News Sentinel*:

## **Former Moore Sisters Member Returns to Singing for Local Audiences**

By STELLA MORRISON  
Staff Writer



Yvonne-Ethier Coyle, left to right, along with her sisters Viola and Bella Ethier, performed on USO tours in the 1940s under the stage name The Moore Sisters. (Photo courtesy of Yvonne Coyle, Sayreville) — Yvonne Ethier-Coyle realizes that not many people know about her performances in Bob Hope's USO camp tours during and after World War II.

“When we were growing up, my father never wanted us to have too much pride. So, that he instilled in us,” Coyle said. “Now, I enjoy sharing the stories.”

Coyle, along with her sisters Bella and Viola Ethier, performed internationally under the stage name The Moore Sisters after being discovered by a talent scout in their native Massachusetts in the mid- 1940s. The sisters went on a few tours to entertain United States military personnel both at home and abroad.

“We loved to entertain,” said Coyle, now a Sayreville resident. “The servicemen — the sailors and the soldiers — were so appreciative of us. They were a wonderful audience.”

The Moore Sisters performed in “Stateside Follies,” a show that included a juggler, an acrobat and a comedy team. The show was performed as close to home as Syracuse, N.Y., and as far away as Japan and Korea.

The sisters played accordion and guitar while singing novelty songs such as “I Want to be a Cowboy's Sweetheart” and “Met a Texas Gal,” penned for them by various songwriters.

“We didn't hesitate to do the USO tour,” Coyle said. “To us, it was our work. This was how we made our living — in entertainment — even when we weren't on the USO tour.”

Coyle and her sisters went on tours for several years, mostly performing for soldiers on military bases abroad at the end of World War II.

“We were only too glad to go where we were going,” Coyle said. “The trips were nice trips. We would see a lot of the country from the train while traveling. We had never traveled that much before.”

After they completed their tours with the USO, The Moore Sisters returned to New York City to perform at famed venues Rogers Corner and the Village Barn. The trio's performances were broadcast on a weekly, nationally syndicated radio show.

“It was a wonderful opportunity because our family was finally able to hear us perform,” Coyle said.

When the sisters booked a gig at the Capital cocktail lounge in South River, Bella left the group to start a family, and Yvonne and Viola continued to perform as The Dixy Sisters until they disbanded. Yvonne met her husband, Charles Coyle, at the Capital. They were married in 1950 and settled in the area.

“We never boasted about what we did; we were just down-to-earth people,” Coyle said.

Bella, Viola and Charles have since passed on. Coyle is now going back to singing, both for her own enjoyment and to entertain others in the Sayreville senior community.

“In the community where I live, I play guitar and we have a sing-along, and someone came up to me and said that I must have done this before,” Coyle said. “It took the second time he brought it up for me to mention the USO. It was so long ago, but I haven't forgotten it.”

She was hesitant to sign up for a recent talent show at the Sayreville Senior Center because she was uncertain about her abilities, but she decided to stay the course and hit the stage once again.

“I made sure I was almost the last one there,” Coyle said. “I can't sing as high as I used to and I wasn't sure I could do this, but it was just for us, the seniors. I sang and I yodeled, and I have to laugh at myself — of course I can do this.”



Dave Sica and Tom Cawley teamed up to allow the Moore Sisters to once again be heard through the groups' recordings.



Yvonne-Ethier Coyle



The Moore Sisters performing at another USO show.



A vintage USO camp show photo from April 6, 1946 courtesy of Yvonne Coyle, former Moore Sister. From left to right are Bella, Viola, and Yvonne, smiling after a successful roadshow at the Marine Barracks in Quantico, Virginia. The local *Sentry* newspaper reported that the talented trio sang Texas-style country music to a cheering and hand-clapping crowd of veterans.



The Moore Sisters were born in the 1920s and raised on a farm in a small, rural town called Millville Massachusetts.