

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Kenneth Zachary

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0484

**IDENTIFICATION:** LSU graduate

**INTERVIEWER:** Tara Zachary

**SERIES:** University History – Distinguished Alumni

**INTERVIEW DATES:** July 2, 1994

**FOCUS DATES:** 1950s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 696, Side A**

Introduction; born on May 21, 1938 to Ira Ellis Zachary and Clara Powers Zachary at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge; father was a pipe fitter and mother was a beauty operator; mother attended Northwestern Teacher's College; father grew up in Provencal and Greensburg, Louisiana; brother Richard Ellis and sister Laura Lynn Zachary; raised in Clinton, Louisiana; attended Chamberlain Hunt Military Academy; Lagrange High School and Sulphur High School; graduated from Sulphur High School on May 21, 1956; attended McNeese State University before LSU for expense reasons; memory of the bombing of Pearl Harbor; father not able to serve in army because he had flat feet; father went into construction and building military installations; memories of advertising in *Life* magazine during World War Two; remembers VE Day because the bells rang early in the morning in Clinton; remembers when Roosevelt died; father and grandmother died in a wreck in March of '51; mother remarried father's brother, Rod Percy; Rod worked at City Service; Rod's father died when he was sixteen so he had to help support his siblings; father Ira gave Zachary a love of history; remembers registration for LSU was handwritten on cards and required a lot of walking; lived on the east side of the stadium his first semester with Ken Norwood and cousins Clyde Carter and Rodney Doughty; lived in the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house after first semester; LSU tuition was one hundred and fifty dollars; description of fraternity parties; partied first semester at McNeese State University, but stopped after transferring to LSU; met wife by driving friend to visit his girlfriend at the nursing home; LSU football team won the national championship during his second year at LSU; description of football games and social life; description of ROTC; tried to volunteer for the army but rejected because he had a pinoidal cyst; met Dean French during a panty raid; description of General Middleton; description of panty raid and being caught by Dean French; integration in 1953.

**Tape 696, Side B**

No memory of efforts to integrate LSU during time there; majored in social studies with a minor in health and safety; interest in teaching and industrial safety; begged out of teaching contract

with Calcasieu parish to find a better paying job; taught eighth grade social studies and English at Dequincy; returned to McNeese State University to minor in English; took American History with T. Harry Williams; description of sociology class taught by Dean Frey; enjoyed post graduate course in history in the spring of 1960; descriptions of other enjoyable classes; memories of big names on campus such as Patty Haynes and Brother Tolar; description of location of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house; recalls death of Mike the second and collection to buy Mike the third; member of Kappa Phi Kappa; married during last semester at LSU in January 1960; night classes during final semester; as a student teacher, taught seventh grade American History at the lab school; story about Herchel Mire as a pipe fitter; Patty Haynes, Brother Tolar and Glenn Brady from Clinton attended LSU; graduation held in the Agricultural Barn with eighteen thousand graduates; brother Richard Ellis graduated from LSU and became an instructor in the College of Engineering; brother invented a mechanical heart; believes he wouldn't have gone to college if father Ira had lived but would have followed him into the plumbing business; description of grades and schooling during childhood at Chamberlain Hunt, Sulphur, and Lagrange; by the time he entered LSU, he was ready to learn and study; wanted to join the army before college but was refused.

**TAPES:** 1 (T696)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 22 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 58 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None