

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

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Donald Chauvin Jr.

**COLLECTION:** 4700.2366

**IDENTIFICATION:** Franklin, Louisiana resident, field overseer

**INTERVIEWER:** Victoria Chauvin

**SERIES:** Louisiana Sea Grant Coastal Change Oral Histories Project

**INTERVIEW DATES:** May 14, 2013

**FOCUS DATES:** 1960s, 1970s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 4291**

Interviewee's full name is Donald Joseph Chauvin, Jr. He was born March 27, 1961 in Franklin; Donald lives on the outskirts of Franklin and he's been in the same neighborhood for 52 years; Donald says that Franklin has changed some from the 1960s until now; a lot of businesses are not in the area of Franklin right now; the economy is down; his family used to own a store so he used to have to work, it's now closed down; it was in his family for over 35 years; it just closed down in the last 10 years; the population has grown; there's a Walmart and a Winn Dixie now; they used to only have an A&P back in the 1960s; Franklin did grow up but there are a lot of businesses that left; the community has changed; it used to have kids playing sports, baseball little league, softball; now all that's gone; the kids are mostly involved in the Internet, computers, and cell phones; the last time Donald was out by the coast was 22 years ago; he knows there is some erosion; marshlands and stuff are getting smaller; he knows they plant trees to try to stop the erosion; he knows there's a difference in the climate from when he was younger; back in the 1960s and 1970s when it was October, November, and December, they had freezes; it was very cold; these days you just wear a light jacket with short sleeves shirts; talks more about how cold winter used to be; Donald thinks there is a lot of difference in the wild plants and animals from then to now; there are black bears, wild hogs; the black bears are getting closer to the citizens of Franklin and it's a danger; when he sees them out in the field where he works, he worries they're going to get closer to the people and harm the children; he doesn't know a whole lot about it; the 4-H program does a black bear thing; when he was in 4-H, there wasn't all the knowledge about what to do with the black bears; Donald hopes the community gets a lot better and jobs start picking up; talks more about lack of jobs; Donald's advice to the youth of his community is to get an education; when Donald was coming up, if they wanted to do something, they had to get out and work; they had to work out on his grandfather's chicken farm, work in the store; that's how they got paid to have spending money; they were shown what to do to survive; these days are different; back in the 1960s, if you wanted something, you had to work for it; Donald favorite memories of childhood in Franklin were going to the baseball park, playing sports with his

friends, and doing livestock shows; they were all involved in 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA); that's where he got his background, from FFA; Today he works at the Bayou Sale Cane Company; he's the field overseer; his father used to work on the farm; worked for Red Stick as a mechanic on the Red Stick trucks that delivered clothing, then he went into the farm business back in the early 1970s; talks about favorite childhood memories; his hobbies as a child were playing baseball, fishing, taking care of his livestock, working in the chicken barn, picking eggs, washing eggs, loading eggs on the truck, delivering feed, unloading feed; everything he did when he was younger was all considered being working; his pleasure time was when he could play baseball and fish; Donald first worked for Chauvin & Durham's Feed Store for his grandfather; today, he sees a lot of young kids text messaging and drinking; he and his friends did party, but it has changed since the 1970s; the place has changed; Donald used to hang out at the baseball field at Caffery Park; it has changed from one park to five parks now; now Donald faces trying to survive; the economy's bad; just working to keep his head above water to be able to do things.

**TAPES:** 1 (T4291)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 12 minutes

**# PAGES INDEX:** 4 pages

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Video clips from interview

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