

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Josie Leonard

COLLECTION: 4700.0648

IDENTIFICATION: McKinley High School graduate, class of 1967

INTERVIEWER: Carmen Posey

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project – History of McKinley High School

INTERVIEW DATE: June 6, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1963-1967

ABSTRACT:

Tape 938, Side A

Leonard born in Baton Rouge on October 24, refrains from disclosing what year; attended McKinley from 1963 to 1967; attended McKinley Elementary for two years and McKinley Junior High; parents' names; neither parent finished high school; mother was a housewife, father worked for labor union hall; after graduation, went to college, worked at McKinley office for four years, then taught; teachers were positive role models; financial difficulty made people strive to do better; doesn't mind change, as long as it's for the good; describes typical day at McKinley; Albert E. Carter, who wrote the alma mater, was her English teacher; belonged to several clubs; subjects taught; principal was Julius Thomas while she was a student; the whole community loved and supported McKinley; focus is still on academics at McKinley; McKinley important as first black school in area; is always willing to help educate students about McKinley history; encourages students go get education, work hard, be positive and not expect quick riches; fondly recalls pep rallies; academics were top priority; interview ends abruptly.

TAPE: 1 (T938)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 13 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 9 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Interviewer's Notes and Word List; Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: None