

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Freddie Smith, Jr.

COLLECTION: 4700.0690

IDENTIFICATION: McKinley High School graduate, Class of 1963

INTERVIEWERS: Shanta Jenkins and Carmen Posey

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

INTERVIEW DATE: July 6, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1017, Side A

Smith born in New Orleans in 1945 to Freddie and Estelle Smith; father attended McKinley, mother schooled in New Orleans; father worked at Wolf Sunbeam Bakery; Freddie works for Ciba-Geigy; attended McKinley from 1959 to 1963; typical day's schedule at McKinley; academics were foremost; he was on the baseball team, a member of Honor Society, and a trainer for the basketball and football teams; he was a better-than-average student and eight grade valedictorian; his father was his role model; inspired by his favorite teacher, Mildred Cummings who pointed him "in the right direction"; went on to Grambling and graduated with a B.S. in recreation; wouldn't want to do it over under the current circumstances students face, too much peer pressure; when he attended McKinley the whole community was involved with the school; his goal was to finish high school; McKinley has been an influence for people all over Baton Rouge; names a few prominent McKinley graduates; he thinks students got along better when he was there; McKinley's rivalry with Capital High School was healthy; advice to future graduates; conclusion.

TAPES: 1 (T1017)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 11 minutes

TRANSCRIPT PAGES: 9 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence; Interviewer's notes and word list; Index (2 pgs)

RESTRICTIONS: None