

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

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Nell Byars

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0830

**IDENTIFICATION:** Wife of Dr. Vance Byars, World War II Veteran

**INTERVIEWER:** Adele Foster

**SERIES:** Military

**INTERVIEW DATES:** June 30, 1997

**FOCUS DATES:** 1940s-1950s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 1193**

Byars' birth date, place and family information; occupation of her father; how her father came to American and settled in Louisiana; how her parents met; a car accident and the long term effects on her father and family; her father's shoe store in Baton Rouge; religious affiliation of the her family; where she attending elementary school; the depression; her mother's role as family provider after her father's death; housecleaning; how she spent her time in the afternoons; attending Baton Rouge High School; graduation with caps and gowns instead of the traditional clothes; making wedding plans; arranging aspects of the wedding; the effect of the war on her ability to obtain a wedding gown and photographic film; how she met her husband; dating; following her husband to his different post so that they could see on another on weekends; obtaining housing with other army wives; meeting up with him prior to his shipping out; what her thoughts were prior to their marriage knowing he would be sent overseas; writing to each other during the war; what Baton Rouge was like during the war; friends who were injured or killed in the war; her husband's return after the war; her husband having nightmares of the war; finishing his education; employment; building a home and having a family; going back to work after her first child was born; her husband's decision to attend medical school in New Orleans; moving to New Orleans; working with her husband after his practice was established; her grandchildren; her views on today and the discipline of children; living in New Orleans.

**TAPES:** 1 (T1193)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 3 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 38 pages

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Handwritten index of tape

**RESTRICTIONS:** None