

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Dr. Ronnie Banks, Sr.

COLLECTION: 4700.2467

IDENTIFICATION: Resident of Sulphur, Louisiana; preacher at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Mossville in 1976; graduate of McNeese University; attended seminary and law school at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

INTERVIEWER: Kathleen Donner

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Oral History Day

INTERVIEW DATES: January 24, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4403

Ronnie Banks is introduced; Banks born in Sulphur, Louisiana on February 21, 1954; parents were Leon Banks and Catherine [Macloud?]; mother was a stay-at-home mom, father was an industrial plant worker; began preaching in Mossville in 1976; only lived in Mossville for a short time, but feels a deep connection to the area; owns rent house there; due to integration, did not attend Mossville High School; attended Mossville community events; graduated from Sulphur High, then McNeese University in 1976; went on to law school at Howard University [Washington, D.C.]; describes family's home when they lived in Mossville, the sense of unity among the residents, and the pride they took in their community; even though they didn't have a government, residents were able to get things done, like construction of community swimming pool; different entertainment options in Mossville, such as canteens, record hops, dancing, playing basketball, dating; community leaders in the area, citing Coach LaSalle Williams was a living legend; positive impact the community of Mossville had on his life, especially in terms of morality and growing up in the church; left for thirty years, but when he returned, he found the residents were still nice; end of interview.

TAPES: 1 (T4403)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 18 minutes

PAGES: 3 pages index; 11 pages transcript

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: Four photographs taken during interview, including three photos of Banks and one photo of interviewer Donner. Photographer Charlotte Willcox.

OTHER MATERIALS: Biographical data form; Correspondence; Interview questions (2 pgs)

RESTRICTIONS: None