

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Barbara Payne

COLLECTION: 4700.2582

IDENTIFICATION: born and raised in Mossville, Louisiana

INTERVIEWER: Jamie Digilormo

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Field Interviews

INTERVIEW DATES: September 30, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1960s-1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4529

Born in 1957; earliest memories of Mossville; roads not paved; thirteen children raised in a two bedroom house; learned to stand up for herself, brothers made her fight; sibling rivalry; father left when she was six, but stayed close enough to help; returned when she graduated in 1977; mother a "very respectable woman", always made sure they were taken care of; worked as a housekeeper; refused to bail out sons who got into trouble, told to "deal with it"; raised Catholic, had to go to church every Sunday; weekly planner with daily chores; mother and brothers spoiled her; working in the 9th grade to help out mother, who was putting some children through college; learned to be independent, had a driver's license at fourteen; grandparents butchered hogs and made blood boudin and cracklin'; toilets were outdoors, grandmother had cleanest one in the neighborhood; grandparents' garden, grew sugarcane, cabbage, mustard greens, green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers; dislike of "yard birds"; crab boils more popular than crawfish boils; father taught her to cook; attended Mossville Junior High, then Westlake High School; was a tomboy growing up, became interested in boys in the sixth grade; cheerleader at Mossville from sixth to ninth grade, and a Ramette at Westlake; experienced prejudice, but older brothers had integrated first so it wasn't as bad.

TAPES: 1 (T4529)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 26 minutes

#PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 36 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: none