

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Bob Scarce

COLLECTION: 4700.0446

IDENTIFICATION: LSU alumnus; former columnist of “Set the Hook Hard” for the *Advocate*; former host of “The Great Outdoors”

INTERVIEWER: Melisse Campbell

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Alumni

INTERVIEW DATES: May 5, 1994

FOCUS DATES: 1930s-1994

ABSTRACT:

Tape 637, Side A

Performs the opening to his television show “The Great Outdoors”; born in Cincinnati, Ohio; on June 16, 1912; oldest in a family of four children; father was traveling salesman of men’s tailor made clothing; mother graduated from a small teacher’s college in central Indiana; at six months old, family moved to Bedford, Indiana; graduated from Tech High in Indianapolis; at eighteen, moved to Gulfport, Mississippi; moved to Baton Rouge and attended LSU from 1933-38; double majored in journalism and speech; lived with family until after graduation; during junior year, asked by Charles Mannship, Sr to write an outdoor column; September 11, 1938, began writing column “Set the Hook Hard” for the *Advocate*; introduction to Louisiana coast by Captain Charlie Sebastian; biweekly column on Thursdays and Sundays; worked under W. R. Spencer, the sports editor of the *Advocate*; not required to join ROTC because he transferred from Millsaps; graduated in the John M. Parker Agriculture Center; hitchhiked to and from LSU; favorite professor was Dr. Wise; performed several shows on the radio on WJBO; invited by the manager of WJBO Vernon Anderson to work at WJBO after graduation which he did until 1953; lived an outdoor life for column ideas; friend Jerry Baulch from LSU became a Washington correspondent for the Associated Press; friend Ted O’Neal on the track team at LSU won the NCAA in Europe; president of the Health and Physical Education Group; did the commercials in the broadcast booth for the LSU football games with John Ferguson; retired from the *Advocate* several months ago but still asked by *Advocate* editors to do stories periodically; involved in Sigma Delta Chi at LSU; didn’t write much for the *Reveille*; worked at WJBO from 1939 till 1953; hired by Tom Gibbons the new president of channel twenty-eight to do his “The Great Outdoors” show which was sponsored by Steinberg’s; retired from television around 1986; came up with his own ideas for the show and did all the editing; show was completely ad lib; description of the play by play of football games.

Tape 637, Side B

Became a staff announcer and production manager channel nine; life long friend Neil Nicholson clipped all his columns and gave them to him; not in a fraternity but did go to all the big

university dances held in the Fieldhouse or Armory; attended all the football games and broadcasted most of them; saw Pistol Pete play at the basketball games and broadcasted a few of them; baseball was not popular; invited by a professor in the Chemistry department to have lunch at the Faculty Club on a few occasions; enlisted in the Air Force for World War Two in 1941; attended officer candidate school in Miami; special service officer at Gulfport Army Airfield; happiest memories of LSU include fellowship in canoeing, teaching, and association with the athletic department; also enjoyed teaching classes on canoeing; greatest contribution of LSU to his life was the opportunity to make a career of the outdoors in television, radio and newspaper.

TAPES: 1 (T637)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 3 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 53 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None