

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Carlos Spaht and Leona Huff **COLLECTION:** 4700.0485

IDENTIFICATION: Carlos Spaht and Leona Huff are LSU alumni; moved from Missouri to Baton Rouge in 1925; descendants of German immigrants

INTERVIEWER: Katherine O'Neil

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Alumni

INTERVIEW DATE: 14 January 1995

FOCUS DATES: mid-1830s -1930s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 698, Side A

Migration of their grandfather Karl Spaht to United States from Germany; musical inclination of Spahts; reasons for migrating; Karl Spaht's arrival in New York and moving to Indiana; Karl Spaht's marriage to Katherine Klein; Katherine Klein's family history; Katherine Klein living with her children; impact of World War I on German language usage in the United States; death of Katherine Klein; role of education in Spaht family; parent's educational backgrounds; father's love of reading; enclave of Germans in St. Joe, Missouri; grandfather's reasons for moving from St. Joe to Falls City, Nebraska; grandfather's move from Falls City back to Missouri; Karl purchasing land in Pattonsburg, Missouri; changing family name from Spaht to Spaht; death of their Aunt Ida's husband and hardship caused by widowhood; Karl giving children choice of either team of horses or college education -only one chose education; describe their father's trip to the Ozarks; occupations of their uncles; their father's inventions; first family in neighborhood to get a silo; family's switch from Catholic church to Lutheran church; mother's [Flora Holden's family history; with death of maternal grandmother their mother takes in and raises her two younger siblings; migration of mother's family from North Carolina to Missouri

Tape 698, Side B

Discuss several of mother's relatives and their migration to Missouri; mother's educational background; conversion of parents to Presbyterianism; naming son after minister James Froman pastor of First Presbyterian Church in King City, Missouri; physical description of their mother; cooking meals over wood fire; mother raised chickens to help support family; describe vanities of chickens that she raised; parents buying farm in Albany, Missouri; describe the house and

farm; discuss father's ingenuity; raising registered Holstein cattle; differences between registered and non-registered cattle; milking cows; separating cream from milk and selling cream; making cottage cheese; selling eggs and chickens at produce store in exchange for store credit for groceries; raising hogs for family use; canning food; describe doctors in Albany, Missouri; routine for doing chores; attending church; Saturdays as social time; parents picking names for the children; flu epidemic of 1919 and death of oldest sister; discuss personalities of their siblings; their brother Froman's pranks; impact of World War I on families of German descent; uncles serving in World War I; memories of World War I; father moving family to Albany, Missouri, so that children could attend high school; differences between living in town and in the country; father opening ice cream parlor; describe the ice cream that he made; describe one room school they attended in the country; describe their house in town; Carlos working as soda jerk

Tape 699, Side A

Schools in Albany; opening up ice cream factory; high school sports; family's move to Baton Rouge in 1935; father selected Baton Rouge because of proximity to Louisiana State University -wanted children to get college education; shipping cattle to Missouri to Baton Rouge; describe drive from Missouri to Baton Rouge; condition of roads; tourist camps; family's reaction to moving to Louisiana; describe the automobile they drove to Louisiana; father buying farm on Highland Road; growing potatoes and oranges; Carlos enrolling at LSU; Carlos working as soda jerk at Liggetts Department Store and as clerk at the Elks Club; working late at the Elks when members had poker games; giving wages to family; describe boussilage home (made of moss and clay)that they lived in on Highland Road; selling produce at stand on Highland Road; raising chickens; Carlos' decision to attend law school; discusses matriculation rate of his law school class; Leona's decision to major in Home Economics; discuss majors pursued by siblings; Carlos' marriage; reasons he opened his own practice; becoming a judge; mother's illness and death; the Depression and Leona's work for New Deal agencies;

Tape 699, Side B

Impact of Depression on the family; Carlos' World War 11 experiences in China, India, Burma Theater (CBI); Carlos -stationed at Port of Embarkation in New Orleans and reasons for asking transfer into infantry; trip to CBI Theater; working with 8th Chinese Army; describes Chinese troops and their leaders; opening the Burma Road; discuss what male siblings did during the war;

TAPES: 2 (T698, T699)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 3 hours

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 140 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None