

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Ordell Griffith

COLLECTION: 4700.0140

IDENTIFICATION: [1916 - 2010] Former LSU Director of the Admissions Office, Registrar.

INTERVIEWER: Kathleen Jenkins

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATES: June 12, 1992; June 24, 1992; August 4, 1992

FOCUS DATES: 1930s-1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 194

Griffiths early life, graduation from Istouma High School and entering LSU at fifteen; why Griffith chose Business Administration; early employment at LSU while attending classes; working in the Business Office for Business Affairs; memories of Huey Long; working in the Registrar's Office after graduation from LSU; memories of campus rules and regulations at the time especially those relating to dress and conduct; working with the first computer equipment in the Registrar's Office in the late 1940s; working for Dean LaSalle in the College of Engineering prior to the Registrar's Office; information regarding Griffith's parents and family including where her parents were from and their family professions; information regarding Griffith's siblings; both of her brother's involvement in WWII, one as a bombardier and his time spent as a German prisoner of war and her other brother work as a technical sergeant; memories of her brothers; how her parents meet; her father's work on the railroad; Griffiths becoming Baptist; her father's employment for Standard Oil; Griffith's work for the State Department of Education; joining the Red Cross and serving at Maxwell Air Force Base; her duties as an Assistant Field Director for the Red Cross; war time memories; war time rationing; when her brother Malcolm came home from the war; where she was when she heard about Pearl Harbor; memories of special teachers.

Tape 195

Griffith helping around the house; making home brew during Prohibition for her father; early childhood memories of playing; playing with paper dolls; her playhouse; a description of the outside and inside her childhood home; heating and electricity in her childhood home; deliveries of meat, groceries and dairy product; wash day; memories of community social events, especially those connected with the churches; taking the bus to LSU; why Griffith chose not to be a teacher; her costs when attending LSU; the dress code for women; her experience with a sorority; restrictions of behavior on students living in the dorms; her living at home; her first car and sharing a car with her brother Bob; teachers on campus who made an impact on her; the

expansion of the campus during the 30s; the LSU scandals; Dr. Uhler and his book *Cane Juice*; memories of Dean French; former Chancellor Paul Murrill; former Chancellor Cecil Taylor; Margaret Jamison former Dean of Women; Helen Gordon former Dean of Women; Carolyn Hargrave former Academic Vice-President;

Tape 270

LSU admission requirements for students; evaluating students for admission to LSU; problems with admission requirements; the effect of WWII on admission of students at LSU and nationally; problems assessing students for admission; changes and adjustments over time to LSU admission requirements; the impact of admission requirements on to high schools and students; out of state students and fees; women entering into programs that were traditionally male dominated programs; the myth of making admission requirement exceptions for athletes; racial integration of the campus; Griffith's opinions of what the goal of University education should be; getting subpoenaed to testify in the suit brought by Tureaud on behalf of African-American students to be admitted into the University as undergraduates; standardized tests such as the ACT; reentry students; foreign students and evaluation of their academic records; rejection letters.

TAPES: 3 (T194, T195, T270)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 4 hours, 15 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 110 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence; List of proper name spellings; Handwritten notes; Bio sheet; Photocopy of article on Ordell Griffith from *LSU Magazine*

RESTRICTIONS: None