

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Emeritte O. Perret

COLLECTION: 4700.0513

IDENTIFICATION: Cousin of Louise V. Olivier, director of the Acadian Handicraft Project

INTERVIEWERS: Pamela Rabalais and Yvonne Olivier

SERIES: Acadian Handicraft Project

INTERVIEW DATE: August 12, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1940s – 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 735, Side A

Emeritte Perret's parents, Dan Olivier and Mary Agnes Barry; Her parents were from the Grand Coteau, Louisiana area; Discussion of the Olivier family house; Perret tells of how Louise Olivier wanted to develop Louisiana's culture and use it to promote the state; Olivier got people to make different craft items; Olivier's relationship with Chep Morrison's mother [Chep Morrison was the Former Mayor of New Orleans], Alex Melancon (a writer out of Houma, Louisiana), and Harnett Kane [Louisiana author]; Perret attended the Acadian Bicentennial Celebration in St. Martinsville, Louisiana; Perret tells about conflicts Olivier had with townspeople when she was getting projects started; Olivier played the violin; Perret tells the story of going to the Eucharistic Congress in Europe with Perret's father, Ben, and Louise Olivier; Louise Olivier taught at Sacred Heart School in Grand Coteau, Louisiana; Interviewers read names of women who were involved in the Acadian Handicraft Project to see if Perret remembers them; she knows Mary Howard McLaughlin who painted plates with Louisiana scenes; Mena Decoux was a woman who made Acadian dolls and sold them at Louisiana festivals through the Acadian Handicraft Project; Perret had two children, Earl and Ann; Perret has one sister named Elizabeth Lauve who is in a nursing home; Elizabeth Lauve had four children; Louise Olivier was friendly with the French Counsel; Interviewers read from a letter Louise Olivier wrote to Perret about bringing Mena Decoux to St. Martinsville, Louisiana, to the Acadian Bicentennial Celebration in 1955; The Olivier family owned a few stores including Louisie Olivier's brother; Interviewers read from a letter that Perret wrote to Louise Olivier about a museum that was not built near Jeanerette, Louisiana; Perret went to visit the Chitamacha [native American tribe in Louisiana] to try to encourage them to make baskets for the Acadian Handicraft Project;

Tape 735, Side B

Louise Olivier was able to get the Coushatta [native American tribe in Louisiana]; Louise Olivier had Sarah Knot come to Louisiana to design the Acadian Bicentennial Celebration; Perret

describes a pilgrimage from the church to a park in St. Martinsville, Louisiana, during the Acadian Bicentennial Celebration; Louise Olivier's mother spoke very little English and was the child of a sugarcane planter; Louise Olivier's father would not speak French to his children because he only spoke Cajun French; Louise Olivier's father, Agricole, was very generous and fed many people at his house; The cook in the Olivier house used a lot of pepper in their cooking; Perret cannot walk well since she had a brain tumor; one of the Olivier relatives, Jules, has a store in Lydia that has old-fashioned toys

TAPES: 1 (T735)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 37 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: None