

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: John Bernard

COLLECTION: 4700.2506

IDENTIFICATION: born 1931 in Lafayette Parish; moved to Mossville and raised his family there

INTERVIEWER: Douglas Mungin

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Second Meeting

INTERVIEW DATES: March 27, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1950s-1980s; present

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4427

Born 1931 on a farm in Lafayette Parish to parents [Arod?] Bernard and [Geramine Moiseus?]; grandparents on mother's side are Joe and [Ellie?] Mercier; does not know family history on father's side; moved to Mossville because he got a job at Conoco oil refinery; doesn't remember year he relocated, but recalls Old Spanish Trail was just a one-way highway; lived there over sixty years, and raised his nine children there; old two-story schoolhouse used to be in front of his house, and Ms. Lemelle was the teacher there; area used to be sparsely populated and cattle ran loose, but as industry grew so did the town; growing up on a farm, they didn't have to go to the store for anything; built a large house in Mossville, and all the neighborhood children would gather there; Conoco buyouts of Bel Air; children's accomplishments; community leaders; logging [poke?] wood; brother-in-law Valery Montgomery owned the Paradise Club on Prater Road, as well as several other businesses; back then, property was 100 dollars an acre; Sasol buyouts; what community means to him.

TAPES: 1 (T4427)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 20 minutes

#PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 15 pages

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: Three photographs taken during interview at the Rigmaiden Recreational Center for the second Mossville Oral History Day. Photographer Kyle Tanglao.

OTHER MATERIALS: Biographical data form; Interview questions (2 pgs); Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: none