

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Leona Spaht Huff

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0508

**IDENTIFICATION:** LSU alumna

**INTERVIEWER:** Katherine Huff O'Neill

**SERIES:** University History – Distinguished Alumni

**INTERVIEW DATES:** April 25, 1995

**FOCUS DATES:** 1909 - 1937

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 730**

Huff born in northwestern Missouri in 1909 at family farm in Gentry County; family; father dairy farmer; parents' education; Huff's siblings; one sibling dies in flu epidemic just after graduating high school; Huff and five remaining siblings attend LSU; Alma Lee Saurage, Huff's sister; chores; positive influence of parents; mother raised her younger siblings as well as own children; family moves to Albany, Missouri; Huff recalls school days in Albany; recalls English teacher; limited career choices for women; Huff on high school basketball team; before move to Albany, oldest sister had boarded in town in order to attend high school; Presbyterian youth group, Christian Endeavor; Huff's father makes and sells ice cream; family moves to Baton Rouge in spring of 1925, in order to give children access to college; family lives on small farm out on Highland Road, no longer in dairy business; all family members work outside home; hazing of LSU freshmen; Huff majors in home economics at mother's suggestion; chemistry her favorite class; recalls Biology Professor Gates; Home Economics Club; only twelve home ec majors in class of 1931; family only has one car, must take turns; LSU dress code; cafeteria; dances and socials; fraternities post invitations to dates on bulletin board; Huff lives too far out to participate often; students hitch rides in town; students live in dormitories or with families, not in apartments; Huff's family couldn't afford a sorority; Huff's brothers in R.O.T.C.; Huff's first job teaching home ec and English in Berwick, Louisiana; school year cut short because of the Depression; Huff works for Emergency Relief Association as a caseworker; Huff marries and moves to New Orleans in 1935; continues working for ERA until 1936; conditions worse for poor in New Orleans; works with both black and white families; beauty of LSU campus; Memorial Oak Trees by union planted while Huff was a student; Home Economics department name change to Human Ecology; Huff is unaware of name change; O'Neil prefers old name.

**TAPES:** 1 (T730)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 38 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 40 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None