

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Charles Vincent

COLLECTION: 4700.1609

IDENTIFICATION: Southern University history professor

INTERVIEWERS: Nita Clark and Courtney Grimes

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project – Social Organizations

INTERVIEW DATE: June 27, 2002

FOCUS DATES: 1950s-1970s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 3192, Side A

Born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, October 19, 1945; currently lives in Baker, Louisiana; has lived in Baton Rouge area since 1966; South Baton Rouge is a very dynamic, diverse, progressive community; Vincent teaches history at Southern University; blessed with wonderful family; death of Emmett Till made him face raw racism; educational background; has three children with wife Delores; treating whites with deference while growing up in Southwest Mississippi; witnessing a policeman kill an African American man in 1957; more on Emmett Till murder; desegregation efforts of 1967; whites not understanding why he was dissatisfied with the way they treated him; his family tried to stay away from whites when possible; Vincent is currently more optimistic about the integrity of police than he was in 1960s; incidents with police on Southern University campus in late 1960s; North Street incident of 1972; has always favored nonviolence as more Christ-like; mourns violent deaths of African American leaders in fifties and sixties; everyday racism while Vincent was an LSU student; 1972 incident at Southern where two students were killed by police; police force exonerated; faculty support of students at Southern; turbulent era from 1968 to 1972; birth of a faculty senate at Southern that had a say in the administration at the university; Southern president Jesse Stone more aware of students' concerns than his predecessors; after such a tragic incident, people think of how to prevent future tragedies.

TAPES: 1 (T3192)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 26 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 12 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence

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