

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Irwin Berg

COLLECTION: 4700.0526

IDENTIFICATION: [1913 - 2001] Head of the Psychology Department and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

INTERVIEWER: Mary Hebert

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATES: April 29, 1995; May 6, 1995; May 10, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1953 - 1980

ABSTRACT:

Tape 761, Side A

Family history including Swedish heritage; visiting Ljunby, Sweden(where mother lived); moving to Chicago suburb, Berwyn at age 3; father trained as a veterinarian but worked as a blacksmith; mother's immigration to the United States; parents commitment to education; Berg's Swedish stunted in childhood speech; father's insistence that Berg speak English; how Berg became interested in Psychology; working at Western Electric Company; the Great Depression pushed him back into school(Knox College); fraternity prank;

Tape 761, Side B

Working at Western Electric again; meeting wife; her career as a public health nurse; beginning graduate work; joining military during WWII although has a deaf ear; prank with LSU administrators during Vietnam War;

Tape 762, Side A

Graduate work at Northwestern University; inquiry about moving to LSU; situation of the Psychology Department upon his arrival, no outside funding, little research being done in the department, graduate program not accredited; Jimmy Davis got a Masters in Psychology at LSU; bringing family to Louisiana to visit; Louisiana Legislator calling LSU administrators before them during the integration process; brought new, talented people into the psychology dept.; funding from Public Health Service;

Tape 762, Side B

Accreditation of graduate program; having trouble keeping good people in the department, Brendan Mahr, Bernard Bass, Donald Lewis, Robert Thompson; editing a book with Pennington on clinical psychology;

Tape 763, Side A

Accepting the position of the Dean of Arts and Sciences; problems with certain departments, political science, math; LSU as a conservative institution; recalling the change from compulsory to voluntary ROTC; problem with getting Phi Beta Kappa on LSU campus; problems with scholarships; funding scholarships with parking fines; getting the deanship and a pay decrease; people who are supportive of funding LSU, Long; Louisiana Legislature using LSU budget as a funding resource for their own projects; Black students push for Black history course; Huel Perkins coming to LSU from Southern; E. B. Robert, Dean of Education, didn't want outside funding and wanted to incorporate other department's courses in to the College of Education; getting funding for the School of Journalism from Hitesman, President of the Reader's Digest Association; approaching Douglas Manship about funding for School of Journalism;

Tape 763, Side B

Membership on the Commission on the Administration of Law Enforcement and of Criminal Justice; inspection of prisons; Louisiana Legislature passed recommendations but didn't fund them; development of the College of Science at LSU; remembering T. Harry Williams;

TAPES: 3 (T761, T762, T763)**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 3 hours

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: Total pages - 95 pages
T761 - 28 pages
T762 - 28 pages
T763 - 39 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None