

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Ellen Bryan Moore

COLLECTION: 4700.0537

IDENTIFICATION: [1912-2000] World War II Veteran; Former Register of State Lands

INTERVIEWER: Mary Hebert

SERIES: University History – Women at LSU

INTERVIEW DATES: September 26, 1995; October 2, 1995; October 8, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1920s - 1970s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 776

Date of birth and family information; why Moore decided to join the Women's Army Corps; how Moore became a recruiter for the WAC; experiences as a recruiter for the WAC; basic training; reactions to her joining the military; working with Yugoslavian pilots; USO dances; getting appointed as a recruiter; recruiting 300 women at once; commanding a service unit in New Orleans; working with returning soldiers; promotions; the educational background of the WAC's; women's attitudes toward serving in the army; speaking to army troops in the hopes that they would encourage their female relatives to join the WAC; the impact of changing the WAC from an auxiliary unit to a unit within the army; the officer who influenced her the most; meeting her husband Haywood Moore while she was in the service; the impact the army had on her political career; her husband's supportive attitude toward her political career; attitude toward Huey Long's politics; campaigning strategies; what campaigning was like; reactions of men to her speeches; real estate background; campaigning on a ticket; how the men on the ticket treated her; her duties at Register of State Lands; conflicts over ownership of land; campaigning as a group; speaking in Cajun parishes; personal ethics; why Moore retired from office; her family background and its effect on public service.

Tape 777

Former Baton Rouge location of the warden's house for the state penitentiary; Moore's father's appointment as warden; her mother's teaching career; Moore's grandfather Benjamin Franklin Bryan who was the mayor of the Baton Rouge in the 1880's; family connections to plantation life; support during campaigning from friends of her family; memories of growing up in the penitentiary; her seventh birthday party; the Five Tent Girls club that she formed with neighborhood friends; chores; dancing lessons; attending St. Joseph's Academy; attending LSU's University Demonstration High School; organizations that she and her mother belonged to; attending college at Southwestern in Lafayette; how she began to remodel houses; attending LSU; marriage; Huey Long's administration; Russell Long; joining Delta Zeta; football; dances; the LSU Hall of Distinction; how LSU helped her in life.

Tape 801

Flood of the Mississippi River; teaching at Wyandotte Elementary in Baton Rouge after graduation from LSU; the depression in Wyandotte; charity for the Wyandotte area families including the first soup kitchen in Baton Rouge; concern for students; discipline students and individual attention for students; maintaining contacts with her students; teaching at Bernard Terrace Elementary; working with parents; her father's jobs after his dismissal by Huey Long; prisoners who worked for her family; products grown by the prisoners that her family had access to during the depression; visiting the penitentiary; the LSU scandals; attending LSU's University Demonstration High School; working on her master's in psychology; teaching after World War II; getting started in politics; national tour with the Democratic Committee during which she meet Tipper Gore; the job of an elected official; campaigning in south Louisiana on Sunday; the Baton Rouge bus boycott in 1953 and views on Civil Rights; Le Chapeau Chic a social club and the Woman's Club House; other groups which Moore was active with; circumstances of marriage and divorce to her first husband; separation of finances with her second husband; her husband's support of her political career.

TAPES: 3 (T776, T777, T801)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 3 hours, 26 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 159 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Proper name list; Correspondence; Newspaper article "The Warden's House."

RESTRICTIONS: None