

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Sadie Williams Moton

COLLECTION: 4700.0655

IDENTIFICATION: Graduate of McKinley High School, class of 1937

INTERVIEWER: Shawnda Hollins

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project – History of McKinley High School

INTERVIEW DATE: June 28, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1930s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 945 Side A

Sadie Williams Moton born 1920 in Baton Rouge; father finished eighth grade, mother had five years of elementary education; father was a carpenter, mother was a housewife; attended McKinley from 1933 to 1937; typical day involved doing chores and attending school; always prepared for classes; teachers were like family; attended church with teachers; Moton is a retired home economics teacher; majored in home economics, minored in science; home economics was a standard part of the curriculum then; participated in a play about fire prevention; was a C-average student; taught economics, home economics, and art; admired her teachers; excitement of graduation day; everyone wore white for graduation; favorite teacher was [Rosina Wright?], who taught English; after graduation, worked a year at the Chicken Shack; graduated from Southern University; enjoyed teaching at McKinley; topnotch reputation of McKinley among black people; after teaching at McKinley High for three years in 1940s, Williams switched to teaching junior high; has been retired seventeen years; junior high was seventh and eighth grades; sports weren't so popular back then, but she remembers boys playing football; plain hairstyles of the times; students nicknamed Principal Frazier "Tank" because he was big and bald; plans to keep living in peace and supporting family; likes to cater, do church work, sew and do handicrafts; describes herself as a person who makes friends easily, believes in keeping her word; alma mater written while she was teaching; McKinley plus experience taught her what she needed to know to live a successful life; reserves judgment on success of McKinley Oral History Project until it's completed; advises aspiring McKinley graduates to set worthwhile goals.

TAPE: 1 (T945)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 20 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 14 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: None