

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Simon Lawrence Richard

COLLECTION: 4700.0689

IDENTIFICATION: McKinley High School graduate

INTERVIEWER: Roderick Jones

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

INTERVIEW DATE: July 19, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1950s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1016, Side A

Born July 30, 1940, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; parents' names; mother attended McKinley; both parents graduated from high school; father was an electronics technician; mother was a welder during World War Two; father was a pipefitter for Standard Oil; Richard retired from the navy; attended McKinley from 1954 to 1957; walked to school when McKinley was on McCalop Street; academics were important; math and physics were favorite subjects; attended Southern University after high school graduation; became aviation electronics technician; didn't participate in high school sports, too small to play football or basketball; graduated high school at age sixteen; Capitol High was main rival; was good at classes that interested him; ditched and flunked classes he didn't like; won statewide award in geometry; failed geometry class after argument with teacher; older brother was his role model growing up; teachers who inspired him; participated in student government; in high school, campaigned against a person he later married; disliked assistant principal Mr. Young; McKinley had huge influence on Baton Rouge because all black people went there; younger sister attended Southern Lab School, but that was unusual; three of his sisters, three brothers, and some cousins all attended McKinley; has been in Spain for twenty years and is out of touch with McKinley; urges McKinley students to get as much education as possible; keep learning, read books; Americans are too focused on themselves; learn languages and see the world; only expects to spend a short time in Baton Rouge; this new McKinley building looks exceptionally nice; encourages students to read the books in the library.

TAPE: 1 (T1016)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 18 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 10 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: None