INTerviewEE NAME: Charles East

IDENTIFICATION: [1924 - 2009] 1948 LSU graduate; founding editor of the Delta, director of the LSU Press; editor of The Diary of Sarah Morgan

INTERVIEWER: Melisse Campbell

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATE: September 24, 1993

FOCUS DATES: 1942 - 1987

ABSTRACT:

Tape 465
Family background; reasons for attending LSU; decision to major in engineering; marrying his high school sweetheart Sarah Simmons; impact of World War II on LSU; attending high school in Cleveland, Mississippi, and the high caliber of teachers there; student job working for the LSU News Bureau and its impact on his decision to major in journalism; difficulty of travel in 1940s; describes the work of the News Bureau; initiation of freshmen into ROTC; campus housing for cadets; room assignment in the Stadium; Mike the Tiger; describes his roommates; ROTC; wearing uniforms; preparing for war; service in the navy during World War II; returning to LSU and switching his major to journalism; impact of being on the Reveille staff on his life and career; describes journalism professors; discusses first director of the LSU Press Marcus Wilkerson; director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library Harry Middleton as editor of the Reveille; working with fellow Reveille staff member to establish the Delta (a student literary magazine); describes Reveille offices and the Journalism Building; journalism librarian Rosilia Callaghan; internship with Morning Advocate; the Advocate's female staff during World War II; describes Reveille coworkers; describes T. Harry Williams; moving to New York to work as an editor after graduation; desire to become a writer; returning to Baton Rouge to work as a reporter for the Advocate; becoming an editor for the LSU Press in 1962; leaving the LSU Press to become a freelance writer; becoming an editor for the University of Georgia Press; establishing the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction at the University of Georgia; discusses working on William Faulkner of Oxford for the LSU Press.

Tape 466
Developing and editing a book on the Falkner family with Murry Falkner (William Faulkner's brother); editing and publishing the Sarah Morgan Diary; Ken Burns' Civil War documentary; impact of LSU on his life and career; becoming a member of the Journalism School Hall of Fame.
TAPES: 2 (T465, T466)  

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 50 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 75 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None