ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Oliver Mack

COLLECTION: 4700.0316

IDENTIFICATION: Party to the lawsuit which led to the admission of African American undergraduates to LSU in the 1960s.

INTERVIEWER: Mary Hebert

SERIES: University History - Integration and the African American Experience

INTERVIEW DATE: July 29, 1993

FOCUS DATES: Mid to late 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 445
Family background; mother attends LSU graduate school; childhood in South Baton Rouge; attends McKinley High School; public schools integrated during Mack's senior year; transfer application to Baton Rouge High rejected; harassment of African American students who attended predominantly white schools; interest in math and science; remembrances of influential high school teachers; desire to attend LSU; parents stress importance of college; becomes member of NAACP class action suit that demands that African Americans be allowed to attend LSU as undergraduates; expediency of court proceedings; did not actively participate in civil rights movement; does not encounter significant harassment at LSU; receives scholarships to help pay for college; begins working during sophomore year to help cover expenses; works part time for Louisiana Department of Highways; lives with parents during college; active in air force ROTC at LSU; recalls favorite professors at LSU; recollections of David Duke at LSU; concentrates on academic pursuits in lieu of socializing and many extra-curricular activities; gets married during college years; takes permanent position at Exxon after graduation; called to active duty in air force; does not encounter significant discrimination at Exxon; current community involvement; son's decision to attend Southern instead of LSU.

TAPES: 1 (T445)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 3 minutes

# PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 59 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None