

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Lucy Romero

COLLECTION: 4700.0514

IDENTIFICATION: Romero sewed for the Acadian Handicraft Project

INTERVIEWER: Pamela Rabalais and Yvonne Olivier

SERIES: Acadian Handicraft Project

INTERVIEW DATE: August 11, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1940s – 1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 736, Side A

Romero lives in Erath, Louisiana; parents, Whitney Lang and Paula Lopez Lang, were born in Vermillion Parish; Romero born October 18, 1916; at time of the interview married 58 years; Romero has two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; Romero made children's clothing for the Acadian Handicraft Project (AHP promoted French culture and heritage in Louisiana); Romero developed the patterns herself; She made diaper shirts, bibs, gowns and pants; Olia Lang, Romero's cousin, taught her to sew; Romero used the money she made from the AHP for things she wanted; Interviewers and Romero discuss how Louise Olivier (director of the AHP) would send order requests to Romero and how she would pay her through the mail; Interviewers and Romero talk about the prices charged for clothes (pinafore sold for \$1.75 in 1961 and a diaper shirt and pants sold for \$1.50 in 1957); Romero did her sewing work when she had a chance, she did not have a particular time of the day to sew; Romero sewed for the AHP until Louise Olivier died; Romero likes to make little gowns better than the other items; Interviewers and Romero look at her pattern book; Romero sews for a shop in Lafayette, Louisiana; The price of a bib, at the time of the interview, is between \$5 - \$6; Romero also sells to another vendor, Orleans Product, in New Orleans, Louisiana; The shop in Lafayette, Louisiana, requires that their own labels are sewed into the clothes that Romero makes; Romero does not remember the AHP having their own labels; Romero only met Louise Olivier once; Romero describes Louise Olivier as a happy, nice person; Romero attended Louise Olivier's funeral in Carencro, Louisiana, with Mrs. Webie Lang and Mrs. Frank Romero; Romero did not sew clothes for herself; Romero sewed on batiste fabric for the AHP; Romero's work history includes working in the kitchen at a hospital both in Abbeville, Louisiana, and in Erath, Louisiana, and in a nursing home; Romero used a sewing machine on the clothes for the AHP, the only hand work was on the embroidery; Romero's family was happy about the opportunity she had to work for the AHP; Romero's husband, Willis Romero, was a farmer.

TAPES: 1 (T736)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 36 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 41 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: None

RESTRICTIONS: None