

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Elsie Mae Stallworth Hebert **COLLECTION:** 4700.0361

IDENTIFICATION: LSU graduate and longtime professor with the Manship School of Journalism at LSU

INTERVIEWER: Melisse Campbell

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

INTERVIEW DATE: November 10, 1993 **FOCUS DATES:** 1940s - 1990s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 517, Side A

Hebert born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Oscar and Iva Mae Boone; an only child; LSU was her first choice for college and she was awarded three scholarships to attend; decided to become a journalist in high school; she always enjoyed writing and was good at it; thought she would be a foreign correspondent; started LSU in the forties; her student job was working on the campus switchboard; rode the bus to campus early in the morning; moved to campus, lived in various dorms, continued living on campus until graduation; never had fear because LSU always felt like home; recalls topics covered in freshman orientation; remembers dress codes, need to purchase a gym suit; she took classes in engineering graphics and almost majored in engineering; offered a summer job with the USGS but turned it down to pursue journalism; her father would likely have disapproved of her majoring in engineering, women were not yet accepted in the field at that time; conversational French class where one of her classmates was blind; discusses the *Reveille* offices and journalism school classrooms in Thomas Boyd Hall; journalism department was small, everyone knew each other, events for students and faculty like picnics on False River; eighty-five students in her freshman journalism class, only twenty-nine graduated; journalism school faculty like Marvin Osborn, Richard H. Wiggins, Bruce McCoy, Marjorie Arbour, Frank J. Price, Marcus Wilkerson, Leonard Watts; Eddie Jackson and Joe Silverberg ran the *Reveille* press; memorable classmates like Elayn Hunt, Juanita Green, Audrey Hulse, and Charlotte Tiller who married a young man named Schexnayder who was in the Army Specialized Training Program at LSU; describes a class where students worked with a local newspaper; Margaret Dixon with the *Advocate*; T. Harry Williams was friends with her husband, Otis; describes dormitory rules; her involvement with Theta Sigma Phi and Alpha Lambda Delta; influential students including Gillis Long, Gus Levy, Walter Gorinski, Y.A. Tittle; discusses her master's from LSU; studied political science under Eric Voegelin; earning her doctorate from University of Texas at Austin; began working for LSU in 1966 with the English department; was soon hired as *Reveille* adviser; asked to be a full-time journalism faculty member in 1970; describes her

Doctoral studies in mass communications; describes how LSU has benefitted her, allowing her to stay close to her family;

Tape 517, Side B

Discusses changes in the journalism department, student media is a separate entity now, department is not as close-knit as it once was; a loss to the department is that they haven't continued the program in which student teams went to work for newspapers across the state; that program could only continue if some faculty took the initiative to reinstate it; she feels privileged that she's taught at LSU for so many years, never losing her connection to the school; assistance from professors in getting her a job with the English department when she had to leave Nicholls State; transition from English department to *Reveille* adviser to journalism professor; LSU has always been home; requirements for being on the graduate faculty; keeping in contact with former students; memorable former students and their accomplishments; interview conclusion.

TAPES: 1 (T517)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 58 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 40 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence (4 pages); Obituary

RESTRICTIONS: None