

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Thomas Fuller Ruffin

COLLECTION: 4700.1364

IDENTIFICATION: Louisiana State University graduate, class of 1947; WWII navy veteran; author of *Under Stately Oaks: A Pictorial History of LSU*

INTERVIEWER: Jennifer Abraham

SERIES: University History – Distinguished Alumni

INTERVIEW DATES: October 18, 2000; February 1, 2001; March 15, 2001; June 12, 2001; March 14, 2002; August 14, 2005

FOCUS DATES: 1920 – present

ABSTRACT:

Session I

Tape 1980, Side A

Introduction to interview; Ruffin born in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 25, 1925; mother Xenia Fuller Ruffin; Ruffin was named for his mother's father, Thomas Fuller; mother's family lived in Minden, Louisiana; his father's family name was Trueheart; father's father was William Henry Ruffin of Mineral, Louisiana; father's mother Docia Brown Ruffin and her father B.F. Brown; grandparents' occupations; his parents' educational background; his mother and father met through their teaching jobs in Minden and married in 1923; father moved to Shreveport to work in the building supply business, then worked the rest of his life with Acme Brick Company; father's job moved to Dallas during the Depression and he brought the family with him, they lived there for three years; recollections of time in Dallas, Love Field, father's work for Acme; Ruffin's sisters Xenia Claire and Alma Jean; he walked to school in Shreveport and remembers kids going barefoot; family home in Shreveport; mother canned figs; he worked bagging groceries and killing and plucking chickens and turkeys; he was more aware of the Depression when they lived in Dallas; people selling things on the roadside; students with no money for lunch; when he was in second grade, he got too close to a space heater, his nightgown caught on fire and he was burned over half of his body; doctors came to the house to take care of him; he overheard a doctor telling his mother that he wouldn't live, his reaction, "I'll show that son of a gun!"; kids at school wrote him letters; one teacher helped him to stop feeling bad about his scars by pointing out that he wasn't burned on his face; dealing with his father's estate years later, he realized how much they saved and had to spend on his treatments; moving back to Shreveport, he was back with his same friends; his family lived in Oak Cliff and then Oak Lawn neighborhoods in Dallas; he went to first grade and second grade at Stephen J. Hay school; grammar school in Shreveport was Alexander School; he had a lot of favorite subjects; story about his French teacher, Marie Therese LeBlanc, who caught him copying another student's paper after he lost his own; he refused to squeal and the teacher later apologized when his paper

turned up; his mom thought he would look better with a wave in his hair and he ended up with a perm looking like Shirley Temple; he did ROTC, French club and debate team; debate team trips to various towns in Texas; story about being reprimanded by a teacher for asking an off-color question, teacher told him to go ask the school's principal the same questions, principal though it was silly and let Ruffin go home early, told him that teacher had been shell shocked during WWI; recollections of time leading up to U.S. involvement in WWII, jokes about Japan, fellow students being called up after graduation; he and his fellow students realized and accepted that they would probably go to war; hearing about Pearl Harbor in a movie theatre, they stopped the film and the manager told all enlisted men to report to base immediately; he doesn't want to talk about his friends that died in WWII, the memories are too painful, he visited their families later on; dealing with blackouts, rationing; family trip with over thirty relatives;

Tape 1980, Side B

Microphone malfunctioned on Side A, so Abraham and Ruffin will repeat what was already recorded; his uncle organized the family trip to the West, they all went in a cotton trailer; eating and sleeping on the road, bathing in streams; route from Texas to Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon and California; on the road, witnessing people fleeing the Dust Bowl areas; encountering a group where an elderly man died, they buried him out in the open ground and kept moving; he wanted to see the Golden Gate Bridge and was very impressed; Yellowstone Park was the most beautiful thing he saw in his life; YMCA trip around the Gulf Coast, he thought it was sick that one attraction was the insane asylum in Pineville, highlight of the trip was visiting LSU's campus; he knew then that he wanted to go to LSU; high school years at C.E. Byrd in Shreveport; he enjoyed algebra; recounts in more detail the story about being caught cheating by his French teacher; recounts again the story about the off-color question he asked to his science teacher, Mr. Kirby; travel for debate team meets in Louisiana, Texas and Georgia; short course in oral debate that he took at LSU one summer; recounts again the first time he heard about Pearl Harbor being bombed; boys his age were encouraged to get as much education as possible before enlisting or being drafted; freshman hazing he experienced at LSU, head shaving, wearing beanies, cleaning for upperclassmen; ROTC drills and uniforms; he once aced a math test because he studied all night after being stood up for a date; his dad paid his tuition to LSU; he had a legislative scholarship but the legislator was later convicted; he took large course loads most semesters; getting to and from LSU by train or car; his father told him that he might have to help his sisters go to college; he was always interested in mechanical engineering, probably why he was so interested in the Golden Gate Bridge; places he lived on campus at LSU; with men being drafted and enlisting, roommates were constantly switching and moving; took a trip to Europe in 1949, visited the site of the Battle of the Bulge, saw names on the memorial of some of his former roommates; talks more about rationing during WWII; in that era, you didn't have what people have now, you got used to second-hand goods; Army Specialized Training Program at LSU had their own classes and subjects, they all ate together, had little contact with other students; many of the men in ASTP lost their rank when they joined and never got a chance to regain it; women outnumbered men on campus; afternoon dances held in the Field House, regular dances held in the Gym Armory; taking a date to a movie downtown was affordable and no one had any money to do anything else anyway; music and other entertainment while at LSU; dorm rules for men and women; woman who signed out that she was with him, when she actually eloped with another guy, Ruffin spent the whole day with the police, she never apologized and thought it was funny; marching off demerits in the ROTC; campus infirmary was pretty nice; end of interview.

Session II

Tape 1981, Side A

Ruffin born in 1925; Shreveport was not as hard-hit by the Depression because of oil industry; father worked for Acme Brick Company; father bought a house in Shreveport in 1929; moved to Dallas in 1932, someone rented their house in Shreveport; father's finances were hurt because of Ruffin's medical expenses after being burned; seeing women striking for better wages, one was stripped naked and Ruffin's father gave her his coat; no fear about taking the bus downtown at age nine; father said brick business was bad, people were undercutting, the president of the company killed himself, the company survived; people were cooperative, didn't lock doors; people struggling during the Depression; moved back to Shreveport in 1935; Roosevelt gave money to Governor Richard Leche that he wouldn't give to Huey Long; in 1935 people were sad when Will Rogers died and Huey Long was assassinated; going to outdoor movies, Texas League baseball games; ballpark was in an African American neighborhood; there wasn't much crime, you didn't worry about it; infamous 1930s bank robbers; his first car he bought with several people; most people shopped downtown in Baton Rouge; department stores from that time; his neighborhood in Shreveport was diverse; Italian students were bussed; on Saturday they'd play football with African American kids from Stoner Hill; many prominent people went to Alexander School; ice delivery protocol; parents struggled during Depression; scars from his burn led him to a creative solution to fist fights; self-consciousness about his scars; Lebanese families in Shreveport; people are all the same no matter their ethnicity; social events for whites and African Americans; festivals in various Louisiana towns; religious makeup of north and south Louisiana; people at an older age are more religious; religious counseling before marriage is a good thing; Baton Rouge city limits have expanded; Texas Street was major shopping area in Shreveport; trackless trolleys and the company's slogan; movie theatres in Shreveport; Clyde Fant was the first politician to go after African-American votes; Louisiana politicians from Shreveport and Minden; he tried to swim in their cistern once; everybody walked in Shreveport; police patrols and communication in Shreveport; C.E. Byrd High School; most teachers there had graduated from Louisiana State Normal College;

Tape 1981, Side B

Caddo Parish school board deciding geography of school districts; Byrd was a better school than Fair Park High School; Fair Park was more vocational, Byrd prepared students for college; skipped French at LSU because Byrd's French program was respected; he liked school but was bored with it at times; aced an algebra test because he studied the whole night after being stood up on a date; last semester was overwhelming because he wanted to go into the service; ROTC participation; his fellow students knew they would go into the service; governor telling LSU men they would go to war and die, his attempt to thank them in advance, really just upset them all; got upset with a teacher when he misunderstood an engineering question; liked being in the service and doing Shore Patrol; enlisted in the Navy because he waived his right to an exemption; sent to radar school; first heard about radar in engineering courses; entered the Navy on March 15, 1944; boot camp in Illinois; some fellow sailors were illiterate and learned to read; put into B-12 program, engineering courses at University of Illinois; dorm where he lived switched from male to female one weekend while he was away and no one told him; volunteered to continue classes at Columbia University; fascinated by subways in New York City; various ports he's traveled to in the U.S. and abroad; the *Angeleno* newspaper on the USS *Los Angeles*; getting free tickets to plays in New York because he was in uniform; job on the ship doing food inventory, completed his tasks at night when no one was adding or removing food; meeting Jane

Wyman and Ronald Reagan in Los Angeles; his mother had also spent time in New York; he tries to go to New York often; jobs he did after graduating from LSU in 1947; involvement with the Jaycees; wars are fought for economic reasons; he had four grandfathers that fought for the Confederacy but none owned slaves; Hitler wanted world control, Japanese wanted more territory; difference between WWI and WWII veterans, WWII vets were more serious; two sides fighting the Civil War; attending a parade of Civil Wars vets around 1935; difficulties faced by Confederate soldiers; slavery may have been necessary in the South; people also kept Native American slaves; travel to Europe for a Jaycee convention; visiting the site of the Battle of the Bulge, devastation in Milan and London; long and slow travel on propeller planes; end of interview.

Session III

Tape 1982, Side A

He learned patience from his grandfather; impressions from his early years at LSU; trying to get as much education as possible before going into the service; girls outnumbered boys at LSU; experiences going on dates, taking the bus downtown; very few students had money; he used to stroll downtown where LSU's old campus was; description of old campus' location, major buildings and current occupants; Zachary Taylor lived in Baton Rouge; Baton Rouge city limits before 1950; small town atmosphere of Baton Rouge; no alcohol sold close to campus; places to eat on and around campus; movie theatres downtown and in Tiger Town; dorms for women on campus; in ROTC, roommates kept changing and it was hard to make lasting friendships; professors left when they were called to the service; his trigonometry teacher, Perry Cole, was commander of the Louisiana State Guard; many dances and programs were held at the Gym Armory; campus was small back then and you never had to walk far; men wore tuxes and women wore formal evening gowns to dances; taking dates to dances of going alone; dances lasted three to four hours, always ended with "Star Dust"; live bands at dances; dances often put on by fraternities; process of registering for the draft; fraternities had trouble keeping members because so many men went to war; description of Army Specialized Training Program at LSU; LSU football beat Texas A&M, played University of Georgia twice because many college teams didn't have enough men to play; rhyme that they had about men in the ASTP; the U.S. had the best educated ground forces in WWII; he didn't have contact with ASTP students but knows about them from research he did; ASTP students had classes specifically designed for them; student population went down and you had fewer choices of classes; his class sizes ranged from very big to only four people; he had two classes that overlapped but one was P.E.; he was excused from P.E. and ROTC when he returned to LSU after the war; his favorite classes depended on the professor; grading scale was different back then; his best teachers were his high school French teacher and Frances Fletcher, his English teacher at LSU;

Tape 1982, Side B

His preference for mechanical engineering over civil engineering; he decided on mechanical engineering at age fifteen; he considered going into architecture or transit; privately-owned utilities and transit in Baton Rouge and New York City; streetcars in Baton Rouge and other Louisiana towns; choosing where to go back to school on the GI Bill was a big decision; buildings on the east side of campus; he never joined a fraternity but he thinks it's a good system; he was in Battery B as a cadet; officers' duties; commandants Hill and Dailey; he felt that ROTC prepared him for the military; LSU President Campbell Hodges; recollections of Troy Middleton and his military accomplishments; he didn't really have any role models;

military training instilled a sense of discipline in him but he was already pretty disciplined; marching off demerits on Saturdays; rules for cadets; battery picnic where everyone got food poisoning, it was terrible; location of Baton Rouge General Hospital and Our Lady of the Lake Hospital; military training stressed teamwork; training made going into the service easy, it was almost the same thing; learning how to use a rifle and other artillery; no way to prepare someone for seeing deaths in the war; what to do if you were taken prisoner; ROTC had female sponsors; WACs and WAVES did their jobs well, wore uniforms; ROTC training prepared him for experience in WWII, example of standing watch on the ship; he has always had a sense of confidence; you don't know what you can do until you really push yourself; his parents were lenient with him after he was burned but he didn't take advantage of it; long trip on a slow plane to Europe in 1949; the beauty of LSU's campus brought him there, but he was really touched by the people; "getting to know people is one of the fun parts of life"; interview conclusion.

Session IV

Tape 1983, Side A

Time he spent in Los Angeles before deploying on the USS *Los Angeles* in October 1944; meeting Jane Wyman and Ronald Reagan; with his shipmates in a small boat trying to get back to their ship, they ran out of gas and drifted all night; the *Los Angeles* was a heavy cruiser with a full captain; ship went from Los Angeles to Honolulu, then to Shanghai; Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalists were fighting the Chinese communists at that time; Shanghai was fascinating and the people were nice; death rate was high because people lived on the streets; Germans were gone by then; witnessing Japanese prisoners of war being marched through town by Chinese guards; next stop was Hong Kong; British there had brought Sikh soldiers from India; people in Hong Kong were friendly; Ruffin loved watching a scribe in Hong Kong, Ruffin brought him simple books in English, helped him procure an abacus; local prostitutes in Hong Kong had a good relationship with the British soldiers, British did not crack down on them; biggest problem was fights breaking out between armed forces and locals; ceremony when crossing the International Date Line, missed Christmas Day because of crossing it on Dec. 24th; his job on the ship was radar countermeasures, explanation of how it works; farms along the Huangpu and Yangtze Rivers; the scribe reminded Ruffin that China is thousands of years older than America; farms are small; bathroom is a hole in the ground; Amoy, Quemoy and Matsu islands; Amoy known for ceramic cats; Chinese culture is different, girls sometimes sold into prostitution, women nursing babies from only one breast, prominent families practiced foot-binding; Chinese were hard working, nice, trustful; little boy who helped him during a fire fight by bringing him extra clips for his gun, he and the boy escaped the fire fight unharmed; little boy lived on the streets and later died; sailed on the USS *Delta* then the USS *Mount Olympus*; two weeks in San Diego before traveling to New Orleans for discharge; he was in Philadelphia on VJ Day, he never saw so many different girls in his life as he did that day; he doesn't remember where he was when the atomic bombs were dropped; he had accumulated enough points to go home; one time while on the bridge, insisting that they were going to collide with the USS *Bremerton*, no one believed him and then they did collide; a week later he was discharged; got a job offer from an oil company in China but his commanding officer wouldn't sign off; he thinks the people at the oil company all got killed by Chinese communists;

Tape 1983, Side B

While on shore patrol in China, trying to help a little boy with a piece of metal stuck in his eye, Ruffin fashioned an electromagnet and got the shard out; the little boy died a few days later of

cholera; Ruffin got in trouble after he reported this on the ship because he could have infected everyone; resolved a fight between two sailors by showing them that the girl they were fighting over was ugly; one hectic day where he helped put out a fire, assisted a British soldier who was cut, he got ash and blood all over his uniform; someone who had been planning to fight him that day backed off when they saw how dirty and bloody his uniform was; food on the ship, bunks of hammocks and bed linens; mail service was erratic, especially farther from home; received two letters from a girl on the same day, in the first she proclaimed her love, in the next (written fifteen days later) she said she found someone else; he was discharged EOE (end of enlistment); others were discharged COG (convenience of government), others had only been in the navy for six months; stayed at the Naval Hospital in New Orleans to be sure he didn't have any diseases, it was the best time he ever spent in New Orleans; that September he went back to LSU; he thinks veterans of WWII are not as materialistic and were more willing to fight; Confederate veterans were fighting for their way of life and feared the North; "people who are fighting need to have a vested interest in what they are fighting for"; families moving in together during the Depression; he never understood Vietnam War protesters; his four great-grandfathers all fought in the Civil War; end of interview.

Session V

Tape 3068, Side A

Introduction to interview; he finished LSU in 1947, built houses in Shreveport for a year then worked selling refractory products; based his business in Baton Rouge; involvement with the Jaycees in Shreveport; liked the Jaycees because it was a group of young men working together to improve the community; they made a news reel about a bond issue; members didn't have a monetary interest in the outcome of projects; stayed involved with the Jaycees when he moved to Fort Worth; he worked for Acme Brick Company this whole time; explanation of uses for refractories or fire bricks; providing education so clients could get better efficiency from their boilers; uses and practicality of bagasse; his wife, Joyce Toler, from Monroe, LA; he called to ask if she wanted to get married and they eloped; honeymoon in various cities on the Gulf Coast; Joyce was a social worker in Greenville, MS; preacher married them in between two funerals; he had to leave their honeymoon to take care of a problem at Standard Oil; moved from Fort Worth back to Shreveport; work with the Jaycees in Shreveport on police training and plan to expand airport or build a new one; in the Jaycees, he was state president, national vice president, and ran for national president; campaigns were simple, a group of guys hanging signs; would rather not discuss political strategies; as national vice president, big responsibility was health and safety, driver's education for teens; meeting Eisenhower in the Oval Office, talking about problems like teenage safety; explanation of GI Bill allowing students to pick their school and curriculum; GI Bill for Korean War veterans; met Nixon at a Jaycee meeting, they talked about politics in general and he thought he was a nice guy; met Hoover at a Jaycee convention; he saw Roosevelt when he was in the navy; met Ford and Clinton; he was invited to a speech by Clinton even though he's a Republican; recollections of Earl Long, who knew more about what was going on in state government than anyone else; quizzing Earl because he said he didn't drink, yet he drank a glass of whiskey to keep his throat from getting scratchy while campaigning; dropped out of the Jaycees at age thirty-six because he aged out; feels the organization isn't what it once was; it was easy to get things done with the Jaycees, men from all walks of employment working together, knowing who to call to get things done; wouldn't back down from things that were controversial, the airport issue and getting one-way streets in Shreveport; his anti-fly campaign, getting the parish to spray in neighborhoods to wipe out flies and mosquitos, they still do it

today; during the campaign he got a call from the president of Delta Airlines, C.E. Woolman, who was angry with him; Ruffin doesn't know if he was joking around or if he misunderstood that the campaign was about bugs, not air travel; later on his way back from a trip to Europe, he got bumped off a flight and called Woolman to complain, the plane turned around to pick him up; he was national vice president 1959-60; Jaycee activities statewide; no salary, just sense of accomplishment and civic duty; women and men handle problems differently; Jaycee national conventions don't have the steam they once did; his friends in the Jaycees; fighting a public housing project;

Tape 3068, Side B

Experiences in Jaycees got him interested in working with other civic clubs and organizations; being in the service matured him a lot, there was good discipline, he learned how to get along with people from different cultures; example of how he came to understand why a Chinese man did not want to move to the United States, Chinese culture was centuries old and tested, U.S. wasn't even 200 years old yet; we think our culture is best, but other people think the same about their own culture; travelling to Europe, feeling self-sufficient, finding that most people are easy to get along with; languages he spoke; keeping in touch with fellow servicemen; attending a fiftieth wedding anniversary and realizing how many of his friends had died; he worked with another civic club but it wasn't the same as the Jaycees; then he moved to California and never got involved with another organization; interview conclusion.

Session VI

Tape 3797.1

Introduction to interview; he didn't make money in the trucking business, cut short his losses and liquidated everything; moved to California to work for Redman Industries manufacturing mobile homes; working with mobile home dealers, suggesting they use Bank of America for financing; the business had potential but wasn't a good fit for him, wife wanted to go back to Louisiana; got a job with Merrill Lynch and moved to San Antonio, Texas; feels he could have stayed in California, knew California from his navy days; started in the brokerage industry, liked meeting new people and making money for them; anecdote about a client and coworker; left Merrill Lynch for a job with Frances I. du Pont Company in Shreveport; manager in San Antonio said he couldn't come back, later told him he had to say that and they would welcome him back if he wanted to return; made a deal with the manager over accounts; friendly with that manager, named his daughter after the manager's wife; starting again in Shreveport was slow at first; strategy for getting new customers; all about personal relationships; becoming assistant manager, then manager; hard to become manager in your same office, coworkers go from peers to your employees; he had to say no to them and make it stick; one account was time consuming; Frances du Pont Co. merged with Gloré Forgan; Ross Perot took them over and company became du Pont-Walston; Ross Perot did great things for the company; Perot sold out and let them negotiate; Ruffin got to choose which region he wanted to represent; story about guy in their West Coast region; accident he saw outside his Shreveport office; planned takeover by Prudential that was going down quickly, scramble at the office, contacting clients, preparing to shut down; Prudential never showed for the meeting; they had to look elsewhere and ended up with E.F. Hutton; E.F. Hutton was a well-run company with a few problems at the end; sold to American Express who already had Lehman Brothers, so they became Shearson-Lehman Brothers then Hutton-Lehman Brothers, name changed more times; finally was Salomon Smith Barney; he never changed employers, just their names changed; was a manager at E.F. Hutton

but went back to production and never regretted it; du Pont and Hutton were great companies to work for; heating problem with their office; planning a move and viewing other office space for sale, they found a great location; problems while moving included a small fire and no telephone service; teletype machine broke while repair workers were on strike, one of his coworkers paid a striker to repair it while he stood in his place on the picket line; American Express was better in the travel business; many times mergers were a plus for them; mistake made by Glore Forgan carried over, Ruffin and his coworkers got sued, had to absorb the bad publicity; anecdote about answering questions from reporters; major changes in the stock quote technology; if brokers made mistakes, it was hard to cover their tracks; story about a broker who was trying to do his client a favor and lost money; quote equipment is better now, old way of keeping track of stock quotes; negotiating a new deal with electronics contractors to avoid having outdated machinery; one female broker in San Antonio; woman they hired who was pregnant was supposed to go to New York for training, Ross Perot would not send her and separate her from her baby; more female brokers as time goes on; wives making more than their husbands can cause strife; occasionally women brokers would let sexual activity get in the way; everyone would find out about office affairs; he has had excellent and not-so-good female employees, same goes for men; no written policies about dating, it's disruptive in the office; women's charm can backfire on them; women got started in the brokerage business during WWII; differences between women and men as brokers and clients; women can be better at managing money;

Tape 3797.2

Explanation of how he made an unsecured loan to the partnership and later avoided multiple lawsuits when the partnership went under, but he did lose the entire loan; assumes he became vice president because he sold a lot of stock; carried on being vice president with subsequent firms; duties of running the office; one or two brokers gave him trouble over the years; he likes to make money for his clients and keep them happy; biggest challenge was overcoming a broken back when he worked in the trucking business, not letting it get him down; early involvement with the LSU Alumni Association, trip to Hong Kong where he helped fellow alumni get out of trouble, e.g., a woman who missed the ferry and couldn't get back to the mainland; he was elected as Alumni Association treasurer, next thing he knew he was president; Dan Bivins was his executive director or vice president; alumni association was becoming campus-specific instead of system-wide; Chancellor Murrill wanted to have a function for the legislative group; Ruffin sponsored it, suddenly someone wanted him to disinvite the black legislative group, he said he wouldn't do it, it wasn't right; LSU and Southern University trying to attract opposite-race students; Southern's plan for "enhancement" meant taking programs away from LSU; LSU would agree to a compromise then Southern would want more; LSU alumni met with their congressional delegation; outcome was a consent decree that says LSU will ask Southern first before adopting new programs; he suggested merging universities, people were opposed to that because they felt Southern had too many administrators; he felt they were picking on Louisiana, other schools like Texas A&M didn't have the same problem; he thinks historically black schools have the money to offer good education but they haven't utilized the money to its full extent; he thinks it's time to unify all schools and stop going back towards segregation; it bothers him that Louisiana has so many problems; fundraising for the alumni association, hiring Tony Gustwick; he doesn't know much about TAF [Tiger Athletic Fund]; Paul Dietzel wanted a list of alumni; arrangement that alumni association was going to pay for a new home for Mike the Tiger; he didn't want a group he's representing to get run over; serving on integrated boards, example of Shreveport Symphony and a board member who was going to leave but changed her

mind; one person on the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce may have resigned when they integrated; discussion of his service on various advisory committees to the LSU chancellor; problem with promises of money from the legislature that would later be cut short; Chancellor Wharton argued that LSU needed state-wide help to be the flagship; Governor Foster did wonders for LSU; Ruffin's passion for volunteering and giving back to the community; he has always wanted to volunteer since leaving the service, especially in things involving education; Louisiana has a high degree of illiteracy, relationship between poverty and illiteracy, his philosophy on how to help the situation; he wonders again why Louisiana seems to lag behind other states; service on the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, wanting to cut non-performing grants; preservation award he got for helping to get the Shreveport Symphony House on the National Historic Register; his anti-fly program with the Jaycees; receiving a call from the CEO of Delta Airlines who misunderstood his campaign; his advice on business, stay early and leave late; importance of involving your spouse and children; when volunteering, look for something where your skills might be useful; outlines advice for people interested in the stock market; his thoughts on the stock market today; minorities working in the brokerage business, he talks about his first wife's death and the impact on their daughter, Rebecca; family trips in the U.S. and to Europe; discussion of Rebecca's twin daughters and her difficult pregnancy; reconnecting with his old friend and current wife, Carol, after Joyce's death; cruise on the Queen Mary 2 with Carol; trip to Rio and crossing the jungle; trip to Normandy; funny story from a trip to Buenos Aires; discussion of his interest in history, particularly Spanish missions in the south and southwest, how this led to him writing articles about LSU's history; then was approached by LSU Press to write *Under Stately Oaks*; talks about the people who helped him with the book; interesting facts about LSU's history, Louisiana A&M College, David Boyd's sacrifices and a letter he wrote complaining about landowner John Lynch whose property was sold to LSU; misconceptions that Huey Long was responsible for building LSU; professors really helped the university by working hard and taking pay cuts; interview conclusion.

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RESTRICTIONS: None