

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Julia L.H. Paige

**COLLECTION:** 4700.2580

**IDENTIFICATION:** born in DeQuincy, Louisiana; worked as a teacher in Mossville for several years; also worked in Maplewood and DeQuincy, where she became assistant principal

**INTERVIEWER:** Chelsea Arseneault

**SERIES:** Mossville History Project - Oral History Day

**INTERVIEW DATES:** September 24, 2015

**FOCUS DATES:** 1930s-1970s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 4523**

Born in DeQuincy, Louisiana July 4, 1929; only girl out of six siblings; "rough and tough", first girl friend at thirteen; wanted more than what DeQuincy had to offer, so mother sent her to Holy Rosary, a Catholic school in Lafayette; finished in 1947, wanted to become a clothes designer; mother couldn't afford that, was raising them without a stepfather, she didn't believe in stepfathers; father worked for a plant in DeQuincy, and was killed when he fell into a sawdust bin; proud of the way she was brought up, even though Depression era, mother always made sure they ate at home; mother ironed for a living; welfare provided food as well as clothes; making clothes out of sacks; gift for sewing; raised Baptist, had to go to church; mother a mid-wife, but started taking on the birth pains; she delivered her first son, who died at seventeen on the way home from a football game; children's athleticism, one son played basketball for Harlem Globe Trotters, other ran track; importance of education; teaching in DeQuincy, but was moved when plant closed down in 1964; left before full integration; chosen to go to Maplewood, which was predominantly white; cooked her children breakfast every morning; worked there three years, also attending McNeese State University at night for her master's degree; went back to DeQuincy, working ten years in counselling; returned to McNeese for a master's in administration and supervision, and worked as an assistant principal for nine years; spent time travelling; now works in her yard, cleans her house, and spends time volunteering; difficulty adjusting to the Mossville school system; took care of her own discipline; would help the children; fundraisers and queen drives; learned to love Mossville; started working in cafes when she was twelve years old; mother believed in cleanliness, had to be clean; what family means to her.

**TAPES:** 1 (T4523)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 23 minutes

**#PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 18 pages

**PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER:** One photograph taken during interview at the Rigmaiden Recreational Center for the third Mossville Oral History Day. Photographer Kyle Tanglao.

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Biographical data form; Interview questions (2 pgs); Correspondence

**RESTRICTIONS:** none