

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Brodie S. Crump

COLLECTION: 4700.0399

IDENTIFICATION: Son of William Crump, secretary and campaign manager of Mississippi politician Leroy Percy

INTERVIEWER: Lewis Baker

SERIES: Political

INTERVIEW DATE: October 22, 1976

FOCUS DATES: 1910-1930

ABSTRACT:

Tape 562

Leroy Percy's inability to remember names or faces; Mississippi legislature's inability to select a successor to deceased U.S. Senator McLaurian; Percy making deals with other candidates for the position and James K. Vardaman, his main opponent, charging him with buying the office; discusses reasons other candidates for the office supported Percy; political mudslinging; history of Sunnyside Plantation and the partnership that owned it; use of Italian labor rather than African American labor; creation of sharecropping system at Sunnyside; ginning and selling cotton; discusses black servants at Sunnyside; building a Catholic church for Italian tenant farmers; child labor; traces Percy family history; Greenville Compress Company; World War I; Theodore Roosevelt bear hunting with Percy; Percy's efforts to bring railroads into the Delta; Percy's devotion to the Democratic Party; antagonism between Percy and Theodore Bilbo; Bilbo and bribery; discusses Sen. McLaurian's family; First National Bank; Mississippi River levees; Herbert Hoover's visit to Mississippi after the 1927 flood; Huey Long; Percy's friendship with Louisiana Governor John Parker; Percy's opposition to the Ku Klux Klan

Tape 563

Ku Klux Klan and elections; murders in Mer Rouge and increasing opposition to the Klan; Percy's role in building roads in the Delta; purchasing Panther Burn Plantation; discusses Percy's campaign for U.S. Senate; attempt to murder Percy; dueling; feud between Percy and "Old Man" Paxton over property line; Klan's denunciation of Percy in 1923 elections; death of the Klan; Percy's and race relations; use of the word "nigger;" migration of African American sharecroppers; Crumps impressions of African Americans; lynching; Percy's article on the Klan in the *Atlantic Monthly*; *Cosmopolitan* article about corruption in 1910 U.S. Senate campaign; anti-Klan sentiment in Greenville

Tape 564

Opposition to the Klan; discusses deaths of Leroy and Camille Percy; Percy's interest in flood control on the Mississippi River; Percy's attitude toward his son Will being a writer; monument in cemetery honoring Leroy Percy; Percy's aptitude as a lawyer; Will Percy making speeches in support of U.S. involvement in World War I; discusses Percy's love of hunting; friendship of Percy and John Sharp Williams

TAPES: 3 (T562; T563; T564)**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 2 hours, 30 minutes**PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 59 pages**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:** None**RESTRICTIONS:** None