

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Janie Gardner

COLLECTION: 4700.2471

IDENTIFICATION: Born August 14, 1946 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, raised in Mossville, Louisiana

INTERVIEWER: Elizabeth Gelvin

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Oral History Day

INTERVIEW DATES: January 24, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1950s-present

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4407

Gardner born in Lake Charles, Louisiana on August, 14, 1946; adopted by her parents, Dave and Lula Lyons, shortly after birth and was raised in Mossville, Louisiana; grandparents were Simon and Mary Lyons, doesn't know her mom's side; father worked on refrigeration, and her mother was a dayworker working five days a week for five dollars a day; her work included cleaning houses, salad girl at Chateau Charles, and a nanny at First Baptist Church of Westlake; Gardner later moved to Maryland when she remarried, but recalls her fond memories of growing up in Mossville; she was a tomboy, and loved to shoot marbles, climb trees, catch crawfish in the ditch near their house and swim at the recreational center; her mother exposed her to the arts, so she took ballet and tap as well; she remembers how the old school buildings were several "sharpshooter" houses, and the second and third grades were separated by a partition from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades; she went there until sixth grade, then to boarding school for four years in Lafayette, Louisiana at the Holy Rosary Institute; when her father lost his leg, she returned and finished her education in Mossville; her parents spoiled her and loved to spoil her sons, but they raised her to be a strong woman; she shares fond memories of her parents, including her father building a boat and doing chores from his wheelchair, and her mother dancing at her ninetieth birthday; she returned to the area about two and a half years ago, and considers Mossville her true home.

TAPES: 1 (T4407)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 22 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 21 pages

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: Two photographs taken during interview, including one photograph with interviewer Gelvin. Photographer Kyle Tanglao.

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

RESTRICTIONS: None