

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Larry G. Payne

COLLECTION: 4700.2503

IDENTIFICATION: born and raised in Mossville, Louisiana

INTERVIEWER: Teresha Ussin

SERIES: Mossville History Project - Oral History Day

INTERVIEW DATES: January 23, 2015

FOCUS DATES: 1960s-1980s; present

ABSTRACT:

Tape 4421

Larry G. Payne born November 1st, 1952 in Mossville, Louisiana to parents Wilson Payne Sr. and Annalee Bernard Payne; grandfather is George Bernard and grandmother is Josephine Bernard; earliest memory of Mossville was of the old school building, which stood nearly five feet off the ground; stories of Pete Moss, who drove a horse-drawn wagon and was the only person who could get a beehive out of the recreation center's chimney; childhood games; Mossville recreational center a safe haven for children who lived in surrounding segregated towns; community leaders; grandfather was a railroad man, and was one of Payne's role models; schooling; canteens a place for young people to gather; one such canteen was called the Pirate's Den after the school's mascot; local businesses, most of them black-owned; the Paradise Club, where legends like B.B. King and Bobby Blue Bland played at the start of their careers; importance of sports, "a part of our DNA"; proud of what community members were able to accomplish, despite receiving second-hand educational materials; some residents will continue to fight for Mossville.

TAPES: 1 (T4421)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 24 minutes

#PAGES: 3 pages index; 18 pages transcript

PHOTOGRAPHS / PHOTOGRAPHER: Two photographs taken during interview, both include interviewer Ussin. Photographer Charlotte Willcox.

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

RESTRICTIONS: none