

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

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Charles East

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0329

**IDENTIFICATION:** [1924 - 2009] 1948 LSU graduate; founding editor of the *Delta*, director of the LSU Press; editor of *The Diary of Sarah Morgan*

**INTERVIEWER:** Melisse Campbell

**SERIES:** University History – Distinguished Faculty & Administrators

**INTERVIEW DATE:** September 24, 1993

**FOCUS DATES:** 1942 - 1987

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 465**

Family background; reasons for attending LSU; decision to major in engineering; marrying his high school sweetheart Sarah Simmons; impact of World War II on LSU; attending high school in Cleveland, Mississippi, and the high caliber of teachers there; student job working for the LSU News Bureau and its impact on his decision to major in journalism; difficulty of travel in 1940s; describes the work of the News Bureau; initiation of freshmen into ROTC; campus housing for cadets; room assignment in the Stadium; Mike the Tiger; describes his roommates; ROTC; wearing uniforms; preparing for war; service in the navy during World War II; returning to LSU and switching his major to journalism; impact of being on the *Reveille* staff on his life and career; describes journalism professors; discusses first director of the LSU Press Marcus Wilkerson; director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Library Harry Middleton as editor of the *Reveille*; working with fellow *Reveille* staff member to establish the *Delta* (a student literary magazine); describes *Reveille* offices and the Journalism Building; journalism librarian Rosilia Callaghan; internship with *Morning Advocate*; the *Advocate's* female staff during World War II; describes *Reveille* coworkers; describes T. Harry Williams; moving to New York to work as an editor after graduation; desire to become a writer; returning to Baton Rouge to work as a reporter for the *Advocate*; becoming an editor for the LSU Press in 1962; leaving the LSU Press to become a freelance writer; becoming an editor for the University of Georgia Press; establishing the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction at the University of Georgia; discusses working on *William Faulkner of Oxford* for the LSU Press.

**Tape 466**

Developing and editing a book on the Falkner family with Murry Falkner (William Faulkner's brother); editing and publishing the Sarah Morgan Diary; Ken Burns' Civil War documentary; impact of LSU on his life and career; becoming a member of the Journalism School Hall of Fame.

**TAPES:** 2 (T465, T466)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 50 minutes

**PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 75 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None