

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

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Harold Jefferson

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0686

**IDENTIFICATION:** Baton Rouge native, attended McKinley High School from 1949 to 1953

**INTERVIEWER:** Carmen Posey

**SERIES:** McKinley High School Oral History Project – History of McKinley High School

**INTERVIEW DATE:** July 13, 1995

**FOCUS DATES:** Early 1950s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 1013 Side A**

Jefferson born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 18, 1934; parents' education went only through fifth and third grade; mother was a housewife, father was chauffeur; Jefferson works on the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board; McKinley prepared him for future employment; attended McKinley from 1949 to 1953; describes typical day at McKinley; served in air force for four years; importance of sports at McKinley; belonged to Hi-Y Club and was a soloist in the McKinley choir; Jefferson was an average student; role models included Martin Luther King, Junior, Reverend D.T. Clinton and some of his McKinley teachers; won soloist award at Southern University competition; favorite teachers; after graduation, enlisted in air force; importance of McKinley in educating black professionals and politicians; Dolores Spikes, president at Southern University, was in Jefferson's class; participated in civil rights march from Southern University to State Capitol; platoon system where McKinley students only attended for half a day; division of students between McKinley and Capitol High; advances in technology since his time at McKinley, including computers and air conditioning; hopes current McKinley students will later give back to neighborhood and city; lived close to Baton Rouge High, but couldn't attend because he was black; recommends other people to interview.

**TAPE:** 1 (T1013)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 13 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 9 pages

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Interviewer's notes and word list; Correspondence; Obituary

**RESTRICTIONS:** None