



ArchivesSpace

# **Coolidge Senior High School Oral History Project OHP.028OHP.028**

## **An inventory of Coolidge Senior High School Oral History Project at DC Public Library**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on March 26, 2018.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Stage

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Stage
<b>Title:</b>	Coolidge Senior High School Oral History Project Collection
<b>ID:</b>	OHP.028
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	undated
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.25 linear feet; 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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Ingrid Drake, CGAP (Certified Government Auditing Professional), is a program analyst with the Office of District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA). Previously she was an investigator for the Washington-based nonprofit Project On Government Oversight (POGO); and was a writer, Pacifica Radio correspondent, and community educator living in Washington, DC. In 2007 at the time of gift, she was a local DC journalist, writing for several outlets: DC North, East of the River, Hill Rag, DC Radio Co-op, [www.DCIndymedia.org](http://www.DCIndymedia.org), WPFW 89.3 FM - Pacifica Radio, and Free Speech Radio News. Contact info: [IngridNatasha@yahoo.com](mailto:IngridNatasha@yahoo.com).

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## Scope and Contents

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In 2007, Ingrid Drake coordinated the Coolidge Senior High School Oral History Project, interviewing 25 alumni, staff, teachers and then-current students of Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, DC. The project arose from Drake's professional relationship with Verna Avery-Brown; Drake was a volunteer at WPFW 89.3 FM - Pacific Radio, where Verna Avery-Brown was a news

anchor. Avery-Brown is an alumna of Coolidge Senior High School. Coolidge has an active alumni association. Drake applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. With those funds, Drake obtained equipment and facilitated interviews between then-current students and alumni, teachers, staff and parents in school classrooms; produced a WPFW radio show of the final interviews; and bound copies of the interviews to give to the alumni. A copy of the final radio show and the interviews were burned to audio CDs and given to three institutions: the Calvin Coolidge Senior High School library, the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center at Howard University, and the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, all located in Washington, DC. This collection is comprised of 16 audio CDS (14 CDs of 24 interviews of 27 people, plus 2 CDS for the final radio show), and 26 color 4"x6" photographs of 25 of the 27 interviewees (includes one duplicate photo). The radio show contains snippets of interviews interwoven with popular commercially recorded music.

The Coolidge Senior High School Oral History Project interviews reflect the school's history of student political and social activism, demographic changes in the student body, and a chronicle of school spirit between the mid-1960s to 1997. The earliest alumni interviews are from the class of 1965; the latest from class of 1997. Missing are interviews with alumni who graduated during the 1980s and much of the 1990s. Included are stories of a student chapter of the Black Panther Party, a student march with a coffin to the White House during the Vietnam War, student pushes for creating black studies in high school, mention of the DC riots, historic DC events, student clubs, sports and extracurricular activities, popular music and dances, and the activism of the alumni association. Notable Coolidge alumni include Verna Avery-Brown, former Washington Bureau Chief of Pacifica Radio news in Washington, DC; Michael Blakey, biological anthropologist and director of the African Burial Ground Project in New York City; Ada Mitchell, physical educator teacher and coach at Coolidge Senior High School for 42 years; Philip PremDas, state director, GED administrator and chief examiner for the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in Washington, DC; and Davey Yarborough, internationally known saxophonist, recording artist, performer, bandleader, composer, arranger and educator, and creator of the internationally recognized jazz studies program and jazz orchestra at Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, DC.

Interviewed are 27 people: Verna Avery-Brown, Vanilla Beane, Gregory Bell, Michael Blakey, Consuelo Ellis Brown, L. Nelson Burton, Christine Easterling, Kenneth Ellerbe, Terry Goings, Susan Gordon, Terri Jo Hayes, Jerome Johnson, Frank Jones III, Loretta Kelly, John Mercer, Ada Mitchell, Aric Moore, Donna Pixley, Philip PremDas, James Proctor, Shawn Ruffing, Harold Smith, Vincent Tate, Ray Weaver, Stephen Whitney, Sylvia Frazier Weathers (d. Aug. 21, 2010) and Davey Yarborough.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is housed in one box, 0.25 linear feet, and contains two series. The first series is organized alphabetically by last name of the first interviewee on the CD (some CDs contain multiple interviews) and contains 16 folders. The second series contains color 4"x6" photographs of the interviewees in two folders.

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## Administrative Information

### Publication Statement

Stage

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## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Oral Histories

Title/Description	Instances	
Coolidge Oral History Project (Disc One), undated	Box 2	Folder 1

#### Scope and Contents

Disc 1 of 2-disc set, compilation of oral histories of Coolidge Senior High School, Washington, DC. CD-R, 700MB, 80 minutes, Memorex. In plastic CD jewel case. Eleven tracks listed on inside cover. Notes include acknowledgments: Thanks to all the alumni who contributed their time and memories. Many thanks to Ms. Kelly her 11th grade and 12th grade classes. Terry Goings the PTSO, Frank Jones the Alumni Assn., L Nelson Burton, Ray Weaver, Alexander Cole, Eriqa Mason, Mario Horton, Shana Smith, Roshin Mathew, Hayden Wetzel of the Sumner School Archives, Selina Musuta and Radio Rootz, Ryme Katkhouda, the People's Media Center at Al-Fishawy Cafe, Matt Gilmore the Washingtoniana Collection, and WPFW Radio 89.3FM.

Introduction, undated

Item 1

#### Scope and Contents

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

John Mercer, Stephen Whitney, Philip Premdas, Connie Ellis Brown, Class of 1965, undated

Item 2

**Scope and Contents**

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Michael Blakey, Class of 1971, undated

Item 3

**Scope and Contents**

Track 3 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Verna Avery-Brown, Class of 1971, undated

Item 4

**Scope and Contents**

Track 4 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Davey Yarborough, Class of 1971, undated

Item 5

**Scope and Contents**

Track 5 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Susan Gordon, teacher, undated

Item 6

**Scope and Contents**

Track 6 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

James Proctor and Gregory Bell, Class of 1974, undated

Item 7

**Scope and Contents**

Track 7 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Sylvia Frazier Weathers, teacher, undated

Item 8

**Scope and Contents**

Track 8 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Frank Jones III, Class of 1975, undated

Item 9

**Scope and Contents**

Track 9 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Terry Goings, Class of 1977, undated

Item 10

**Scope and Contents**

Track 10 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Vincent Tate, Class of 1978, undated

Item 11

## Scope and Contents

Track 11 of Disc 1 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Coolidge Oral History Project (Disc Two), undated	Box 2	Folder 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Disc 2 of 2-disc set, compilation of oral histories of Coolidge Senior High School in Washington, DC. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 minutes. Memorex. In plastic CD jewel case. Fourteen tracks listed on inside cover. Notes of acknowledgment: This project was made possible thru a grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. For more information, contact Ingrid Drake, Project Coordinator, at theteachingreporter@yahoo.com or 202-577-3437.		
Kenneth B. Ellerbe, Class of 1978, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 1 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
Donna Pixley, Class of 1978, undated	Item 2	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 2 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
Ada Mitchell, Class of 1967 and coach, undated	Item 3	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 3 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
Terri Jo Hayes, Class of 1979, undated	Item 4	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 4 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
Ray Weaver, Class of 1979, undated	Item 5	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 5 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
Aric Moore, Class of 1979, undated	Item 6	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 6 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project		
L. Nelson Burton, Class of 1990, undated	Item 7	

**Scope and Contents**

Track 7 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Christine D. Easterling, staff, undated

Item 8

**Scope and Contents**

Track 8 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Shawn Ruffing, Class of 1997 staff, undated

Item 9

**Scope and Contents**

Track 9 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Jerome Johnson, parent, undated

Item 10

**Scope and Contents**

Track 10 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Students, Class of 2008, undated

Item 11

**Scope and Contents**

Track 11 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Loretta Kelly, teacher, undated

Item 12

**Scope and Contents**

Track 12 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Alumni Involvement, undated

Item 13

**Scope and Contents**

Track 13 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

Credits, undated

Item 14

**Scope and Contents**

Track 14 of Disc 2 of Coolidge Oral History Project

1-Verna Avery-Brown 2-Susan Gordon Coolidge Oral History Project, undated

Box 2

Folder 3

Verna Avery-Brown, undated

Item 1

**Scope and Contents**

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Brown/Gordon interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

Susan Gordon, undated

Item 2



## Scope and Contents

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Brown/Gordon interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

1-Vanilla Beane 2 - Harold Smith Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 4
Vanilla Beane, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 1 of Disc 1 of Beane/Smith interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.		
Harold Smith, undated	Item 2	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 2 of Disc 1 of Beane/Smith interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.		
Michael Blakey - 77:02 Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 5
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Entire CD is Michael Blakey interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.		
1--L. Nelson Burton - 20:03; 2--Christine Easterling - 31:04 Coolidge Oral History, undated	Box 2	Folder 6
L. Nelson Burton - 20:03, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 1 of Disc 1 of Burton/Easterling interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.		
Christine Easterling - 31:04, undated	Item 2	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 2 of Disc 1 of Burton/Easterling interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.		
1-Terry Goings - 37:43 2 - Kenneth Ellerbe, undated	Box 2	Folder 7
Terry Goings - 37:43, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>  Track 1 of Disc 1 of Goings/Ellerbe interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.		
Kenneth Ellerbe - 28:37, undated	Item 2	

## Scope and Contents

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Goings/Ellerbe interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.

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1-Terri Jo Hayes 2-Jerome Johnson Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 8
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Terri Jo Hayes, Class of 1979, undated

Item 1

## Scope and Contents

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Hayes/Johnson interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

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Jerome Johnson, undated

Item 2

## Scope and Contents

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Hayes/Johnson interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

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1-Frank Jones III 2-Loretta Kelly Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 9
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Frank Jones III, Class of 1975, undated

Item 1

## Scope and Contents

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Jones/Kelly interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

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Loretta Kelly, undated

Item 2

## Scope and Contents

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Jones/Kelly interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

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1-Ada Mitchell 2-Aric Moore Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 10
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Ada Mitchell, undated

Item 1

## Scope and Contents

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Mitchell/Moore interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.

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Aric Moore, undated

Item 2

## Scope and Contents

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Mitchell/Moore interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. In paper sleeve.

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1-Donna Pixley 2-Shawn Ruffing 2-Vincent Tate Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 11
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Donna Pixley, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Track 1 of Disc 1 of Pixley/Ruffing/Tate interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Memorex. In paper sleeve.		
Shawn Ruffing, undated	Item 2	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Track 2 of Disc 1 of Pixley/Ruffing/Tate interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Memorex. In paper sleeve.		
Vincent Tate, undated	Item 3	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Track 3 of Disc 1 of Pixley/Ruffing/Tate interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Memorex. In paper sleeve.		
Phil PremDas, Stephen Whitney, John Mercer and Consuelo Ellis Brown - Part 1 - 44:26, undated	Box 2	Folder 12
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Disc 1 of 2 discs of PremDas/Whitney/Mercer/Brown interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Imation. In paper sleeve.		
Phil PremDas, Stephen Whitney, John Mercer and Consuelo Ellis Brown Part 2 of Coolidge alumni interview, undated	Box 2	Folder 13
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Disc 2 of 2 discs of PremDas/Whitney/Mercer/Brown interview. . CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.		
James Proctor Greg Bell Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 14
James Proctor, undated	Item 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Track 1 of Disc 1 of Proctor/Bell interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.		
Greg Bell, undated	Item 2	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Track 2 of Disc 1 of Proctor/Bell interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Staples. In paper sleeve.		
1-Sylvia Frazier Weathers 2-Ray Weaver Coolidge Oral History Project, undated	Box 2	Folder 15
Sylvia Frazier Weathers, undated		

**Scope and Contents**

Item 1

Track 1 of Disc 1 of Weathers/Weaver interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Memorex. In paper sleeve.

Ray Weaver, undated

Item 2

**Scope and Contents**

Track 2 of Disc 1 of Weathers/Weaver interview. CD-R, 700 MB, 80 min. Memorex. In paper sleeve.

Davey Yarborough - 49:34 Coolidge Oral History Project, undated

Box 2

Folder 16

**Scope and Contents**

Entire CD is Davey Yarborough interview. CD-R Audio, 80 min. Sony. In paper sleeve.

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**Series 2: Photographs****Title/Description****Instances**

Photos of Coolidge OHP, undated

Box 2

Folder 17

Verna Avery-Brown, undated

Item 1

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Verna Avery-Brown, labeled in ink on back; Brown (left) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

Vanilla Beane, undated

Item 2

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Vanilla Beane, labeled in ink on back; Beane (left) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

Greg Bell, undated

Item 3

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Greg Bell, labeled in ink on back.

Michael Blakey, undated

Item 4

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Michael Blakey, labeled in ink on back; Blakey (right) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

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Consuelo Ellis Brown, undated

Item 5

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Consuelo (Connie) Ellis Brown, labeled in ink on back.

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L. Nelson Burton, undated

Item 6

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of L. Nelson Burton, labeled in ink on back; Burton (right) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Christine Easterling, undated

Item 7

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Christine Easterling, labeled in ink on back; Easterling (center, seated) is surrounded by unidentified students.

---

Kenneth Ellerbe, undated

Item 8

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Kenneth Ellerbe, labeled in ink on back.

---

Terry Goings, undated

Item 9

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Terry Goings, labeled in ink on back; Goings (right) is walking down a hall, being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Susan Gordon, undated

Item 10

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Susan Gordon, labeled in ink on back.

---

Terri Jo Hayes, undated

Item 11

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Terri Jo Hayes, labeled in ink on back. Hayes is displaying an old photograph of cheerleaders from Coolidge High School.

---

Jerome Johnson, undated

Item 12

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Jerome Johnson, labeled in ink on back.

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Frank Jones III, undated

Item 13

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Frank Jones III, labeled in ink on back; Jones (right, with glasses atop head) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Loretta Kelly, undated

Item 14

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Loretta Kelly, labeled in ink on back.

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Photos of Coolidge OHP, undated

Box 2

Folder 18

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John Mercer, undated

Item 1

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of John Mercer, labeled in ink on back. Mercer (right) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Ada Mitchell, undated

Item 2

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Ada Mitchell, labeled in ink on back. Mitchell (center, standing with hat on) is surrounded by unidentified students.

---

Ada Mitchell, undated

Item 3

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Ada Mitchell, labeled in pencil on back. Mitchell (center, standing with hat on) is surrounded by unidentified students.

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Aric Moore, undated

Item 4

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Aric Moore, labeled in ink on back. Moore (seated, center, flipping through scrapbook) is surrounded by unidentified students.

---

James Proctor, undated

Item 5

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of James Proctor, labeled in ink on back.

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Phil PremDas and Stephen Whitney, undated

Item 6

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Philip PremDas (left) and Stephen Whitney (right), labeled in ink on back. Whitney (in blue shirt) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Shawn Ruffing, undated

Item 7

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Shawn Ruffing, labeled in ink on back.

---

Harold Smith, undated

Item 8

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Harold Smith, labeled in ink on back. Smith (right, seated) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

---

Vincent Tate, undated

Item 9

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Vincent Tate, labeled in ink on back. Tate (back row, center, with gray beard) is surrounded by unidentified students.

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Sylvia Frazier Weathers, undated

Item 10

**Scope and Contents**

Color 4"x6" photo of Sylvia Frazier Weathers, labeled in ink on back. Weathers (right) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

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Ray Weaver, undated

Item 11

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Ray Weaver, labeled in ink on back. Weaver (center, standing in back) is surrounded by unidentified students.

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Phil PremDas and Stephen Whitney, undated

Item 12

## Scope and Contents

Color photocopy of 4"x6" photo of Philip PremDas and Stephen Whitney, labeled in pencil. Whitney (seated, right, in blue shirt) is being interviewed by an unidentified student.

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Davey Yarborough, undated

Item 13

## Scope and Contents

Color 4"x6" photo of Davey Yarborough, labeled in ink. Yarborough is playing a clarinet.

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