

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Evanna Jackson-Hodges **COLLECTION:** 4700.0741

IDENTIFICATION: First African-American student to attend Brusly High School

INTERVIEWER: Joanne Bourgeois

SERIES: Brusly Centennial Oral History Project

INTERVIEW DATE: November 24, 1996 **FOCUS DATES:** 1950s-1960s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1075, Side A

Introduction; birth date; family background; family reunions; growing up in Brusly, Louisiana; going to Israelite Baptist Church; going to Antioch Church for Bible school; Lukeville Elementary School, teachers and memories of walking to school along River Road; running into old school teacher, Miss Eads, many years later in California, their ensuing relationship; in 1962, going to Cohn High School, a segregated school, in Port Allen; waking up early for the long trip there, an exhausting experience; desegregation in the 1965-1966 school year; entering Brusly High School in 1966 for her senior year; her first day of school; going to school for an education, not for socializing; teachers; singing in the choir; she received more academic attention at Brusly High than she did at Cohn High; her interaction with other students; she received no scholarships despite her hard work, her father put her through Southern University in Baton Rouge; being recruited by Stockton Unified School District in California upon graduation from college; working in California for the year and taking graduate courses at Southern University over the summer; staying in California and meeting and marrying her husband; childhood memories of her family and playing with other children; her expectations of attending Brusly High School; on her first day, her parents drove behind the bus; sheriffs and/or patrolmen were at the school to ensure her safe integration; teachers and other students.

Tape 1075, Side B

One girl challenged her at Brusly; boys teased her, but her father and brother intervened; her motivation and maturity; her parents' relationship with the community; after graduation and moving to California, she began teaching science and family education at a middle school that was once known as Daniel Webster Junior High; she got a master's of science in education administration; the socio-economic and cultural profile of the city in which she resides in California; it was a farming community that has become very commercialized; it is a culturally diverse place; there are children with Hispanic, Cambodian, and Vietnamese backgrounds as well as African-Americans and whites.

TAPES: 1 (T1075)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 2 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 55 pages

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