

BLACK MIGRATION INTO ORANGE COUNTY FINDING AID-IN PROGRESS

OH 2366b

NARRATOR: Carrington, James

INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson

DATE: October 29, 2003

An Oral History with James Carrington

Status: Transcribed; 14 pages.

Completed 2004

Reverend Dr. James Carrington started the Friendship Baptist Church in Fullerton, CA in 1964, commuting from Los Angeles for four years. Once they made the decision to move, it took his family an entire year to move to Orange County because of racial housing discrimination. He became involved in civil rights issues, like fair housing, in these early years. Friendship Baptist, now in Yorba Linda, is the largest predominately black church in the county. He is still the senior pastor.

OH 2902b

NARRATOR: Benham, Sadie Reid

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH3024

NARRATOR: Clemons, Robert

INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson

DATE: February 7, 2003

“Life in Orange County as a Black Professional.”

Cassette Tape only

Robert Clemons moved to Orange County in 1970 with family from Los Angeles County – Reasons for moving, impressions of Orange County – Issues related to finding a realtor, home – Social life, church life, working at Collins Radio Company in Newport Beach – Run-ins with police – Childrens’ school experiences, social life, and education.

OH 3029

NARRATOR: Dearing, Earl

INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson

DATE: March 10, 2003

OH 3030

NARRATOR: Petherbridge, Marjarie

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3051

NARRATOR: Jones, Connie
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3052

NARRATOR: Caines, Josephine
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3054

NARRATOR: Caines, Chris
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3056

NARRATOR: McKay, James (1945 -)
INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson
DATE: May 31, 2003

Jim McKay and his family came to Laguna Beach from Los Angeles during the height of the Watts Riots in 1965. He tells about his marriage ending, going back to Louisiana where he was raised, and soon returning to Orange County and a life here as a Black single person. He tells about his experiences with racism during his early years living in the county. He attended numerous community colleges and worked at a number of electronic companies. He has been married for twenty years to Lauralee, an Anglo woman who he met at Collins Radio; they live in Tustin Ranch.

Keywords: *Orange County, CA – African-American – racism – Watts Riots – racial profiling – interracial dating*

OH 3062

NARRATOR: Williams, Johnny (1938 -)
INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson
DATE: August 20, 2003

“Living in Orange County”

Johnny Williams was selected as a narrator because of his outstanding performance as a teacher and school administrator in Santa Ana for thirty-six years. Williams came to Orange County from Louisiana in 1964 and went to work for the Santa Ana Unified School District in 1966. He is married to his high school sweetheart from Grambling State University. He first lived in Santa Ana and in 1972 the family moved to Costa Mesa. He tells about the first Black teachers and the policy of hiring only two additional Black teachers per year. Williams talks about his own life relating to his family, his church, his work at Grambling, the police, crime, the discrimination in the rental and purchase of housing.

OH 3067

NARRATOR: Allen, Jessie
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3226

NARRATOR: Caruthers, Ed (1945 -)
INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson
DATE: January 7, 2004

“Experiences in Orange County”

Ed Caruthers was the best high jumper in the world in 1967 and won the silver medal in the 1968 Olympics. He came to Orange County when he was 13, went to local schools and finally to the University of Arizona. He chose to come back to Orange County and has been an adaptive PE teacher in the Garden Grove school district all of his professional life. This oral history discusses his arrival in Orange County from Oklahoma City at age 13 and being the only black kid in school. He tells about how he got into athletics, playing football, basketball, and track and field. He tells about how he became a great high jumper and gives details about the experiences he had at the 1964 and 1968 Olympics as well as other meets around the world. He tells about choosing to come back to Orange County because of family and the desire to have a good place to raise his children. He talks about church and the education of his two girls. With the exception of discrimination in the purchase of their first home and then a year of harassment while living there at the end of the 60s, he has had almost no problems with regard to his race and is glad he made a decision to live in Orange County.

Keywords: *Orange County, California – African-American – Olympics – Track and Field – Discrimination*

OH 3225

NARRATOR: McAllister, Tessie (1920 -)
INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson
DATE: February 18, 2004

“Experiences in Orange County”

Mrs. Tessie McAllister has lived in Santa Ana since the late 1940s and therefore understands the way it was and the changes that have taken place during the past 50+ years. She discusses moving from Texas in the late 1940s. She and her husband came to Dana Point and finally to Santa Ana near the downtown area. They built a house and soon bought an apartment on 3rd Street just west of Bristol. She always got along with her 3rd Street neighbors, most of whom were white, and her present neighbors near her current home near Harbor and Segerstrom - who are of all races. Discusses Johnson Chapel and social life. Talks about her three children she raised and where they are now. Comments on the movement of Black people out of Santa Ana and the county.

Keywords: *Orange County, California – Santa Ana – African-American – housing – discrimination – Johnson Chapel – social life – 1960s.*

OH 3226

NARRATOR: Johnson, Robert
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3784

NARRATOR: Johnson, Cavester
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3227

NARRATOR: Napier, Vernon
INTERVIEWER:
DATE: March 10, 2004

OH 3241

NARRATOR: Ransom, Ernestine (1923 -)
INTERVIEWER: Robert Johnson
DATE: April 28, 2004
Status: Transcribed

“Black Experience in Orange County”

Ernestine Ransom discusses arriving in Santa Ana, CA, from Topeka, Kansas in 1937 so her father could become pastor of the Second Baptist Church. Remembers her teenage years in her neighborhoods and as one of the few black students in her schools. Discusses what she could and couldn't do. After high school, attended college, worked at Douglas making airplanes, and then married. In 1950s, became involved in community organizations, often the only Black person. Involved in SCLC in the late 1960s. Became counselor for Black students at UCI. Discusses her children and her relationship with the city of Orange both as a "sundown town" and later as her hometown.

Keywords: *Santa Ana, California -- local history -- African-American -- Churches -- Community organizations -- racial relations*

OH 3276

NARRATOR: Youngblood, Barbara
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3288

NARRATOR: Owens, Mary
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3341

NARRATOR: Owens, Mary
INTERVIEWER:
DATE:

OH 3289

NARRATOR: Ward, Robert

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3396

NARRATOR: Smith, Gladys

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3399

NARRATOR: Gethaiga, Wacira

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3457

NARRATOR: Ray, Charles

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3458

NARRATOR: Smith, John

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 4359

NARRATOR: Kennedy, Ralph & Kennedy, Natalie

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3508

NARRATOR: Mulkey, Dorothy

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3540

NARRATOR: Farlice, Connie Duffy

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3784

NARRATOR: Nichols, Rosa

INTERVIEWER:

DATE:

OH 3878

NARRATOR: Bussey, Warren

INTERVIEWER:

DATE: