Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers®
1900 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616
info@thehistorymakers.com
www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Brayboy, Jeanne

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy,

Dates: June 20, 2007

Bulk Dates: 2007

Physical Description: 6 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:47:07).

Abstract: Civil rights activist and elementary school music teacher Jeanne Brayboy (1930 - ) taught for forty years and was the first African American teacher to integrate the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina. Brayboy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 20, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2007_179

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights activist and elementary school music teacher Jeanne Martin Brayboy was born on February 23, 1930, in Camden, South Carolina. Her father, John Wendell Martin, was a high school teacher and football coach; and he started the first African American athletic conference in South Carolina. Her mother, June Singleton Martin, was a librarian. Brayboy and her younger sister, Thomasina, grew up under strict segregation, and they recognized the disparities between whites and blacks in Camden’s educational system. She attended Mather Academy, an African American boarding school founded in 1867 by the Women’s Division of the Northern Methodist Church in Camden, where the teachers stressed academic excellence and community responsibility. Brayboy graduated from Mather Academy in 1947.

Brayboy went on to attend Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, as a music major, where she became active in the Bennett Choir among other campus activities. In 1951, Brayboy graduated from Bennett College with honors and received her B.A. degree in music. She entered Boston University to pursue her M.A. degree in music education. During her tenure at Boston University, Brayboy met Martin Luther King, Jr. Brayboy and King were a part of a small group of friends that attended black social gatherings on campus. She graduated from Boston University in 1953, and started her teaching career in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1954, she married the late Dr. Jack Brayboy, who was an administrator at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The mother of two adult children, Jack and Joyce, Brayboy devotes her time to many civic organizations including the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Levine Museum of the New South and the Foundation for the Carolinas. In 2011, Brayboy was awarded the Marie R. Rowe Award by the Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.

Jeanne Martin Brayboy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 20, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jeanne Brayboy was conducted by Cheryl Butler on June 20, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was recorded on 6 Betacam SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and elementary school music teacher Jeanne Brayboy (1930 - ) taught for forty years and was the first African American teacher to integrate the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Jeanne Brayboy.

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer).

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.
Jeanne Brayboy--Interviews.
African American educators--North Carolina--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/27/2011 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection
Series I: Original Interview Footage, June 20, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_001, TRT: 0:28:49 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy slates the interview and lists her favorites. She discusses the family background of her parents, June Singleton Martin and John Wendell Martin. Her mother was a librarian and father was a teacher and a coach. He started the first African American athletic conference in South Carolina. Brayboy talks about her educational experience at Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina. In addition, she provides examples of racial and class relations and tensions in Camden.

- African American families--Camden District (S.C.).
- Camden District (S.C.)--Race relations.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_002, TRT: 0:28:42 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy talks about her social and extracurricular life at Mather Academy, how she pursued her career path, and why she chose Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She talks more about her family history, in particular her Aunt Jessie, who was the daughter of a white man and his African American mistress. Her Aunt Jessie was able to buy the family land and build the house that they all lived in. Brayboy reflects on her educational, social and extracurricular experiences at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She also talks about her transition from the South to the North, where she attended Boston University's School of Music in Boston, Massachusetts for music education.

- African American-Education (Higher).
- Boston University--Music--Study and teaching.
- Bennett College (Greensboro, N.C.)--Social life and customs.
- African American--Childhood--South Carolina.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_003, TRT: 0:29:00 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy talks about how she knew Martin Luther King, Jr., at Boston University, in Boston, Massachusetts, and discussed his dreams, beliefs and mannerisms. From there, she speaks about the culture and race relations in Boston and at the University. Brayboy reflects on her teaching career in Charlotte, North Carolina. She worked as a substitute and full-time music teacher in both integrated and segregated schools. Brayboy notes that she was one of the first teachers used for integration purposes and was transferred to two all white schools in 1969. She also discusses the curriculum that she used in the classroom and how the process of school integration worked in Charlotte. Brayboy concludes the tape with a discussion about the civil rights leaders in the city and seeing Martin Luther King, Jr., again.

- Education--Integration--North Carolina--Charlotte.
- North Carolina--Charlotte--Race relations.
- King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.
- Boston University--Race relations.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy reflects on her experiences as both a teacher and a parent.
during school integration in Charlotte, North Carolina. Additionally, she discusses student involvement in the Civil Rights Movement at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte. Brayboy provides personal information about her husband, Jack Simeon Brayboy, who was a university administrator, and her children. She then talks about her decision to retire from teaching in 1993, and her work since with the Foundation for the Carolinas.

Johnson C. Smith University--Student protesters--Civil rights movement.
Students--Political activity.
Education--Integration--North Carolina--Charlotte.
Foundation for the Carolinas.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_005, TRT: 0:29:38 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy discusses her parents' community involvement, her family life during her adult years and her husband's death. She notes that although she is supposed to be retired she keeps active by being on the board of various museums, doing event-planning for John C. Smith University and the Foundation for the Carolinas scholarship committee. Brayboy provides her perspectives on the effects of integration and the current process of "re-segregation" that is happening in the school system both on a national level and locally in Charlotte, North Carolina. She reflects on the racial tensions that occurred during her youth.

Retirement--African Americans.
School integration-North Carolina-Charlotte.

Video Oral History Interview with Jeanne Brayboy, Section A2007_179_001_006, TRT: 0:22:08 2007/06/20

Jeanne Brayboy notes that she did not have much experience with the Ku Klux Klan or civil rights activities in the South. She provides some information about her home and neighborhood, and narrates personal photographs, some of which include images of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Sybil Morial. In addition, Brayboy gives her perspective on the importance of education and the need for children to get to know people of other races early in life so that there can be more tolerance between races.

African American youth.
United States--Race relations.