

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with B. B. De Laine

PERSON

De Laine, B. B., 1937-2012

Alternative Names: B. B. De Laine; Brumit Belton De Laine

Life Dates: October 1, 1937-June 14, 2012

Place of Birth: Columbia, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Charlotte, NC

Occupations: High School Administrator

Biographical Note

Educator Brumit Belton De Laine or B.B. De Laine was born on October 1, 1937 in Columbia, South Carolina to Mattie Belton De Laine, a teacher, and Joseph Armstrong De Laine, a minister, teacher, and community activist. De Laine attended segregated elementary schools, and during his childhood, his father spearheaded a civil rights protest against the segregated school and transportation systems in Clarendon County, South Carolina. As a youth, De Laine witnessed the protests and social tensions that led to the Briggs v. Elliott school desegregation case that was eventually bundled with Brown v. Board of Education. Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision, De Laine witnessed widespread vandalism and terror perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan. He witnessed the burning of his father's church and the escape of his family to New York City.

De Laine graduated from Carver Public High School in 1955. He attended Howard University for one half of a year and then transferred to Johnson C. Smith University where he got involved in and was one of three primary organizers of the lunch counter sit-in demonstrations in Charlotte, North Carolina. He earned his B.A. degree in psychology and economics from Johnson C. Smith University in 1960.

De Laine accepted a job as a bus driver in New York City. In 1964, he graduated from New York University with a master's degree in safety, and in 1965, De Laine began teaching in the Chappaqua, New York schools. The following academic year, De Laine moved back to North Carolina with his wife, Edith Strickland De Laine, and three children where he accepted a teaching position in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System at Garinger High School in 1965. De Laine was the first African American teacher at Garinger High School. In 1969, De Laine became Director of Driver Education for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. In 1977, De Laine completed

a sixth year certificate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, earning him advanced certification in school administration. After more than thirty years in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, De Laine retired in 1996. Soon after, he joined the Board of Directors for the Swann Fellowship.

De Laine resides in Charlotte, where he serves on the Board of Directors for the Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson Foundation.

De Laine was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 21, 2007.

B.B. De Laine passed away on June 14, 2012.

Related Entries

New York University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

master's

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

certificate

Liberty Hill Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Scotts Branch High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Carver High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Allen University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Howard University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Johnson C. Smith University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

bachelor's

New York City Transit Authority [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bus Driver

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1955 to 1955]

bus driver

New York City Human Resources Administration [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1960 to ?]

Social Investigator

Garinger High School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1965 to 1967]

teacher

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1967 to 1990]

director of drivers education and safety

Habitat for Humanity [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Committee Member

Briggs-De Laine-Pearson Foundation [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board