

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Barbara LaConta Earthly **COLLECTION:** 4700.0700

IDENTIFICATION: South Baton Rouge resident and McKinley High School graduate.

INTERVIEWER: Nedra Carter

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project: African American Businesses

INTERVIEW DATES: July 2, 1996

FOCUS DATES: 1930s-1990s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1027, Side A

Barbara LaConta Earthly born January 20, 1926 in New Orleans; her father, [Morell?], was one of first black men working for the Recreation and Parks Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge [BREC]; her mother, Helen, was a housewife; Earthly's three brothers, James, [Morel?] Junior, and Robert, are all deceased; her sister, Scottie Rose Ripple, is living; Earthly lived in East Baton Rouge all her life; grew up close to Butler Drugstore and her uncle's grocery shop on Alice Street and East Boulevard; remembers stores like Kress, Woolworth's, McCrory, Three Sisters, Dalton, Sears, and J.C. Penney in the area; Dr. Leo Butler, Dr. Donald Harris, and Dr. B.V. Baranco's offices; people in the neighborhood shopped at her uncle's store; business owners died and their businesses closed or declined; integration caused a move away from East Boulevard; family businesses were more close than the businesses of today; she worked at Thomas Delpit's Chicken Shack; typical day included neighbors helping raise the children and talking to one another; businesses worked with the churches and affected the community in ironing out problems; Earthly can see changes in the area, primarily fewer homes; remembers McKinley High School before it had a cafeteria and McKinley Theater when it opened; Dr. Butler's office had a pharmacy in the back operated by his brother, George; a dry goods store run by whites had black patrons until it was burned down in the sixties.

TAPES: 1 (T1027)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 15 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 11 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Correspondence (2 pages); handwritten index (1 page front & back); Typed index; interview data sheet

RESTRICTIONS: None