

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Betty Bajoie Bickham

COLLECTION: 4700.0615

IDENTIFICATION: Graduate of McKinley High School, class of 1966

INTERVIEWERS: Shanta Jenkins and Carmen Posey

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project – History of McKinley High School

INTERVIEW DATE: June 14, 1995

FOCUS DATES: 1962-1966

ABSTRACT:

Tape 899, Side A

Bickham was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 22, 1948; parents' education ran to sixth or seventh grade; mother was a housewife, father a carpenter; Bickham is a housewife; attended McKinley from 1962 to 1966; McKinley was fun; academics were emphasized more before integration; sports played important social role; McKinley felt like a family; hard to remember what clubs she was in; was an average student; teachers dressed well, were role models; won title of "Miss Baseball"; favorite teachers; usually went straight home after school; as the only black public school, McKinley was very influential and positive; McKinley gave African Americans a sense of self; rivalry between McKinley and Capitol High School so intense that Bickham wasn't allowed to attend those football games; integration took away McKinley's family feeling and sense of self; current students should feel proud to attend McKinley; likes the oral history project; recommends other people to interview.

TAPE: 1 (T899)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 10 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 8 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Interviewer's notes and word list, Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: None