

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: Patricia Bryant and Ruby Jewel Hamilton

Patricia Bryant was born May 10, 1949, in Eagle Lake, Texas. She is the eldest on two sisters and one brother. Her step-father got a job at Imperial Sugar Company and moved the family to Sugar Land. He also had a barber shop on Guyer Street.

Ruby Jewel Hamilton was born at the Sugar Land Four Corners neighborhood on October 30, 1948. She is the eldest of three sisters and one brother.

Longtime friends, Patricia Bryant and Ruby Jewel Hamilton began first grade together at the M.R. Wood School in 1955. In 1959, the Sugar Land Independent School District become part of the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD). But it was not until 1965 that FBISD initiated an approved desegregation plan. That fall, Patricia Bryant and Ruby Jewel Hamilton were transferred to John Foster Dulles High School after racial integration in 1965.

They discuss their school experiences at M.R. Wood School.

15 pages

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Mrs. L.J. Allen – teacher
Billy Joe Beal – classmate, Four Tempos
Herman Bean – classmate, Four Tempos
Bobby Bland – recording artist
Mr. Bridges – science teacher
James Brown – recording artist
Miss Bryant – teacher
Milton Davis – classmate, Four Tempos
Miss Dewpoint – homemaking teacher
Four Tempos – singing group
Al Foy – classmate, Four Tempos
Charles L. Jingles – principal
Mr. Bro Joe – barber
Harlan W. Moore – band director and bus driver
Miss Pitts – P.E. teacher
Grady Prestage – County Commissioner
Benny Reed – classmate, Four Tempos
Andrew Spates – Byrant’s uncle
Zenobia Ward – teacher
Mary Wells – recording artist
Miss Lou Willy – speech teacher
Stevie Wonder – recording artist

Places/Businesses

Austin, Texas
John Foster Dulles High School
Eagle Lake, Texas
Four Corners neighborhood
Guyer Street
Imperial Sugar Company
May Day program
Mayfield Park neighborhood
M.R. Wood School
Oyster Creek
Prairie View A&M University
Quarters’ neighborhood
Schlumberger

Events