

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bettye Jo Harris

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Harris, Betty Jo, 1934-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 13, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:23:19).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Program administrator Bettye Jo Harris (1934- ) worked at the University of Minnesota department of admissions, Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College department of agriculture, and the University of Hawaii School of Public Health. Harris was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2019, in Honolulu, Hawaii. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_141
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Program administrator Bettye Jo Harris was born on February 24, 1934 in Arkansas to Cornelia Kilgore. After graduating from Nevada County Training School in 1950, Harris attended Arkansas Baptist College before transferring to Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal (AM&N) College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She went on to receive her M.S. degree in public health from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Harris clerked at the Internal Revenue Service in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before joining the University of Minnesota department of admissions as a clerk. She went on to serve as an administrator for the AM&N College department of agriculture and as a program developer for the University of Hawaii School of Public Health. From 1969 to 1972, Harris and her family lived in Morocco and Tunisia, where Harris' husband, entomologist Ernest Harris, served as the coordinator of the North Africa Regional Mediterranean Fruit Fly Suppression Program. Harris later joined the Arthritis Foundation Hawaii as a health educator; and, in the 1980s, she served as executive director of the Kalihi-Palama Immigrant Service Center. Harris then became an editor of the Afro Hawaii News, during which she led the campaign to establish the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Hawai'i. In the 1990s, she served as executive director of the residential substance abuse treatment center Hina Mauka.

An active member of St. Christopher's Church, Harris served as deputy Diocese of Hawai'i from 1982 to 2006. She served on the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC) and finance committee of the Episcopal Church Executive Council. Harris was elected vice president of the Hawaii Diocesan Council in 2000. In 2012, Harris served on the Honolulu African American Film Festival Committee. She also served as the chair of fundraising for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In 2011, Harris was appointed to the Canon of the Episcopal Church, Dioceses of Hawai'i by Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick. In 2013, she received the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from the NAACP of Hawai'i.

Harris married the late Ernest Harris on April 11, 1953. They had three children: Mark, Tanya, and Greg.

Bettye Jo Harris was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 13, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bettye Jo Harris was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 13, 2019, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Program administrator Bettye Jo Harris (1934- ) worked at the University of Minnesota department of admissions, Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College department of agriculture, and the University of Hawaii School of Public Health.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Harris, Betty Jo, 1934-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Harris, Betty Jo, 1934---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## 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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, December 13, 2019. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:16 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:08 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:23 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:48 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bettye Jo Harris, Section A2019\_141\_001\_007, TRT: 7:25:38 ?