Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Carmelita Hogan Washington

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2006-011

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Springfield, Illinois native Carmelita Hogan Washington graduated from Feitshans High School and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU-C). She worked in human resources at the SIU School of Medicine and Sangamon State/University of Illinois-Springfield and discusses the transformation of SSU to UIS. She also discusses activities of her youth; her family; and service activities of her sorority.

Interview date(s): March 6, 2006

Interview Location: Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: audio cassette

Interviewer: Barbara Dickerman

Transcription by: The Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Marian Goza, Christy Barcus, Cheryl Pence

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Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract

Carmelita Hogan Washington Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

Biographical Information and Synopsis: Carmelita Hogan Washington was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois, the fourth of six children. She discusses childhood activities and her neighborhood, growing up on South Fifteenth and South Nineteenth Streets. She attended Iles Elementary School, Washington Middle School, and Feitshans High School, where she graduated in 1967. Carmelita then attended Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, majoring in history and graduating in 1971. When she moved back to Springfield, she worked for a few months for the Springfield public schools, and then spent ten years at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and twenty-five years at Sangamon State University/ University of Illinois-Springfield, working in the human resources departments. She volunteered as a cheerleading coach for the Southeast Packers and worked with the NAACP in the Youth Council. Carmelita discusses her membership in the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, both on the undergraduate and the graduate (alumnae) levels, and the service work that the graduate chapter performs locally. She also discusses, in detail, the transformation of Sangamon State University to University of Illinois at Springfield and several of the faculty and administrators that she had worked with.

Topics Covered: Springfield, Illinois, 1950s – present; Saint Luke's Episcopal Church; Community Action Agency; Boys and Girls Club; Sangamon State University; University of Illinois-Springfield; Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; Velma Carey; Homer Butler; Yula Jones; Terri Jackson; Sigma Gamma Rho sorority; NAACP

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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