



Guide to the Anna Bailey oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Bailey, Anna (Anna E.) (1921-2005)
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women Oral History Project
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women in Gaming and Entertainment Oral History Project
Contributor:	African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project
Contributor:	Women's Research Institute of Nevada
Title:	Anna Bailey oral history interview
ID:	OH-00096
Date:	1997 March 03
Physical Description:	7 Digital Files (0.197 GB) PDF/A, MP3
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Anna Bailey conducted by Claytee White on March 03, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Bailey opens her interview by describing her early life, family, and dance training. She discusses moving to Los Angeles, California at age fifteen, her first dancing gigs, and touring in London, England. She also talks about her experiences as an African American dancer including issues with segregation while touring in the southern United States. Bailey then discusses her life in Las Vegas, Nevada in the 1950s, and working as a dancer at the Moulin Rouge. She describes the club, the other dancers that performed there, and how the African American community felt when the club closed. Bailey then discusses how her husband and the entertainers Josephine Baker and Frank Sinatra helped integrate Las Vegas. She ends her interview by describing the last hotel she danced at, the Flamingo, where she performed in an integrated dance line.

Preferred Citation

Anna Bailey oral history interview, 1997 March 03. OH-00096. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with Anna Bailey conducted by Claytee White on March 03, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Bailey opens her interview by describing her early life, family, and dance training. She discusses moving to Los Angeles, California at age fifteen, her first dancing gigs, and touring in London, England. Bailey then discusses working as a principle dancer in the Bronx, New York. She also talks about her experiences as an African American dancer including issues with segregation while touring in the southern United States. Bailey then discusses her life in Las Vegas, Nevada in the 1950s, and working as a dancer at the Moulin Rouge. She describes the club, the other dancers that performed there, and how the African American community felt when the club closed. Bailey then discusses her husband's career in television and how her husband and the entertainers Josephine Baker and Frank Sinatra helped integrate Las Vegas. She ends her interview by describing the last hotel she danced at, the Flamingo, where she performed in an integrated dance line. Bailey started a gambling house business after her dance career ended named Sugar Hill. Digital audio and transcript available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Advanced notice is required.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada, part of the UNLV College of Liberal Arts Department of History. Materials from this oral history project were

transferred to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives on an ongoing basis ending in 2017; acquisition number 2017-017.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by Karla Irwin in 2017 and 2018. Access copies were created for digitized and/or born-digital audio and transcript files. Hana Gutierrez wrote the collection description. Audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada and by an external vendor into a digital format.

Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives. See call number: F850.N4 B35 1997

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource will provide additional information related the materials in this collection:

Women's Research Institute of Nevada Oral History Records, 1995-2015. UA-00084. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Dancers
- African American women -- Nevada -- Clark County
- Businesspeople -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Segregation -- Nevada
- Moulin Rouge (Hotel-Casino : Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Flamingo Hotel & Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Physical Access Note

Audio cassettes for this interview were digitized by both the Women's Research Institute of Nevada and UNLV Special Collections and Archives. Duplicate versions of audio files may be included in the digital access files for this interview.

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