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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: National Zoological Park, Easter Monday Interviews
Identifier: Record Unit 9615
Date: 2003
Extent: 12 audiotapes (reference copies).
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Prefered Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9615, National Zoological Park, Easter Monday Interviews

Historical Note
After the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park opened in 1891, families began visiting the National Zoo on the Monday after Easter Sunday. Many of the visitors were African Americans who worked as domestics and had the day off after the Easter Sunday. Easter Monday at the National Zoo soon became a traditional African American family event. Especially popular among the many children were the Easter egg rolls down Lion-Tiger Hill in the park. The Easter Monday tradition has continued to the present, especially as an African American family celebration.

Introduction
The Smithsonian Institution Archives began its Oral History Program in 1973. The purpose of the program is to supplement the written documentation of the Archives' record and manuscript collections with an Oral History Collection, focusing on the history of the Institution, research by its scholars, and contributions of its staff. Program staff conduct interviews with current and retired Smithsonian staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institution. There are also reminiscences and interviews recorded by researchers or students on topics related to the history of the Smithsonian or the holdings of the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

The National Zoological Park Easter Monday Oral History Interviews were recorded by the Smithsonian History Division to document this cultural tradition in Washington, D.C.
Descriptive Entry

On 21 April 2003, Pamela M. Henson, of the Institutional History Division, Smithsonian Institution Archives, and Jeffrey Hyson, assistant professor at St. Joseph's College, conducted interviews with twelve zoo visitors on Easter Monday about their families' Easter Monday traditions and reminiscences of past Easter Monday visits to the National Zoo. Interviewees were Justine Love, Tyrone Parker, Donald Isaac, Clarence Miles, Antoinette Archie, Delois Jackson, Joyce Madyun, Benet Durant, John Matthews, Marie Reardon Dudley, Harold Flood, and Lorraine Miller.

This collection contains twelve interview sessions, totaling approximately 6 hours of recording. There are two generations of tape for each session: original audiotape cassettes and reference audiotape cassettes. In total, this collection is comprised of 12 original audiotape cassettes and 12 reference copy audiotape cassettes. The original tapes are reserved in preservation storage. The interviews have not been transcribed.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- African American families -- Social life and customs
- African Americans -- History
- Celebrations
- Easter
- Easter eggs
- Family recreation
- Zoos

Types of Materials:
- Audiotapes
- Interviews
- Oral history

Names:
- Archie, Antoinette
- Archie, Antoinette, interviewee
- Dudley, Marie Reardon
- Dudley, Marie Reardon, interviewee
- Durant, Benet
- Durant, Benet, interviewee
- Easter Monday
- Flood, Harold
- Flood, Harold, interviewee
- Henson, Pamela M., interviewer
- Hyson, Jeffrey Nugent, interviewer
- Issac, Donald
- Issac, Donald, interviewee
- Jackson, Delois
Jackson, Delois, interviewee
Love, Justine
Love, Justine, interviewee
Madyun, Joyce
Madyun, Joyce, interviewee
Matthews, John
Matthews, John, interviewee
Miller, Lorraine
Miller, Lorraine, interviewee
National Zoological Park (U.S.)
Parker, Tyrone
Parker, Tyrone, interviewee
Container Listing

Box 1

Audio Recordings of Interviews

Box 1 of 1  Interview 1: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 2: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 3: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 4: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 5: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 6: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 7: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 8: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 9: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 10: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 11: 21 April 2003
Box 1 of 1  Interview 12: 21 April 2003