

Collection #
DVD 1346

**DELORES ELDORA JOHNSON
ORAL HISTORY, OCTOBER 2015**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 DVD

COLLECTION
DATES: October, 2015

PROVENANCE: Delores Eldora Johnson, Indianapolis, IN; March, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Delores Eldora Johnson was born in Boulder, Colorado. The daughter of a minister, Delores had seven brothers and sisters. She eventually moved in with a foster family in Denver with two of her siblings. Rather than enrolling Delores in school, her foster mother had her begin domestic work at thirteen years old. At the age of fifteen, Delores had her first child. She later moved to New York and her foster mother took care of her child. While in New York, Delores worked as a laundress. Delores had two more children while living in Buffalo, New York. She returned to Denver with her two children to learn that her first child had died.

Delores moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming where she met a man in the armed forces. They were married and had three children. They later moved to Laredo, Texas, where Delores learned to speak Spanish. The couple eventually divorced. Sometime later, Delores moved to Indianapolis. She continued to do domestic work but later held jobs with the *Indianapolis Recorder*, as a taxicab driver and dispatcher, and as a florist's apprentice. Delores opened her own flower shop near Indiana Avenue. It was named Van and Charco, after her children, and she ran it for nearly twenty years.

In 1990, Delores earned her GED. She received her first college degree at seventy-four years old. In addition to two degrees from IUPUI, Delores also earned an Associate of Science in Human Services and a Technical Certificate in Early Childhood Education from Ivy Tech Community College. She graduated in May 2017 from Ivy Tech with another degree, an Associate of Arts in Fine Art. Delores also spent her time volunteering at organizations that included Unicef, the American Cancer Society, Wishard volunteers with Ezkenazi Health, and Indy Reads.

Sources:

Chappel, Ebony Marie. "Never too old to learn: Oldest community college graduate reflects." *Indianapolis Recorder*, May 11, 2017.

http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/news/article_64c7d016-3655-11e7-8b7e-4f7a5448a31f.html

Collection materials.

Ivy Tech Community College. "#definesuccess, Delores 'GG' Eldora Johnson." Accessed February 14, 2018. <https://www.ivytech.edu/15663.html#ggjohnson>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a DVD of an oral history interview with Delores Eldora Johnson. Joshua M Phillippe interviewed Delores at Ivy Tech Community College in October 2015. The DVD contains two digital video files of the interview.

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Delores Eldora Johnson oral history, October 2015

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