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## Guide to the Erna P. Harris Papers

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## Guide to the Erna P. Harris Papers

### Collection number: MS 54

African American Museum & Library at Oakland  
Oakland, California

Processed by:

Sean Heyliger

Date Completed:

09/05/2013

Encoded by:

Sean Heyliger

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Erna P. Harris papers

**Dates:** circa 1890s-1995

**Collection number:** MS 54

**Creator:** Harris, Erna P.

**Collection Size:** .5 linear feet (1 box)

**Repository:** African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Abstract:** Erna P. Harris Papers consists of photographs of family and friends of Erna P. Harris, Gaynelle Harris' certificates attending school in Enid, Oklahoma, and assorted printed material.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

### Access Restrictions

Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

### Publication Rights

Permission to publish from the Erna P. Harris Papers must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

### Preferred Citation

Erna P. Harris papers, MS 54, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.

### Processing Information

Processed by Sean Heyliger, 09/05/2013.

### Biography / Administrative History

Journalist and peace activist Erna P. Harris (1908-1995) was born on June 29, 1908 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma to James E. and Francis Harris. After attending segregated schools in Oklahoma, she attended Wichita State University because of its stance on integrated education. While at Wichita State, she served as a reporter and editor of the school's newspaper, *The Sunflower*, and graduated with a B.A. in journalism in 1936. Upon graduation, she had difficulty finding a position as a reporter, so she decided to start her own newspaper, *The Kansas Journal*, in 1936. The weekly newspaper had a circulation of over 500 and operated for 3 1/2 years until an editorial opposing conscription in October 1939 angered readers and forced the withdrawal of many of the newspaper's advertisers.

In 1941, she moved to Los Angeles and was hired as a reporter for the *Los Angeles Tribune*. She wrote an editorial column for the Tribune, Reflections in a Crackt Mirror, where she regularly wrote about controversial issues such as questioning the constitutionality of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. She was also active in a number of pacifist and civil rights organizations such as the War Resisters League, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and CORE.

In 1952 she moved to Berkeley, California where she operated a print shop and continued to be active in a number of peace and civil rights organizations. She was appointed to the National Board of the Women's International League for

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Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1956 and regularly traveled to WILPF congresses in Europe and Asia. She was a member of the WILPF delegation that traveled to the U.S.S.R. in 1964 to participate in the U.S.-Soviet Women's Seminar in Moscow that sought to build peaceful ties between women in the two countries. Harris was also active in many CO-OPs in the Berkeley area, working closely with the Consumers' Cooperative of Berkeley, Books Unlimited, CO-OP Legal Services, and U.A. Housing, Inc.

For her contributions to peace and human rights, Harris was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the Urban Black Studies Department of the Graduate Theological Union in 1978.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

Erna P. Harris Papers consists of photographs of family and friends of Erna P. Harris, Gaynelle Harris' certificates attending school in Enid, Oklahoma, and assorted printed material. Photographs include a few portraits of Erna Harris, though the majority of the photographs are portraits of Harris family and friends. The papers also include Erna Harris' funeral program, an address book, a book review, a recipe for banana angel food cake, and assorted political and CO-OP buttons.

### **Arrangement**

Series I. Photographs Series II. Gaynelle Harris Series III. Assorted printed material Series IV. Buttons

### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog. Harris, Erna P.

African American families--California.

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### **Photographs**

**Physical Description:** 108 photographs

#### **Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes photographs of family and friends of Erna P. Harris.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged by photograph identification number.

Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable, inscribed: 'To Aunt Annabelle with all my love, Lynda' [001] 1961</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of a young woman, caption: 'Karen' [002] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of a girl [003] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of a woman, C.C. Stotz photographer, Fort Reno, Indian Territory [004] circa 1890s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of a young man [005] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Man standing in park holding his hat [006] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Gaynelle Harris standing on sidewalk [007] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Erna P. Harris sitting behind men and women seated at banquet table with microphones [008] circa 1964</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of Cecil Edward McLinn, Roberts Studio, Los Angeles, California, inscribed: 'To Aunt Annabelle Love, Cecil' [009] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Group of women seated at banquet table [010] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Edna Harris at the Moscow Kremlin [011] circa 1964</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Family standing on steps [012] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:1	<b>Portrait of man in backyard [013] 1961</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Baseball player wearing San Juan baseball uniform [014] circa 1900s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Two men in suits standing next to billboard [015] 1926</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Delbert Venerable wearing sunglasses, reverse: 'To Aunt Annabelle I send love from Delbert' [016] 1961</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a baby girl [017] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Baby girl standing on sidewalk holding a stuffed animal [018] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Baby girl standing on sidewalk, reverse: 'Karen Haynes' [019] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a baby boy, reverse: 'Thad Mitchel' [020] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a baby, reverse: 'Melbry Mitchel' [021] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a baby, inscribed, 'To my dear aunt Love, Tiffany' [022] circa 1950s</b>

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Box 1:2	<b>Nellie Lutcher Capitol Records publicity still, inscribed: 'Best wishes Nellie Lutcher' [023] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Unidentified man in a suit [024] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Woman kneeling next to toddler along roadside, reverse: 'Gay &amp; Francis Cherri' [025] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Man and woman embracing along roadside [026] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Man and woman sitting on rock, reverse: 'Lela and husband' [027] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Woman holding baby standing in front of brick building with Atlanta-Seattle-San Antonio banner, reverse: 'To grandmother: this is my godmother holding me June 10, 1946 6 months' [028] 1946</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Baby girl sitting on sidewalk, reverse: 'Karen Hayes' [029] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of man in backyard, inscribed: 'Love from the father July 21, 1961' [030] 1961</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Photo booth portrait of Cecil Edward McLinn [031] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Photo booth portrait of young woman [032] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Photo booth portrait of young woman [033] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Photo booth portrait of young woman [034] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable, inscribed: 'To the sweetest woman in the world Mrs. Harris Love, Lynda "B" V. 59" [035] 1959</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Graduation portrait of young man in cap and gown [036] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a Cecil Edward McLinn [037] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Man and two women sitting in chairs in backyard [038] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Bill and Jim Hopkins sitting on front lawn [039] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Ronnie Scott [040] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a boy [041] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a boy [042 A/B] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a woman [043] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of a woman [044] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Frederick Marc [045] 1974</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Ronnie Scott [046] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Karen Hopkins [047] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Karen E. Banks [048] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Eric Owens [049] 1962</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Lloyd D. [050] 1961</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable [051] 1963</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Ruby Owens [052 A/B] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable [053] 1964</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable [054] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Susan [-] [055] 1963</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Portrait of Erna P. Harris [056] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Woman sitting on couch holding a glass [057] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Karen Haynes standing in front lawn [058] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Woman standing in living room in black dress [059] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:2	<b>Man standing in store [060] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Woman and three children standing next to car [061] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Robin Nicole Cooley sitting next to birthday cake [062] 1974</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Girl in living room [063] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Jim, Bill, and Ker[-] Hopkins sitting outdoors [064] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>David Edward McLinn lying on blanket in living room [065] 1976</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Boy opening Easter basket [066] circa 1970s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Gay [-] sitting at the base of palm tree [067] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Gay [-] and Lela [-] sitting on front steps [068] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Christmas card portrait of three children, inscribed: 'To Aunt Annabelle from Charles, Lisa, and Donna Brown' [069] 1962</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Man sitting in chair with feet on stool, reverse: 'So this is the way the other half lives!' [070] 1957</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Delbert Venerable wearing sunglasses [071] 1961</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Delbert and Lynda Venerable posing at Disneyland [072] 1961</b>

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Box 1:3	<b>Baby boy dressed as a cowboy riding a pony [073] circa 1930s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Woman and boy in front yard [074] 1960</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Woman holding a baby standing in front of house, reverse: 'Charles' wife and baby' [075] circa 1930s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Portrait of Birdalee Jordan Williams [076] circa 1920s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Rosie Scott and Oscar Garnet sitting on couch [077] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Captain Charles Owens' family dressed in Japanese kimonos [078] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Cecil Edward McLinn dressed in army uniform standing on front steps [079] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Three girls and a boy standing on walkway next to peddle car looking up at camera [080] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Mike McLinn standing next to door with arm raised [081] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Man standing in backyard [082] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Woman and boy standing on front steps [083] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Woman and girl standing in driveway [084] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Baby sitting in chair holding a stuffed animal [085] 1961</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Family standing in the Hollywood hills, reverse: 'Delbert, Mr. Cricton, Daddy, Lynda, Lloyd' [086] 1958</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Barbara Haynes standing with back to the camera [087] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Barbara Haynes sitting on couch [088] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Barbara Haynes and two women in dining room [089] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Helen Hopkins standing in entryway of house [090] 1961</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Two men at the beach [091] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Boy standing in backyard next to pool [092] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Mike McLinn standing in front of trailer in costume [093] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Man and woman dancing in living room [094] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Rosie Scott and Nicky Owens sitting on couch [095] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Charles Owens sitting in chair [096] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Man and woman sitting on couch [097] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Girl standing in backyard next to agave cactus, reverse: 'Karen' [098] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Gaynelle Harris standing in backyard next to agave cactus with arms crossed [099] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Gaynelle Harris and Teretha [-] standing next to house [100] circa 1951</b>
Box 1:3	<b>Portrait of Lynda Venerable [101] 1967</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Barbara Haynes standing with back to the camera [102] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Portrait of Cecil and Mike McLinn in sailor's uniforms [103] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Portrait of Nickie Owens [104] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Girl and two boys sitting on Santa Claus' lap [105 A/B] circa 1940s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Girl cutting into merry-go-round cake with knife [106] circa 1950s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Portrait of Erna P. Harris [107] circa 1960s</b>
Box 1:4	<b>Portrait of Owen Jr. [108] circa 1960s</b>
	<b>Gaynelle Harris</b>
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folder
	<b>Series Scope and Content Summary</b>
	Includes Gaynelle Harris' report card and junior high certificate from Enid Oklahoma schools, and <i>The Book of Happiness</i> .
	<b>Arrangement</b>
	Arranged by format.
Box 1:5	<b><i>The Book of Happiness</i> circa 1918</b>
Box 1:5	<b>Report of Gaynelle Harris, Booker T. Washington Enid High School 1934</b>
Box 1:5	<b>Enid Junior High School certificate 1933</b>

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**Assorted printed material**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes Erna P. Harris' funeral program, a personal directory, retirement luncheon program, and a recipe for banana angel food cake.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by format.

Box 1:6

**Personal directory circa 1980s**

Box 1:6

**Erna Prather Harris funeral program 1995**

Box 1:6

**Retirement luncheon for Lela McLinn program 1980**

Box 1:6

**Assorted notes undated**

Box 1:6

**Book review, *Benjamin Banneker: A Plan of Peace-Office for the United States* undated**

Box 1:6

**Banana angel food cake recipe undated**

**Assorted printed material**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes Erna P. Harris' CO-OP Board of Directors buttons and assorted political campaign buttons.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by subject.

Box 1:7

**Ronald Dellums and Mondale/Ferraro political campaign buttons circa 1980s**

Box 1:7

**Erna Harris' CO-OP Board of Directors buttons circa 1980s**