

California State University, San Bernardino

## CSUSB ScholarWorks

---

Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video  
Recordings

Bridges That Carried Us Over Digital Archive

---

2-24-2023

### Gilbert Green

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation, "Gilbert Green" (2023). *Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video Recordings*. 63.

<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/63>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Bridges That Carried Us Over Digital Archive at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video Recordings by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@csusb.edu](mailto:scholarworks@csusb.edu).

# Bridges That Carried Us Over Project

## Interview Summary

**Interviewee:**  
Gilbert Green

**Interviewer:**  
Unknown

**Interview Date:**  
February 24, 2023

**Interview Location:**  
San Bernardino, CA

**Length:**  
00:06:29

**Interview Summary completed by:**  
M. Camacho Nuno, 2024

### Description:

In this interview, Gilbert Green is the guest. He speaks on how he went to San Gorgonio High School from 1975 to 1978. Though he didn't participate as much in the BSU, Green tells how his teacher Ms. Doby was in charge of it and taught the Black national anthem. The latter was related to baseball star Jackie Robinson. It stuck with Green for decades and at an HBCU baseball game in Seattle, he was on the big screen. He then goes on to talk about how American history is not taught with important events and information. Answering the interviewer's questions, Green ends the video with memories of racial tensions where White high schoolers would chase the local Black middle schoolers.

### Subject Topic:

- High School
- Black National Anthem
- Jackie Robinson
- Larry Doby
- HBCU/Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Baseball
- Racial Tensions in School

### Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
California State University, San Bernardino	5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino, CA 92407
San Gorgonio High School	2299 Pacific St, San Bernardino, CA 92404

**Temporal Coverage:**

1975 - 2023

**Key Events:**

- Green attends San Geronio High School from 1975 to 1978.
- Being in the BSU somewhat.
- The Black national anthem and how he remembers it to this day.
- The same anthem and what had happened at the Seattle baseball game.
- Obstacles of teaching American historical events at the time of the interview.
- Memories of racial tension.

**Key Organizations:**

- BSU
- HBCU/Historically Black Colleges and Universities

**Interview Index:**

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:00:17 - 00:01:29	Green's memory of the Black national anthem.
Digital Video	00:02:07 - 00:03:16	Green's discussion about the HBCU baseball game in Seattle.
Digital Video	00:04:09 - 00:06:15	Memories of racial tension between middle schoolers and high schoolers.

**Related Materials**

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Bridges That Carried Us Over Project at CSUSB, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>

**Full interview transcript can be found below.**

## Interview Transcript

### **Start of Interview:**

[00:00:00]

GILBERT GREEN: My first name is [Gilbert?], my last name is [Green?].

Q: Thank you, Gilbert, and from what year to what year did you go to high school and what high school did you go to?

GILBERT GREEN: I went to San Gorgonio High School from September '75 through June of '78.

Q: And you were in the BSU.

GILBERT GREEN: Yes. But I didn't attend all the meetings because I was in sports and doing other things and stuff. However, the BSU, like the leader of the BSU is [Doby?]. [Joyce?] Doby. I had her history classes. I had like maybe two or three of her --

Q: Was she Black?

GILBERT GREEN: Oh, yes, absolutely, she was a Black history, and she got the BSU programs going. And encouraged the students. They were held in her classroom.

Q: Oh, okay.

GILBERT GREEN: Yes. So what I really truly remember about Ms. Doby was what I [00:01:00] learned from her and it sounds simple but it's really stuck with me forever, is the Black national anthem. I know the song. Lift every voice. I love it. I learned that song in Ms. Doby's classroom. She taught me that song when I was probably a sophomore in high school. And then Ms. Doby also, story goes that she was related to a very famous baseball player who broke the color barrier right around the same time Jackie Robinson did whose name is Larry Doby who played for the Cleveland Indians. Jackie Robinson's story was bigger because he played

for the Dodgers. But Larry Doby who rumored to be was relative of [00:02:00] I think her name was Joyce Doby. But she was just a remarkable woman. I just remember. And then to top it all off I went to the HBCU baseball game in Seattle just two months ago.

Q: Oh wow.

GILBERT GREEN: Okay. And they had all the schools there from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, there was just tons of them, Georgia, everybody was there, all of the Black colleges, and then they had one championship game of course. I went to the championship game. And happened so that we're singing the national anthem and then they put me on the big screen.

Q: Oh wow. Now was it the Negro national anthem that you were --

GILBERT GREEN: Yes. Yes. It was at the HBCU [00:03:00] classic game.

Q: Just recently.

GILBERT GREEN: It was July 10<sup>th</sup>. This year, that's right.

Q: Oh my goodness. So all from learning it from Ms. Doby to now.

GILBERT GREEN: Two months ago. I still carry it with me.

Q: Beautiful, beautiful.

GILBERT GREEN: I still carry with me all the things that I've learned in history. I don't claim to be the smartest man in history but there is some I know and some that we've taught that's -- and history these days you see I don't know what the hell these terms mean. What is woke and all that crap? I think it's just crap. I think basically they don't want to teach these kids about slavery. Bottom line. Okay. Because they don't want to teach these kids that --

Q: The truth.

GILBERT GREEN: Their forefathers were assholes. [00:04:00] Let's keep it real.

Q: Okay, I'm going to stop, no, yeah. You're right. And talking about that, and

talking about breaking racial barriers, because I know that they were desegregating schools, do you remember anything happening while you were in high school about that?

GILBERT GREEN: Well, we didn't get along with them white boys very well. And they didn't like us. And I didn't have a lot of problems myself per se. But I knew of other students that did. But they stood up. They -- like let's go. Y'all want, this is how you want to handle it? Let's do it. And I do recall some other students that, see, I got bused over there from the west side of town, because I lived in San Bernardino and San Gorgonio is in Highland. Most of us [00:05:00] here, a lot of us here, were bused. And we went through probably more at junior high school level and then at the high school level for me a lot it was -- it wasn't gone. By any stretch of the imagination.

Q: One person told me that the high schoolers used to go down to the middle schools and harass the middle schoolers. Do you remember anything like that?

GILBERT GREEN: Well, see, I was going to get to that. I do recall some kids that lived on the east side of town near the school. This is in junior high school. They were seventh, eighth, ninth graders, our issue was like in the ninth grade or eighth grade. But yes. These white boys would come down from San Gorgonio and they basically would chase some of these Black kids home. Some of my friends. My dear friends. Yes. Yes. Yes. True story. I heard [00:06:00] more than once. I was shocked to hear it. Yeah, I was shocked.

Q: Okay, it never happened to you but --

GILBERT GREEN: Well, no, because I was bused.

Q: Oh, okay, so these are the --

GILBERT GREEN: The kids that lived near the school, the Black kids that lived on that side of town.

Q: They harassed them.

GILBERT GREEN: They harassed them.

Q: Wow.

GILBERT GREEN: But I wouldn't trade it for the world. My high school experience was great. I loved it. It made me who I am today.

Q: And you know what, we're --

**End of Interview:**

[00:06:29]