

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bill Campbell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Campbell, Bill, 1950 May 25-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell,
Dates:	May 3, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:05:42).
Abstract:	Television personality Bill Campbell (1950 - 2021) was the award-winning host and producer of WLS-7's 'Chicagoing'. Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Campbell has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to the community, and received the Chicago Urban League's Beautiful People Award in 1985. Campbell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 3, 2001, in Evanston, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_008
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

As host and producer of WLS-7's 'Chicagoing' and Director of Community Services, Bill Campbell has been bridging the gap between media and community his entire adult career. Born on Chicago's historic South Side, on May 25, 1950, Campbell was surrounded by the arts and sciences. His father was a chemist who graduated with honors from the University of Chicago and his mother was a visual artist who attended the School of the Art Institute along with such notables as Gordon Parks. Campbell fondly recalls his childhood, growing up in a building owned and inhabited entirely by his extended family. Upon graduating from Carleton College in Minnesota with a B.A. in Urban Studies, he worked as a Program Specialist in the Office of the Mayor, and later as the Director of Communications for the Chicago Urban League.

In 1978, Campbell was hired as Director of Community Services and soon thereafter began hosting and producing the popular weekly news magazine show, "Chicagoing". For his work, Campbell has been awarded three Chicago Emmy Awards for Outstanding Editorial Achievement.

Aside from his activities at WLS-TV, Campbell sits on several advisory boards, including the Board of Directors for the National Conference For Community and Justice (NCCJ)-Northern Illinois, and the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board for the City of Chicago. Campbell has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to the community, receiving the Chicago Urban League's Beautiful People Award in 1985; the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award from St. Sabina Church in 1984 and Communications Excellence Award from the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce in 1988.

Campbell passed away on March 17, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bill Campbell was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on May 3, 2001, in Evanston, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Television personality Bill Campbell (1950 - 2021) was the award-winning host and producer of WLS-7's Chicagoing. Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Campbell has been recognized numerous times for his contributions to the community, and received the Chicago Urban League's Beautiful People Award in 1985.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Campbell, Bill, 1950 May 25-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Campbell, Bill, 1950 May 25---Interviews

African American television producers and directors--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American television personalities--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

WLS-TV (Television station : Chicago, Ill.)

Occupations:

Television Host

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell, May 3, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell, Section A2001_008_001_001, TRT: 0:34:24 ?

This segment opens with 20+ photos of Bill Campbell, spanning his birth to adulthood. He also shares his favorite things and some of his family history. His maternal grandfather was an active supporter of Wilberforce University of Ohio. He discusses his father's background as a scientist, educated at the University of Chicago, who could only find a position as a lab technician even though he held a master's degree. Campbell closes with a recollection of his first encounter with being on television, a harbinger of things to come.

Photographs.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

African American chemists--Employment--Illinois--Chicago.

African Americans on television.

Wilberforce University.

University of Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell, Section A2001_008_001_002, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Bill Campbell recounts his childhood and a once in a lifetime chance to interview Bill Cosby for his high school paper. He remembers the kindness of Daddy-O Dailey in securing the interview and Daddy-O's impact on the future of his career. Campbell also offers his perspective on segregation and racism he observed and experienced in Chicago as a youth. Growing up in the Roseland neighborhood, Campbell details how the construction of the Dan Ryan Expressway symbolized the schism between races and how it even impacts him today.

Childhood--Roseland (Chicago, Ill.).

Cosby, Bill, 1937-

Daylie, Daddio.

Racism--African American children--Illinois--Chicago.

Dan Ryan Expressway (Chicago, Ill.).

Journalism, High school--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell, Section A2001_008_001_003, TRT: 0:31:17 ?

Bill Campbell recounts a great story of how he ended up attending Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and talks about Carleton's enduring imprint on his life. Campbell tells the story of how he and some fellow classmates lobbied for the inclusion of Africa in Carleton's study abroad program, of which he was part of the first group of students to travel there. After a harrowing medical crisis in France, Campbell recalls his near-death experience and its impact on dealing with his mother's death and his personal philosophy. Finally, Campbell talks about transitioning from college to the working world and how he moved from working for the Urban League to Mayor Richard J. Daley's administration to WLS-Channel 7 in Chicago.

Death.

Carleton College (Northfield, Minn.).

Chicago Urban League.

Daley, Richard J., 1902-1976.

African Americans--Foreign study.

Students--Travel.

WLS-TV (Television station : Chicago, Ill.).

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Campbell, Section A2001_008_001_004, TRT: 0:30:11 ?

Bill Campbell recalls his first jobs during and immediately after graduating from

Carleton College and returning to Chicago. President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs provided a multitude of opportunities for young African Americans. Bill Campbell was one of those young graduates who joined the "Model Cities" program, which placed him on the path to his future success. He recounts his desire to work in broadcast television and how he seized the opportunity. After more than 23 years in broadcast journalism, Campbell reflects on the state of African Americans in and on the media. He also discusses the importance of spirituality in guiding his life and hopes his legacy will be one of love and service.

African American television journalists.

Spirituality.

Urban renewal.

Vocational guidance.

United States--Economic policy--1961-1971.