

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Herman Marrel Foushee

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Foushee, H. Marrel (Herman Marrel), 1949-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Herman Marrel Foushee,
Dates:	July 18, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:35).
Abstract:	Financial chief executive and radio host Herman Marrel Foushee (1949 -) was the owner of Foushee's Tax and Financial Management Services and Foushee's Business Management Services. He also served in a number of federal and local government posts with the Department of Energy and the D.C. Youth Services Administration, and was active in broadcasting with a weekly radio shows offering business and tax advice for thirteen years. Foushee was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 18, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_160
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Businessman H. Marrel Foushee was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on June 26, 1949, the oldest of eight children. After graduating from high school in 1967, he joined the U.S. Air Force, and in 1972 enrolled at Howard University on a football scholarship, earning a B.A. in political science with honors in just two and a half years. He later returned to earn an M.P.A. in 1977.

Foushee started his career with an internship at the National Bureau of Standards in 1974. After completing his M.A., Foushee went to work at Public Technology, Inc., as the assistant to the director, where he liaised with federal authorities as part of its Urban Consortium Program. In 1978, he founded Foushee's Tax and Financial Management Services, where he remains president. He has also spent significant time working for federal and local governments, serving with the Department of Energy as a program analyst and with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. From 1984 to 1987, he served as chief of the Washington, D.C. Office of Paternity and Child Support, and from 1989 to 1991 as an executive assistant and acting administrator in the D.C. Youth Services Administration. The mayor of Washington, D.C., appointed Foushee to the Department of Public Works as administrator of facilities management, where he served from 1996 to 1997.

Foushee has also been active in the media, working as an on-air personality for WHUR, the Howard University radio station, offering tax advice for thirteen years between 1982 and 1995. He expanded out to WDCU in 1992, producing and hosting *Business Digest* for three years. Foushee expanded his own personal business in 1997, opening Foushee's Business Management Services, where he is managing partner.

Over his career, Foushee has received many awards, including the Outstanding Professional of Washington, D.C., in 1987 and a Presidential Citation from the D.C. Chamber of Commerce. He has also been listed in *Who's Who in Black Corporate America*. He serves on the board of the Howard University Small Business Development Center and on the Metropolitan Baptist Church Foundation. He is also a founder of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators and was the first president of the Black M.B.A. Association of Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Herman Marrel Foushee was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 18, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Financial chief executive and radio host Herman Marrel Foushee (1949 -) was the owner of Foushee's Tax and Financial Management Services and Foushee's Business Management Services. He also served in a number of federal and local government posts with the Department of Energy and the D.C. Youth Services Administration, and was active in broadcasting with a weekly radio shows offering business and tax advice for thirteen years.

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:

Foushee, H. Marrel (Herman Marrel), 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Foushee, H. Marrel (Herman Marrel), 1949---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Radio 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 Herman Marrel Foushee, July 18, 2003. 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 Herman Marrel Foushee, Section A2003_160_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Herman Marrel Foushee was born on June 26, 1949 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. His mother, Betty Holman Foushee, was born on April 29, 1934 in Orange County, North Carolina to Golden Holman and George Holman. Her father and grandfather were both bricklayers, and her grandparents were given eighty acres of land after they were freed from slavery. Foushee's father, Herbert Foushee, was born in the early 1930s in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and worked as a truck driver. Foushee was the oldest of nine children, and was sent to live with his father's cousin, Isih Foushee, after his father's death in 1964. He attended the segregated Northside Elementary School and Philips Junior High School, where he excelled as a student. He joined the Congress of Racial Equality [CORE] and participated in Civil Rights activities including the sit-ins at Colonial Drugstore (aka Big John Drugstore) in 1962. Foushee attended the integrated Chapel Hill High School and First Baptist Church.

Video Oral History Interview with Herman Marrel Foushee, Section A2003_160_001_002, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Herman Marrel Foushee attended Guy B. Phillips Junior High School and Chapel Hill High School, where he was placed on the medical/technical track because he was black, but later he switched to the college preparatory track. He remembers performing in a production of "Show Boat". He also talks about being challenged to teach his economics class and being given an A his work. During high school, Foushee also ran for class treasurer and became the first black quarterback on the football team to be recognized. After graduating in 1967, Foushee enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in the intelligence division at Grissom Air Force Base in Indiana and Amarillo Air Force Base in Texas, before being trained at the Judge Advocate General's office at Newport Naval Base in Rhode Island. Foushee was stationed in Korea during the Vietnam War, where he became the night manager of the Airmen's Club, started the Brotherhood Association Servicemen, and helped to resolve racial conflicts within the Air Force.

Video Oral History Interview with Herman Marrel Foushee, Section A2003_160_001_003, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Herman Marrel Foushee left the U.S. Air Force on October 2, 1971 and moved to Washington, D.C. In February of 1972, Foushee enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. with money from a football scholarship and the G.I. Bill. In 1974, Foushee was hired by the National Bureau of Standards, where he worked with Dr. Howard Sorrows in the Office of Long Range Planning. At the same time, Foushee received his B.A. degree in business and political science in 1974 and his M.A. degree in public administration in 1977. In 1977, he became an assistant director at Public Technology, Inc.; and in 1978, he joined the U.S. Department of Energy and started Foushee's Tax and Financial Management Services. From 1984 until 1987, Foushee served as chief of the Office of Child Support and Paternity Enforcement for Washington, D.C., after which he joined the Office of Internal Audit and Contract Monitoring. Foushee reflects on the leadership of HistoryMaker and Mayor Marion Barry and his being caught using crack cocaine.

Video Oral History Interview with Herman Marrel Foushee, Section A2003_160_001_004, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Herman Marrel Foushee worked for the Washington, D.C. government from 1984 until 1998, including positions in the D.C. Youth Services Administration

from 1989 until 1991 and the Department of Public Works from 1996 until 1997. In 1978, Foushee served as the first president of the National Black M.B.A. Association of Washington, D.C. During his interview, he also reflects on his career in business. From 1980 until 1990, Foushee hosted the Tax Tips program for Howard University's WHUR radio station; and from 1991 until 1996, he hosted "Business Digest" on WDCU. Foushee shares his concerns for small and black business owners and reflects on why black-owned businesses have not succeeded when other minority-owned businesses have. He also shares his concerns about professional athletes who do not employ black agents, lawyers, and financial directors.

Video Oral History Interview with Herman Marrel Foushee, Section A2003_160_001_005, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Herman Marrel Foushee continues to share his advice and concerns for African American businesses. He emphasizes that businesses in the service industry are easier than businesses that require inventory, machinery, or offices. He also describes the prominence of the underground economy in the black community, including drug dealers and businesses that are started without the proper government permits. Foushee reflects upon his legacy, his regrets, and how he would like to be remembered. He ends the interview by narrating his photographs.