

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Acel Moore

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moore, Acel, 1940-2016
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Acel Moore,
Dates:	August 5, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:27:40).
Abstract:	Journalism professor and newspaper columnist Acel Moore (1940 - 2016) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper columnist who wrote for the Philadelphia Inquirer for forty years. Moore also hosted Black Perspectives on the News and was a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 5, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_187
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper columnist Acel Moore was born on October 5, 1940, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Moore attended Settlement Music School from 1954 to 1958. Moore served in the United States Army until 1962 and attended the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism from 1964 to 1966.

Moore began his career with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a copy clerk in 1962; in 1964, he became an editorial clerk, and from 1968 to 1981, he worked as a staff writer. In 1970, Moore won the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Scale of Justice Award for his series on the juvenile court system. In 1974, Moore and Reggie Bryant hosted a television show called *Black Perspectives on the News* on Philadelphia's WHYY public television. In 1977, Moore won the Pulitzer Prize for local investigative reporting for his series on abuse of inmates at Fairview State Hospital. From 1980 to 1989, Moore served on the faculty at the University of California at Berkeley and administered the school's summer program for minority journalists; he was also a journalism instructor at Temple University and Florida A&M University, in addition to being a journalism consultant to Northwestern University, Duquesne University, University of Kansas and Norfolk State University.

Moore lectured at several colleges and universities around the country; wrote prolifically; and directed recruitment, training, and staff development for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* where he was associate editor and a member of the editorial board. Moore won the Public Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalism in 1971 and an award from the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors Association in 1974. A founder of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in 1975, Moore was honored with the NABJ 2005 Legacy Award. In 1979, Moore established the Art Peters Fellowship Program, a copy editor internship that launched the careers of over fifty minority journalists. In 1984, Moore created the Journalism Career Development Workshop that trained dozens of Philadelphia high school students; the program was later renamed in Moore's honor. Moore retired from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 2005, after forty years in their employment; after his retirement, he continued to speak

at various special occasions and academic settings, and to write.

Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 5, 2005.

Moore passed away on February 12, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Acel Moore was conducted by Paul Brock on August 5, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Journalism professor and newspaper columnist Acel Moore (1940 - 2016) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper columnist who wrote for the Philadelphia Inquirer for forty years. Moore also hosted Black Perspectives on the News and was a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ).

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:

Moore, Acel, 1940-2016

Brock, Paul (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moore, Acel, 1940-2016 --Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

African Americans in the newspaper industry--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Philadelphia Inquirer (Firm)

Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

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 Acel Moore, August 5, 2005. 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 Acel Moore, Section A2005_187_001_001, TRT: 0:29:19 ?

Acel Moore was born on October 5, 1940 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Hura Harrington Moore and Jerry Acel Moore. Moore's mother was born on November 12, 1913 in Hamlet, North Carolina. Her parents died when she was still young, so she and her five siblings were raised by extended family. While her four brothers were adopted by the Harrington side of the family, she and her sister, Bruce Harrington, were taken in by their maternal aunts and maternal uncle, Bruce Gordan. Gordan was a stevedore and longshoreman in Philadelphia, where he headed a branch of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, one of only two unions to be run by African American men. Moore's mother spent much of her youth with her aunts, who owned a restaurant in Rocky Mount, Virginia. Two of her brothers, Curtis Harrington and Alfred Harrington, served in World War II. Her brother, James Pickett Harrington, retired as a manager for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company after working his way up from janitor.

African American journalists--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

African Americans in the newspaper industry--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Acel Moore, Section A2005_187_001_002, TRT: 0:28:36 ?

Acel Moore's father, Jerry Acel Moore, was born on December 12, 1912 in Atlanta, Georgia. Moore's great-grandfather worked for Atlanta Life Insurance Company. His paternal grandmother, Agnes Moses Moore, attended Atlanta University. His paternal grandfather, Jerry A. Moore, worked with the pharmacist who invented the formula for Coca-Cola. Moore's father was employed at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard during World War II. In the 1920s, Moore's mother, Hura Harrington Moore, moved to Philadelphia with her maternal uncle and guardian, Bruce Gordan, for better job opportunities. She met Moore's father in Philadelphia and married him in 1932. Moore's sister, Geraldine Moore Fisher, was born in 1934, and Moore and his identical twin, Michael Moore, were born six years later. Moore reminisces about his childhood in Philadelphia during World War II. He also describes the discrimination his maternal uncles' experienced in Washington, D.C. during the Great Depression and their U.S. military service during the war.

Video Oral History Interview with Acel Moore, Section A2005_187_001_003, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Acel Moore was influenced by strong male figures like his uncles and his father, Jerry Acel Moore. He describes his relationship with his twin brother, Michael Moore, who became an electrician. Growing up in Philadelphia, Moore encountered Marian Anderson and saw jazz musician Miles Davis perform. Some of his contemporaries, such as the Heath Brothers and Charles Earland, later became well-known musicians. Interested in music from a young age, Moore studied both the trumpet and the French horn. He made the all-city orchestra in both junior high school and while attending Overbrook High School. Upon graduation, Moore performed professionally for a year before joining the U.S. Army and becoming a medic. He was stationed at Fort Sam

Houston in San Antonio, Texas; in Alaska; and at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. While serving, Moore took college correspondence courses. After his discharge, he worked nights as a copy clerk at the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he discovered his interest in journalism.