

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Herbert Randall

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Randall, Herbert, 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Randall,
Dates:	September 28, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:23:55).
Abstract:	Photographer Herbert Randall (1936 -) photographed the Mississippi Freedom Summer's Hattiesburg Project in 1964 and donated his archive of negatives to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Randall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 28, 2007, in Southampton, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_276
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Photographer Herbert Eugene Randall, Jr. was born on December 16, 1936, in Bronx, New York, to factory worker Herbert Randall, Sr., and homemaker Jane Hunter. In 1951, Randall began studying with renowned photographer Harold Feinstein, an artist known for his black-and-white documentary photography. The following year, Randall worked as a freelance photographer for a variety of media organizations, including "Black Star," United Press International and the Associated Press. In 1963, Randall founded an African American photographer's workshop, called the Kamoinge Workshop, in New York City, New York, alongside established photographers Lou Draper, Ray Francis, James Mannas, Herman Howard and Albert Fenner.

In 1964, Randall received a John Hay Whitney Fellowship and was encouraged by Sanford R. Leigh, the Director of Mississippi Freedom Summer's Hattiesburg project, to photograph the effects of the Civil Rights Movement in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Randall photographed volunteers in a variety of projects, including the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party campaign and voter registration drives. One of Randall's most famous photographs was published that summer, the photo of the bloody and concussed Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, head of a prominent Cleveland Congregation and former World War II objector. Randall returned to New York in 1965, and served as supervisor of photography for Bedford Stuyvesant Youth In Action, Inc. In 1968, Randall joined the Brooklyn Children's Museum as a photography instructor, and in his spare time became South Bronx Youth Village's photographic consultant. Between 1970 and 1974, Randall was the New York City Board of Education Multi-Media Project Coordinator of Photography. During this period, Randall was awarded the Creative Artists Public Service (CAPS) Grant for photography.

In 1974, the National Media Center Foundation hired Randall as a photographic consultant, where he would remain until 1981, when he moved to the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, New York, and began working as a custodian and school bus driver. In 1999, Randall donated the his photography archives – nearly 2,000 negatives – to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The school organized a traveling

exhibition consisting of one-hundred of the photographs ending in 2003. University of Southern Mississippi Archivist Bobs M. Tusa joined Randall in 2001, to write "Faces of Freedom Summer," which tells the story of Randall's photographs from Mississippi Freedom Summer. The following year, Randall's work was exhibited as a part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Week celebration at Stanford University. Randall's work has been exhibited at galleries across the country, including the Brooklyn Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Baltimore's Cultural Arts Gallery.

Herbert Eugene Randall, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 28, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Herbert Randall was conducted by Adrienne Jones on September 28, 2007, in Southampton, New York, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Photographer Herbert Randall (1936 -) photographed the Mississippi Freedom Summer's Hattiesburg Project in 1964 and donated his archive of negatives to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

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:

Randall, Herbert, 1936-

Jones, Adrienne (Interviewer)

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Randall, Herbert, 1936---Interviews

African American photographers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Photographer

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Herbert Randall, September 28, 2007. 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 Herbert Randall, Section A2007_276_001_001, TRT: 0:29:26 ?

Herbert Randall was born on December 16, 1936 in Riverhead, New York to Jane Hunter Randall-Paul and Herbert Randall, Sr. In New York, his maternal grandmother, Isabel Yearwood, moved from Montserrat to Long Island. There, she met Randall's grandfather, Benjamin Hunter, who grew up on the island's Shinnecock reservation. They had eight children, the youngest of whom, Randall's mother, was born in 1917 in the village of Greenport on Long Island. Randall's paternal grandfather was a graduate of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Hampton, Virginia; and became a teacher and census worker. Randall's father was born near Richmond, Virginia, and moved to Long Island seeking employment after his father died. Randall spent his early childhood on Long Island; and, around 1940, moved with his parents and older sister, Barbara Randall, to 166th Street and Tinton Avenue in the Bronx, New York. There, Randall's father campaigned as a political candidate for the American Labor Party during the mid-1940s.

African American families--New York (State).

African Americans--Migrations.

Drug use--African Americans.

Segregation in education-New York (State).

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Randall, Section A2007_276_001_002, TRT: 0:29:16 ?

Herbert Randall grew up during the 1950s in the Bronx, New York. There, he accompanied his mother, Jane Hunter Randall-Paul, to the movie theater; and his maternal grandmother, Isabel Yearwood, to church. He began his education at P.S. 23; and went on to attend Manhattan's Food and Maritime Trades Vocational High School, and then the New York City Community College in Brooklyn. While a student there, Randall became interested in photography after reading Langston Hughes and Roy DeCarava's book, 'The Sweet Flypaper of Life.' His friend, Alvin Simon, invited him to see 'The Family of Man,' a photography exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. Randall was impressed by its visual treatment of African Americans, who were often represented in a discriminatory manner. At Simon's suggestion, Randall studied under photographer Harold Feinstein. Then, after serving in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1961, he helped found the Kamoinge Workshop alongside such photographers as DeCarava and Albert Fennar.

Feinstein, Harold.

Photography.

Black Arts movement.

African American photographers.

Kamoinge Inc.

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Randall, Section A2007_276_001_003, TRT: 0:31:11 ?

Herbert Randall was a founding member of the Kamoinge Workshop, a collective of black photographers that was organized in 1963 in New York City's Harlem neighborhood. In 1964, Director Julia Poussaint of Manhattan's SNCC office requested Randall's help to document the Freedom Summer, including voter registration and the Freedom Schools, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He initially turned down the offer, but decided to participate upon meeting the Hattiesburg project's director, Sanford R. Leigh. After being

approved by communications director Julian Bond in Washington, D.C., Randall took part in a SNCC training session in Oxford, Ohio, one week after the disappearance of SNCC activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. He recalls being stopped by police in rural Kentucky while travelling to Hattiesburg with four white volunteers, and describes a meeting with Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld. Randall also talks about his photography, including his preference for black and white film and a 35mm lens.

Photography--Political aspects--United States.

Mississippi--Race relations--20th century.

Civil rights movements--Mississippi--20th century.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.).

Voter registration--Mississippi--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Randall, Section A2007_276_001_004, TRT: 0:29:14 ?

Herbert Randall served as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)'s designated photographer in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he documented Freedom Summer in 1964. He recalls photographing SNCC volunteer Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, who had been badly beaten. Randall also remembers the kindness of the family that housed him in Hattiesburg, and the difficulty of communicating with his family members in the North. To ensure the safety of his negatives, Randall stored them at the SNCC office in Atlanta, Georgia. When the Freedom Summer ended, he returned to New York City, and directed the photography program at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth in Action, an organization in Brooklyn. He also married his wife, Rosalind Singho Randall. In the 1990s, Randall donated his collection of film negatives from the Hattiesburg project to the University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of Alabama Press published the collection as a book entitled 'Faces of Freedom Summer.'

Voter registration--Mississippi.

Civil rights workers--Mississippi--Hattiesburg.

Photography--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Herbert Randall, Section A2007_276_001_005, TRT: 0:24:48 ?

Herbert Randall directed the Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth In Action's photography program in Brooklyn, New York during the 1960s. He also taught photography to adults and children at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and lectured at universities about his experiences of documenting the Mississippi Freedom Summer in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In 1980, Randall moved with his wife, social worker Rosalind Singho Randall, and his son, Dana Randall, to the Shinnecock reservation in Southampton on Long Island, New York. He describes the reservation, including its history and amenities. Randall also talks about exhibiting his photography at the Southampton Historical Museum and other local institutions. Randall reflects upon his relationships with Fannie Lou Hamer and Victoria Adams, the leaders of the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party; and then concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.

Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)--Faculty.

Photography--Exhibitions--United States.

African American families--New York (State).

Indians of North America--New York (State)--Long Island.