

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Donald Carpenter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carpenter, Donald Ray
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Donald Carpenter,
Dates:	March 14, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:26:57).
Abstract:	Social worker and sociology professor Donald Carpenter (1943 - 2018) served as the chair of the Department of Social Work and Gerontology at Weber State University. He was also the administrator and Head Start director of the Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership, Inc. Carpenter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 14, 2008, in Ogden, Utah. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_051
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Distinguished professor of sociology Donald Ray Carpenter was born on September 27, 1943 in Tyler, Texas to Modestine Truesdale Carpenter. In the absence of his father, he was raised by his grandmother, a Seventh Day Adventist. As a youth, Carpenter moved to Ogden, Utah, a city known for its historical involvement as a railroad town saturated with black night life, when his stepfather, John Carpenter, a radio repairman, was hired at Hill AFB near Ogden. Carpenter attended T.J. Austin Elementary School before graduating from Ogden High School in 1962. He performed as an organist and pianist for New Zion Baptist Church for forty-seven years. Carpenter went on to enroll at Weber State University where he majored in sociology and minored in anthropology. While attending Weber State, Carpenter also earned a living by working for Wonder Bread Bakery and the U.S. Post Office.

In 1972, Carpenter entered the University of Utah where he pursued his M.S.W. degree in social work. Afterwards, he returned to his alma mater in 1973 and began teaching in Weber State's Social Work/Gerontology Department. In 1974, he attended the summer institute at the University of Chicago where he studied curriculum development for social work education. Carpenter went on to further his education by earning his Ph.D. in cultural foundation of education in 1986. He was awarded tenure at Weber State University that same year, and in 1993, he became chair of the Department of Social Work and Gerontology at Weber State University.

After retiring in 2003, Carpenter became the Administrator/Head Start Director of the Ogden/Weber Community Action Partnership, an organization that helps the disadvantaged on the local, state and federal levels. He has received many awards and recognitions including: Social Worker of the Year, Utah Chapter of NASW, 1998; 33 Degree Mason, 1988; Past Master of Mt. Ogden Lodge #20, Ogden, Utah; Past Commander-in-Chief of Ben Lomond Consistory, Ogden, Utah; Past Potentate of Rabbak Temple #218, Ogden, Utah and LCSW Social Worker, State of Utah.

Carpenter has been married to the former Elizabeth Ann Washington for forty-six years. Together they have two daughters, Tamera Lynn and Leslie Ann, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Carpenter passed away on November 9, 2018.

Carpenter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 14, 2008.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Donald Carpenter was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 14, 2008, in Ogden, Utah, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social worker and sociology professor Donald Carpenter (1943 - 2018) served as the chair of the Department of Social Work and Gerontology at Weber State University. He was also the administrator and Head Start director of the Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership, Inc.

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:

Carpenter, Donald Ray

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Carpenter, Donald Ray--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Weber State University

Occupations:

Sociology Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Donald Carpenter, March 14, 2008. 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 Donald Carpenter, Section A2008_051_001_001, TRT: 0:30:13
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Donald Carpenter was born on September 27, 1943 in Tyler, Texas to Modestine Truesdale Carpenter and Robert Adams. His mother belonged to a family of domestic workers in Terrell, Texas, and left school after the ninth grade in order to work. Around that time, she met Carpenter's father, who had recently returned from World War II; and became pregnant shortly afterwards. Carpenter was raised primarily by his mother; and, as a young boy, lived periodically with his paternal grandmother, Lola Brown, who worked for a wealthy white family in Tyler. His mother later married John Carpenter, who studied at a radio repair school in Tyler. In 1952, when Carpenter was nine years old, he moved with his mother and stepfather to Clearfield, Utah, where his stepfather secured a position at the Hill Air Force Base. There, he was the oldest of ten children raised by his mother and stepfather, whom he regarded as his father.

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Carpenter, Section A2008_051_001_002, TRT: 0:29:19
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Donald Carpenter grew up in Tyler, Texas, where he was raised by his mother, mother, Modestine Truesdell Carpenter, who was a teenager at the time. He occasionally lived with his paternal grandmother, Lola Brown, who worked for a wealthy family, and had running water in her home. Carpenter attended T.J. Austin Elementary School until the fourth grade, when he moved with his mother and stepfather, John Carpenter, to Clearfield, Utah. There, Carpenter's stepfather worked at the Hill Air Force Base, where his family lived in military family housing. Carpenter enrolled at the integrated Sahara Village Elementary School, and went on to attend North Davis Junior High School, Lewis Junior High School and Roy Junior High School, which were located near Ogden, Utah. Around the time of his graduation from Ogden High School in 1962, Carpenter married his classmate, Elizabeth Washington Carpenter. He worked at the post office and the Wonder Bread bakery, before matriculating at Weber State College in 1965.

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Carpenter, Section A2008_051_001_003, TRT: 0:30:32
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Donald Carpenter belonged to a small African American community in Ogden, Utah. There, he attended Weber State College, where he joined the black student union. He was mentored by Professor Raymond Clark, who was a strong advocate for poor and minority students on campus. After graduating with a degree in sociology in 1969, Carpenter was hired as a supervisor at the Clearfield Job Corps Center, where he worked with former gang members from cities like Los Angeles, California and St. Louis, Missouri. Carpenter completed a master's degree at Weber State College in 1972, and served for eighteen months as an intake psychiatric social worker at the Weber County Mental Health facility. Professor Clark encouraged Carpenter to return to the college as an assistant professor, and advocated for him when he was unfairly offered a lesser position. Carpenter was the first African American to receive a tenure tracked professorship at Weber State College, and was awarded tenure after completing a Ph.D. degree in 1986.

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Carpenter, Section A2008_051_001_004, TRT: 0:27:56
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Donald Carpenter served on the board of the Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership, Inc. (OWCAP) in the 1990s. During this time, the board raised

concerns about OWCAP Director H.C. Massey's funding allocations, and Massey was terminated under the directive of the federal Head Start review board in 1997. Carpenter was selected as his successor, and inherited a program that had little support from the community. Nevertheless, he rebuilt OWCAP into a respected organization, and fostered relationships with the local banks and business community, and with Weber State University. Carpenter also sought to recognize Massey's accomplishments, and describes his plans to name a building in the former director's honor. He reflects upon his career at OWCAP, and recalls the controversy over Massey's termination at the New Zion Baptist Church, where both Carpenter and Massey belonged to the congregation. He also reflects upon his life, and his hopes for Ogden's African American and Latino communities.

Video Oral History Interview with Donald Carpenter, Section A2008_051_001_005, TRT: 0:28:57
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Donald Carpenter describes his concerns for the Head Start program in Ogden, Utah. He also talks about the role of the church in black community, and the history of African Americans in Ogden. Carpenter reflects upon his life, legacy and family; and concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.