

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Fran Harth

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Harth, Frances Jean, 1940-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth,
Dates:	August 23, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:54:06).
Abstract:	Television executive Fran Harth (1940 -) served as an associate producer at Channel 5 (NBC) in Chicago and at WBBM Channel 2, and went on to become vice president of program development and syndication for national productions at Window To The World Communications, Inc. Harth was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 23, 2013, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_225
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television executive Frances Harth graduated with her B.A. degree in English literature from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. While there, she studied for one semester at the University of Mexico in Mexico City. She earned her B.A. degree in radio and television journalism from Columbia College of Communications and completed graduate coursework at the State University of New York. In addition, Harth attended a certificate in executive management from the Wisconsin School of Business School at the University of Wisconsin at

Madison.

Harth began her career as an editor for IBM in Endicott, New York. She also acted in a feature film and on stage with the Susquehanna Players. After moving to Chicago, Illinois, Harth was hired as a secondary English teacher for the Chicago Board of Education and worked as a freelance editor for the University of Chicago Press. Harth served as associate producer for the nationally syndicated “It’s Academic” television quiz show produced by Channel 5 (NBC) in Chicago. When the series was picked up by Channel 2 (CBS), she continued with the series and also worked on various specials at WBBM Channel 2.

Harth went on to become vice president of program development and syndication for national productions at Window To The World Communications, Inc. (WTTW/Chicago). While there, she worked to develop programming for national public television and served as the executive producer of the show “David Broza at Masada;” the documentary series, “Retirement Revolution;” and the reality show “Retirement Revolution: The New Reality.” Harth also created and served as the executive producer of two national PBS shows: “The Americas’ Family Kitchen with Vertamae Grosvenor,” and “MindBody Connection with Les Brown.” She authored the book, *The Americas’ Family Kitchen with Vertamae Grosvenor* (1996); wrote opinion articles for *ELANCYL* magazine. In addition, Harth has been invited to lecture on topics including feminism and women’s rights at the Colorado Black Women for Political Action, as well as other civic groups in Chicago.

Harth has served on the board of directors of the Midwest Women’s Center (1984-1986) and the Newhouse Architectural Foundation. She has been involved with the Milan Committee of the Chicago International Sister Cities Committee and the Film Center Committee of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Harth’s professional affiliations include the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, American Women in Radio and Television, and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Frances J. Harth was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 23, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Fran Harth was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 23, 2013, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television executive Fran Harth (1940 -) served as an associate producer at Channel 5 (NBC) in Chicago and at WBBM Channel 2, and went on

to become vice president of program development and syndication for national productions at Window To The World Communications, 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:

Harth, Frances Jean, 1940-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Harth, Frances Jean, 1940---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

WTTW (Television Station: Chicago, Ill.), WBBM-TV (Television Station: Chicago, Ill.)

Occupations:

Television Executive

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 Fran Harth, August 23, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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 Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_001, TRT: 1:30:16 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_002, TRT: 2:28:39 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_003, TRT: 3:33:04 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_004, TRT: 4:28:36 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_005, TRT: 5:30:12 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_006, TRT: 6:28:30 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_007, TRT: 7:32:02 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section A2013_225_001_008, TRT: 8:10:03 2013/08/23

Video Oral History Interview with Fran Harth, Section

