

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Moore

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Moore, William, 1933-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Moore,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 7, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:59:26).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Photojournalist William Moore (1933 - ) was the first full-time African American news cameraman in commercial television in the state of California. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 7, 2013, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_304
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Photojournalist William Moore was born on May 23, 1933. He graduated from Oakland Technical High School, and went on to receive his B.S. degree in photography from Laney College in Oakland, California.

Upon graduation, Moore worked as a freelance photographer for various black-owned newspapers, magazines and radio stations. Then, in 1968, Moore was hired as a television news cameraman for KTVU in Oakland, California, making him the first full-time African American news cameraman in commercial television in the State of California. He was hired alongside Dennis Richmond, one of the first African Americans to become chief anchor of a major-market TV newscast, as a result of a federal court mandate. In 1969, while working for KTVU, Moore was hired by the Associated Press as a freelance photographer. He was eventually promoted to chief photographer at KTVU.

As a cameraman, Moore covered such events as the Loma Prieta earthquake, the Oakland Hills Fire, the O.J. Simpson murder trial, and the murders of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. He also filmed anti-war and civil rights movements and demonstrations of the late 1960s and 1970s, as well as the Nicaraguan earthquake of 1988. In addition, Moore traveled and worked internationally, filming in many countries including Haiti, Italy, Brazil, Kenya, and South Africa. He retired from KTVU in 1996, and, in 2003, Moore was hired as an adjunct professor at Ohlone College in Fremont, California, where he teaches digital video in the college's broadcasting and television department.

Moore has been a volunteer for Seven Tepees, an afterschool mentoring and enrichment program for middle and high school students in San Francisco. He was also a board member of the Committee on the Shelterless, a program that assists the homeless in Sonoma County. Moore lives with his wife, Belva Davis, in San Francisco. They have two children: Steven Davis, owner of a catering business, and Darolyn Davis, owner of a public relations firm.

William Moore was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 7, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Moore was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 7, 2013, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Photojournalist William Moore (1933 - ) was the first full-time African American news cameraman in commercial television in the state of California.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Moore, William, 1933-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Moore, William, 1933---Interviews

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African American--Photojournalists--Interviews.

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African American--Television camera operators--Interviews.

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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# Occupations:

Photojournalist

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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# 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 William Moore, November 7, 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 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).

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# 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.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with William Moore, Section A2013\_304\_001\_001, TRT: 1:27:07 ?  
William Moore describes his family background. His mother, Isabelle Logan,

was born in 1895 in New York City and was raised by an aunt and uncle. She moved to California circa 1910 with her relatives and worked in her uncle's restaurant in Oakland. Moore's father, Edward Seymour Moore, was born in 1890 in Barbados, British West Indies. Edward Moore's family worked for the local government and then moved to the Canal Zone of Panama, likely to work on the canal. He moved to San Francisco, California as an adult and worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad; he likely met Logan at the restaurant she worked in. The date of their marriage is unknown. William Moore was born in May 1933 and grew up in Oakland. He had one sister and two brothers. He attended Woodrow Wilson Junior High School and Oakland Technical High School, which he graduated from in 1952. Moore talks about his childhood pastimes, including playing and watching baseball, experiencing racism in school, and the character of his neighborhood.

African American families.

Childhood and youth--California--Oakland.

Discrimination in education--California--Oakland.

African American neighborhoods--California--Oakland.

Immigrants.

Video Oral History Interview with William Moore, Section A2013\_304\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:51 ?

William Moore graduated from Oakland Technical High School in Oakland, California in 1952. While in high school, he met Chuck Willis, a neighbor and professional photographer who became Moore's mentor. Moore was drafted into the United States Army in 1953 and served two years in Korea. Upon leaving the Army, he used his G-I Bill benefits to enroll in Laney College, a trade school in Oakland, and studied photography. Moore talks about several famous athletes of his generation who also grew up in Oakland, his high school experiences, and being mentored by Willis. After initially facing discrimination in the workforce, Moore found a job at a camera store in Berkeley, California that allowed him to practice with high quality cameras. Moore met his wife, HistoryMaker Belva Davis, in the early 1960s and got hired for his first job in television at KTVU, a local Oakland television station in 1968.

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

Education, Secondary--California--Oakland.

Laney College.

Mentoring.

Photography--Study and teaching.

Discrimination in the workplace.

Davis, Belva, 1933-

KTVU-TV (Television station : Oakland, Calif.).

Video Oral History Interview with William Moore, Section A2013\_304\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:34 ?

William Moore joined the staff of KTVU Channel 2, a local news station in Oakland, California in 1968, just before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He spent 28 years at KTVU and covered some of the most historic events in the late 1960s-1980s. Having one of his photographs appear on the front page of a newspaper with the Associated Press motivated Moore to pursue news stories. He talks about covering anti-Vietnam War protests in Berkeley, California; Black Panther party rallies in Oakland; the assassination of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978; and the kidnapping of heiress Patty Hearst in 1974. Moore also discusses personal connections he had to followers of Jim Jones, as well as his coverage of the 1988 earthquake in

Nicaragua and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in San Francisco, California. In addition to Bay Area news, Moore filmed international news stories with his wife, HistoryMaker Belva Davis, while on vacation and while on assignment for the news station.

KTVU-TV (Television station : Oakland, Calif.).

Associated Press.

Davis, Belva, 1933-

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Demonstrations.

Black Panther Party--California.

Hearst, Patricia, 1954-

Milk, Harvey--Assassination.

Moscone, George,-1978--Assassination.

Natural disasters.

Video Oral History Interview with William Moore, Section A2013\_304\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:42 ?

William Moore witnessed many technological changes along with multiple historic events during his twenty-eight years at KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland, California. Moore was on the scene for the coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in San Francisco, California and the 1991 Oakland Hills fire. After his retirement in 1996, Moore moved to Petaluma, California and joined the board of Committee on the Shelterless, a non-profit organization for homeless services. In 2003, he began teaching a course in digital video at Ohlone College in Fremont, California. Moore talks about the impact of the 1994 O.J. Simpson trial on the way the media covers court trials, technological advancements in film, and the possibility of publishing his work. When reflecting on his career as a whole, Moore notes the assassination of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone as a particularly moving story. He concludes the tape by discussing his professional legacy and his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

KTVU-TV (Television station : Oakland, Calif.).

Natural disasters.

Digital video--Study and teaching.

Moscone, George,-1978--Assassination.

Simpson, O. J.,1947--Trials, litigation, etc.

Video Oral History Interview with William Moore, Section A2013\_304\_001\_005, TRT: 5:05:12 ?

William Moore and his wife, HistoryMaker Belva Davis, have a son and daughter who are both professionals. Moore talks about his children and relates a story about his mother watching the credits of the news to see his name on television. Moore talks about the advice he would give to young African Americans who wish to get involved in television or photography, and how he would like to be remembered.

Davis, Belva, 1933-

African American children.

Vocational guidance.