

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Albert Fitzpatrick

---

## 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>	Fitzpatrick, Albert, 1928-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 11, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:07:51).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist and media executive Albert Fitzpatrick (1928 - ) became the first African American to run a major metro newsroom through his work at the Akron Beacon Journal. He also served as the vice president of minority affairs for Knight-Ridder, Inc. and as president of the National Association of Black Journalists. Fitzpatrick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 11, 2014, in Akron, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_041
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and media executive Albert Fitzpatrick was born on December 30, 1928 in Elyria, Ohio to Mary and Ben Fitzpatrick. He was the seventh of twelve children. Fitzpatrick developed an interest in journalism in high school, during which he worked part-time as a sports reporter for Elyria's local newspaper, the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*. He earned his B.A. degree from Kent State University where he studied sociology and journalism. Fitzpatrick also served terms in the U.S. Army and Air Force. He is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

In 1956, Fitzpatrick joined the *Akron Beacon Journal*, where he was the only African American employee in the company. Fitzpatrick was promoted to news editor of the *Beacon Journal*, where he directed the paper's Pulitzer Prize winning coverage of the 1970 Kent State shooting. In 1973, Fitzpatrick was named managing editor of the newspaper, making him the first African American to run a major metro newsroom. In 1977, he was named executive editor. Then, after writing a letter to the chairman of Knight-Ridder, Inc. about the lack of diversity in their workforce, Knight-Ridder offered him a job as director of minority affairs. Fitzpatrick worked in that position from 1985 to 1987 and then as vice president of minority affairs, also at Knight-Ridder, from 1987 to 1994. He created diversity programs which enabled Knight-Ridder, which owned forty-five newspapers at that time, to become the top news entity in the country in diversity. Fitzpatrick has since taught classes at Kent State University, was an associate professor and interim chairman at Howard University from 2001 to 2002, and served as a diversity consultant for corporate, government, and non-profit firms.

Fitzpatrick has been a member of a number of professional organizations, including the National Association for Minority Media Executives, where he served as the first chair, and the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). He joined the NABJ in 1976, just months after it had been founded, and was elected president in 1985. Fitzpatrick has also been involved in a number of civic and charitable organizations, serving as president of The Coming Together Project and as board member of the Beacon Journal Charity Fund. He is a member of Beta Rho

Boule of Sigma Pi Phi, and is a Sigma Delta Chi fellow. Fitzpatrick served two terms as president of the Akron Press during the 1980s, and chaired the United Negro College Fund in Miami, Florida in 1997 and 1998.

Fitzpatrick has received the NABJ's Frederick Douglass Lifetime Achievement Award; the Ida B. Wells Award for outstanding contributions to journalism; the Chairman's Citation for Editorial Excellence from the National Press Foundation; and the Distinguished Service Award from Howard University. He has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Broadcast Editorial Association, the National Association of Black Journalists, Region 4 of the National Association of Black Journalists, and Elyria High School. Fitzpatrick lives in Akron, Ohio with his wife, Derien Fitzpatrick. Together they have three children: Sharon, Karle, and Albert II. Fitzpatrick also produces three newsletters for his church family and fraternity.

Fitzpatrick was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 11, 2014.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Albert Fitzpatrick was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 11, 2014, in Akron, Ohio, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and media executive Albert Fitzpatrick (1928 - ) became the first African American to run a major metro newsroom through his work at the Akron Beacon Journal. He also served as the vice president of minority affairs for Knight-Ridder, Inc. and as president of the National Association of Black Journalists.

---

## 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:

Fitzpatrick, Albert, 1928-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Fitzpatrick, Albert, 1928---Interviews

---

## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## Occupations:

Journalist

---

Media 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 Albert Fitzpatrick, February 11, 2014. 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 Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:15  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:23  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:47  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:18  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:06  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:41  
?

Video Oral History Interview with Albert Fitzpatrick, Section A2014\_041\_001\_007, TRT: 7:12:21  
?