

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bill Parker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Parker, Bill, 1955-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker,
Dates:	March 8, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:32:57).
Abstract:	Entrepreneur Bill Parker (1955 -) co-founded Washington Cable Supply, Inc. and served as its president and CEO, voted the seventh largest African American owned company in the U.S. Parker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 8, 2017, in Miami, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_047
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entrepreneur Bill Parker was born on February 13, 1955 in Newark, New Jersey to William Parker and Beryl Parker. He attended Tremont Avenue Elementary School in Orange, New Jersey and Orange High School, where he graduated from in 1972. Parker earned his B.A. degree in economics from Denison University in Granville, Ohio in 1976, and received his M.B.A. degree in business and public administration from Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida in 2002.

Parker began his career as a job analyst in the labor relations department at Potomac Electric Power Company in 1976 and served in that position until 1981. He then joined Xerox Corporation's sales and marketing group and remained there until 1984, when he was hired by Motorola and worked in its sales and customer service department. That same year, Parker co-founded Washington Cable Supply, Inc. with his wife, Beverly, and served as its chief executive officer and president. The company was named by *USA Today* as the seventh largest African American owned company in the United States and was consistently listed on the *Black Enterprise* "Be Industrial/Service 100" list for more than a decade. Their clients included Fortune 500 companies such as AT&T, Bell South, Verizon, and Lucent.

Parker was featured on *Black Enterprise*'s "Top 100" list from 1992 through 1999, and was featured in the magazine's "New Power Generation" issue in 1999. He was also awarded a citation from Denison University in 2001, the 12 Good Men Award from McDonald's in 2006, and the Pleasures of the Palate Award from the Diabetes Research Institute in 2009. In 1997, Parker was featured on the cover of *Fortune* magazine's April issue. He was named the "Supplier of the Year" by ATT, Alcatel-Lucent, and Potomac Electric Power Company as well.

Parker served on the board of directors for the Orange Bowl Committee, Camillus House, Kemp-Parker Family Foundation, the Miami Art Museum, and the Y.M.C.A. of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. He also served as chair of Capital Commitment, Inc. In 2009, Parker served as a founding trustee of the 2009 Miami Wine and Food Festival.

Bill Parker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 8, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bill Parker was conducted by Harriette Cole on March 8, 2017, in Miami, Florida, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entrepreneur Bill Parker (1955 -) co-founded Washington Cable Supply, Inc. and served as its president and CEO, voted the seventh largest African American owned company in the U.S.

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:

Parker, Bill, 1955-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Parker, Bill, 1955- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Entrepreneur

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Bill Parker, March 8, 2017. 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 Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_001, TRT: 1:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_002, TRT: 2:30:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_003, TRT: 3:27:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_004, TRT: 4:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_005, TRT: 5:28:10 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_006, TRT: 6:32:01 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_007, TRT: 7:31:05 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Parker, Section A2017_047_001_008, TRT: 8:05:48 ?