

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald L. Thompson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Thompson, Ronald L.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson,
Dates:	November 12, 2021
Bulk Dates:	2021
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:02:51).
Abstract:	Chief executive officer Ronald L. Thompson (1949-) has served as chairman and CEO of Evaluation Technologies, The GR Group, and Midwest Stamping, Inc., and as chair of the board of TIAA. Thompson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 12, 2021, in Charleston, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2021_009
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Chief executive officer Ronald L. Thompson was born on June 17, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan to Constance M. and Lurie D. Thompson. He received his B.B.A. degree in business management with distinction in 1969 from the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, and obtained his M.S. degree in 1972 and his Ph.D. degree in 1975, both in agricultural economics from Michigan State University, in East Lansing.

In 1977, Thompson served as chairman and chief executive officer of Evaluation Technologies. The following year, he was appointed general manager of Puget Sound Pet Supply Company in Seattle, Washington; and, in 1980, Thompson acquired The GR Group in St. Louis, Missouri where he served as chairman and chief executive officer. In 1993, he acquired Midwest Stamping, Inc., a manufacturer of medium and heavy gauge metal components for the automotive market in Maumee, Ohio, and served as chief executive officer and chairman. Thompson sold Midwest Stamping Inc. in 2005. Thompson also served on the faculties of Old Dominion University, Virginia State University and the University of Michigan.

Throughout his career, Thompson has served on many boards, including those of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri; the Plymouth Venture Partners Fund; the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation; Commerce Bank of St. Louis; The GR Group; Illinova Corporation; the National Association of Manufacturers; McDonnell Douglas Corporation; Midwest Stamping Company; Ralston Purina Company; and Ryerson Tull, Inc. In 2003, Thompson was elected to the board of directors for Interstate Bakeries Corporation; and, in 2008, he was named chairman of the board of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA). In 2009, he joined the board of Chrysler Group LLC where he served a five year term through 2014. Thompson was later appointed a senior non-executive director of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. in October 2014.

Thompson also has been the recipient of several awards, including the National Minority Entrepreneur Award from the United States Department of Commerce and the Distinguished Service Award from Southern Illinois

University, both in 1989; the inaugural Jesse Hill Business Award presented by *Jet* magazine, in 1998; and the National Association of Corporate Directors' (NACD) B. Kenneth West Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2020.

Thompson resides in Charleston, South Carolina, with his wife, Cynthia Bramlett Thompson. They have two adult children, Sela Thompson Collins and Mance Thompson.

Ronald L. Thompson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 12, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ronald L. Thompson was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 12, 2021, in Charleston, South Carolina, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Chief executive officer Ronald L. Thompson (1949-) has served as chairman and CEO of Evaluation Technologies, The GR Group, and Midwest Stamping, Inc., and as chair of the board of TIAA.

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:

Thompson, Ronald L.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Thompson, Ronald L.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Midwest Stamping Company

Occupations:

Corporate Executive

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 Ronald L. Thompson, November 12, 2021. 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 Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_001, TRT: 1:29:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_002, TRT: 2:29:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_003, TRT: 3:29:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_004, TRT: 4:28:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_005, TRT: 5:29:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_006, TRT: 6:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_007, TRT: 7:29:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_008, TRT: 8:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald L. Thompson, Section A2021_009_001_009, TRT: 9:07:18 ?