

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Grady Poulard

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Poulard, Grady, 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Grady Poulard,
Dates:	May 4, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:17:24).
Abstract:	Business consulting chief executive, civil rights activist, and motivational speaker Grady Poulard (1936 -) owns the consulting firm, Grady Poulard Associates. In 1972, Poulard served as Special Assistant to the Mayor of Washington, D.C., and became the executive director of the Independent Foundation. In 1974, Poulard became the Director for Human Relations for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Poulard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 4, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_117
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nationally known motivational speaker and human relations consulting firm owner Grady Emory Poulard was born on August 15, 1936, to Leola Green Poulard and Grady Emory Poulard, Sr. in Crowley, Louisiana. Poulard grew up in Crowley and attended Ross High School, graduating in 1953. He attended Southern University, was elected student body president and served as the editor of the school's newspaper. Poulard graduated from Southern University in 1957, and received a Rockefeller Fellowship, earning his M.A. degree from Yale University in philosophy and religion thereafter. Poulard also earned his M.A. degree in urban affairs at Columbia University, and is a graduate of the Pacific Institute Graduate Trainer Program.

After college, Poulard began working as an assistant to minister and civil rights activist Dr. Gardner Taylor and held the position of Director of Education at the Concord Church of Brooklyn, New York. He, then, served as an international field representative of the U.S. Student Christian Movement in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Between 1962 and 1964, Poulard served as dean of the Chapel at Christian Medical College in Vellore, South India. In 1965, Poulard became pastor of Peoples Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. He soon became involved in the Civil Rights Movement, as a field executive for the Council of Federated Civil Rights Organizations. This included the NAACP, SCLC, CORE, and SNCC.

In 1969, Poulard became a National Urban Fellow at Clairmont College and decided to go back to school and earn his M.A. degree in urban affairs from Columbia University. In 1970, while working at the American Institute of Architects, Poulard and Robert Nash developed the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). In 1972, Poulard served as special assistant to the Mayor of Washington, D.C. and became the executive director of the Independent Foundation. In 1974, Poulard became the Director for Human Relations for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Poulard is the president of his own management and human relations consulting firm called

GPA, Grady Poulard Associates, which he formed in 1975. He is a member of the National Urban League, a board member of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., is involved with the Black Executive Exchange Program, and is a part of the liaison staff of the White House Conference on Civil Rights.

Poulard has published one book and has contributed articles to several professional journals. He is single, and the father of two sons, Kenneth and Michael.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Grady Poulard was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 4, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Business consulting chief executive, civil rights activist, and motivational speaker Grady Poulard (1936 -) owns the consulting firm, Grady Poulard Associates. In 1972, Poulard served as Special Assistant to the Mayor of Washington, D.C., and became the executive director of the Independent Foundation. In 1974, Poulard became the Director for Human Relations for the U.S. General Accounting Office.

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:

Poulard, Grady, 1936-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Poulard, Grady, 1936---Interviews

African American chief executive officers--Interviews.

African American civil rights activists--Interviews.

African American ministers--Interviews.

Motivational speakers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Federal Government Administrator

Civil Rights Activist

Motivational Speaker

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Grady Poulard, May 4, 2005. 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 Grady Poulard, Section A2005_117_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Motivational speaker and consulting firm owner Grady Poulard describes his family's background and his childhood in Crowley, Louisiana. Poulard talks about the careers and personalities of his mother and father, and describes his childhood interests and activities. He then describes his schooling from elementary school through prep school.

Childhood and youth--Activities--Louisiana--Crowley.

African American families--Louisiana--Crowley.

African Americans--Education.

African American parents--Louisiana--Crowley.

Video Oral History Interview with Grady Poulard, Section A2005_117_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Motivational speaker and consulting firm owner Grady Poulard details his experience in higher education. Poulard describes his undergraduate years at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and graduate years at Yale Divinity School. Poulard names some of the theologians who influenced him, and explains how his divinity degree led him to three years of international missionary work. Poulard details his time abroad in Europe and India, and then explains his decision to return to the United States and participate in civil rights activism in Mississippi.

Southern University (Baton Rouge, La.).

Yale University. Divinity School.

Theology--Study and teaching.

Blacks in missionary work.

Civil Rights workers--Mississippi.

Video Oral History Interview with Grady Poulard, Section A2005_117_001_003, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Motivational speaker and consulting firm founder Grady Poulard details his civil rights efforts in Mississippi with the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Poulard shares some of his religious and philosophical beliefs in regards to organized religion, and explains why he left the church to take a job as a civil rights advisor in the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. Poulard also mentions other community organization posts he held, and he briefly describes his role at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Civil Rights workers--Mississippi.

Council of Federated Organizations (U.S.).

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973.

Philosophy and religion.

United States. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Video Oral History Interview with Grady Poulard, Section A2005_117_001_004, TRT: 0:30:59 ?

Motivational speaker and consulting group founder Grady Poulard describes his employment with the United States General Accounting Office, and explains how he increased diversity and raised awareness of civil rights for twenty years. Poulard then describes his activities after his retirement, including the founding of his own consulting firm and his counseling and motivational speaking. Poulard shares some of his philosophy that he uses in these ventures, discussing marriage, race and class, and his own spiritual outlook. Poulard also reflects on his life's course and his family.

United States. General Accounting Office.

Diversity in the workplace.

Retirement.

Consulting firms.

Motivational speakers.

Video Oral History Interview with Grady Poulard, Section A2005_117_001_005, TRT: 0:16:50 ?

Motivational speaker and consulting group founder Grady Poulard analyzes the institution of marriage in the black community and describes how he would like to be remembered.

African Americans--Marriage.