

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rod Doss

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Doss, Rod, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss,
Dates:	August 14, 2008
Bulk Dates:	2008
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:49:10).
Abstract:	Newspaper editor and newspaper publishing chief executive Rod Doss (1943 -) has edited and published 'The Pittsburgh Courier' since 1997. He has helped elevate the status of the publication into one of the most widely circulated African American newspapers in the country. Doss was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 14, 2008, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2008_107
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

As the editor and publisher of *The Pittsburgh Courier* since 1997, Rod Doss has helped elevate the status of the publication into one of the most widely circulated African American newspapers in the country. Born in Pittsburgh, Doss is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Technical Institute and attended the University of Pittsburgh.

Doss' career with *The Pittsburgh Courier* dates back to 1967 when he was appointed as a sales representative. His ultimate promotion to editor and publisher in 1997 came following the death of his mentor, legendary publisher and founder of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, John H. Sengstacke, who owned the *Courier* at the time. With a staff of only twelve full-time employees, Doss produced hard hitting stories, while still portraying the African American community in a positive light.

Doss has been the recipient of the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania Service to Journalism Award, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Man of the Year Award and the Duquesne Light African American Leadership Award. Doss has also been honored by the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners and Pittsburgh City Council.

In 2007, Doss and *The Pittsburgh Courier* Archives Committee traveled to Washington, D.C., to petition U.S. Representatives John Lewis, Mike Doyle and Jason Altmire for funding on a project to restore and digitize over 750,000 images spanning nearly 100 years of African American history of the *Courier's* collection. Congressman Doyle presented them with a \$150,000 check in January, 2008.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rod Doss was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 14, 2008, in Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Newspaper editor and newspaper publishing chief executive Rod Doss (1943 -) has edited and published 'The Pittsburgh Courier' since 1997. He has helped elevate the status of the publication into one of the most widely circulated African American newspapers in the country.

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:

Doss, Rod, 1943-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Doss, Rod, 1943- --Interviews

African American newspaper editors--Interviews

Publishers and publishing--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Newspaper Editor

Newspaper Publishing Chief 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 Rod Doss, August 14, 2008. 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 Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

African American newspaper editors--Interviews.

Publishers and publishing--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_003, TRT: 0:29:30 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_004, TRT: 0:31:10 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_005, TRT: 0:29:00 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rod Doss, Section A2008_107_001_006, TRT: 0:21:00 ?