

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carol Cutting

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cutting, Carol Moore, 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting,
Dates:	April 28, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:39:40).
Abstract:	Radio station owner Carol Cutting (1948 -) , President and CEO of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc. and WEIB 106.3 Smooth F.M., is the first female in Massachusetts and the first African American in New England to have been granted a FCC-FM radio station construction permit. Cutting was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 28, 2013, in Northampton, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_161
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Radio station owner Carol Moore Cutting was born on April 24, 1948 in Lexington, Alabama. She was raised in an educational family and a close-knit community. Cutting enrolled at Tuskegee University in 1965 and graduated from there in 1969 with her B.A. degree in secondary education. She went on to attend graduate school at Springfield Community College and graduated from there in 1971 with her M.A. degree in community leadership.

Upon graduation, Cutting moved to New England. In September of 1971, she received her official license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In 1984, Cutting applied for a construction permit for 106.3 but was challenged by an existing broadcaster who applied to operate on the same frequency. She then became the owner and general manager of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc., making her the first African American woman in Massachusetts to operate a radio station. After eight years of litigation and several technical delays, Cutting was granted the construction permit and her station, WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM, tested for broadcast with the FCC in 1999. Cutting was also appointed as an independent director of United Financial Bancorp. in 2001. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) and she has served on many committees and boards including the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, WGBY, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Amherst Fine Arts Center, the American Heart Association, and National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) where she served as the Northeastern Regional Representative.

Cutting has been recognized for her community service and her entrepreneurship with many honors, such as the "Woman of the Year," "Businesswoman of the Year," and other similar awards. She was inducted into the Springfield Technical Community College's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame; and, in 2000, she received the Business Woman of Distinction award.

Cutting has been married for forty-three years to Dr. Gerald B. Cutting. They have two children, Alysia Cutting

and Darrel Cutting, and six grandchildren.

Carol Moore Cutting was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 28, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carol Cutting was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 28, 2013, in Northampton, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Radio station owner Carol Cutting (1948 -) , President and CEO of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc. and WEIB 106.3 Smooth F.M., is the first female in Massachusetts and the first African American in New England to have been granted a FCC-FM radio station construction permit.

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:

Cutting, Carol Moore, 1948-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cutting, Carol Moore, 1948- --Interviews

African American chief executive officers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Radio Station Owner

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 Carol Cutting, April 28, 2013. 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 Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_001, TRT: 1:29:48 ?

Carol Cutting was born on April 24, 1948 in Livingston, Alabama. She describes her family as large and tight-knit. Her mother, Mattie Dawson Moore Hall, was born on December 18, 1927 and was also from Livingston. Cutting describes her mother as a bright and determined educator. Her great grandfather was Caucasian man named Jack Powell. Powell's children built houses upon land that he inherited from his father, and the family called it 'The Powell Place' and Cutting attributes the closeness of her family to their ability to commune and gather there. Her great grandmother was a Native American named Sarah, who faced many difficulties raising children in Alabama in the 1800s. Cutting's father, Bill Moore, Jr., was born on July 14, 1947. Both he and his father, Bill Moore, Sr., were farmers. She describes her father as uneducated, yet wise and well-respected. Cutting has one older sister named Laura Pearl Moore, who was stricken with polio as a baby.

African American mothers--Alabama.

African American fathers--Alabama.

Grandparents--Alabama.

Genealogy--United States.

African American families.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_002, TRT: 2:29:53 ?

Carol Cutting describes her mother's struggle and strong desire to earn a college education. Her mother would drive one hundred and fifty miles a day by herself to class. With her mother in school, Cutting stayed on her grandparents' farm. She details the sights, sounds, and smells of the farm, as well as the exciting trips into town. Since the town was heavily segregated, Cutting remembers the adults being wary of the residents and protective of the children. She was drawn to the church at a young age and began attending on her own. Cutting attended school also as early as age three, and grew to love math, science, and reading. Cutting recalls being a member of the science club and a majorette with the band. She also talks about listening to radio as a child.

African American mothers--Alabama.

Childhood and youth--Activities--Alabama.

Segregation--United States.

African American--Religion--Alabama.

African Americans--Education--Alabama.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_003, TRT: 3:27:57 ?

Carol Cutting graduated from high school in 1965. She remembers the turbulent political atmosphere of the time and recalls the activity of the freedom riders and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in her community. She also reflects upon the activity of the Ku Klux Klan and the fear that African Americans had to overcome in their everyday lives simply to survive. After high school, Cutting attended Tuskegee University on a partial scholarship. She describes how her admiration for Booker T. Washington inspired her to choose Tuskegee for college where she majored in secondary education. In 1967, she joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Cutting was also a traveling member of the choir and shares her personal experience with members of The Commodores. Also, Tom Joyner was also a student at Tuskegee at the same time.

African Americans--Education, Secondary--Alabama.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.).

Freedom Rides, 1961.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-).

Tuskegee University.

Commodores (Music group).

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_004, TRT: 4:29:54 ?

Carol Cutting married her husband in 1968, and they both graduated from Tuskegee University in 1969. Her husband took a job in Springfield, Massachusetts as a veterinarian. After settling in, Cutting found employment at the Northern Educational Service while at the same time attending graduate school at Springfield College. She graduated in with her master's degree in 1971. At the same time, she had her first child. In the early 1970s, Cutting began searching for employment in radio broadcasting. However, in the late 1970s, when her husband's employer went bankrupt, her husband, aided by their bank, opened his own veterinary clinic in 1979. Also, by 1984, an FM frequency became available, but Cutting was forced to forge a fight for it in the court system and this fight would last for the next fifteen years.

African American college students.

Marriage--United States.

African American business enterprises.

African Americans in radio broadcasting.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_005, TRT: 5:28:41 ?

Carol Cutting talks about the granting to her by the FCC of a construction permit in 1994. However, due to further legal complications, test broadcasting for her station, WEIB 106.3, did not begin until 1998. She talks about targeting a niche market for 'smooth jazz.' She also describes the bleak realities of the radio business after its deregulation which put most stations under the ownership of a few national companies and left minority communities robbed of its own voice. To fight this trend, Cutting consciously remains the only locally owned commercial FM radio station in Springfield, Massachusetts, which allows her to remain an asset to the African American community. She laments the lack of change in Springfield since she arrived in 1969, but believes she and her station provide positive examples for African American youth. Cutting also talks about the importance of education for African American youth today.

Radio broadcasting--Deregulation--Massachusetts.

African Americans--Education--United States.

Actions and defenses.

Jazz.

Springfield (Mass.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section A2013_161_001_006, TRT: 6:13:27 ?

Carol Cutting reviews her life and the reasons for its success and talks about her legacy. She describes her daily tasks as owner of WEIB 106.3 and talks about how she wants to be remembered.

Radio broadcasters--Activities.