

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hiram Jackson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jackson, Hiram E., 1965-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hiram Jackson,
Dates:	June 23, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:28:16).
Abstract:	Publisher Hiram Jackson (1965 -) was the CEO of Real Times Media, LLC and publisher of the Michigan Chronicle. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 23, 2014, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_140
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Publisher Hiram Jackson was born in 1965 in Highland Park, Michigan to Hiram Jackson, Sr. and Naomi Jackson. He attended the Detroit Country Day School and received his B.S. degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University in 1987.

Upon graduation, Jackson joined a management training program at Ford Motor Company and worked in the corporation's labor relations department. He resigned from Ford in the early 1990s and co-founded New Center Collision, which marketed auto body repairs to corporate fleets. In 1994, Jackson sold his share of New Center Collision and used the funds to buy DMC Technologies, Inc., a low-voltage cabling and wiring firm, where he served as chairman and chief executive officer. He then established GlobalView Technologies, LLC and Genesis Energy Solutions in 1998, and purchased the Wixom, Michigan-based Clover Technologies, Inc. in 2001.

In 2003, Jackson became part of an ownership group that purchased the *Michigan Chronicle* and several other newspapers from Chicago-based Sengstacke Enterprises Inc., which resulted in the formation of the multi-media company, Real Times Media, LLC. He was named chief executive officer of Real Times Media in 2006 and appointed as publisher of the *Michigan Chronicle* in 2012.

Jackson has served on several Detroit area boards including the Detroit Zoological Society, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, First Independence Bank CDC, the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, and the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan. He is a member of Governor Rick Snyder's Office of Urban and Metropolitan Initiatives Advisory Group, and was elected to the board of directors of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in 2013.

Jackson has received numerous acknowledgements and accolades throughout his career. He has been profiled in several publications including *Savoy* magazine, *Diversity MBA Magazine* and *Black Enterprise*. He was also recognized as a top 40 executive under the age of 40 by Crain's Detroit Business, and was named one of Michigan's most powerful African American leaders by *Corp! Magazine*. In 2011, Jackson received the General

Motors African Ancestry Network (GMAAN) GMAAN Trailblazer Award and the National Association of Security Professionals annual Maverick Award.

Hiram Jackson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 23, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Hiram Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 23, 2014, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Publisher Hiram Jackson (1965 -) was the CEO of Real Times Media, LLC and publisher of the Michigan Chronicle.

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:

Jackson, Hiram E., 1965-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Hiram E., 1965---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Publisher

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 Hiram Jackson, June 23, 2014. 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 Hiram Jackson, Section A2014_140_001_001, TRT: 1:28:17 ?

Hiram Jackson was born on April 4, 1965 in Highland Park, Michigan to Naomi Wooten Jackson and Hiram Jackson. His maternal great-great-grandparents, Sylvia Jacobs and Jerry Jacobs, were enslaved in southern Georgia. Their children and grandchildren remained in Georgia, including Jackson's

grandparents, Ruby Winn Wooten and Malachi Wooten, who worked as sharecroppers in Thomasville, Georgia. Jackson's father was also born in Thomasville, where he was raised by an aunt. After marrying Jackson's mother in 1955, Jackson's father attempted to form a union at the bakery in Thomasville, where he worked. After receiving death threats, Jackson's parents moved to Highland Park, Michigan, where Jackson and his two siblings were born. In Michigan, Jackson's parents both continued to be involved in union organizing. Jackson attended Cortland Elementary School and the George W. Ferris School in Highland Park, and then enrolled at the Detroit Country Day School Upper School in Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Video Oral History Interview with Hiram Jackson, Section A2014_140_001_002, TRT: 2:28:41 ?

Hiram Jackson attended Cortland Elementary School and George W. Ferris School in Highland Park, Michigan. During the fifth grade, Jackson was hit by a car, and attended a special school while he was healing from his injuries. After school, Jackson played sports and spent time at the local Boys and Girls Club, where he was mentored by the club's leader, George Brown. Seeing Jackson's academic potential, Brown convinced him to apply to the Detroit Country Day School Upper School, a private school in Beverly Hills, Michigan. There, Jackson became an all-state athlete in basketball, football and track. He attracted the attention of several college football recruiters; and, after touring the schools, decided to attend the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. While there, he pledged to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and studied under Yosef ben-Jochannan in the Africana studies department.

Video Oral History Interview with Hiram Jackson, Section A2014_140_001_003, TRT: 3:36:46 ?

Hiram Jackson received a football scholarship to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he studied industrial and labor relations. After graduating, Jackson joined the management training program at the Ford Motor Company's Ford River Rouge Complex in Dearborn, Michigan. Wanting to start a business, Jackson left the Ford Motor Company after three years to create New Center Collision, Inc., which repaired and resold damaged vehicles. At this time, Jackson also became involved with the Detroit Branch NAACP's Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner. In the early 1990s, Jackson left New Center Collision, Inc. to found two other businesses, DMC Technologies, Inc. and GlobalView Technologies LLC, where he oversaw the acquisition of Clover Technologies, Inc. When Clover Technologies, Inc. became bankrupt, Jackson left the technology industry and became the CEO of Real Times Media LLC, which owned and operated several black news presses, including the Michigan Chronicle and Pittsburgh Courier.

Video Oral History Interview with Hiram Jackson, Section A2014_140_001_004, TRT: 4:28:59 ?

Hiram Jackson became the CEO of Real Times Media LLC during the mid-2000s. The company owned and operated several of the nation's largest black presses, including the Pittsburgh Courier and Michigan Chronicle. As CEO, Jackson worked to grow the newspapers' readership during a time of rising popularity of digital media platforms. To accomplish this, Jackson worked to improve the relationship between Real Times Media LLC and the African American community. He supervised the digitization of the company's photographic archives, and the creation of special events like Pancakes and Politics. Jackson also worked to diversify the staff and increase capital funds, especially during the financial crisis of 2008. The following year, Jackson oversaw the acquisition of the Who's Who Publishing Company, which was responsible for publications like 'Who's Who in Black Detroit.' While still

serving as CEO of Real Times Media LLC, Jackson also became the publisher of the Michigan Chronicle in 2011.

Video Oral History Interview with Hiram Jackson, Section A2014_140_001_005, TRT: 5:25:33 ?

Hiram Jackson became the publisher of the Michigan Chronicle in 2011, following the death of his predecessor, Sam Logan. As publisher, Jackson worked with the Michigan Chronicle staff, which included the noted cultural critic Bankole Thompson, to increase the newspaper's readership through community events like Pancakes and Politics and Pastor's Salute. While working at the Michigan Chronicle, Jackson continued to serve as the CEO of Real Times Media LLC. He was elected to the board of directors of the National Newspaper Publishers Association in 2013. Jackson talks about his plans for Real Times Media LLC, including its new headquarters in Detroit, Michigan and its partnership with Radio One. He also talks about his family and his personal aspirations. Jackson reflects upon his life and legacy, and concludes the interview by describing his hopes and concerns for the African American community.