

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Roper

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Roper, Richard W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper,
Dates:	March 29, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:20:24).
Abstract:	Government and academic administrator Richard Roper (1945 -) was assistant dean of Graduate Career Services and Government Relations at Princeton University and retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as director of planning in 2010. Roper was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 29, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_077
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Government and academic administrator Richard Roper was born on September 20, 1945 in Deland, Florida to Henry Roper and Dorothye Roper. He graduated from Risley High School in Brunswick, Georgia in 1963, and received his B.A. degree in economics from Rutgers University in 1968, and his M.P.A. degree in public affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1971.

Roper began his career in public affairs as a legislative aide to Kenneth Gibson, Newark's first African American mayor. He then served as director of the Office of Newark Metropolitan Studies from 1974 until 1978. In 1978, Roper began serving in President Carter's administration as special assistant to Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps, a position he held until 1980. He then returned to Princeton University in 1980, to serve as a staff member of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. While at Princeton, he also served as assistant dean for Graduate Career Services and Government Relations, director of the Program for New Jersey Affairs, executive director of the Council on New Jersey Affairs, and as a lecturer. Roper then became the director of the Port Authority's Office of Economic and Policy Analysis, followed by a position as director of the agency's Office of Business and Job Opportunity. In 1998, Roper consulted as staff director of the Newark in the 21st Century Task Force. He then served as interim director of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice in 2006 and returned to the Port Authority the following year. Roper retired from the Port Authority as director of the Planning Department in 2010.

Roper served on the board of directors for Brick City Development Corporation, New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, La Casa de Don Pedro, and Bethany Cares Incorporated. Roper has also served as a member of the Rutgers University Board of Governors, and on the board of trustees for The Fund for New Jersey, on the board of deacons for Bethany Baptist Church, and on the New Jersey Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Leadership and Community Service Award from the Oranges and Maplewood unit of the NAACP, the Edward P. Bullard Distinguished Alumnus Award from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice Award, and the Leadership Newark's Founders Award.

Roper and his wife, Marlene Roper, have two sons, Jelani and Akil.

Richard Roper was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 29, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard Roper was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 29, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Government and academic administrator Richard Roper (1945 -) was assistant dean of Graduate Career Services and Government Relations at Princeton University and retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as director of planning in 2010.

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:

Roper, Richard W.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Roper, Richard W.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Government Administrator

Academic Administrator

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 Richard Roper, March 29, 2017. 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 Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_001, TRT: 1:28:08 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_002, TRT: 2:30:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_003, TRT: 3:29:17 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_004, TRT: 4:28:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_005, TRT: 5:30:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_006, TRT: 7:29:14 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Richard Roper, Section A2017_077_001_007, TRT: 8:24:36 ?