

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Banks Edmiston

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Edmiston, Patricia Banks, 1937-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston,
Dates:	April 26, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:52:29).
Abstract:	Program manager and consultant Patricia Banks Edmiston (1937 -) became one of the first African American flight attendants to work for Capital Airlines in 1960. She went on to work in the substance abuse rehabilitation field for over thirty-five years. Edmiston was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 26, 2018, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_081
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Program manager and consultant Patricia Banks Edmiston was born on April 27, 1937 in New York City to Sadie Banks and Joseph Banks. After graduating from Aquinas Academy in 1955, Edmiston enrolled at Queens College, where she studied psychology. She then completed her flight attendant certification at the Grace Downs Air Career School in New York City in 1956. Edmiston went on to earn her B.A. degree in psychology from SUNY Empire State College in 1975.

After graduating from Grace Downs Air Career School with high marks, Edmiston applied for flight attendant positions at Trans World Airlines, Mohawk Airlines, and Capital Airlines. Edmiston was informed by a chief hostess at Capital Airlines that the airlines did not hire African Americans in flight capacities. In 1956, she consulted with Adam Clayton Powell and filed a complaint against Capital Airlines with the New York State Commission Against Discrimination. In 1960, the New York State Commission Against Discrimination ruled in Edmiston's favor, and ordered Capital Airlines to hire her within thirty days or it would go to the supreme court. Edmiston completed the Capital Airlines stewardess training program later that year, and became the first African American to work as a flight attendant on a commercial airline for a southern carrier for Capital Airlines in 1960. However, she resigned one year later to pursue her education. She went on to work as a counselor at the Addicts Rehabilitation Center in New York City from 1970 to 1972. She was then hired as a program manager on the New York City Manpower Planning Council. In 1974, Edmiston became a program manager at the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. She then returned to the Addicts Rehabilitation Center in 1999, serving as a consultant until 2015. Edmiston also worked with American Airlines Medical Wings International from 2000 to 2002 providing medical services to underserved populations around the world.

Edmiston served on the board of directors for the Black Flight Attendants of America Incorporated. She also served as captain of the disaster team for the American Red Cross from 1999 to 2001. Edmiston was inducted into the Black Aviation Hall of Fame at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee in August 2010.

She also holds a black belt in Shotokan martial arts.

Edmiston has two children, Sherman III and Lisa, and seven grandchildren.

Patricia Banks Edmiston was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 26, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston was conducted by Harriette Cole on April 26, 2018, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Program manager and consultant Patricia Banks Edmiston (1937 -) became one of the first African American flight attendants to work for Capital Airlines in 1960. She went on to work in the substance abuse rehabilitation field for over thirty-five years.

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:

Edmiston, Patricia Banks, 1937-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Edmiston, Patricia Banks, 1937- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Community Activist

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 Patricia Banks Edmiston, April 26, 2018. 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 Patricia Banks Edmiston, Section A2018_081_001_001, TRT:

1:29:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston, Section A2018_081_001_002, TRT:
2:27:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston, Section A2018_081_001_003, TRT:
3:29:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston, Section A2018_081_001_004, TRT:
4:20:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Banks Edmiston, Section A2018_081_001_005, TRT:
5:04:57 ?