



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Dingle

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Dingle, Larry
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle,
Dates:	August 1, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:25:15).
Abstract:	Administrative lawyer and city government administrator Larry Dingle (1949 -) served as Clerk of Council for the City of Atlanta, and became nationally known for his activities as a civil servant and attorney. Dingle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 1, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_178
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Administrative lawyer and city government administrator Larry McKenzie Dingle was born in rural Dillon, South Carolina on June 26, 1949 to Trumela Dingle and Montgomery McKenzie. He helped to desegregate the local high school in 1965. From there, Dingle attended Morehouse College to pursue his undergraduate education. Later, he attended Georgia State University, where he was awarded his B.A. degree in 1974, and his J.D. degree in 1987.

Dingle was a police officer for the City of Atlanta and then served from 1969 to 1990 as a department head and Clerk of Council. It is in this capacity that Dingle garnered the attention and support of then Mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young. From 1990 to 1997, Dingle worked as a partner at the law firm of Peterson, Dillard, Young, Asselin and Powell. Dingle later became a partner at Wilson, Brock, and Irby, L.L.C., where he earned a great reputation for his representation of clients such as Sax Fifth Avenue.

Dingle served on the Board of Directors of Southeast Energy; the Bank of North Georgia; Central Fulton Senior Services; and Georgia State University's Board of Visitors. Dingle was a member of the Georgia Bar Association for twenty years. In 1990, Dingle co-authored "Major Land Use Laws in Georgia," which was published by the National Business Institute, Inc. Dingle earned distinction in the City of Atlanta as a civil servant and attorney and was recognized nationally for his contributions to the practice of law.

Dingle resides in Atlanta, Georgia with his family.

Larry McKenzie Dingle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 1, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larry Dingle was conducted by Jodi Merriday on August 1, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 3 Betacam SP videocassettes. Administrative lawyer and city government administrator Larry Dingle (1949 -) served as Clerk of Council for the City of Atlanta, and became nationally known for his activities as a civil servant and attorney.

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:

Larry Dingle.

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer).

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Larry Dingle--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American lawyers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Atlanta (Ga.)

HistoryMakers® Category:

LawMakers

CivicMakers

PoliticalMakers

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 Larry Dingle, August 1, 2005. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/24/2011 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, August 1, 2005

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle, Section A2005_178_001_001, TRT: 0:28:57

2005/08/01

Larry Dingle slates the interview and lists his favorites. He provides information about his mother, Trumela Dingle and father, Montgomery McKenzie. Dingle was raised by his grandparents, Eugene and Charity Dingle on their farm in Dillon County, South Carolina. The family grew tobacco and cotton and lived in a community that was comprised of African American farmers. The community stressed the importance of education, family and homeownership. He attended the African American school, Latta Elementary. Dingle credits Isaiah Collington, with providing the support and freedom that he needed to succeed. He was the first African American to desegregate the local high school. He started there his junior year and it was there that he began to read books with encouragement from Ms. King, who worked in the library. He talks about the impact the 1963/1964 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. interview on "Meet the Press" had on him.

African American families--South Carolina--Dillon County.

Farm life--South Carolina--Dillon County.

Desegregation in education.

African Americans--Education (Elementary)--South Carolina--Dillon County.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Tobacco farms--South Carolina.

Meet the press (Television program).

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle, Section A2005_178_001_002, TRT: 0:28:31
2005/08/01

Larry Dingle discusses his experiences at the Caucasian school. He notes he was mostly accepted, but suffered from benign neglect. During his senior year, Dingle began to play on the basketball team and Coach Eddy Rice, treated him the same way as he did the Caucasian students and looked out for him when he thought that there might be trouble. Dingle talks about how and why he chose to attend Morehouse College and the culture shock that he had. After he left Morehouse without graduating, Dingle began working for the City of Atlanta's police department, where he and other officers confronted Mayor Maynard Jackson about unfair employment policies that were in place in the department. Dingle then joined the Atlanta Crime Analysis team where two directors encouraged him to go back to school and obtain his J.D. degree. He attended Georgia State University for graduate and law school.

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

African Americans--Education (Higher).

Morehouse College (Atlanta Ga.).

Georgia State College (Atlanta, Ga.).

High school athletes.

South Carolina--Race relations.

Jackson, Maynard, 1938-2003.

Atlanta (Ga.)--Bureau of Police Services.

Police--Georgia--Atlanta.

Law--Study and teaching--Georgia.

Discrimination in law enforcement--Georgia--Atlanta.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Dingle, Section A2005_178_001_003, TRT: 0:27:47
2005/08/01

Larry Dingle speaks on the importance of voting in elections. He reflects on the

fact that society needs to do a better job at taking care of the elderly and the youth, he believes that it does not take much to make sure that people are okay. Dingle hopes that his story of being poor, struggling and being a teenage father gives people who are in the same situation faith that there is a better life. For aspiring lawyers, Dingle states that they need to realize that the law is not a life, but it is a job. In addition, the focus should be on the community and the family and not just the law. Dingle served as the department head of the Clerk of the City Council office; he discusses the structure of the council and the policies that were implemented to help minority contractors and businesses.

Jackson, Maynard, 1938-2003.

Voting.

Law--Vocational guidance.

African American business enterprises--Georgia--Atlanta.

Atlanta (Ga.). City Council.

Older people--Care.