



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Fred Parrott

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Dr. Fred Parrott
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott,
Dates:	July 7, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:54:21).
Abstract:	Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred Parrott (1934 -) founded the Real Men Cook Foundation. Parrott was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 7, 2007, in Marina Del Rey, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_196
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred D. Parrott was born in Houston, Texas on December 22, 1934. After graduating from Jack Yates Public High School in 1944, Parrott enrolled at Howard University where he earned his B.S. degree in psychology in 1947. Following the completion of his undergraduate study, Parrott earned his M.S. degree in microbiology at the University of California, Los Angeles. During the early 1950s and during the Korean War, Parrott entered the Medical Service Corps of the United States Army , where he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan for two years while he worked as a bacteriologist. He also opened a tailor shop in Tokyo, fitting servicemen with Hong Kong made shirts. Parrott's first employment in the medical field was working as the territory manager for Wyeth Paramedical. In 1958, Parrott graduated from Meharry Medical College and became a fellow of the University of Minnesota Medical Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Parrott moved to Los Angeles, California upon graduating and did an internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital before becoming a fellow at the University of Minnesota. After completing his fellowship, Parrott returned to Los Angles and began private practice.

In 1986, Parrott founded the Real Men Cook Foundation, whose mission was to increase the number of minority health care providers by awarding scholarships to students attending Historically Black College and University medical schools in the United States. In 1994, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Parrott founded the Real Men Cook Foundation Center for Early Detection of Prostate Cancer. The Foundation's goals expanded to increasing awareness and education of prostate cancer and prevention in inner city communities.

Parrott is a member of the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the Los Angeles Country Medical Association and the Charles R. Drew Medical Society. He is also a board member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a founding member of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. Parrott is the recipient of the Back Heritage Award and President Medal of Honor from Howard

University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Fred D. Parrott was interviewed by "The HistoryMakers" on July 7, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Fred Parrott was conducted by Brewington, Ron on July 7, 2007, in Marina Del Rey, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred Parrott (1934 -) founded the Real Men Cook Foundation.

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:

Dr. Fred Parrott

Brewington, Ron (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dr. Fred Parrott--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Real Men Cook Foundation

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

MedicalMakers

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 Dr. Fred Parrott, July 7, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/11/2011 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, July 7, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40
2007/07/07

Dr. Fred D. Parrott begins the interview by discussing his family history. His mother, Mollie Carroll Parrott, was born in Hallisville, Texas on January 14, 1900. Parrott's mother lived in Independence Heights, Texas, a town that

consisted of eight-hundred African Americans. His father, Fred Douglass Parrott, Sr., was born in Louisiana and was not a large part of Parrott's life as a child because he worked in Louisiana while the rest of the family resided in Texas. Parrott has one younger sister, Carroll Parrott Blue; he did not know her well due to a fifteen year age gap. He describes his first sixteen years of life growing up in Houston, Texas.

African American social life and customs--Texas--Houston.

African American families--Texas--Houston.

African American families--Texas--Independence Heights.

African American parents

African American fathers--Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_002, TRT: 0:28:40
2007/07/07

Dr. Fred D. Parrott discusses leaving Houston, Texas for Chicago, Illinois. Parrott eventually left Chicago to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Howard University in 1947, he enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles as a premed student. Parrott graduated from The University of California, Los Angeles with a M.S. degree in microbiology. He served as a first lieutenant in the Korean War in the Medical Service Corps. Parrott worked with Wyeth Pharmaceutical Co. in Los Angeles as a pharmaceutical representative, a position he eventually left due to institutional racism. While attending Meharry Medical College, he worked as the student campus representative for Wyeth Pharmaceutical Company. While working as a personal representative for Wyeth Parrott made personal phone calls to African American physicians on the West Coast to advertise Wyeth's services. After graduating from Meharry Medical College, he interned at the Los Angeles County Hospital and was a fellow at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Howard University--Students.

University of California, Los Angeles--African American students.

Education, Higher

Pharmaceutical industry

Wyeth Pharmaceutical--Employee

Meharry Medical College--Students.

Racism in the workplace--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_003, TRT: 0:29:30
2007/07/07

Dr. Fred D. Parrott discusses his experiences at Howard University. He describes Howard University as being mostly a party school, with race being a frequent topic of discussion. Parrott became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity while attending Howard. In the 1950s, Parrott entered the United States Army as a part of the Medical Service Corps. He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan for two years, where he worked as a bacteriologist. He began to work at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in the hopes that they would send him to medical school. Parrott discusses his reasons for deciding to go into obstetrics and gynecology. He believes it is a specialty that deals with young people, has few complications and has a low mortality rate. After Parrott completed his fellowship at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, he moved to Los Angeles, California to open his own practice. He developed the Real Men Cook Foundation in 1993 to educate men about the importance of screening for

prostate cancer.

Howard University--Students.

United States. Army. Medical Service Corps

African American physicians--California--Los Angeles

Obstetrics and gynecology in perspective

Real Men Cook Foundation

African American gynecologists--California--Los Angeles.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_004, TRT: 0:27:31
2007/07/07

Dr. Fred D. Parrott's father, Fred Douglass Parrott Sr., died from prostate cancer. Witnessing his father's painful death encouraged Parrott to get his prostate tested later in life. In 1994, Parrott was diagnosed with prostate cancer. His subsequent treatment and surgery were successful and he has been cancer free since 1994. Parrott states the fact that prostate cancer is the number one killer of African American men. He discusses the goals of his foundation, the Real Men Cook Foundation Center for Early Detection of Prostate Cancer and its a program to address health issues that affect African American women. Parrott has never been married and has no children. He was not involved in the church as a child. Parrott is a founding member of the 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, a mentoring program for young African American boys.

African American fathers

Prostate--Cancer

Real Men Cook Foundation

African American women--Health.

African American men--Health.

100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc.