

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Barbara Boyd

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Boyd, Barbara
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Boyd,
Dates:	July 11, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:19:14).
Abstract:	Television reporter Barbara Boyd (1929 -) was a groundbreaking broadcast journalist, who was most known for her feature on breast cancer awareness, on which she reported one week after having a mastectomy. Boyd was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 11, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_006
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Barbara Boyd was born in Evanston, Illinois on April 27, 1929. A precocious child, she was educated at Evanston Township High School, where she excelled in literature and the humanities. She continued her studies at Roosevelt University and Columbia College's School of Radio and Television, where she was introduced to the world of broadcast journalism. She later went on to Indiana University and settled in Indianapolis, after graduation. In 1969, Barbara Boyd joined the WRTV 6 News Staff as a consumer reporter at age forty. Her early broadcasts of social and economic events quickly earned her a devoted following. As her audience grew, her range of subjects likewise grew.

Among Barbara Boyd's groundbreaking features was her piece on breast cancer. During the broadcast, Mrs. Boyd addressed her TV audience from her hospital bed one week after her own mastectomy operation. She urged viewers to become more aware of the symptoms of the disease and made note of resource centers in the area that would provide information and testing. The highly acclaimed, award-winning feature was crucial in the reduction of the number of breast cancer cases that year.

An active community leader, Barbara Boyd has been a member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for many years. She holds membership at the Indianapolis Association of Black Journalists, the NAACP, and the March of Dimes Association. In addition to these activities, Mrs. Boyd has been a fundraiser and board member for the Indiana Make-A-Wish Foundation since 1996.

Barbara Boyd has been profiled in Indianapolis Monthly Magazine, Indianapolis Woman Magazine, and a book entitled *In The Public Interest*. She has received four CASPER broadcasting awards from the Community Service Council of Indianapolis and has been named "Woman of the Year" by the American Cancer Society for her daring feature on breast cancer. She has also received awards from the Indianapolis Press Club, the Indiana State Medical Association, and the Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation. For three consecutive years she was named one of

Indianapolis' Top Ten Women by the Indianapolis Star. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Martin Luther King Freedom Award. In March, 2000, Barbara Boyd was inducted into the Indianapolis Hall of Fame.

Boyd was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 11, 2000.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Barbara Boyd was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 11, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Television reporter Barbara Boyd (1929 -) was a groundbreaking broadcast journalist, who was most known for her feature on breast cancer awareness, on which she reported one week after having a mastectomy.

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:

Boyd, Barbara

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Boyd, Barbara--Interviews

African American journalists--Indiana--Indianapolis--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

WRTV-6 (Television station: Indianapolis, Ind.)

Occupations:

Television Reporter

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 Barbara Boyd, July 11, 2000. 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 Barbara Boyd, Section A2000_006_001_001, TRT: 0:31:09 ?

Born and raised in Evanston, Illinois, Barbara Boyd is the only child of Ernest and Alberta Andry. Her father worked for a cleaners and eventually started his own business--a transfer company, or moving company. Her father's words were intended to instill pride in young Barbara Boyd; he believed that there were no limits to an Andry's potential. Her mother, a housewife, also encouraged and supported Boyd in her pursuits. Grandparents and cousins played important roles in Barbara Boyd's family life. Boyd visited relatives in the South and was constantly surprised by this unfamiliar region of the United States. Life in "The North Shore," the collective suburbs north of Chicago, Illinois, was full for Barbara Boyd, despite her being an only child. She describes her childhood with stories of her love of the movies and her penchant for performance. Her adolescence was also a memorable period, a social time during which she mingled with the other young men and women of the North Shore.

African American families--Illinois--Evanston.

Childhood and youth--Illinois--Evanston.

North Shore (Ill.: Region).

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Boyd, Section A2000_006_001_002, TRT: 0:31:09 ?

As a child and young adult, Barbara Boyd had a love of the performing arts. She awaited regular trips to see theatrical performances in Chicago, Illinois. Among those who would accompany her to these productions was the famed author of 'A Raisin in the Sun,' Lorraine Hansberry, and Hansberry's cousin, Shauneille Perry. Upon graduation from high school, Boyd looked forward to attending college at The University of Illinois, Champaign, an environment in which she ultimately thrived. The social setting, in general, and her chosen speech curriculum, specifically, contributed to her positive experience. After college she was introduced to and eventually married Theodore 'Ted' Boyd, a generous and gentle YMCA employee. She undertook several administrative jobs, many relating to Jewish community relations. In a position with Head Start, an education preparation organization, she came upon an opportunity to work for Channel 6, WRTV Indianapolis, Indiana. After a successful interview, she was hired to work for the network.

Education--Illinois--Evanston.

Hansberry, Lorraine, 1930-1965.

University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus).

Head Start Program (U.S.).

WRTV-6 (Television station: Indianapolis, Ind.).

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Boyd, Section A2000_006_001_003, TRT: 0:30:19 ?

Without any formal journalism training, Barbara Boyd embarked on a career in television broadcasting. She learned important journalism lessons from her helpful colleagues at Channel 6, WRTV Indianapolis, Indiana. Her husband, Theodore Boyd, and their three children also gave her the support that enabled her to succeed in the time-intensive field. The story that catapulted Barbara Boyd's career included coverage of her own struggle with breast cancer. Upon finding a lump in her breast, she began to consider what a great story her experience and the Reach for Recovery program, a support group for women undergoing mastectomies, would make. She did not initially recognize her story as brave or courageous, but rather newsworthy. She goes on to describe her most memorable story, one that portrayed life on a southern Indiana commune, Padanaram, led by Daniel Wright. Ten years later, she revisited the same

location; this time significant changes were apparent.

Television broadcasting--Indiana--Indianapolis.

WRTV-6 (Television station: Indianapolis, Ind.).

Breast--Cancer.

African American families--Indiana--Indianapolis.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Boyd, Section A2000_006_001_004, TRT: 0:30:54 ?

Barbara Boyd discusses the enormous influence that media figures wield. She found that viewers took her on-air commentary to be unequivocally true. For this reason, she claims that journalists should uphold ethics. Boyd recognizes that the industry in which she worked continues to change. She cites today's journalists as not demonstrating loyalty for the stations that employ them. And while she does think that digital technology increases the efficiency of the newsroom, she claims that young journalists do not take great pride in their work. Speed is sacrificed for quality. The diversity of the newsroom has also changed in her tenure at Channel 6, WRTV Indianapolis, Indiana. Women and African Americans fill newsroom positions at much higher rates, giving new perspectives that ultimately enhance network coverage. Boyd discusses her signature hairstyle and the development of Indianapolis, a burgeoning midwestern city. In her closing remarks she recognizes the blessings that have come out of the adverse situation.

Television broadcasting--Indiana--Indianapolis.

Indianapolis--Indiana--urban development.

Photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Barbara Boyd, Section A2000_006_001_005, TRT: 0:15:43 ?

Includes photographs of Barbara Boyd, family, and friends.

Photographs.