Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hon. William E. Shaw

Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator: Shaw, William E.
Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hon. William E. Shaw,
Dates: May 25, 2001
Bulk Dates: 2001
Physical Description: 1 Betacam SP videocassette (0:30:00).
Abstract: State senator and mayor Hon. William E. Shaw (1937 - 2008) served in the Illinois General Assembly for twenty years. Ten of those years were spent as a state senator. After leaving the senate, Shaw was elected mayor of Dalton, Illinois. Shaw was instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of $4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois. Shaw was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 25, 2001, in Springfield, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification: A2001_083
Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

William Shaw was born on July 31, 1937, in Fulton, Arkansas. As a child, Shaw moved to St. Louis, Missouri with his family. As a teenager, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he attended Crane High School. Initially pursuing a career in boxing, Shaw suffered a humiliating defeat in the ring. He then chose a political career instead.

One of his first jobs in politics was as an assistant to Alderman Wilson Frost of Chicago’s 34th Ward. In 1982, Shaw was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, as a democrat, where he served for ten years. He was then elected to the Illinois Senate in 1993. During his two decades in the Illinois General Assembly, Shaw served as a member of the Senate Energy & Environment Committee and the Task Force on Electric Deregulation. As a member of the Senate Local Government Committee, Shaw was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Historic Pullman District on Chicago’s South Side.

In 1997, Shaw was elected Mayor of the City of Dolton, Illinois, while maintaining his senatorial position in Springfield. Shaw has been an ardent supporter of worker’s rights legislation. He has also been instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of $4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois.

Shaw is married and the father of three children.

Scope and Content
This life oral history interview with Hon. William E. Shaw was conducted by Jason Hausen on May 25, 2001, in Springfield, Illinois, and was recorded on 1 Betacam SP videocassette. State senator and mayor Hon. William E. Shaw (1937 - 2008 ) served in the Illinois General Assembly for twenty years. Ten of those years were spent as a state senator. After leaving the senate, Shaw was elected mayor of Dalton, Illinois. Shaw was instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of $4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois.

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:

Shaw, William E.

Hausen, Jason (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hon. William E. Shaw--Interviews

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

Mayors--Interviews
African American mayors.

African American politicians.

**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

Dolton, (Ill.)

**HistoryMakers® Category:**

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**


**Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/29/2012 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, May 25, 2001

Video Oral History Interview with Hon. William E. Shaw, Section A2001_083_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 2001/05/25

William “Bill” Shaw was born on July, 31, 1937 in Fulton, Arkansas. Shaw’s parent’s names were William and Gertrude Shaw and they worked as sharecroppers until all of their children were born. From Arkansas, Shaw’s family moved to St. Louis, Missouri for ten years, and finally settled in Chicago, Illinois. Between the 1982 and 2002, Shaw has held the elected offices of state congressman, state senator, and the Mayor of Dolton, Illinois. He admires his peers in the Illinois General Assembly, especially Sen. Emil Jones, for their commitment to using politics to improve the lives of people in their communities. Shaw believes that his own successful legislation will leave a positive legacy of his impact as a politician.

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews
Mayors--Interviews
African American families--Arkansas.
Jones, Emil, 1935-
African American legislators – Illinois.
Illinois. General Assembly--Senate.