Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Hall, Evangeline

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Evangeline Hall,

Dates: April 24, 2002

Bulk Dates: 2002

Physical Description: 3 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:31:42).

Abstract: Civil rights activist Evangeline Hall (1915 - ) was the first African American woman to serve as president of the Bradenton, Florida Democratic Party. Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 24, 2002, in Bradenton, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2002_056

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil Rights activist Evangeline Jennings Hall was born September 6, 1915, in DeLand, Florida. Her mother, Minnie Brooks Jennings, was a schoolteacher before giving birth to her seven children. William Jennings, Evangeline Hall's father, worked three jobs every day to feed his family.

Hall (then Jennings) attended segregated schools, but does not remember experiencing racial tension. She had a gift for playing the piano, and served as her church's organist. Hall attended Bethune-Cookman College and, in her thirties, Hall and her husband moved to Bradenton, Florida and separated. Discovering Bradenton was terribly prejudiced, Hall and four other activists formed the Biracial Committee with the support of Mayor A. Sterling Hall. Mayor Hall worked to end some of Bradenton's Jim Crow laws, including separate water fountains, and swore that no lynchings would occur during his administration. Even with the mayor's assistance, however, the Committee was largely unable to integrate business establishments.

Evangeline Hall spent 47 years working in the insurance industry for Central Life Insurance. She became an agent and an assistant manager before becoming the company's first female African American manager. She was also the first black woman to serve as the president of the local Democratic Party. As a member of the League of Women Voters, Hall registered people to vote for many years. Mayor A. Sterling Hall awarded Evangeline Hall the key to the city in recognition of her accomplishments.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Evangeline Hall was conducted by Samuel Adams on April 24, 2002, in Bradenton, Florida, and was recorded on 3 Betacam SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist Evangeline Hall (1915 - ) was the first African American woman to serve as president of the Bradenton, Florida Democratic Party.
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:

Evangeline Hall

Adams, Samuel (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Evangeline Hall--Interviews

Civil rights workers--Florida--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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 Evangeline Hall, April 24, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/5/2012 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, April 24, 2002

Video Oral History Interview with Evangeline Hall, Section A2002_056_001_001, TRT: 0:29:54 2002/04/24

Evangeline Jennings Hall, born September 6, 1915, discusses her childhood, family, music, education, and marriage. Hall discusses her parents, Minnie Brooks and William Pink Jennings, and her five siblings: Alberta Jennings, Dorthelia Campbell, Minnie Monroe, Ruth, and William Pink, Jr. Hall has few memories of her grandparents, but does mention two aunts, Mary Campbell and Estelle Green, whom she admired. Hall discusses her childhood and earliest memory in DeLand, Florida. She attended Bronson Elementary School (later named Euclid Avenue [Learning Center]) and was influenced by many teachers including Wilhelmina Johnson. After high school, Hall attended Bethune-Cookman College until she married and moved. She lived in a few cities in Florida, but once she arrived in Bradenton, she separated from her husband. African American families--Florida. African Americans--Education--Florida--History--20th century. Bethune-Cookman College (Daytona Beach, Fla.) Music--Instruction and study.
Evangeline Hall discusses her life after moving to Bradenton, Florida. She divorced her husband and began a forty-seven year career at Central Life Insurance Company where she eventually became the first African American female manager. Hall discusses her experiences with prejudices in Bradenton and how she and four others joined together to form the Biracial Committee that would lobby local businesses to integrate. Through the influence of Mary Mulvey, Hall also became involved in politics and became a member and precinct clerk of the League of Women Voters and was the first African American president of the Democratic Women’s Club.

Civil rights workers--United States.
King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968--Assassination.
African Americans--Civil rights--History--20th century.
Civil rights movements--Florida--20th century.
Democratic Party (Fla.)
Florida League of Women Voters.

Evangeline Hall discusses her career at Central Life Insurance Company, its history, and explains the importance of insurance policies. She discusses the myriad ways in which she has tried to help the local African American community before discussing a few of the children she reared. Hall also discusses the changes in Bradenton, Florida, since she moved there in the 1940s. Of all of her accomplishments, Hall is most proud that she was able to influence so many others to register to vote. She does not feel that she has done anything for which she wishes to be remembered. Hall humbly claims that the people of Manatee County, Florida, have made her who she is. She loves them and they have shown their love for her, as well.

African American families--Florida.
Democratic Party (Fla.)
Life insurance--Social aspects--United States--History.
African Americans--Florida--social life and customs
Florida League of Women Voters.