

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sidney L. Rushing

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rushing, Sidney L., 1930-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sidney L. Rushing,
Dates:	November 12, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:21:10).
Abstract:	City government administrator Sidney L. Rushing (1930 -) has lived a life in service to the community of Gulfport, Mississippi, and is now the President of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi. Rushing was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 12, 2002, in Gulfport, Mississippi. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_203
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Sidney Lanier Rushing was born August 20, 1930, in Carthage, Mississippi. After graduating from Jordan High School in 1948, Rushing earned a B.S. degree in political science from Mississippi Valley State University and an M.Ed. degree from Southern University. Rushing taught social studies in the Gulfport, Mississippi, city schools from 1958 to 1971.

In 1972, Rushing worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1974, he was invited by a friend to apply for a management training position

with Gulfport's Hancock Bank. Rushing was hired, and despite the discrimination he experienced, he rose from loan officer to vice president. As a bank official, Rushing opened up banking opportunities for other African Americans. Moreover, he used his knowledge of the community to inform his business decisions and the community supported him.

Civic-minded and service-oriented, Rushing serves on the boards of the Mississippi Resource Development Corporation, the PTA, St. Marks United Methodist Church, the Gulfport Planning Commission and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was appointed to the Mississippi Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and is president of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. Rushing and other Gulfport activists recently formed the John C. Robinson Brown Condor Association to honor Robinson, a Gulfport native and aviation pioneer.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sidney L. Rushing was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 12, 2002, in Gulfport, Mississippi, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. City government administrator Sidney L. Rushing (1930 -) has lived a life in service to the community of Gulfport, Mississippi, and is now the President of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi.

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:

Rushing, Sidney L., 1930-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rushing, Sidney L., 1930---Interviews

African American bankers--Interviews

African American educators--Mississippi--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Mississippi--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

Occupations:

City Government Administrator

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 Sidney L. Rushing, November 12, 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 2/5/2020 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 Sidney L. Rushing, Section
A2002_203_001_001, TRT: 0:30:10 2002/11/12

Sidney Rushing describes his family background. Rushing's father, Ned Rushing, was born on March 10, 1902 and worked as a farmer. He was crippled from childhood and died in 1942. Rushing's grandfather, also named Ned Rushing, was a Baptist preacher and teacher who founded many churches in central Mississippi. Rushing's mother, Emma Rushing LeFlore was born Emma Lindsey on February 12, 1910. Her grandfather had been a farmer in Leake County, Mississippi, but was assassinated in Clarksdale, Mississippi by a white man who stole his cattle. Emma Rushing LeFlore worked as a science teacher and school principal in Leake County, Mississippi, but was also an entrepreneur who did hair, made eyeglasses, and false teeth, and ran a store and restaurant. She attended Central Mississippi College and Jackson College for Colored Teachers, which is now Jackson State University in Mississippi. Rushing was born on August 20, 1930 in Carthage, Mississippi.

African American bankers--Interviews.

African American educators--Mississippi--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Mississippi--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney L. Rushing, Section
A2002_203_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00 2002/11/12

Sidney Rushing attended Leake County Agricultural High School in Walnut Grove, Mississippi, which was fifteen miles away from his home in Carthage, Mississippi. In order to get to school, Rushing had to ride in the back of a flatbed truck across unpaved roads, and would often arrive late to school due to bad weather. At school, Rushing spent half of each day in agriculture class and the other half studying English, history, math, and science. Many of Rushing's family members were teachers in the area,

including his mother Emma Rushing LeFlore, his grandfather, and his aunts Lula Bell and Martha Walker. One of his aunts was a Jeanes supervisor for Leake County, Mississippi who trained other black teachers how to teach. After graduation, Rushing attended Jackson College for Colored Teachers (now Jackson State University) in Mississippi as a physical education major. In 1951, after his sophomore year, Rushing volunteered to serve in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney L. Rushing, Section A2002_203_001_003, TRT: 0:29:20 2002/11/12

Sidney Rushing describes his service in the United States Air Force and his career as a teacher in Gulfport, Mississippi. In 1951, Rushing had the option of either enlisting in a military branch of his choosing or being drafted into the United States Army. After hearing about his brother Ollie Rushing's experience in the 34th Infantry, Rushing enlisted in the United States Air Force. He trained at Lackland Air Force Base and Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas before being stationed at the Eastern Air Defense Force headquarters in New York. Rushing specialized in intelligence work and became the map expert at the Eastern Air Defense Force. In 1953, he was stationed at Kimpo Air Force Base in Korea in the Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. After the war, Rushing attended Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi, where he obtained his teaching certificate in 1958. He taught math and social studies at 33rd Avenue High School in Gulfport, Mississippi, and remained a teacher until around 1972.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney L. Rushing, Section A2002_203_001_004, TRT: 0:30:30 2002/11/12

Sidney Rushing describes his career as a teacher, bank loan officer, and civic leader. Rushing was inspired to become a teacher by his paternal grandfather Ned Rushing, his mother Emma Rushing LeFlore, and two of his aunts who were also teachers. As a teacher, Rushing was devoted to nurturing his students and maintaining relationships with them after they left his class. Around 1972, Rushing left teaching to pursue a career in the

Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, President Richard Nixon froze hiring of all civil service positions and instead, Rushing was hired at Hancock Bank as a loan officer around 1974. This allowed Rushing to open up banking opportunities for Gulfport's African American community. Rushing became Vice President of Hancock Bank and served on the Mississippi State College Board. He retired from Hancock Bank in 1996. Rushing remains involved in civic activities like the Black Condors, an organization honoring black aviator John C. Robinson.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney L. Rushing, Section A2002_203_001_005, TRT: 0:22:10 2002/11/12

Sidney Rushing describes his work with the Black Condors to create a museum in honor of black aviators and named in honor of black aviator John C. Robinson. He also shares his hopes and concerns for the African American community and reflects upon his legacy. He ends the interview by narrating his photographs.