

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Love

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Love, Richard, 1938-2017
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Love,
Dates:	November 19, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:09:45).
Abstract:	Newspaper editor and newspaper publishing chief executive Richard Love (1938 -) was an advocate of black business development and a devoted leader in his community where he founded The Long Beach Times. Love was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 19, 2002, in Long Beach, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_210
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Newspaper publisher Richard Love was born on June 24, 1938, in Hahira, Georgia to Roosevelt and Ophelia Love. Recruited by the Los Angeles Dodgers following high school, Love declined an invitation to their farm team to pursue a college degree. Love attended Kentucky State University, but left following his freshman year to join the military in 1958. Love spent three years in the service, and spent considerable time at Fort Devers in Boston and Bavaria, Germany, where he became the battalion photographer. Love left the military in 1961 and returned to his home in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Love worked as an orderly at a V.A. hospital for several years upon his return from the military. In 1962, he became security for then United States Vice President Hubert Humphrey. He remained with the V.A. hospital and as security until 1964. The following year, he became a real estate appraiser for World Savings, where he also worked as a housing consultant for the Urban League. Love worked in real estate for nearly a decade, primarily as a housing coordinator of land-based properties in Dade County, Florida. There, he acquired his first experiences in journalism as an editor for the community newsletter. He later moved to Westwood, California, in 1985. There, he continued working in real estate and also became an advisor for black businesses. Encouraged by the success of the African American *Denver Times*, Love surveyed the community to gauge support for a black newspaper. After receiving largely positive responses, he established *The Long Beach Times*. Singlehandedly writing, editing and publishing the newspaper, Love focused on giving African Americans a voice by including the names of political representatives and city council members and listing their contact information in each issue. In the early 1990s, he founded the Long Beach Chapter of African American Commerce. A member of the NAACP and advocate of black business development, Love was a devoted leader of the Long Beach community.

Love passed away on February 25, 2017.

Richard Love was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 19, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard Love was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 19, 2002, in Long Beach, California, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Newspaper editor and newspaper publishing chief executive Richard Love (1938 -) was an advocate of black business development and a devoted leader in his community where he founded *The Long Beach Times*.

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:

Love, Richard, 1938-2017

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Love, Richard, 1938-2017--Interviews

Authors and publishers--Interviews

Organizations:

Occupations:

Newspaper Editor

Newspaper Publishing Chief Executive

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 Richard Love, November 19, 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 Richard Love, Section
A2002_210_001_001, TRT: 0:28:45 2002/11/19

Richard Love describes his family background. His parents, Roosevelt and Ophelia Love, were both born in 1915 near Hahira, Georgia. Roosevelt Love was born to a Methodist preacher who helped slaves escape from slavery, and fathered forty-nine children. Ophelia Love was born to Lela Hall, one of the first teachers in Hahira, Georgia. The Loves married in 1936, and gave birth to Richard Love on June 25, 1938. Roosevelt Love joined the U.S. Marine Corps in the early 1940s, and moved his family to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. After he was discharged around 1945, the Love family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. Roosevelt Love became the city's first black mail carrier. The Loves traveled to Hahira, Georgia during the summers to help with the summer harvest, where Richard Love helped pick cotton and tobacco, load watermelons, and cure tobacco. Love was also a tremendous athlete, and at the age of seventeen, was recruited to play for the Los Angeles Dodgers farm team. His mother, however, would not let him play.

African American families--Georgia.

Slavery--America--History.

Lowndes County (Ga.)

Saint Petersburg (Fla.)--Social conditions.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Love, Section
A2002_210_001_002, TRT: 0:29:25 2002/11/19

Richard Love graduated from high school in 1957. On a visit home from college, his older brother invited him for

a ride around the city of St. Petersburg, Florida. Love accepted, and found himself on a 900 mile journey to Kentucky State College, a Historically Black College in Frankfort, Kentucky. Love burned down the college's gym to protest the admission of white students, leading him to withdraw in 1958. Love got married, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958. Though he faced some discrimination, Love enjoyed being stationed in Germany and working as a battalion photographer. He was discharged in 1961, and was hired to work at Don CeSar Veterans Affairs Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. Between 1962 and 1964, he also worked for Vice President Herbert Humphrey's security detail. Love moved to Denver, Colorado in 1968 following a divorce, where he worked as a real estate appraiser for World Savings Bank for several years. Love then moved to the Westwood neighborhood in Los Angeles, California in 1985.

African American students--Georgia.

Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978.

Kentucky State College (Frankfort, Ky.).

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

Schwäbisch Gmünd (Germany)

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Love, Section
A2002_210_001_003, TRT: 0:30:35 2002/11/19

Richard Love moved to California in 1985. After spearheading a feasibility study, he realized that there was a need for a black news outlet in Long Beach, California. He purchased a typewriter and started distributing news, on legal paper, around the community. He branded this "newspaper" The Long Beach Times. Around 1988, a janitor Love had befriended gifted the Times with \$8,000, allowing him to turn his project into a full-fledged newspaper. In the early 1990s, Love also founded the Long Beach Black Chamber of Commerce. Love describes the issues in the black community, including: superficial leadership of the Long Beach branch of the NAACP; lack of black ownership; lack of corporate responsibility on the part of black and white corporate heads; and lack of community unity. Love also described how his parents' advice led him to teach his children how to

manage their priorities. Love closes this tape by describing the demographics of Long Beach, California.

Long Beach (Calif.)--Social life and customs.

Long Beach (Calif.)--Newspapers.

NAACP. Long Beach chapter.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Love, Section
A2002_210_001_004, TRT: 0:29:30 2002/11/19

Richard Love comments on the changing demographics of the neighborhoods in Long Beach, California. Love also talks about how people perceive black identity. He feels that non-American “blackness” is placed on a higher pedestal in American society. Love comments on the need for culturally specific chambers of commerce; however, he feels that such initiatives should be inclusive and collaborative. Love comments on the black community’s need for economic viability, noting that many blacks have wealth, but lack ownership. Love describes the issues he has with the Black Church, and hopes The Long Beach Times will leave a legacy as a newspaper that changed mindsets. In addition, Love wants to be remembered as a man who cared.

Cohn, Carl A.

African American churches--California--Los Angeles.

Invective—United States—Psychological aspects.

United States--Race relations.

African Americans--Economic conditions.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Love, Section
A2002_210_001_005, TRT: 0:11:30 2002/11/19

Richard Love narrates his photographs.