

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Crain Woods

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Woods, Crain, 1932-2017
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Crain Woods,
Dates:	December 5, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:05:39).
Abstract:	High school teacher and city council member Crain Woods (1932 - 2017) served as a city legislator in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Woods was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 5, 2002, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_223
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and politician Crain Woods was born in Due West, South Carolina, on December 14, 1932. The youngest son of a farmer and a housewife, Woods attended Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, following his graduation from high school. Woods earned a B.S. in 1957, and later returned to school, attending South Carolina State University for an M.S. in education and graduating in 1970.

After earning his bachelor's degree, Woods began his teaching career in 1959 in the Clarendon County Department of Education, where he was a teacher and a

coach. Three years later, Woods was hired by the Horry County Department of Education, where he served as a teacher and school administrator. Woods continued on with Horry County until his retirement. In 1994, Woods became involved in the city government of Myrtle Beach after winning a City Council seat, and served as a city councilman until 2002.

Woods remains active with the local government today, serving on the Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel Corporation board of directors and the All Aboard Committee, which is taking measures to have the Myrtle Beach railroad station placed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Woods sits on the board of the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority. He has also been active with the Horry County chapter of the American Red Cross for more than twenty-five years and currently serves as chairman of the organization. Additionally, Woods is a charter member and sits on the board of the Children's Museum of South Carolina. Woods and his wife, Julia, have been married since 1959.

Woods passed away on March 5, 2017 at age 84.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Crain Woods was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 5, 2002, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. High school teacher and city council member Crain Woods (1932 - 2017) served as a city legislator in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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:

Woods, Crain, 1932-2017

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Woods, Crain, 1932-2017--Interviews

African American educators--Interviews.

African American educators--South Carolina--Charleston.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Myrtle Beach (S.C.)

Occupations:

High School Teacher

City Council Member

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Crain Woods, December 5, 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 Crain Woods, Section
A2002_223_001_001, TRT: 0:28:55 2002/12/06

Crain Woods describes his family background. His mother, Ida Crain, was born in 1894 to runaway slaves in Central, South Carolina. His father, Thomas Woods, was born in 1896 to Jackson Waldo and Ella Woods in Due West, South Carolina. Ida Crain and Thomas Woods attended Seneca Institute in Seneca, South Carolina, where they met. They then married and moved to Key West, Florida, where Thomas Woods worked as a butler and Ida Crain Woods worked as a maid. They moved back to Due West, South Carolina upon the birth of their first child, and gave birth to Crain Woods on December 14, 1932. As a youth, Woods helped to maintain his family's farm by milking cows, feeding mules, and keeping the grounds tidy. He also enjoyed playing outside, and riding to Level Land, South Carolina in his parents' Model T Ford to attend church. Woods attended Carver High School in Due West, South Carolina, where he played basketball and baseball. After graduating in 1950, Woods enrolled at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina.

African American families--South Carolina.

African American farmers--Southern States.

Due West (S.C.).

Segregation in education.

African American schools.

Well water--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Crain Woods, Section
A2002_223_001_002, TRT: 0:29:35 2002/12/06

In 1950, Crain Woods enrolled at Benedict College in

Columbia, South Carolina, and graduated from there in 1957. Woods then moved to New York City, but soon returned to South Carolina. In 1959, he was hired as a coach in Clarendon County, South Carolina. Woods also married, and obtained his M.S. degree from South Carolina State University in 1970. In 1962, Crain was hired as an elementary school teacher for Horry County Schools in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and integrated the staff of the city's white elementary school. Woods eventually rose to an administrative position, which he held until his retirement. Woods' parents were proud of his education career. In 1994, Myrtle Beach community members banded together and requested that Woods run for a City Council seat. Woods agreed, was elected, and worked to improve the economy of the City of Myrtle Beach. Woods also shared his hopes and concerns for the community of Myrtle Beach, and reflected upon his legacy and plans for the future.

Benedict College.

African American Greek letter societies.

Myrtle Beach (S.C.).

School integration--South Carolina.

African American politicians.

City council members.

Video Oral History Interview with Crain Woods, Section
A2002_223_001_003, TRT: 0:07:09 2002/12/06

Crain Woods would like to be remembered as someone who helped others. He closes the interview by narrating his photographs.

African American grandparents.

Red Cross. U.S. American National Red. Cross. Horry County Chapter.

Awards--South Carolina.

Christmas--South Carolina.