Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rebecca "Becky" Love

Overview of the Collection

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

Creator: Love, Rebecca "Becky"

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love,

Dates: March 28, 2003

Bulk Dates: 2003

Physical Description: 4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:39:39).

Abstract: Elementary school teacher and yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love (1916 - ) was a third grade teacher for thirty-eight years in Chicago. Love was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 28, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2003_058

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Elementary school teacher-turned-yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love was born on May 2, 1916, in Buffalo, New York, to Johnetta and Robert Grant. After relocating to Chicago, she married Edison Love, a Chicago politician, in 1942. She took night classes at Northwestern University, earning a B.S. in education in 1951, and went on to study English and psychology there, receiving her M.A. in 1966.

Love taught third-grade students at Doolittle West School, in the Douglas community on Chicago's South Side, for thirty-eight years.

Her fascination with yoga began when Love was just a teenager. However, it was not until she was in her forties that she began formal training. Love studied yoga with Sivananda Yoga Vendanta group and began teaching in the early 1960s. Love conducted master-level training at the Temple of Kriya Yoga. She earned the title master teacher of Hatha yoga in 1972. Since then, she has trained hundreds of yoga teachers at the Temple and has taught classes at the Sears Tower, Harold Washington College, Lawson YMCA, the New City YMCA, Michael Reese Hospital, Neiman Marcus and the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Over the years, she has become one of Chicago's most beloved yoga instructors.

Love has lived in the same home on the South Side for the past sixty years. Her only daughter, Candace Crolley Love, died of kidney problems in the early 1980s at the age of thirty-five. Her husband died several years later.

Love has been featured in numerous local publications and on March 7, 2002, was the focus of Harry Porterfield's "Someone You Should Know" segment on ABC Channel 7. She regularly lectures and conducts workshops on health and nutrition in addition to teaching eleven yoga classes, six days a week.

Scope and Content

file:///I/Individual%20HistoryMakers/L/Love,%20Rebecca/Interview%20Description/A2003_058_Love_Rebecca_EAD.html[7/6/2012 11:40:03 AM]
This life oral history interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 28, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Elementary school teacher and yoga instructor Rebecca "Becky" Love (1916 - ) was a third grade teacher for thirty-eight years in Chicago.

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, Rebecca "Becky"
Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rebecca "Becky" Love--Interviews
African American educators--Interviews.
African American women teachers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)
The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Doolittle West School (Chicago, Ill.)

**HistoryMakers® Category:**

EducationMakers

**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 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, March 28, 2003**

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_001, TRT: 0:27:46 2003/03/28

Review and description of Rebecca Love’s photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_002, TRT: 0:30:02 2003/03/28
Rebecca “Becky” Love (nee Grant) is a retired school teacher and Temple of Kriya certified yoga instructor born on May 2, 1916. Her parents, Johnetta Clanton and Robert Ledley Grant, met in Chicago, Illinois, but briefly moved to Buffalo, New York, where Love was born. She has one brother, Robert Ledley Grant, Jr. Love discusses her limited knowledge of her father’s English background and more extensive knowledge of her mother’s Louisiana background, including her family’s relationship with Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee University. Love does not recall many sights, sounds, and smells from her childhood because she spent most of her time reading. Love discusses attending St. Elizabeth Catholic School and how her uncle, Benjamin Clanton, helped her attend Hyde Park [Academy] High School where Love published some of her poems in her school newspaper and would attend the Artists and Models Ball directed by Margaret Burroughs.

Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915
Tuskegee University.
African Americans--Segregation.
African Americans--Illinois--Chicago--Social life and customs.
African Americans--Education--Illinois--Chicago.
African Americans Segregation--Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_003, TRT: 0:28:16 2003/03/28

Rebecca Love discusses her education, teaching, and how yoga changed her life. For Love, there are no dramatic high school or college memories. After high school, Love attended Chicago Teacher’s College (Chicago State University), where she received her teaching certificate allowing her to teach third grade at Doolittle [West] School for thirty-eight years. Eventually, Love attended Northwestern University for her Bachelors and Masters degrees before finding yoga through Parmahansa Yogananda’s book, “Autobiography of a Yogi.” After a two-year correspondence course with the Self Realization Fellowship in California and an initiation into kriya yoga in 1970, Love continued studying yoga in Canada with Vishnu Devananda, other instructors across the country, and at the Temple Kriya in Chicago. She eventually began teaching at the Lawson YMCA on Chicago Avenue. Love also discusses the basics of meditation, different types and aspects of yoga, and her ideology of reincarnation.

Yoga--Health aspects.
Yoga--Illinois--Chicago.
Hatha yoga--Study and teaching.
Reincarnation.

Video Oral History Interview with Rebecca "Becky" Love, Section A2003_058_001_004, TRT: 0:13:35 2003/03/28

Rebecca Love discusses the benefits of yoga, incorporating yoga into her third grade classroom, and her hopes and concerns for the future. Love began teaching yoga over forty years ago and managed to incorporated yoga into her classroom teaching at one of the toughest inner-city schools in Chicago, Doolittle [West School] before she retired in 1986 or 1987. Love also discusses karma yoga and Ghandi’s influence on Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement. Highlights of Love’s yoga career include traveling to exotic locations and the appreciation of her students. She is proud to see so many
students become instructors, such as Asar Hapi. Love’s hopes and concerns are that we all live in peace. She does not have a legacy and she does not care to be remembered. Love sees beyond this life to the eternal beings that we all are.

Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948

World War III

Scallion, Gordon Michael, 1942-

Yoga, Karma