

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald Daly

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Daly, Ronald, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Daly,
Dates:	December 3, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:07:57).
Abstract:	Corporate chief executive Ronald Daly (1947 -) is the CEO of Océ-USA. Daly was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 3, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_286
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Business executive Ron Daly was born on February 23, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, the eldest of two children. Daly's mother was a homemaker and his father a laborer. After graduating from Farragut High School in 1964, Daly went to work for R.R. Donnelley.

As one of the first African Americans to work at Donnelley, Daly continued his education, and, in 1975, earned his associate's degree from Prairie State University. Two years later, he earned a B.A. degree from Governor's State College, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college. Daly continued his education, earning an M.B.A. from Loyola University of Chicago in 1980. He continued to work at R.R. Donnelley, and by the time he left in 2002, he had risen to the position of president of Donnelley Print Solutions, the largest division of the organization. Daly was then named president and CEO of Océ-USA Holding, Incorporated. At Océ, Daly is the first American to run the company's North American operations, and the first American to sit on the board of directors of the Netherlands-based company.

In addition to a lifetime of dedication to his work, Daly is active in the community as a member of the board of directors of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, president of the Leadership Group of Chicago and a member of the executive council of Metropolis 2020. Daly and his wife, Delores, have three children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ronald Daly was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 3, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate chief executive Ronald Daly (1947 -) is the CEO of Océ-USA.

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:

- Daly, Ronald, 1947-
- Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
- Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

- African Americans--Interviews
- Daly, Ronald, 1947- --Interviews

Organizations:

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

Occupations:

- Corporate Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

- BusinessMakers
-

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 Ronald Daly, December 3, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Ronald Daly, Section A2003_286_001_001, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Ronald Daly was born on February 23, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. Daly's mother, Ella McCreary Brown, was born in 1922 in Mobile, Alabama. She grew up in Mobile in a family of thirteen children. Daly's father, Edwin Daly, was born in 1919 in Mobile, Alabama. Edwin Daly's father died young, and Edwin grew up in a poor household with a stepfather he disliked. In 1941, after their marriage, Edwin Daly and Ella Brown moved to Chicago, Illinois to work. Ronald Daly did not often see his father, who worked fourteen hours a day as a janitor and laborer. Daly's mother was a devout Pentecostal, so he went to church multiple days a week until he left the religion as a teenager. Daly was an avid reader of history as a child, especially biographies of men like George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, and Frederick Douglass. He remembers the fear and grief in his community after the death of Emmett Till in 1955. Daly attended Farragut High School in Chicago, Illinois, graduating in 1964 at the age of sixteen.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Daly, Section A2003_286_001_002, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Ronald Daly talks about his opposition to reparations for slavery. He also describes the tensions of rising to supervisory roles as an African American in

formerly all-white corporations. In Chicago, Daly graduated from Roswell B. Mason Elementary School at twelve years old in 1959 and then enrolled at Farragut High School. Daly's grades dropped during his high school years, which he attributes to not being mature enough for high school, but he graduated in 1964 at the age of sixteen. During his childhood, Daly dealt with the rise of both racial hostility and gang violence. One day, walking home from Mason Elementary, Daly was shot at by a car of white teenagers. Later, a classmate was murdered by a white boy at a neighboring school. During Daly's time at Farragut High, gangs such as the Cobras and the Vice Lords moved into his neighborhood. Daly remembers facing threats of violence at basketball games, as well as being confronted by an armed drug dealer.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Daly, Section A2003_286_001_003, TRT: 0:31:17 ?

Ronald Daly held a job as a stock boy for a clothing store during his years at Farragut High School in Chicago, Illinois, but after his graduation in 1964 he was unable to continue there. Daly then applied to other jobs and also took entrance exams for the U.S. Air Force. Though he passed the Air Force exams, he chose to take an apprenticeship as a proofreader with R.R. Donnelley and Sons, a printing company. During his first years at the company, Daly lived through the Chicago Blizzard of 1967 and the riots of 1968. Later, he moved with his wife and children to the southern suburbs of Chicago. In order to win promotion at Donnelley, Daly went back to school, and during the 1970s he earned an A.A. degree at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, Illinois, a B.A. degree at Governor's State University in University Park, Illinois, and an M.B.A. degree in finance at Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. During these studies, he also gained an appreciation for the arts and literature.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Daly, Section A2003_286_001_004, TRT: 0:28:10 ?

Ronald Daly describes his career in business after graduating with an M.B.A. degree from Loyola University Chicago in Chicago, Illinois in 1980. While working for R.R. Donnelley and Sons, Daly ran subsidiaries and plants throughout the United States for fifteen years. During this time, he also became active as a board member in many civic organizations. He recalls with pride his time with the Oregon Symphony, where he helped conductor James DePreist to produce a CD of classical music to honor the memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Daly persuaded his employers at Donnelley to hold the Chicago release party for this CD in the Donnelley corporate building. In 1995, Daly was promoted to be president of Donnelley Telecommunications, and he and his family moved back to Chicago, Illinois. Daly worked in this role, effectively the second-in-command at R.R. Donnelley and Sons, until 2002, when he was named C.E.O. of Océ North America, an American branch of a Dutch technology company.

Video Oral History Interview with Ronald Daly, Section A2003_286_001_005, TRT: 0:08:20 ?

Ronald Daly reflects upon his career, and considers the example he wants to set for the next generation of African American business leaders. During his years as a business executive, Daly taught and served on the board of civic institutions such as Junior Achievement in Chicago, the Elliott Donnelley Youth Center, the Board of Leadership of Greater Chicago, and more. Daly reflects upon his hopes and concerns for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered.