

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ruth Apilado

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Apilado, Ruth, 1908-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ruth Apilado,
Dates:	August 26, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:57:47).
Abstract:	Magazine editor and magazine publishing chief executive Ruth Apilado (1908 - 2021) was the founder and associate editor of of America's Intercultural Magazine (AIM), with the goal of purging racism from society and as a scholarship fund for underprivileged youth. Apilado was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 26, 2004, in Maywood, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_149
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Publisher Ruth Mosselle Apilado was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 30, 1908. Her mother, Clara Mays, was a homemaker, and her father, Stewart Mays, was a postal worker. After graduating from McKinley High School in 1925, Apilado attended Chicago Teachers College, where she earned her teaching certificate in 1928.

After becoming a teacher, Apilado was hired by the Chicago public schools, and she worked as an elementary school teacher until 1973. During that time, she was exposed to the world of magazine publishing, having spent 1942 as the editor of the *Negro Youth Photo Scripts Magazine* (NYPS). Following her retirement from the Chicago public schools, Apilado returned to the publishing world, founding *America's Intercultural Magazine* (AIM), in 1973. The magazine, published quarterly, was founded to help purge racism from society and to establish a scholarship fund for underprivileged youth.

Today, Apilado is an associate editor of AIM, and regularly contributes to the magazine. Her son, Myron Apilado, former vice president of minority affairs at the University of Washington, Seattle, serves as the editor and publisher. Her contributions to society have been documented as far back as the *Chicago Tribune* in 1940, and more recently in *N'Digo* magazine and *People You Should Know* with Harry Porterfield.

Apilado passed away on August 15, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ruth Apilado was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 26, 2004, in Maywood, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Magazine editor and magazine publishing

chief executive Ruth Apilado (1908 - 2021) was the founder and associate editor of of America's Intercultural Magazine (AIM), with the goal of purging racism from society and as a scholarship fund for underprivileged youth.

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:

Apilado, Ruth, 1908-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Apilado, Ruth, 1908---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Magazine Editor

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 Ruth Apilado, August 26, 2004. 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 Ruth Apilado, Section A2004_149_001_001, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Ruth Apilado was born on April 30, 1908 in Chicago, Illinois. Her mother, Clara Whetsel Mays, was born in 1885, in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Her mother was first cousin to HistoryMaker Lutrelle Fleming "Lu" Palmer, II's mother. Apilado's maternal grandmother was half Native American and born in Canada; she owned a home in Bellefontaine, Ohio, where Apilado spent time as a child. Apilado's father, Stewart Mays, also born in Bellefontaine in 1886, was a postal worker and his siblings were scholars. Apilado's paternal grandfather was the son of a slave owner and was offered part of his father's Virginia plantation following the Emancipation Proclamation, but refused and went to live in Bellefontaine where he founded the local A.M.E. church. Apilado grew up on the West Side of Chicago. After being barred from Brown School due to her race, Apilado

attended Emerson School, Hayes School and McKinley High School, where she began writing poetry. She remembers her mother's recovery from the flu and childhood nicknames.

Video Oral History Interview with Ruth Apilado, Section A2004_149_001_002, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Ruth Apilado's parents met in Bellefontaine, Ohio. They eventually separated when Apilado was an adult. Apilado remembers hiding under the bed during the Chicago Race Riot of 1919. She attended McKinley High School in Chicago, Illinois. While there, she wrote a poem about her unrequited love for a teacher. Another teacher accused Apilado of plagiarizing an essay and continued to discourage her after she proved herself innocent. Upon graduation in 1921, having few options, she attended Chicago Teachers College. She worked as a substitute teacher in Chicago for six years before being placed in Hayes School. There, she became friends with a white teacher until the teacher made a racist remark. In 1950, Apilado wrote a novel entitled 'The Joneses' which received an honorable mention at the Midwestern Writers Conference. Later in her teaching career, her principal initially discouraged her from reading her poem about Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death during a graduation program she organized.

Video Oral History Interview with Ruth Apilado, Section A2004_149_001_003, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Ruth Apilado attended the Chicago World's Fair in 1933. In 1942 she founded Negro Youth Photo-Script (NYPS) magazine as an outlet for African American writers, among them, HistoryMaker Margaret Burroughs. Apilado attended writers' meetings at Alice Browning's house and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois to refine her writing abilities. She contributed to African American publications such as the Chicago Bee and the Pittsburgh Courier. In the 1940s she traveled to the South and interviewed people for her book, 'Journey South.' An attempted meeting in Mississippi with segregationist U.S. Senator Theodore G. Bilbo led Apilado to publish his letter to her in the Chicago Tribune. In 1973 she began a quarterly magazine called America's Intercultural Magazine (AIM). She describes her support for PUSH and her plan to move to South America to avoid the racial discrimination in the U.S., which was thwarted by meeting her husband.

Video Oral History Interview with Ruth Apilado, Section A2004_149_001_004, TRT: 0:30:47 ?

Ruth Apilado describes the subject of her 1950 novel 'The Joneses' and comments on the circulation of her magazine, America's Intercultural Magazine (AIM). She believes strongly in racial equality and regrets not actively demonstrating during the Civil Rights Movement. Apilado expresses her disapproval of President George W. Bush and describes letters she has written to HistoryMaker President Barack Obama, Dan Rather and President Bill Clinton. She describes her son and her affection for her late parents. She gives advice to young people and considers what she might have done differently in her life. Apilado describes how she would like to be remembered, reflects upon her legacy and narrates her photographs.