

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Judy Pace-Flood

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pace, Judy, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood,
Dates:	March 29, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:05:10).
Abstract:	Actress and film actress Judy Pace-Flood (1942 -) has acted in many television and film productions, including: Batman, Bewitched, The Flying Nun, I Spy, The Young Lawyers, The Mod Squad, That's My Mama, Sanford and Son, What's Happening!!, Good Times, Three in the Attic, The Thomas Crown Affair, and Brian's Song. Pace-Flood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 29, 2005, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_085
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actress Judy Pace Flood was born Judy Pace on June 15, 1942, in Los Angeles, California. Attending Marvin Avenue Elementary School, and Louis Pastuer Junior High School, Pace graduated from Dorsey High School in 1960. Trained in modeling by her sister, Betty, Pace auditioned for the Ebony Fashion Fair and became the youngest model for the show's 1961 to 1962 national tour.

In 1963 Pace auditioned for Columbia Pictures and was cast in William Castle's horror film *The Candyweb*. Pace played a regular role in the 1969 season of *Peyton Place* and went on to appear in many other shows, including *Batman*, *Bewitched*, *The Flying Nun*, *I Spy*, *The Young Lawyers*, *The Mod Squad*, *That's My Mama*, *Sanford and Son*, *What's Happening?*, *Good Times*, and *Sucker Free City*. Cast in Billy Wilder's *The Fortune Cookie* in 1966, Pace also played roles in the movies *Three in the Attic*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, and the acclaimed TV movie *Brian's Song*. In 1970, Pace won acclaim for her role as Iris in the Ossie Davis directed *Cotton Comes to Harlem*; in 1973, she played Adelaide in a Las Vegas production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Pace married *Ironsides* actor Don Mitchell in 1972 and took time out for civic duties and to raise her two children during the 1980s. Divorced from Mitchell in 1986, Pace then married baseball's Curt Flood. Since Flood's death in 1997, Pace acted as a major spokesperson for his role in establishing free agency in professional sports. Pace founded the Kwanza Foundation with Nichelle Nichols.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Judy Pace-Flood was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 29, 2005, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Actress and film actress Judy Pace-Flood (1942 -) has acted in many television and film productions, including: *Batman*, *Bewitched*, *The Flying Nun*, *I Spy*, *The Young Lawyers*, *The Mod Squad*, *That's My Mama*, *Sanford and Son*, *What's Happening!!*, *Good Times*, *Three in the Attic*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, and *Brian's Song*.

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

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:

Pace, Judy, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pace, Judy, 1946---Interviews

African American actresses--Interviews

African American television personalities--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

Occupations:

Actress

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Judy Pace-Flood, March 29, 2005. 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 Judy Pace-Flood, Section
A2005_085_001_001, TRT: 0:29:19 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood was born on June 15, 1942 in Los Angeles, California. Her mother, Kitty Pace Griffin, was born in 1921 in Jackson, Mississippi. Her mother was a seamstress and dress designer and her father was a tailor. PaceFlood's father, Edward Pace, was born in 1913 to parents who were cabinetmakers in Jackson. A relative traced the family lineage back to 1786, when an ancestor, born to a white plantation owner and enslaved woman in Jackson, was sold to a man in Oklahoma who tasked him with sorting and delivering mail since he was literate. Though Pace-Flood's ancestor eventually returned to Jackson, he was unable to find his family. Her parents migrated from Jackson to Los Angeles, California in the 1930s. Pace-Flood and her four siblings grew up in Los Angeles' Sugar Hill neighborhood in an upwardly-mobile black community before moving to the predominately white Westside. As a child, Pace-Flood put on shows with her sister and attended Marvin Avenue Elementary and Louis Pasteur Junior High School.

African American actresses--Interviews.

African American television personalities--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section
A2005_085_001_002, TRT: 0:28:39 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood loved movies as a child, which sparked her interest in show business. She sang in the choir at her family's Baptist church in Los Angeles, California. At Susan Miller Dorsey High School, Pace-Flood and her friend, HistoryMaker Marilyn McCoo, formed an exclusive social club and performed in the school's dance productions and musicals since they were not admitted to the elite, mainly white drama classes. Pace-Flood enjoyed learning about history and the Civil Rights Movement

from family discussions. In 1960, she enrolled at Los Angeles City College, but took a hiatus after being selected for the Ebony Fashion Fair. She traveled to the East Coast and met other models and people from Johnson Publishing Company. Since her youthful appearance did not suit the mature clothing styles, she was cut from the show early. However, HistoryMaker John H. Johnson invited her back the following year to model the youth clothing line. Pace-Flood remembers her father's career at Douglas Aircraft Company.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section A2005_085_001_003, TRT: 0:28:56 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood signed with Columbia Pictures in 1962 and was cast in the horror movie 'The Candy Web.' For Columbia, she appeared on various television shows, including 'Bewitched' and 'I Dream of Jeannie.' After signing with Twentieth Century Fox in the mid-1960s, she witnessed an influx of African American actors and employees, and the premier of 'Julia,' the first sitcom starring a black actor, HistoryMaker Diahann Carroll. She also appeared in 'Batman' and later as a runaway teenager in 'Peyton Place' with Glynn Turman and HistoryMaker Ruby Dee. Pace-Flood's first leading role was alongside Yvette Mimieux and Christopher Jones in 'Three in the Attic.' After seeing her on 'The Dating Game,' Curt Flood contacted Pace-Flood repeatedly for a date. She finally agreed to attend a Los Angeles Dodgers game with him, and they dated for four years until Flood left for Majorca, Spain. Pace-Flood married Don Mitchell soon after. She reflects upon how her acting success helped undermine colorism.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section A2005_085_001_004, TRT: 0:29:29 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood received theater training from veteran actress Lillian Randolph in Los Angeles, California, though she pursued a career in film and television instead. She starred in American International Pictures' 'Three in the Attic,' 'Frogs' and 'Up in the Cellar.' In HistoryMaker Ossie Davis's 'Cotton Comes to Harlem,' one of the first successful films in the 1970s with an all-black cast, she appeared as Iris, a gangster's girlfriend. In the mid-1970s,

she played Adelaide, her favorite role, in an all-black production of 'Guys and Dolls' at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1986, PaceFlood left the industry to focus on raising her two daughters, Shawn and Julia Pace Mitchell. After divorcing her first husband, Don Mitchell, her former boyfriend, Major League Baseball Player Curt Flood, reentered her life. Pace-Flood talks about his baseball career and his decision to challenge MLB's unfair employment practices. She also describes her daughters' careers in law and acting.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section
A2005_085_001_005, TRT: 0:29:44 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood's second husband, Curt Flood, grew up in Oakland, California where he attended McClymonds High School with legendary athletes Vada Pinson and Frank Robinson. While playing in the minor leagues and for the Cincinnati Redlegs, he experienced pronounced racism and could not use the team's locker room. Though recognized as most valuable player, Flood was barred from attending his own award ceremony, held in a segregated ballroom, until an influential businessman insisted he be admitted. Flood's career as a center fielder for the St. Louis Cardinals was derailed when his brother robbed a jewelry store, garnering negative press for the team. When the Cardinals attempted to trade Flood to the Philadelphia Phillies in 1969, he challenged Major League Baseball's reserve clause, equating the use of life-term contracts to slavery. The ensuing lawsuit advanced to the U.S. Supreme Court as Flood v. Kuhn, 1972. Jackie Robinson testified in support of Flood while Joe Garagiola, Sr. testified against him.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section
A2005_085_001_006, TRT: 0:30:17 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood's future husband, Curt Flood, played briefly for the Washington Senators before fleeing to Majorca, Spain after receiving a mysterious attempted bribe and threats during his lawsuit against Major League Baseball. In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Flood v. Kuhn, which sought to overturn MLB's reserve clause, had to be resolved by the U.S. Congress rather than the judicial system. In 1973, Pace-Flood co-established

the Kwanza Foundation with HistoryMaker Nichelle Nichols and other women friends in the entertainment business as a way to pool their fundraising capabilities. Pace-Flood and Flood married after his return from Spain. He became a father figure to her two daughters, who were impressed with his fame. Pace-Flood talks about her husband's contributions to sports, her future plans and favorite African American performers, which include HistoryMakers Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee. She reflects upon her hopes and concerns for the African American community, her life and legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Judy Pace-Flood, Section
A2005_085_001_007, TRT: 0:08:46 2005/03/29

Judy Pace-Flood and several of her closest friends formed the Kwanza Foundation, which raised funds for various causes such as fighting hunger and providing a lifesaving fetal monitoring machine to a local hospital. Since the death of her second husband, Curt Flood, in 1997, Pace-Flood has worked to preserve his legacy. In sharing her hopes that he will be admitted to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, she notes the recent low admission numbers that excluded many baseball greats in addition to Flood. She also would like to see a movie of his life made one day. Pace-Flood concludes the tape by describing how she would like to be remembered.