

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mike Glenn

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Glenn, Mike, 1955-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 9, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:03:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Television sports commentator and basketball player Mike Glenn (1955 - ) played in the NBA and was a television basketball analyst, author, and commissioner of the World Basketball Association. Glenn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 9, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_108
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

NBA guard and television sports analyst, Michael Theodore “Stinger” Glenn was born on September 10, 1955 in Rome, Georgia. Growing up in Cave Springs, Georgia, his father taught and coached at the Georgia School for the Deaf while Glenn’s mother taught him at E.S. Brown Elementary School. Glenn became the top rated high school basketball player in Georgia, averaging 30 points per game when he graduated from Rome’s Coosa High School, third in his class, in 1973. An All Missouri Valley Conference college basketball player, Glenn graduated from Southern Illinois University with honors and a B.S. degree in mathematics in

1977.

Drafted twenty-third overall by the NBA's Chicago Bulls in 1977, Glenn broke his neck in an auto accident and was released from the team. Later that year, he was signed by the NBA's Buffalo Braves (now the Los Angeles Clippers). In 1978, Glenn signed with the New York Knicks, playing with Ray Williams, Michael Ray Richardson and the legendary Earl "The Pearl" Monroe. Known for his shooting accuracy, Glenn was named "Stinger" by his teammates. In New York, Glenn attended graduate business classes at St. John's University and Baruch College and earned his stockbroker's license. Moving on to the Atlanta Hawks, Glenn became the team's all-time shooting accuracy leader – making better than half of his shots. In 1984, Glenn, a six-foot, three inch jump shooting guard, shot an astounding 58% from the field. Between 1985 and 1989, Glenn, as a Milwaukee Buck, shared backcourt duties with Sidney Moncrief, Ricky Pierce and Craig Hodges.

During the 1991-1992 NBA season, Glenn served as a sports analyst for ESPN and the Atlanta Hawks on WGNX SportSouth and during the NBA playoffs for TNT and CNN. During the 1992-1993 season, Glenn served as a sports analyst for two weekly shows on CNN, *This Week in the NBA* and *College Basketball Preview*. He continued to serve as the Hawks TV analyst until 2003, broadcasting an average of 70 games per year. In 2004, Glenn was appointed Commissioner of the new World Basketball Association, a developmental league that sends players to the NBA and professional teams abroad. Active in community service, Glenn recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his All-Star Basketball Camp for the Hearing Impaired, where he was honored with the NBA Walter P. Kennedy Citizenship Award. An avid collector of rare African American books, Glenn is the author of *From My Library, Volume 1 and 2* and *Lessons in Success from the NBA's Top Players*.

Glenn was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 9, 2006.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mike Glenn was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 9, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Television sports commentator and basketball player Mike Glenn (1955 - ) played in the NBA and was a television basketball analyst, author, and commissioner of the World Basketball Association.

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# 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Glenn, Mike, 1955-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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National Basketball Association.

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## **Occupations:**

Television Sports Commentator

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Basketball Player

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

SportsMakers

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## **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 Mike Glenn, October 9, 2006. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:30 2006/10/09

Dr. Walter Young was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he attended Mardi Gras parades, and heard Mahalia Jackson and Marion Anderson sing. His father, Andrew Young, Sr., belonged to the Osceola Five singing group. His father's dental patients included Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, and Sam Rayburn. As a student at Valena C. Jones School, where fights among students were so common that the school was nicknamed the "Bucket of Blood," Young took boxing lessons to defend himself. He loved sports, and his favorite subjects were math and history. Young recalls visiting family on Rampart Street, then one of New Orleans' most dangerous areas, and traveling to New York City with his brother, Andrew Young. After eighth grade, he was sent to New Jersey to live with a family friend, Howard Waxwood, Sr., and attend Princeton High School. There, Young ran track, and excelled in physics. He graduated in 1951, and enrolled at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, the alma mater of his idol, Harrison Dillard.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_002, TRT: 0:27:20 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn learned of the Civil Rights Movement from his parents, who attended college in Montgomery, Alabama. He attended E.S. Brown School in Cave Spring, Georgia, and then Coosa High School in Rome, Georgia. Glenn's parents allowed him to practice basketball as much as he wanted if he received all A's. He was tutored by Mildred Nelson and Lois Smiley, his father's pupils at Georgia School for the Deaf, who taught him sign language. In high school, Glenn was the math club president, and played basketball for Coach Bob Brannon. He averaged thirty points per game, and was named Georgia's player of the year in his senior year, 1973. His team reached the state championship game in 1973, but lost to Southwest Atlanta High School. Glenn recalls other National Basketball Association players from Georgia, including Wayne "Tree" Rollins, Norm Nixon and Mike Mitchell. Coach Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina tried to recruit him, but he enrolled instead at Carbondale's Southern Illinois University.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_003, TRT: 0:27:05 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn attended Carbondale's Southern Illinois University. He majored in mathematics, and played basketball for Coach Paul Lambert with teammates like Joe C. Meriweather. Glenn was named the Missouri Valley Conference's player of the year in his junior year, and made it to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet Sixteen in his senior year. He was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the NBA draft of 1977, but injured his spine in a car accident, and never played for the team. Glenn made his professional debut with the Buffalo Braves, under Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons. He signed with the New York Knicks in 1978 as the team's backup shooting guard. Glenn's Knicks teammates included Micheal Ray Richardson, Ray Williams and Marvin Webster, as well as Earl Monroe, who taught him several techniques to elude defenders. He reflects upon the legacy of Knicks players Walt Frazier and Bill Bradley. Glenn signed with the Atlanta Hawks in 1981. He enjoyed playing close to home, but missed the business opportunities of New York City.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_004, TRT: 0:27:30 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn played for the New York Knicks from 1978 to 1981 with teammates Micheal Ray Richardson and Ray Williams. Glenn describes his social life as a Knicks player. He gave his friends tickets for courtside seats at Madison Square Garden, and visited the Studio 54 nightclub. In 1980, Glenn founded a summer basketball camp for deaf children at New York's Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, and returned annually as its director. In 1981, Glenn joined the Atlanta Hawks, and played with Dominique Wilkins and Wayne Monte Rollins. In 1983, the Hawks secured the playoffs in the season's final game when Glenn scored twenty-five points against the Milwaukee Bucks. Glenn signed with the Bucks in 1986, and reached the Eastern Conference Finals before losing to the Boston Celtics. He appreciated the preparedness of the Bucks' Coach Don Nelson and teammates Sidney Moncrief and Paul Pressey. Glenn describes his teammate Craig Hodges, who was blackballed by the National Basketball Association for his political views.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_005, TRT: 0:28:40 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn, as a shooting guard for the New York Knicks, nicknamed his jump shot Candace after a queen of Ethiopia at the suggestion of his sister, Teresa Glenn, a history professor. He was released by the Milwaukee Bucks in 1986, after he attempted to renegotiate his salary. Glenn then retired from the NBA, and was hired as a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch and Co., Inc. After publishing popular articles on the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs in the Atlanta Journal, Glenn was hired as a TV sports analyst; for halftime shows on Turner Broadcasting System channels; and as a CNN sports commentator. As a broadcaster for the Atlanta Hawks from 1989, Glenn created halftime specials for Black History Month. When the Atlanta Hawks team was sold in 2003, he became commissioner of the minor league World Basketball Association. Glenn reflects upon conflicts between coaches and players in the NBA, and why some talented players do not live up to their potential.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_006, TRT: 0:29:20 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn published his first book, 'Lessons in Success from the NBA's Top Players,' in 1997. The book featured interviews with players like Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen, whom Glenn selected for their roles as leaders and caregivers, about what lessons led them to success in life. While conducting research for his book, Glenn began collecting first edition books by African American figures. He obtained works by Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes and Frederick Douglass. Glenn also wrote two volumes of African American history entitled 'Lessons From My Library,' which include the life stories of Douglass, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Blind Tom Wiggins and Tom Molineaux, an African American boxer who fought in England during the early 19th century. Glenn befriended Charles Blockson after visiting his collection on African American culture at Temple University. Glenn reflects upon his life and family; his hopes and concerns for the African American community; and how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Mike Glenn, Section  
A2006\_108\_001\_007, TRT: 0:15:30 2006/10/09

Mike Glenn narrates his photographs.