



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joe Hendricks

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Joe Hendricks
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks,
Dates:	March 22, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:05:20).
Abstract:	Civil rights activist and mill worker Joe Hendricks (1927 -) was the guard for Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. Joe Hendricks was present at the bombing of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth's house in 1956. He was the target of many attacks on civil rights protestors led by Alabama police chief Bull Connor. Hendricks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 22, 2007, in Birmingham, Alabama. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_105
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Civil rights activist, mill worker and personal guard Joe Hendricks was born on March 22, 1927 in Boligee, Alabama to Louis Hendricks, a deacon, and Betty Hendricks, a former slave and housewife. Actively involved in the church from a young age, Hendricks would later utilize church grounds as a clandestine meeting place for civil rights discussions.

In 1941, after finishing the eighth grade at Jane Woods Elementary School, Hendricks began working at Jim Dandy, a mill that produced dog food, grits and corn meal. Eventually, Hendricks became a pack operator for the mill and joined the Workers' Union. After Hendricks joined the union, he lost his job at the mill and was forced into unemployment for ten months. During Hendricks' period of unemployment, he became the guard for civil rights activist and religious leader Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. In addition to being Shuttlesworth's guard, Hendricks frequently participated in Monday night meetings at his local church, where African Americans in the community would discuss upcoming civil rights activities, including organizational strategies for protests and sit-ins. Hendricks was often subjected to dog attacks and dangerous water hose sprayings during protests. Hendricks was on duty guarding Rev. Shuttlesworth's house when it was bombed by several unnamed persons in 1956.

Hendricks eventually regained his position at the Jim Dandy mill, and retired after thirty-eight years of service. He still remains active in his community, and is involved in his local church choir at the New Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Joe Hendricks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 22, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joe Hendricks was conducted by Denise Gines on March 22, 2007, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and mill worker Joe Hendricks (1927 -) was the guard for Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. Joe Hendricks was present at the bombing of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth's house in 1956. He was the target of many attacks on civil rights protestors led by Alabama police chief Bull Connor.

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:

Hedricks, Joe

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Joe Hendricks--Interviews

Civil Rights Activist

Civil Rights Activists--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Joe Hendricks, March 22, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/14/2011 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 22, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks, Section A2007_105_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00
2007/03/22

Joe Hendricks talks about his childhood in a religious family with thirteen children. He reflects on singing in the church choir and his time at James Woods Elementary School. Hendricks recalls that he did not have a name until he was six years old, when he was old enough to go to school. He states that one day his grandmother told him to go play at the park and decide what he

wanted to be called. That day he decided that he wanted to be named Joe after his grandfather.

Education, Elementary--Alabama.

African Americans—Religion.

African American families.

Farm life--Alabama.

Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks, Section A2007_105_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00
2007/03/22

Joe Hendricks continues to discuss his childhood on his family's farm and his early educational experiences. He remembers that the school did not always have the books the students needed, so they just had to learn from the books they could get. He talks about going to work at Jim Dandy mill when he moved in with his Aunt Otia after eighth grade. While working at Jim Dandy mill in the 1960s, Hendricks got involved in the Worker's Union, which eventually caused him to lose his job. Hendricks was unemployed for ten months, and during that time he became a guard for Rev. Fred Shuttleworth, a civil rights activist. Hendricks recalls an incident when Guy Calloway was beaten by police officers in his church for socializing with African Americans, in an African American church. Hendricks notes that the congregation tried to follow the police, but they were threatened with hoses by Bull Connor.

Racism--Alabama.

Connor, Bull, 1897-1973.

Civil rights workers--Mississippi--Hattiesburg.

African Americans Employment.

Labor unions.

Police brutality.

Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks, Section A2007_105_001_003, TRT: 0:29:30
2007/03/22

Joe Hendricks remembers he and his wife's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. His wife, Lola, was the first woman to integrate an office building in Alabama. Hendricks recalls being arrested for sitting on the white side of a bus in Birmingham, Alabama, and working in a carpool to protect the visiting civil rights activists. Hendricks tells a story about a bus that was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan, and remembers the bombings of the 16th street Baptist Church and Rev. Shuttleworth's house .

Shuttleworth, Fred L., 1922.

African Americans--Crimes against.

Klu Klux Klan.

Integration--Alabama.

Civil rights movements--Alabama--Birmingham--History--20th century.

16th Street Baptist Church Bombing, Birmingham, Ala., 1963

Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks, Section A2007_105_001_004, TRT: 0:30:10
2007/03/22

Joe Hendricks continues to talk about his work as a civil rights activist and recalls the backlash one family experienced when they wanted to send their children to a white school. Hendricks also discusses his daughter Audrey's involvement in sit-ins. He feels that police wanted kids involved in the protests, because it gave them a reason to turn the hoses on them. Hendricks also remembers when he found out that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was

assassinated and the toll it took on the people in Birmingham.

Civil rights demonstrations.

Civil rights protests--Alabama--Birmingham.

African Americans--Alabama.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

School integration--Alabama--History--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Joe Hendricks, Section A2007_105_001_005, TRT: 0:07:40
2007/03/22

Joe Hendricks shows the interviewer some family photographs.