



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joseph A. De Laine

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	De Laine, Joseph A.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine,
Dates:	June 21, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	7 Betacam SP videocassettes (3:16:34).
Abstract:	Pharmaceutical executive and retail entrepreneur Joseph A. De Laine (1933 -) is both a cancer researcher and the founder, owner, and operator of Joseph's Imports in Charlotte, North Carolina, selling international artifacts from Europe, Africa and Asia from 1984 to 1992. De Laine was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 21, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_182
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Pharmaceutical executive and retail entrepreneur Joseph Armstrong De Laine, Jr. was born on August 17, 1933, in Blackville, South Carolina, to Mattie Lee Belton De Laine, a teacher, and Joseph Armstrong De Laine, Sr., a minister, teacher and community activist. De Laine, Sr., was instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement in Clarendon County, South Carolina, that led to the Briggs v. Elliot court case. De Laine attended Scott's Branch Public High School in Summerton, South Carolina, and graduated from high school at Mather Academy in 1950. De Laine attended Johnson C. Smith University for a year until transferring to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1954. He served for the U.S. armed forces during the Korean Conflict.

Upon De Laine's return from Korea, he joined his family in New York, where they resettled after death threats in South Carolina. Over a six year period, he was employed as a cancer research assistant at Roswell Park in Buffalo, New York; Sloan Kettering Institute in New York, New York; E. R. Squibb in New Brunswick, New Jersey; and Joint Disease Hospital in New York, New York. In 1964, De Laine joined Hoffmann La Roche, Inc. as a pharmaceutical sales representative. During the ensuing twenty years, he enjoyed positions at the management level in promotion, marketing, and staff positions as Director of Marketing for Diagnostics Division and Corporate Director of Corporate EEO. Upon retirement, De Laine relocated from New Jersey to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he owned and operated Joseph's Imports, an outlet of unusual imported artifacts from Europe, Africa, and Asia.

De Laine presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Briggs-De Laine-Pearson Foundation in Summerton, South Carolina, and for the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. Since retirement, he also served as a Presidential Appointee on the "50th Anniversary Brown v. Board Presidential

Commission” and for several years as a member and president of the Board for the Northwest Corridor Community Development Corporation in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 21, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joseph A. De Laine was conducted by Cheryl Butler on June 21, 2007, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was recorded on 7 Betacam SP videocassettes. Pharmaceutical executive and retail entrepreneur Joseph A. De Laine (1933 -) is both a cancer researcher and the founder, owner, and operator of Joseph’s Imports in Charlotte, North Carolina, selling international artifacts from Europe, Africa and Asia from 1984 to 1992.

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:

Joseph A. De Laine

Butler, Cheryl (Interviewer).

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Joseph A. De Laine--Interviews.

African American scientists--Interviews.

African American businesspeople--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Hoffmann-La Roche, inc.

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

MedicalMakers

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 Joseph A. De Laine, June 21, 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 7/27/2011 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, June 21, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_001, TRT: 0:28:36 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine Jr. slates the interview and lists his favorites. He then describes his mother's family history. His mother, Mattie Lee Belton De Laine, grew up in Longtown, South Carolina, with her parents Josephine Weldon and David George Belton. His parents were born before the end of slavery in South Carolina, but the identity of the plantation is unknown. De Laine shares the fact that his great-grandparents were their master's children. De Laine notes that his mother was an educator in the school systems in Buffalo, New York, and Minneola School Districts in Nassau County, New York. He did his undergraduate work at Benedict College and Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, and his graduate study in elementary education at Hunter College in New York, New York. De Laine states that his father was an African Methodist Episcopal minister and educator in South Carolina.

Slavery--South Carolina.

Plantation life--South Carolina--History.

Miscegenation--United States--History.

African American educators.

African Methodist Episcopal Church--Clergy.

African American families--South Carolina.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_002, TRT: 0:28:54 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine Jr. continues to talk about his ancestors, specifically those of his father, Joseph Armstrong De Laine Sr. His father's ancestry connects to North Africa (Tunisia or Morocco), the Mohawk Indians in New York, and freemen during slavery. De Laine shares that his great-grandfather, Charles, was born between 1780-1790, in either South Carolina or in North Africa. Moving on to his childhood, he discusses growing up on the Macedonia High School campus where his father was the principal and spending holidays (especially Christmas) at his maternal grandparents' house. De Laine reflects on his parents' professions. He notes that they lived in Blackville, South Carolina from 1935-1940, where the racial climate was oppressive. De Laine then goes on to explain instances where he experienced racial discrimination at a young age. He examines the role that his father had in helping the uneducated and underprivileged people in the community.

Freedmen--Southern States--Social conditions.

Clarendon County (S.C.)--Race relations.

African Americans--Children.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_003, TRT: 0:28:46 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. talks about his father and the culture of the people in Clarendon County, South Carolina. He notes that the county was one of the poorest in the United States and had a low education attainment rate. De Laine provides stories that display the confidence that the community had in his father. He then talks about school segregation and the busing system during the

1940s-1950s. He also talks about the Levi Pearson case, where African American parents confronted the school board about the lack of transportation. They were denied and they sued the school, but the case was dismissed. De Laine states that his father led the effort and brought the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to Clarendon County in 1940, for assistance.

Segregation in education--South Carolina--Clarendon County.

African American leadership.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_004, TRT: 0:29:09 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. reflects on his experience (1946-1948) at Scott's Branch High School in Summerton, South Carolina. His parents transferred him from Scott's Branch because of the poor conditions of the school and low quality of education to Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina. De Laine recalls that the Pearson case was evolving into the Briggs vs. Elliot case and notes Thurgood Marshall's role in it. He remembers that because of his father's role in the case his father received a death threat. When the Briggs vs. Elliot case went to court in 1952, the ruling was that segregation did not violate the United States Constitution, but said that the schools were unequal in terms of quality and should be remedied. The ruling was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. De Laine tells about his parent's house burning down completely in 1951, and the Ku Klux Klan gaining prominence in Clarendon.

Public schools--South Carolina.

Marshall, Thurgood, 1908-1993.

Segregation in education--South Carolina--Clarendon County.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-)--South Carolina.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_005, TRT: 0:28:22 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. continues to discuss his experience observing a Ku Klux Klan meeting and the death threats made in a letter that was sent to his father, while De Laine, Jr. was in Korea. His father's Bishop tried to relocate him to Bermuda, but he refused. De Laine recounts that later there was a shootout at the family home in Lake City, South Carolina (it is unclear if anyone was injured). As a result, the family fled to New York. De Laine notes that his parents moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1971. De Laine recounts with bitterness how the African Methodist Episcopal church treated his father. He then discusses his experiences at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, and at Lincoln University in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania (1954). After graduating from Lincoln, he was drafted into the Army and sent to Korea.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-)--South Carolina.

Lincoln University (Pa.).

Johnson C. Smith University.

Korean War, 1950-1953--Personal narratives, American.

African Americans--Education, Higher.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_006, TRT: 0:28:20 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. continues to talk about his U.S. Army service in Korea. De Laine reveals that being in the service was difficult for him because he was so far away when his family was facing such danger. He reflects on the racial tensions he experienced with his Army acquaintances. De Laine speaks about returning to the United States and reuniting with his family in Buffalo, New York; where he enrolled at the University of Buffalo and later at New York University. He discusses his time at Sloan Kettering in cancer research and his career in pharmaceuticals, including accounts of racial discrimination that occurred. He then goes on to speak about starting his own business, Joseph's Imports (1984-1992).

Korean War, 1950-1953--Personal narratives, American.

United States.Army--Race relations.

Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research.

Video Oral History Interview with Joseph A. De Laine, Section A2007_182_001_007, TRT: 0:24:27 2007/06/21

Joseph A. De Laine, Jr. reflects on the fact that his mother was an integral part of his father's involvement with school desegregation and believes that his father would not have had the success that he did without her. De Laine says that he is glad that his father is finally getting recognized for the role he played in the Brown vs. Board of Education trial. He notes that he does not care if he is forgotten tomorrow as long as he feels as if he has contributed to the welfare of this society. De Laine provides narration to various photographs of himself and his family.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.