



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Marion Anderson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Anderson, Marion
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Marion Anderson,
Dates:	June 29, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:50:13).
Abstract:	Master tailor and tailoring instructor Marion Anderson (1926 -) was the first person to teach tailoring at New York public schools and is the director and founder of the Manhattanville Needle Trade School in New York, New York. Anderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 29, 2007, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_193
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Master tailor and tailoring instructor Marion William Anderson was born to Ethel and William Anderson on April 4, 1926, in Charleston, South Carolina. Ethel Anderson was a beautician and William Anderson was a presser. Anderson's mother encouraged him to pursue a trade at Burke Industrial High School in Charleston. In 1947, after serving the U.S. Army in Asia for a few months, he graduated from high school, majoring in tailoring. In 1949, Anderson moved to Harlem, New York, in order to look for work. After a few jobs in industrial tailoring, Anderson pursued a teaching career.

After refining his skills at the American Gentleman School of Design, he started teaching at the Empire School of Design, a school that catered to African American World War II veterans. In 1956, Anderson began instructing prisoners in the tailor shop on Rikers Island. Four years later, he convinced the New York City Board of Education to create a tailoring curriculum, and he was hired at Sterling High School in Brooklyn, New York, where he would teach tailoring for thirty-three years.

In 1987, Anderson founded his own school, the Manhattanville Needle Trade School, in Harlem. In 2007, Anderson celebrated his twentieth year as the director at the school. During his lengthy career, he has tailored suits for many members of the Harlem elite, and taught a valuable trade to hundreds in Harlem and New York City.

Marion William Anderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 29, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Marion Anderson was conducted by Adrienne Jones on June 29, 2007, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Master tailor and tailoring instructor Marion Anderson (1926 -) was the first person to teach tailoring at New York public schools and is the director and founder of the Manhattanville Needle Trade School in New York, New York.

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:

Marion Anderson.

Jones, Adrienne (Interviewer).

Burghelea, Neculai (Videographer).

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Marion Anderson--Interviews.

African American fashion designers--Interviews.

African American educators--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

StyleMakers

EducationMakers

StyleMakers

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 Marion Anderson, June 29, 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 29, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Marion Anderson, Section A2007_193_001_001, TRT: 0:30:16
2007/06/29

Marion William Anderson slates the interview and lists his favorites. He then describes the history of his mother Ethel Anderson, who was born in Charleston, South Carolina and worked as a beautician in the city; his father

William Anderson, was the son of a Charleston grocer and worked as presser and operated a dry cleaners. His mother inspired him to pursue tailoring as a trade; however, he was drafted into the U.S. Army before he could go to school for it. He was happy to leave Charleston to do basic training in Missouri and to deploy to the Philippines.

African Americans--South Carolina--Charleston.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

Beauty operators--South Carolina--Charleston.

African American business enterprises--History--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Marion Anderson, Section A2007_193_001_002, TRT: 0:29:11
2007/06/29

Marion William Anderson talks about his experiences with segregation in the Army. Anderson notes that when he was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1947, he worked as a cook in Virginia and then returned to Charleston, South Carolina, to finish high school at Burke High School-Industrial, where he focused on tailoring. In discussing his career path, he states that he had a full-time position as a tailor, but he and other blacks were only allowed to make pants, not jackets, which was considered easier. Anderson states that the pant makers were paid less. He went on to be a manager at a suit store and decided to move to Harlem, New York, in 1949 and live with his cousins. Anderson recounts his negative experiences finding jobs and ultimately decided to attend the American Gentlemen School of Designing and became a master tailor.

Discrimination in employment--South Carolina--Charleston.

Great Depression--New York--Harlem.

African American-Migrations.

World War, 1939-1945--African American soldiers.

United States. Army.

Tailors--New York (State)--New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Marion Anderson, Section A2007_193_001_003, TRT: 0:29:38
2007/06/29

Marion William Anderson describes his time at the American Gentlemen School, where he refined his skills as a tailor. He talks about how he taught at the Empire Trade School in 1949, which catered to World War II veterans and at the New York Department of Corrections. Anderson reflects on his experience at Sterling High School in Brooklyn, New York (1960-1993) where he worked for thirty-three years. He also talks about the year he spent as coordinator of an after school program that catered to kids who were maladjusted, and in particular, explains the annual fashion show that the students participated in. In 1987, Anderson achieved his dream of opening up his own school, the Manhattanville Needle Trade School. Anderson describes the curriculum he created for the school and tailoring techniques that he used.

African American educators.

United States.--Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

Tailoring--Vocational guidance.

Tailors--New York (State)--New York.

Rikers Island (N.Y.).

Video Oral History Interview with Marion Anderson, Section A2007_193_001_004, TRT: 0:21:08
2007/06/29

Marion William Anderson reflects on his education at Adelphi University in

1970, and raising five children. He takes the opportunity to talk about the value of scholastic and industrial training for young people.

Parenting--United States.

Occupational training.

African American--Education (Higher).