

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Fred Parrott

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Parrott, Fred, 1934-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott,
Dates:	July 7, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:54:21).
Abstract:	Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred Parrott (1934 -) founded the Real Men Cook Foundation. Parrott was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 7, 2007, in Marina Del Rey, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_196
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred D. Parrott was born in Houston, Texas on December 22, 1934. After graduating from Jack Yates High School in 1944, Parrott enrolled at Howard University where he earned his B.S. degree in psychology in 1947. Following the completion of his undergraduate study, Parrott earned his M.S. degree in microbiology at the University of California, Los Angeles. During the early 1950s and during the Korean War, Parrott entered the Medical Service Corps of the United States Army , where he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan for two years while he worked as a bacteriologist. He also opened a tailor shop in Tokyo, fitting servicemen with Hong Kong made shirts. Parrott's first employment in the medical field was working as the territory manager for Wyeth Pharmaceutical. In 1958, Parrott graduated from Meharry Medical College and became a fellow of the University of Minnesota Medical Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Parrott moved to Los Angeles, California upon graduating and did an internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital before becoming a fellow at the University of Minnesota. After completing his fellowship, Parrott returned to Los Angeles and began private practice.

In 1986, Parrott founded the "Real Men Cook" Foundation, whose mission was to increase the number of minority health care providers by awarding scholarships to students attending Historically Black College and University medical schools in the United States. In 1994, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Parrott founded the Real Men Cook Foundation Center for Early Detection of Prostate Cancer. The Foundation's goals expanded to increasing awareness and education of prostate cancer and prevention in inner city communities.

Parrott is a member of the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the Los Angeles Country Medical Association and the Charles R. Drew Medical Society. He is also a board member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a founding member of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. Parrott is the recipient of the Back Heritage Award and President Medal of Honor from Howard University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Fred D. Parrott was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 7, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Fred Parrott was conducted by Ron Brewington on July 7, 2007, in Marina Del Rey, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Foundation executive and gynecologist Dr. Fred Parrott (1934 -) founded the Real Men Cook Foundation.

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:

Parrott, Fred, 1934-

Brewington, Ron (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Parrott, Fred, 1934- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Gynecologist

Foundation Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|MedicalMakers

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 Dr. Fred Parrott, July 7, 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 5/30/2023 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 Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Dr. Fred Parrott was born on December 22, 1934 in Houston, Texas to Mollie Carroll Parrott and Fred Parrott, Sr. His paternal grandmother, Henrietta Parrott, grew up in Mansfield, Louisiana. His father studied dentistry at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, and later operated a dental practice in

Mansfield. Parrott's maternal grandfather, Andrew Carroll, was a minister and tradesman in the Independence Heights neighborhood of Houston. Parrott's mother was born in 1900 in Hallettsville, Texas, and grew up in Houston. She earned a degree in special education from Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts, and then returned to Houston, where Parrot was raised. In Houston, Parrott's mother was a teacher and community leader, and was active with the YWCA branch. In her later years, she came to live with him in Marina del Rey, California. She passed away from smoke inhalation in 1976, when the refrigerator in Parrott's home caught fire.

African American social life and customs--Texas--Houston.

African American families--Texas--Houston.

African American families--Texas--Houston.

African American parents.

African American fathers--Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_002, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Dr. Fred Parrott's father, Fred Parrott, Sr., came from a large family in Mansfield, Louisiana. There, Parrott's father worked for the railroad, and suffered an accident that resulted in the amputation of his foot. Then, his father studied dentistry at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, and established a practice in Mansfield. Parrott and his mother lived in Houston, Texas, so he and his father did not have a close relationship. Parrott earned degrees in microbiology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and the University of California in Los Angeles, California; and, upon graduation, served in the U.S. Army's Medical Service Corps in Tokyo, Japan during the Korean War. Returning to the United States, Parrott worked as a student representative for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals while attending Meharry Medical College. He interned at the Los Angeles County General Hospital, and completed his fellowship at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Howard University--Students.

University of California, Los Angeles--African American students.

Education, Higher.

Pharmaceutical industry.

Wyeth Pharmaceutical--Employees.

Meharry Medical College--Students.

Racism in the workplace--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_003, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Dr. Fred Parrott graduated from Jack Yates Senior High School in Houston, Texas; and, aspiring to become a clinical psychologist, moved to Washington, D.C. to study microbiology at Howard University. After graduating, he was denied entry to the clinical psychology program at the University of California, Los Angeles, and instead earned a master's degree in microbiology there. During the Korean War, he served as a first lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps, and operated a tailor shop while stationed in Tokyo, Japan. Upon his return, Parrott worked at Wyeth Pharmaceutical as a student representative while studying for an M.D. degree in obstetrics and gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Parrott opened a medical practice, and established the Real Men Cook Foundation, which provided scholarships to historically black medical schools. Parrott also talks about his younger sister, film professor Carroll Parrott Blue, who wrote the autobiographical book,

‘Dawn at My Back.’

Howard University--Students.

United States. Army. Medical Service Corps.

African American physicians--California--Los Angeles.

Gynecologists--California--Los Angeles.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Fred Parrott, Section A2007_196_001_004, TRT: 0:27:31 ?

Dr. Fred Parrott’s father, Fred Parrott, Sr., died from prostate cancer in the late 1970s; and, about fifteen years later, Parrott was diagnosed with prostate cancer himself. Parrott was declared cancer-free in 1994, after undergoing a radical nerve-sparing procedure. Following his diagnosis, Parrott revised the mission of the Real Men Cook Foundation to include providing education, treatment and support to prostate cancer patients. Working with local institutions and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles, California, the foundation hosted educational programs and cancer screenings for men of color. Parrott also recruited high school students to refurbish housing in their community through The Links and the Inglewood Unified School District in California. Parrott describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and how he would like to be remembered. He concludes the interview by reflecting upon his life.

African American fathers.

Prostate--Cancer.

Real Men Cook Foundation

African American women--Health and hygiene.

African American men--Health and hygiene.

100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc.