



Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mannie Jackson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jackson, Mannie
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson,
Dates:	July 15, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	5 Betacam SP videocassettes (2:05:30).
Abstract:	Basketball team owner and corporate executive Mannie Jackson (1939 -) owns the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 15, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_210
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Basketball team owner and corporate executive Mannie Jackson was born on May 4, 1939 in Illmo, Missouri, to Emmett and Margaret Jackson. Jackson and his family moved to Edwardsville, Illinois, when he was three years old, where his father worked at an auto plant, and his mother and grandmother cleaned houses. In 1952, Jackson entered the newly integrated Edwardsville High School and later obtained a full scholarship to play basketball at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). During the course of Jackson's four years at UIUC, he and childhood friend Govoner Vaughn became the first African American basketball players to start for the university's varsity basketball team. Despite the racist atmosphere on the University of Illinois' campus, Jackson became the first African American All-American player and the captain of the Illini basketball team.

After graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1960, with his B.S. degree in education, Jackson traveled to New York to try out for the National Basketball Association (NBA)'s New York Knicks. Although Jackson did not make the team, within the same year, he was accepted into the Harlem Globetrotters, where he played until 1964. Jackson left the Globetrotters and settled in Detroit, Michigan where he attended graduate school at the University of Detroit, and obtained his M.A. degree in marketing and economics in 1968. From there, Jackson launched his business career, becoming the director of labor relations for the Honeywell Corporation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he worked for thirty years. Then, in 1986, Jackson co-founded The Executive Leadership Council and later became its president until 1992. In 1993, Jackson sought to invest money into the Harlem Globetrotters after the franchise reached a low fan base and sales, eventually becoming the owner and president of the team. His purchase of the Harlem Globetrotters made him the first African American to own a major international sports organization. Under Jackson's leadership, the Globetrotters' image was completely revamped, and the team amassed an impressive list of national sponsors, expanded the countries the team visited to 118 with attendance of over two million people annually, and topped the Sports Q ratings list as the most liked and recognized team in the world in 1999, 2000 and 2002.

For his work with the Harlem Globetrotters, as well as his impressive business history, Jackson has received numerous awards, including "Black Enterprise" magazine's "Most Powerful Black Executives," the National Conference of Community and Justice's Humanitarian of the Year Award and the Effa Manley Sports Executive of the Year Award. From 1993 to 2007, Jackson served as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for the Harlem Globetrotters. He is Chairman of Boxcar Holdings, LLC , and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Harlem Globetrotters and as a trustee of the University of Illinois Foundation. Jackson was recognized by the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts when the organization unveiled a new award named after him: Mannie Jackson Basketball's Human Spirit Award.

Mannie Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 15, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mannie Jackson was conducted by Jacques Lesure on July 15, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona, and was recorded on 5 Betacam SP videocassettes. Basketball team owner and corporate executive Mannie Jackson (1939 -) owns the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

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:

Mannie Jackson

Lesure, Jacques (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Mannie Jackson--Interviews

African American businesspeople--Interviews.

African American basketball players--Interviews.

African American executives--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Harlem Globetrotters

Honeywell Inc.

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

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 Mannie Jackson, July 15, 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, July 15, 2007

Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson, Section A2007_210_001_001, TRT: 0:28:10
2007/07/15

Mannie Jackson describes his family history and discusses his early childhood in Edwardsville, Illinois. He recalls moving from Illmo, Missouri to Edwardsville, Illinois, where he lived with his grandfather. Jackson mentions how his grandfather was a major influence in his life having been raised by him until his father returned home from the Navy in 1947. Jackson then details the dynamics of the neighborhood, including the very strict division between religious denominations, Methodist or Southern Baptist. He talks about the white flight that happened in Edwardsville during his childhood. Jackson concludes the interview segment by talking about how his grandfather's second wife, Elma H. Jackson, was his first though fourth grade teacher.

African American families--Illinois--Edwardsville.

African American neighborhoods--Illinois.

African American religion--Baptists.

African American children--Education (Elementary)--Illinois.

Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson, Section A2007_210_001_002, TRT: 0:28:50
2007/07/15

Mannie Jackson shares his educational experiences and the family pressure placed on him to excel in school. Jackson attended an integrated school in the sixth grade with eleven other African American children, which included his friend Govoner Vaughn. Jackson discusses segregation in his home town, Edwardsville, and his sports background playing basketball. Jackson reminisces about the influence of boxer Joe Louis, the Globetrotters, and other sports figures on his sports career. After his middle school basketball career, he entered the integrated Edwardsville High School in 1952. Jackson describes his work experiences while in high school, including working at a country club, before he decided to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for college. At UIUC, Jackson and Vaughn became the first African Americans to start for the University's varsity basketball team, and Jackson was the first African American All-American and captain of the team.

African American education--Illinois--Edwardsville.

Segregation in education--Illinois.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign--Basketball.

Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson, Section A2007_210_001_003, TRT: 0:28:40
2007/07/15

Mannie Jackson talks about his social life in Champaign, Illinois where he met Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali), and how he became good friends with Jesse

Jackson while attending college in 1958 and 1959. Jackson also describes meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through Jesse Jackson and elaborates on his friendship with Governor Vaughn. Jackson reflects on his experiences as a professional basketball player and his recruitment to play for a New York team sponsored by the Tuck Tape Company before joining the Harlem Globetrotters in 1960. He toured for years with the Globetrotters and met world leaders and famous jazz artists. Jackson states that he had knee surgery in 1963, and in 1964, left the Globetrotters to obtain his master's degree from the University of Detroit in Michigan. He concludes this segment of the interview by sharing how he became interested in working for General Motors, and later as a general manager for Honeywell.

African American--Social life and customs--Illinois--Urbana-Champaign.

African American basketball players.

Harlem Globetrotters--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson, Section A2007_210_001_004, TRT: 0:30:00
2007/07/15

Mannie Jackson provides further information about his work experiences in corporate America, describing both his time at General Motors and Honeywell as the only African American executive. At Honeywell, Jackson met two executives, who served as his mentors. Because of their advice, he was able to start his own communication services business within the company. Jackson discusses how he discovered the Globetrotters were in serious debt and buying the organization in 1993. He talks about the influence and power of the Globetrotter name, and about how he sought to revitalize its old reputation. Jackson mentions that he served on six other Fortune 500 boards of directors, and met Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela. He concludes the interview section by talking about the team's induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame, and about the way the National Basketball Association has traditionally ignored the contributions of African Americans.

African American businesspeople.

African American business enterprises.

Harlem Globetrotters.

National Basketball Association.

Video Oral History Interview with Mannie Jackson, Section A2007_210_001_005, TRT: 0:09:50
2007/07/15

Mannie Jackson talks about what his aspirations are for African Americans, what he would like his legacy to be and provides advice to student athletes. Jackson ends the interview by describing his desire to be remembered as a family man with a relationship that he values, and how he has given back financially.

Athletics--Vocational guidance--United States.