

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Frank Dale Morgan

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Morgan, Frank Dale, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan,
Dates:	October 10, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:07:45).
Abstract:	Geophysicist Frank Dale Morgan (1947 -) is known for his field work in seismic research, particularly in the Caribbean and Kuwait. Morgan was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 10, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_237
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Geophysicist and professor F. Dale Morgan was born in Guyana in South America. Morgan also grew up in Guyana where he attended St. Stanislaus' College. He attended St. Joseph's College and the Polytechnic Institute in Trinidad. In 1970, Morgan earned his B.S. degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago. He then continued his studies at the University of the West Indies, where he earned his M.S. degree in theoretical solid state physics in 1972. His thesis was entitled: "Symmetry properties and dispersion relations in antiferromagnetic NiO and CoO."

Morgan served as a lecturer in the physics department of the University of the West Indies until 1975, when he began attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with the assistance of a joint Organization of American States (OAS)/Trinidad Government Scholarship. In 1981, he graduated from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His Ph.D. degree was awarded for his thesis: "Electronics of sulfide minerals: implications for induced polarization." Upon the completion of his degree, Morgan began work as a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then became a full professor of geophysics and the associate director of the Earth Resources Laboratory. Morgan's interests include geoelectromagnetism, electrokinetics, applied seismology and environmental geophysics.

In 2005, Morgan was named the co-director of the Kuwait-MIT Center for Natural Resources and the Environment, a group that aims to promote research and education outreach in the areas of energy, water, and the environment. Morgan is responsible for several projects concerning the human use and the quality of water. The projects involve investigation of oilfield production brines and the injection of treated wastewater into natural groundwater aquifers. Morgan has served on a number of advisory committees and has published many academic papers in the field of geophysics. Morgan is married to Alison Morgan.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Frank Dale Morgan was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 10, 2012, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Geophysicist Frank Dale Morgan (1947 -) is known for his field work in seismic research, particularly in the Caribbean and Kuwait.

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:

Morgan, Frank Dale, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Morgan, Frank Dale, 1947- --Interviews

African American geophysicists--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Occupations:

Geophysicist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Frank Dale Morgan, October 10, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/7/2022 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 Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_001, TRT: 1:31:47 2012/10/10

Frank Dale Morgan describes his family background. Morgan was born in 1947 in Kitty, Guyana. His mother, Jean Bacchus was born in Georgetown, Guyana in 1928. As is common in the Caribbean islands, she was of mixed ancestry, which partially traced back to Europe and the Middle East. Morgan's father, Drysdale Morgan, was also born in Georgetown in the 1920s, and was adopted by the

Morgan family. Morgan's parents met in school, and worked together in the radio industry. He describes his mother as being brilliant, scoring amongst the highest in the world on a Mensa test that she took in her fifties. Morgan's parents divorced when he was six years old, and he was primarily raised by his grandparents.

Families, Black--Guyana.

Mothers--Guyana.

Racially mixed people--Guyana.

Fathers--Guyana.

Divorce.

Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_002, TRT: 2:29:50 2012/10/10

Frank Dale Morgan lived in Guyana until the age of fourteen, and describes his early childhood there. His parents divorced when he was six years old, and his mother moved to Trinidad to seek better employment in the radio industry. Morgan and his sisters continued to live in Guyana, and were cared for by their grandparents. He attended school at Sacred Heart School, and later, went to high school at Saint Stanislaus College. Following the general unrest in Guyana in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Morgan and his sisters moved to Trinidad to join their mother in 1961. Morgan describes his identity as a Trinidadian, and talks about his grandparents and his sisters. He also describes his thrilling trek through the Amazon jungle from Guyana to Brazil, at the age of thirteen.

Childhood--Guyana.

Divorce.

Single parent families.

Trinidad and Tobago.

Families, Black--Trinidad and Tobago.

Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_003, TRT: 3:30:43 2012/10/10

In 1961, Frank Dale Morgan and his sisters moved from Guyana to Trinidad, where their mother had begun working in the radio industry. While waiting two years to become a citizen of Trinidad, Morgan became well-acquainted with the cultural scene there. He resumed his high school education at St. Joseph's College, but returned to Saint Stanislaus College in Guyana, where he was able to receive a higher quality of education in science and mathematics. Morgan describes the guidance that he received from his math teacher, Father Lynch. After graduating from high school, Morgan returned to Trinidad, where he enrolled at the University of West Indies and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics. Morgan also earned his master's degree in theoretical solid state physics from the University of West Indies. He describes his experience in university, and also discusses his decision to transition from theoretical physics to geophysical sciences.

Trinidad and Tobago--Social life and customs.

Education--Guyana.

Mentoring in education.

University of West Indies.

Physics.

Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_004, TRT: 4:30:34 2012/10/10

While enrolled as a graduate student at the University of West Indies in Trinidad, Frank Dale Morgan became interested in the field of geophysics during a three-month summer research opportunity with Dr. Gordon West at the University of Toronto. In 1975, Morgan became the first student to receive a doctoral fellowship from the Organization of American States (OAS), and was accepted to the doctoral program in geophysics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). At MIT, Morgan pursued his dissertation research in electrochemistry under the influential mentorship of his thesis advisor, Professor Theodore Madden. He received his Ph.D. degree in geophysics in five years, and returned to the University of West Indies in Trinidad to work at the seismic research unit. Morgan describes his relationship with Dr. Ted Madden, talks about the high caliber of research at MIT, and discusses his groundbreaking research on earthquake origin and prediction.

University of West Indies.

Geophysics.

Organization of American States.

University of Toronto.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Madden, Theodore R. (Theodore Richard), 1925-

Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_005, TRT: 5:30:22 2012/10/10

After completing his Ph.D. degree in geophysics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1981, Frank Dale Morgan returned to the seismic research center at the University of West Indies in Trinidad. While he was there, Morgan was involved in predicting a massive earthquake in Tobago in 1982. In 1983, Morgan returned to the United States as a research associate in the geophysics department at Stanford University, and in 1985, joined the geophysics faculty at Texas A&M University. Morgan was recruited back to MIT in 1993, by his former professor, Nafi Toksoz. He has served as a full professor of geophysics in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at MIT for over fifteen years, and currently chairs the geophysics group. Morgan describes his involvement in predicting the 1982 and 1998 earthquakes in Tobago, and also discusses his research contributions at MIT.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Geophysics.

University of West Indies.

Seismology--Research.

Stanford University.

Texas A & M University.

Video Oral History Interview with Frank Dale Morgan, Section A2012_237_001_006, TRT: 6:34:29 2012/10/10

Frank Dale Morgan describes his work on the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Energy Project, and his involvement in geophysical research in the Caribbean islands. He also discusses his concerns about the American educational system, the current focus of race relations in the United States, and his educational goals for the future. Morgan believes that his legacy lies in the students he has mentored. He also talks about his family, and describes his son's career as a poet.

Geophysics.

Seismology--Caribbean Area.

Education--United States.
African American families.
Reminiscing.