

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carol Cutting

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Cutting, Carol, 1948-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 28, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:39:40).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Radio station owner Carol Cutting (1948 - ) , President and CEO of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc. and WEIB 106.3 Smooth F.M., is the first female in Massachusetts and the first African American in New England to have been granted a FCC-FM radio station construction permit. Cutting was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 28, 2013, in Northampton, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_161
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Radio station owner Carol Moore Cutting was born on April 24, 1948 in Livingston, Alabama. She was raised in an educational family and a close-knit community. Cutting enrolled at Tuskegee University in 1965 and graduated from there in 1969 with her B.A. degree in secondary education. She went on to attend graduate school at Springfield Community College and graduated from there in 1971 with her M.A. degree in community leadership.

Upon graduation, Cutting moved to New England. In September of 1971, she received her official license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In 1984, Cutting applied for a construction permit for 106.3 but was challenged by an existing broadcaster who applied to operate on the same frequency. She then became the owner and general manager of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc., making her the first African American woman in Massachusetts to operate a radio station. After eight years of litigation and several technical delays, Cutting was granted the construction permit and her station, WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM, tested for broadcast with the FCC in 1999. Cutting was also appointed as an independent director of United Financial Bancorp. in 2001. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA) and she has served on many committees and boards including the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, WGBY, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Amherst Fine Arts Center, the American Heart Association, and National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) where served as the Northeastern Regional Representative.

Cutting has been recognized for her community service and her entrepreneurship with many honors, such as the “Woman of the Year,” “Businesswoman of the Year,” and other similar awards. She was inducted into the Springfield Technical Community College’s Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame; and, in 2000, she received the Business Woman of Distinction award.

Cutting has been married for forty-three years to Dr. Gerald B. Cutting. They have two children, Alysia Cutting and Darrel Cutting, and six grandchildren.

Carol Moore Cutting was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 28, 2013.

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## **Scope and Content**

This life oral history interview with Carol Cutting was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 28, 2013, in Northampton, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Radio station owner Carol Cutting (1948 - ) , President and CEO of Cutting Edge Broadcasting, Inc. and WEIB 106.3 Smooth F.M., is the first female in Massachusetts and the first African American in New England to have been granted a FCC-FM radio station construction permit.

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## **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®.

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## **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.

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## **Controlled Access Terms**

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### **Persons:**

Cutting, Carol, 1948-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Cutting, Carol, 1948---Interviews

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Radio Station Owner

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MediaMakers

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## **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 Carol Cutting, April 28, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:48 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting was born on April 24, 1948, in Livingston, Alabama. Cutting describes her family as large and tight-knit. Her mother, Mattie Dawson Moore Hall, was born on December 18, 1927, and was a bright and determined educator. Cutting then describes her great grandfather, a Caucasian man named Jack Powell, and how his children built houses on land that he inherited from his father. The family called it 'The Powell Place,' and Cutting attributes the closeness of her family to their ability to commune and gather there. Cutting describes her great grandmother, a Native American named Sarah, who faced many difficulties raising children in Alabama in the 1800s, and her father, Bill Moore, Jr., who was born on July 14, 1947. Both her father and her grandfather, Bill Moore, Sr., were farmers. Cutting then talks about how her older sister, Laura Pearl Moore, was stricken with polio as a baby.

African American mothers--Alabama.

African American fathers--Alabama.

Grandparents--Alabama.

Genealogy--United States.

African American families.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:53 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting describes her mother's struggle to earn a college education. Her mother would drive one hundred and fifty miles a day by herself to class. With her mother in school, Cutting stayed on her grandparents' farm. Cutting details the sights, sounds, and smells of the farm, as well as the exciting trips into town. Cutting remembers the adults being wary of the residents and protective of the children because of the heavy segregation in town. She describes how she was drawn to the church at a young age and began attending on her own. Cutting describes attending school and how she grew to love math, science, and reading. Cutting recalls being a member of the science club and a majorette with the band, as well as listening to radio as a child.

African American mothers--Alabama.

Childhood and youth--Activities--Alabama.

Segregation--United States.

African American--Religion--Alabama.

African Americans--Education--Alabama.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_003, TRT: 3:27:57 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting describes graduating from high school in 1965, the turbulent political atmosphere of the time, and the activities of the freedom riders and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in her community. Cutting also reflects upon the activities of the Ku Klux Klan and the fear that African Americans had to overcome in their everyday lives simply to survive. After high school, Cutting attended Tuskegee University on a partial scholarship. She describes how her admiration for Booker T. Washington inspired her to choose Tuskegee for college where she majored in secondary education, joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and traveled as a member of the choir. She shares her personal experience with members of The Commodores.

African Americans--Education, Secondary--Alabama.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.).

Freedom Rides, 1961.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-).

Tuskegee University.

Commodores (Music group).

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:54 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting married her husband in 1968, and they both graduated from Tuskegee University in 1969. Her husband took a job in Springfield, Massachusetts as a veterinarian, and Cutting found employment at the Northern Educational Service while attending graduate school at Springfield College. Cutting describes graduating with her master's degree in 1971 and having her first child. In the early 1970s, Cutting began searching for employment in radio broadcasting. When her husband's employer went bankrupt, her husband opened his own veterinary clinic in 1979. In 1984, an FM frequency became available, but Cutting was forced to forge a fight for it in the court system.

African American college students.

Marriage--United States.

African American business enterprises.

African Americans in radio broadcasting.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:41 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting describes obtaining a FCC construction permit in 1994 and the legal complications that ensued. Cutting talks about targeting a niche market for 'smooth jazz.' She also describes the radio business after its deregulation, which put most stations under the ownership of a few national companies. To fight this trend, Cutting consciously remains the only locally owned commercial FM radio station in Springfield, Massachusetts, which allows her to remain an asset to the African American community. She laments the lack of change in Springfield since she arrived in 1969, but believes she and her station provide positive examples for African American youth. Cutting also talks about the importance of education for African American youth today.

Radio broadcasting--Deregulation--Massachusetts.

African Americans--Education--United States.

Actions and defenses.

Jazz.

Springfield (Mass.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Cutting, Section  
A2013\_161\_001\_006, TRT: 6:13:27 2013/04/28

Carol Cutting reviews her life and the reasons for its success, talks about her legacy, describes her daily tasks as owner of WEIB 106.3, and describes how she would like to be remembered.

Radio broadcasters--Activities.