

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hazel Trice Edney

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Edney, Hazel Trice
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney,
Dates:	December 3, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:29:28).
Abstract:	Journalist Hazel Trice Edney (1960 -), founder of the Trice Edney News Wire, was editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and Blackpressusa.com. She was the first African American woman inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. Edney was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 3, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_339
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Hazel Trice Edney was born in Charlottesville, Virginia. She received her M.A. degree from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Edney also graduated from Harvard University's KSG Women and Power Executive Leadership program.

In 1987, Edney was hired as a reporter for the *Richmond Afro-American* newspaper. She went on to work as a staff writer for the *Richmond Free Press* until 1998, when she was awarded the William S. Wasserman Jr. Fellowship on the Press, Politics and Public Policy from Harvard University. In 2000, Edney was hired as the Washington, D.C. correspondent for the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Then, in 2007, she was appointed editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and Blackpressusa.com, serving in that role until 2010. Edney also worked as an investigative reporter as part of the NNPA NorthStar Investigative Reporting Program. While at NNPA, she covered the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in 2001; the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon; Hurricane Katrina; and earthquake-ravaged Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

In 2010, Edney launched the Trice Edney News Wire. She also serves as president and CEO of Trice Edney Communications and editor-in-chief of the Trice Edney News Wire. Edney has worked as an adjunct professor of journalism at Howard University, and has served as interim executive director of the NNPA Foundation. She has appeared on the Tavis Smiley Show; CNN; C-Span, Bishop T.D. Jakes' Potter's Touch; The Al Sharpton Show; Washington Watch with Roland Martin; and the Washington Journal. Edney's awards include the New America Media Career Achievement Award; a fellowship at the Annenberg Institute for Justice in Journalism at the University of Southern California; the Lincoln University Unity Award in Media; the Tisdale Award; and NNPA Merit Awards, including the NNPA First Place Feature Story Merit Award in 1990 for her final interview with Virginia death row inmate Wilbert Lee Evans. She was also a congressional fellow in 1999 and 2000, and was the first African American woman inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. Edney was named a

"2008 Role Model" by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and a "2010 Phenomenal Woman" by the Phenomenal Women's Alliance. Hazel Trice Edney was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 6, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Hazel Trice Edney was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 3, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist Hazel Trice Edney (1960 -), founder of the Trice Edney News Wire, was editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and Blackpressusa.com. She was the first African American woman inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.

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:

Edney, Hazel Trice

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Edney, Hazel Trice--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Journalist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Hazel Trice Edney, December 3, 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 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 Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_001, TRT: 1:29:53
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney was born on February 13, 1960 in Charlottesville, Virginia to

Marie Jefferson Trice and Norris Trice. There was speculation that her maternal ancestors were slaves at President Thomas Jefferson's Monticello Plantation. Edney's maternal great-grandfather, Preston Jefferson, was a minister in the Charlottesville area while her great-grandmother, Jennie Jefferson, was a homemaker who took care of their seven children. Edney's mother was born and raised in Trevilians, Virginia, and began singing in the choir at Foster Creek Baptist Church at seven years old. Edney's paternal grandparents, Ethel Brown Trice and William Trice, died when her father was very young, so he was raised by his married older sister, Ethel Trice Thompson. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he was injured during a grenade attack, and later court martialed and honorably discharged for defying a direct order against feeding hungry Korean children.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_002, TRT: 2:29:16
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney grew up in rural Louisa, Virginia with her three siblings: Marvin Trice, Queen Trice and Julie Trice. At the young age of three years old, her father taught her to shoot a rifle, so that she could protect herself. Edney began her education at Zelda Carter Morton Elementary School, where she became the president of the 4-H Club. When Louisa County schools pushed to improve integration in 1970, she transferred to Louisa Elementary School. Witnessing the violence between her parents, Marie Jefferson Trice and Norris Trice, and racism during the Civil Rights Movement contributed to Edney's rebellious behavior in school. She attended Louisa County High School in Mineral, Virginia, where she became pregnant at fifteen years old with her son, Monty Trice. During this time, a vision of an angel inspired her to begin changing her views about life. Two years later, Edney's English teacher, Judy Rude, encouraged her to compete in a forensics competition, where she placed first in both poetry and prose.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_003, TRT: 3:28:23
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney became increasingly involved and successful at Louisa County High School was accepted into HBCU, Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia in 1979. After getting into a relationship with Eugene Edney, Jr. they married and Hazel Edney transferred from Saint Paul's College to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond where she studied and worked as a security guard. There she pursued her degree interest in television and radio broadcasting. In May of 1984, Edney was physically abused by her husband, hospitalizing her, but a network of friends and supporters came to her aid and she eventually left her husband. Concurrent with those events, Edney had an internship at CBS affiliate WTVR-TV in Richmond Virginia. Upon completion of her internship Edney was offered a news director position at WFTH Radio. Funding cuts two years later forced Edney to leave; she subsequently became a freelance and later full time community and political reporter for the Richmond Afro-American.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_004, TRT: 4:29:59
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney began working at the Richmond Afro-American in 1987. While there, Edney covered stories in Richmond, Virginia's African American communities, such as the inhuman treatment of African American food stamps recipients. Edney also reported on city affairs, including the hiring of minority construction worker in the development of the Twin Towers in Richmond. In 1991, she became the first staff writer at the Richmond Free Press, founded by

Raymond H. Boone. There, she interviewed Virginia Lieutenant Governor L. Douglas Wilder, and his response to questions about the death penalty stirred controversy during his gubernatorial campaign against J. Marshall Coleman. Edney also worked with influential writers Samuel Yette and Ronald Walters. Seven years later, Edney was awarded the William S. Wasserman Jr. Fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She also talks about contemporary cases of racial discrimination involving Marissa Alexander and Trayvon Martin.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_005, TRT: 5:27:36
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she was taught by Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Through her membership at the university's NAACP chapter, she met scholars Cornel West and Henry Louis "Skip" Gates, Jr. She also heard guest speakers like economist Alan Greenspan and Nelson Mandela, who served as the inspiration for her commencement speech. After graduating, Edney joined the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program, where she worked under Senator Edward M. Kennedy. At its conclusion, she was hired by executive director Benjamin Jealous at the National Newspaper Publishers Association in 2000. There, she became a Capitol Hill correspondent, covering events like the 2000 U.S. Election scandal and Hurricane Katrina. In 2001, Edney attended the World Against Racism Conference in South Africa, which gave her insight into the growing animosity toward the United States leading up to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_006, TRT: 6:27:32
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney travelled to New Orleans, Louisiana in August of 2005 to report on the devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. When Rosa Parks died two months later, Edney was chosen by the Parks family as the only print reporter to accompany them from Detroit, Michigan to the special viewing at U.S. Capital building in Washington, D.C., and then to Montgomery, Alabama for the burial. While working for the National Newspaper Publishers Association, Edney had the opportunity to cover the 2008 presidential election, at which point she interviewed then Senator Barack Obama on his whistle stop train tour of the United States. She also interviewed media moguls Oprah Winfrey and P. Diddy, who supported his campaign. At this point in the interview, Edney talks about a lack of recognition for female leaders in African American civil rights organizations, the importance of accountability and unity amongst African American leadership and the discrimination faced by individuals of African descent globally.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_007, TRT: 7:28:53
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney left the National Newspaper Publishing Association in 2010 after ten years to launch, Trice Edney News Wire, the only female owned black news service. The publication was fully credentialed by the U.S. Congress press gallery, and featured interviews with a variety of influential African Americans, including NAACP president Lorraine Miller, and civil rights activists Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Charles Ogletree and C.T. Vivian. In 2012, Edney became president of the Capital Press Club, where she was responsible for planning the 70th anniversary celebration. At this point in the interview, Edney describes her current professorship at the Howard University in Washington, D.C. She also talks about being called a racial slur at multiple points in her life, including at

Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Edney reflects on her life, legacy and concerns for the African American community; and concludes by describing how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Hazel Trice Edney, Section A2013_339_001_008, TRT: 8:07:56
2013/12/03

Hazel Trice Edney narrates her photographs.