

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Skip Finley

## Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Finley, Skip
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley,
Dates:	August 22, 2018 and August 23, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017 and 2018
Physical Description:	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:00:06).
Abstract:	Broadcast chief executive Skip Finley (1948- ) was the founder of Albimar Communications, and served as president of Sheridan Broadcasting Networks, American Urban Radio Networks, and on the executive boards of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation and Carter Broadcast Group. Finley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 22, 2018 and August 23, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_139
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast chief executive Skip Finley was born on July 23, 1948 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Ewell W. Finley and Millie Finley. He attended Malverne High School in Long Island, New York, and later studied at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Finley obtained his first position as a floor manager at WHDH-TV in Boston in 1971, then as an assistant director and producer at Boston’s WSBK-TV. In 1972, he was recruited to the sales department at Boston’s WRKO-AM radio station, where he helped develop the RAB radio sales training course. In 1973, he joined Humphrey Browning MacDougall advertising agency’s media department as an account manager, where he marketed products for clients like Lionel Trains, Dutch Boy Paint and the Salada Tea Company. In 1974, he joined Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation’s Radio Division as a sales manager at WAMO AM-FM radio station in Pittsburgh, and was later promoted to the division’s vice president in 1977. In 1978, he worked as Eastern Sales Manager for Sheridan Broadcasting Networks, and was later promoted to president of the network in 1981. In 1982, he founded Albimar Communications, through which he owned and managed the popular black radio station, WKYS-FM/Washington, D.C. In 1988, he joined Carter Broadcast Group, Inc., the nation’s oldest black-owned radio station company, as the executive vice president of the board of directors. In 1995, he was recruited as CEO of American Urban Radio Networks, where he conceived of *The Light* , a 24-hour syndicated black gospel radio station format. Finley remained at American Urban Radio Networks until his retirement to Martha’s Vineyard in 1998.

From 2001 until 2011, Finley served as the vice chairman of the board of directors at Inner City Broadcasting Corporation. In 2012, he joined the Vineyard Gazette Media Group as director of sales and marketing, and also wrote the *Vineyard Gazette*’s weekly Oak Bluffs Town Column until 2017. In 2015, Finley founded M&M

Community Development, Inc., a nonprofit to educate local high school students on professional radio station management and operation.

Finley was the recipient of *Radio Ink Magazine*'s Radio Wayne Award for Best Overall Broadcaster in 1994, American Urban Radio Network's Urban Knight Hall of Fame Award and the Ward L. Quall Leadership Award from the Broadcaster's Foundation of America in 2012.

Skip Finley was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 23, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Skip Finley was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 22, 2018 and August 23, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast chief executive Skip Finley (1948- ) was the founder of Albimar Communications, and served as president of Sheridan Broadcasting Networks, American Urban Radio Networks, and on the executive boards of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation and Carter Broadcast Group.

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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:

Finley, Skip

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Finley, Skip--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:

Broadcast Chief Executive

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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 Skip Finley, August 22, 2018 and August 23, 2017. 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).

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## 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 Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:15 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:02 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:05 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:34 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_005, TRT: 5:27:43 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:52 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_002\_007, TRT: 7:29:07 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_002\_008, TRT: 8:28:34 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_002\_009, TRT: 9:30:30 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_002\_010, TRT: 10:28:35 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Skip Finley, Section A2017\_139\_002\_011, TRT: 11:11:49 ?