

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable William E. Shaw

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Shaw, William, 1937-2008
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable William E. Shaw,
Dates:	May 25, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	1 Betacame SP videocassettes (0:30:00).
Abstract:	State senator and mayor The Honorable William E. Shaw (1937 - 2008) served in the Illinois General Assembly for twenty years. Ten of those years were spent as a state senator. After leaving the senate, Shaw was elected mayor of Dolton, Illinois. Shaw was instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of \$4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois. Shaw was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 25, 2001, in Springfield, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_083
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

William Shaw was born on July 31, 1937, in Fulton, Arkansas. As a child, Shaw moved to St. Louis, Missouri with his family. As a teenager, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he attended Crane High School. Initially pursuing a career in boxing, Shaw suffered a humiliating defeat in the ring. He then chose a political career instead.

One of his first jobs in politics was as an assistant to Alderman Wilson Frost of Chicago's 34th Ward. In 1982, Shaw was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, as a democrat, where he served for ten years. He was then elected to the Illinois Senate in 1993. During his two decades in the Illinois General Assembly, Shaw served as a member of the Senate Energy & Environment Committee and the Task Force on Electric Deregulation. As a member of the Senate Local Government Committee, Shaw was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Historic Pullman District on Chicago's South Side.

In 1997, Shaw was elected Mayor of the City of Dolton, Illinois, while maintaining his senatorial position in Springfield. Shaw has been an ardent supporter of worker's rights legislation. He has also been instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of \$4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois.

Shaw is married and the father of three children.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable William E. Shaw was conducted by Jason Hausen on May 25, 2001, in Springfield, Illinois, and was recorded on 1 Betacame SP videocassettes. State senator and mayor The Honorable William E. Shaw (1937 - 2008) served in the Illinois General Assembly for twenty years. Ten of those years were spent as a state senator. After leaving the senate, Shaw was elected mayor of Dolton, Illinois. Shaw was instrumental in promoting legislation that would guarantee a minimum of \$4,225 to be spent on the education of each child in Illinois.

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:

Shaw, William, 1937-2008

Hausen, Jason (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Shaw, William, 1937-2008--Interviews

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

Mayors--Interviews

African American mayors.

African American politicians.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

Occupations:

State Senator

Mayor

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable William E. Shaw, May 25, 2001. 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).

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 The Honorable William E. Shaw, Section A2001_083_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

William Shaw was born in Hope, Arkansas in 1937 to William McKinley Shaw and Gertrude Shaw, one of six children. He describes his childhood memories, moving to St. Louis, Missouri, and then to Chicago, Illinois as a teenager. He recalls his entrance into politics as a precinct captain on Chicago's West Side. Shaw holds offices as both the Mayor of Dolton, Illinois, as well as a member of the Illinois General Assembly as a state senator. He describes the different duties required of each position, and his involvement with committees in the General Assembly. He talks about the major issues he handled for his district, which includes education funding, as well as redeveloping Chicago's Pullman district. A memorable piece of legislation mandated the teaching of black history as part of Illinois' school curriculum. Shaw then reflects on his political influences in the Illinois General Assembly as well as what he would like to be remembered for.

State governments--Officials and employees--Interviews

Mayors--Interviews

African American families--Arkansas.

Jones, Emil, 1935-

African American legislators – Illinois.

African American mayors – Illinois – Dolton.

Illinois. General Assembly--Senate.

Illinois. General Assembly – House of Representatives.