

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Angelo Henderson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Henderson, Angelo, 1962-2014
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Angelo Henderson,
Dates:	August 20, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:25:20).
Abstract:	Newspaper columnist and radio host Angelo Henderson (1962 - 2014) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Detroit News, and previously covered the auto industry in Detroit for Page One of the Wall Street Journal. Henderson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 20, 2002, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_152
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

After graduating from the University of Kentucky in Lexington with a degree in Journalism, Angelo Henderson first got a job in 1995 working for the *St. Petersburg Times* in St. Petersburg, Florida. He worked as a beat reporter and a business writer. He then moved on to the Louisville *Courier-Journal* where he continued to cover business before joining the staff of the *Wall Street Journal's* Detroit Bureau.

His first assignment at the *Wall Street Journal* was reporting on U.S. operations of non-American car companies. Eighteen months later, he moved to covering the Chrysler Corporation, writing on everything from labor talks to new car models. In 1997, he was appointed deputy Detroit Bureau Chief. This position called on him to write stories and manage reporters. In 1999, Henderson began writing exclusively for Page One of the *Wall Street Journal*. That year, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished feature writing. His prize-winning story, "Crime Scene", detailed the lives affected by an attempted drug store robbery that ended in the robber's death. In 2001, he joined *The Detroit News* as the special projects reporter. He travels the United States reporting on race, crime, and urban issues, giving a voice to many who have become voiceless.

Henderson was the recipient of several other journalism awards including the Detroit Press Club Award, the Unity Award for Excellence in minority reporting for Public Affairs/Social Issues, and the National Association of Black Journalists Award for outstanding coverage of the black condition. He served two terms as the parliamentarian of the National Association of Black Journalists. Henderson also serves as a deacon at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and is a member of the gospel group Marc Ivory and the Excelled Praise Singers. He and his wife, Felecia, and their son, Angelo, resided in Pontiac, Michigan.

Henderson passed away on February 15, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Angelo Henderson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 20, 2002, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Newspaper columnist and radio host Angelo Henderson (1962 - 2014) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Detroit News, and previously covered the auto industry in Detroit for Page One of the Wall Street Journal.

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:

Henderson, Angelo, 1962-2014

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Henderson, Angelo, 1962-2014--Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews

Deacons--Interviews

African American singers--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Detroit news (Detroit, Mich. : 1905)

Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

Radio Host

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 Angelo Henderson, August 20, 2002. 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 Angelo Henderson, Section A2002_152_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10
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Angelo Henderson describes his family background. His mother, Ruby Henderson, was born in Kingston Springs, Tennessee in 1923. His father, Roger Henderson, was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1917. Roger Henderson was working in the General Electric appliance factory when he met Ruby Henderson, a janitress for the company. They gave birth to their fourth child, Angelo Henderson, on October 14, 1962. At the time of his birth, Henderson's father worked at General Electric and as a Cadillac salesman. Ruby Henderson was also active in the church. Given the tensions surrounding school integration and forced bussing in Louisville, Kentucky, Angelo Henderson moved to Oakland, California to live with his sister, Elaine Henderson Smith, in 1973. He returned to Louisville around 1977, and enrolled at Louisville Male High School. In 1979, Henderson was accepted into the National High School Institute's Cherub Program at the Medill School of Journalism, where he was exposed to professional journalism for the first time.

African American journalists--Interviews.

Deacons--Interviews.

African American singers--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Angelo Henderson, Section A2002_152_001_002, TRT: 0:29:50
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Angelo Henderson participated in the National High School Institute's Cherub Program at the Medill School of Journalism during his junior year of high school at Louisville Male High School. The following year, Henderson participated in the Urban Journalism Workshop at the University of Kentucky, which inspired him to attend the university. Henderson graduated from Louisville Male High School in 1980, and enrolled at the University of Kentucky. He wrote for the university's newspaper, the "Kentucky Colonel," interned at WHAS-TV in Louisville, Kentucky and the "Wall Street Journal" in Cleveland Ohio, and worked part-time job for "The Herald Leader". After graduating in 1984, Henderson was hired as a business writer for the "St. Petersburg Times." This experience was challenging, and led him to renew his faith in God. Henderson later transferred to the community news desk, where he wrote a major series on St. Petersburg, Florida's crack cocaine epidemic.

Video Oral History Interview with Angelo Henderson, Section A2002_152_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00
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Angelo Henderson worked as a reporter for the "St. Petersburg Times" from 1984-1985. He went on to work as a business reporter for the "Courier-Journal" in Louisville, Kentucky, where he covered small business, minority business, and real estate development, and began dating his wife, Felicia. Angelo and Felicia Henderson were both hired by the "Detroit News" in 1989, and married soon thereafter. As a business writer, Henderson learned the ins and outs of Detroit's African American business and political communities, and covered HistoryMakers like Nathan Conyers and Mel Farr. In 1995, Henderson was hired by the Detroit Bureau of "The Wall Street Journal", where he covered non-American car companies and the Chrysler Corporation. In 1997, he was promoted to Bureau Chief. He also had the opportunity to write stories exclusively for Page 1 of the "Wall Street Journal", including a story about the

African American funeral home industry.

Video Oral History Interview with Angelo Henderson, Section A2002_152_001_004, TRT: 0:30:00
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In 1999, Angelo Henderson became a Page 1 feature writer for “The Wall Street Journal”. He wrote about a number of subjects, including the African American funeral industry, how African American entrepreneurs manage race, and the rise of urban kidnapping. In 1999, Henderson was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Feature Writing. His nomination package included a single story entitled “Crime Scene”, which won a Pulitzer Prize. “Crime Scene” was inspired by a story Henderson had previously covered at “The Detroit News,” which profiled small businesses that were experiencing crime for the first time. After learning that a pharmacy owner he profiled for “The Detroit News” story had killed a robber, Henderson set out to write “Crime Scene.” The story captured, on one hand, what it was like to kill someone, and on the other, the residual effects of a killing on all parties involved. Henderson worked for more than a year to write “Crime Scene”.

Video Oral History Interview with Angelo Henderson, Section A2002_152_001_005, TRT: 0:26:20
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After winning the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Feature Writing in 1999, Angelo Henderson took on an increased number of speaking engagements, and his writing and reporting career continued to thrive. In 2002, Henderson accepted a position as a special projects reporter at “The Detroit News”. He also began co-hosting a morning radio talk show called “Inside Detroit”. Henderson started worked on a book, and a fiction novel based upon his travels. In addition to serving as a deacon at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Henderson also received his diploma in urban ministry from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. Henderson talks about his legacy and how he would like to be remembered, as well as his family and the importance of living a balanced life. Henderson closes the interview by sharing his hopes and concerns for the African American community.