

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Donald E. Jackson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jackson, Donald E., 1926-2018
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Donald E. Jackson,
Dates:	August 29, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:54:06).
Abstract:	Veterinarian Dr. Donald E. Jackson (1926 - 2018) opened his All Pets Clinic in Wichita, Kansas, in 1957. This small animal hospital treated cats, dogs and other pets and remained busy until Jackson retired in 2001. Civic minded and committed to youth, Jackson volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a scout leader and a district representative judging eagle scout candidates. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 29, 2002, in Wichita, Kansas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_166
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dr. Donald E. Jackson, Tuskegee Air Cadet and veterinarian, was born August 17, 1926, in Kansas City, Kansas. His father, Roy Jackson was an auto mechanic and his mother was a teacher and later the director of a children's home. As a child, Jackson was surrounded by black role models that inspired him to one day have his own business.

An excellent science student, Jackson graduated from Charles Sumner High School in Kansas City, in 1944, at the height of World War II. He was already enlisted in the Army Reserve Corps and dreamed of becoming a fighter pilot. After Jackson's basic training, he was sent to Tuskegee and there he was taught by some of the heroic veterans of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. He graduated at the close the war, in Class 45H, the last group of Tuskegee Airmen trained. However, due to the Excess Officer Act, Jackson was put on extended leave and allowed to attend college.

At Kansas State University, he earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1951. Jackson wanted his own practice, although most of the six black veterinarians he knew were employed by the government as meat inspectors. To get started, he assisted Dr. George Bronson in his small animal practice and in 1957; Jackson opened his All Pets Clinic in Wichita, Kansas. This small animal hospital treated cats, dogs and other pets and remained busy until Jackson retired in 2001.

Civic minded and committed to youth, Jackson volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a scout leader and a district representative judging eagle scout candidates. Jackson served on the advisory board of Bank IV of Wichita from 1991 to 1996 and was an active tutor to young black males in the Wichita school system. Jackson, who attended classes at Wichita State in Medieval History, was a member of the Oz Bicycle Club and

enjoyed cross-country skiing. He lived in Wichita with his wife and children.

Jackson passed away on February 21, 2018 at age 91.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Donald E. Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 29, 2002, in Wichita, Kansas, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Veterinarian Dr. Donald E. Jackson (1926 - 2018) opened his All Pets Clinic in Wichita, Kansas, in 1957. This small animal hospital treated cats, dogs and other pets and remained busy until Jackson retired in 2001. Civic minded and committed to youth, Jackson volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America, serving as a scout leader and a district representative judging eagle scout candidates.

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:

Jackson, Donald E., 1926-2018

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Donald E., 1926-2018--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Veterinarian

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

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 Dr. Donald E. Jackson, August 29, 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 Dr. Donald E. Jackson, Section A2002_166_001_001, TRT: 0:29:23 ?

Dr. Donald E. Jackson describes his childhood in Prairie View, Texas and Kansas City, Kansas during the Depression. He details how segregation impacted his young life. He occasionally felt the sting of racism, but at the same time, Jackson valued the close-knit ties forged by Kansas City's black community. Jackson also recalls his childhood hobbies and interests, and talks about his participation in athletics as a child.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Donald E. Jackson, Section A2002_166_001_002, TRT: 0:29:32 ?

Dr. Donald E. Jackson details his brief tenure in the Army as a Tuskegee Airman just as World War II was drawing to a close. His aunt encouraged him to pursue a career besides teaching, because she wanted him to explore a field that was underrepresented by African Americans. Jackson decided to pursue a career as a veterinarian and eventually graduated from Kansas State University. Jackson then describes his veterinary practice in Wichita, Kansas.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Donald E. Jackson, Section A2002_166_001_003, TRT: 0:28:49 ?

Dr. Donald E. Jackson details the effect socioeconomic status has upon pet care and ownership, particularly in the black community. He discusses controversial issues in pet care, such as breeding dogs for dogfights and cropping of the tails and ears. He also shares anecdotes of his involvement as a Boy Scout troop leader, explaining how he has helped mentor troubled youths from the juvenile court system.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Donald E. Jackson, Section A2002_166_001_004, TRT: 0:26:22 ?

Dr. Donald E. Jackson shares a touching story of a young man whom he mentored, exemplifying the difference he has made in the lives of young people. Jackson discusses his avocations--being a Boy Scout leader, skiing, cycling and the like. He says wants to be remembered as a simple man, and expresses his hopes and concerns for the black community, emphasizing the need for education. Jackson then narrates his personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape. The photos depict his life, family, and career.