

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Evern D. Cooper Epps

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cooper Epps, Evern D.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Evern D. Cooper Epps,
Dates:	March 25, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:48:05).
Abstract:	Corporate executive Evern D. Cooper Epps (-) was president of the UPS Foundation and vice president of UPS Corporate Relations. Cooper Epps was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 25, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_037
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive Evern D. Cooper was born in Clarendon, Arkansas. Cooper earned a B.A. degree in English and journalism from Michigan State University. Initially, she worked as a high school teacher. She returned to MSU to earn her master's degree, and in 1974, she took a part-time job at United Parcel Service to help pay the bills. She later continued her education at Emory and Harvard Universities.

As a young trainee at UPS, Cooper drove a UPS delivery truck. Through hard work, she climbed the corporate ladder assuming positions in strategic planning, delivery information, training, and business development. She also continued her graduate studies at the Harvard University School of Business. Since 1992, Cooper has worked with the UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of the multi-billion dollar corporation. She was appointed president of the Foundation in 1998, and today she also serves as vice president of UPS Corporate Relations.

At UPS, Cooper has successfully implemented the global philanthropic programs of the UPS Foundation and directs the many corporate relations and community service initiatives of UPS. Under her leadership, the Foundation, one of the largest contributors to the United Way, has increased its support of programs in the critical areas of literacy, hunger relief, and nationwide volunteerism. Additionally, UPS donates tens of millions to charitable organizations around the world.

Cooper is on the "List of Georgia's 100 Most Powerful and Influential Women in Corporate America." She is vice chair of the board of directors of the Northwest Georgia Girl Scouts Council, a member of the boards of the Close Up Foundation and the Points of Light Foundation and a member of Links-Dogwood Chapter.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Evern D. Cooper Epps was conducted by Clarissa Myrick-Harris on March 25,

2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate executive Evern D. Cooper Epps (-) was president of the UPS Foundation and vice president of UPS Corporate Relations.

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:

Cooper Epps, Evern D.

Myrick-Harris, Clarissa (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Cooper Epps, Evern D.--Interviews

African American women executives--Georgia--Interviews

African American women civic leaders--Georgia--Interviews

African Americans--Genealogy

African American families--Michigan--Detroit

Detroit (Mich.)--Social life and customs

Discrimination in higher education--Michigan

Michigan State University

Foreign study--Ontario--Toronto Metropolitan Area

United Parcel Service

Voyages and travels--Israel

Charities--United States

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United Parcel Service

Occupations:

Corporate Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 Evern D. Cooper Epps, March 25, 2004. 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 Evern D. Cooper Epps, Section A2004_037_001_001, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Evern Cooper describes her parents' backgrounds, detailing their living conditions while growing up in Arkansas, and recalling stories about her ancestors. Cooper remembers growing up in a strong, nurturing family environment with her parents and three siblings, whom she also describes. She describes her childhood neighborhood in southwest Detroit, where she recalls growing up as a tomboy. Cooper also discusses the values her family held, as well as the positive contribution of the church to her childhood.

African American women executives--Georgia--Interviews.

African American women civic leaders--Georgia--Interviews.

African Americans--Genealogy.

African American families--Michigan--Detroit.

Detroit (Mich.)--Social life and customs.

Discrimination in higher education--Michigan.

Michigan State University.

Foreign study--Ontario--Toronto.

United Parcel Service.

Voyages and travels--Israel.

Charities--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Evern D. Cooper Epps, Section A2004_037_001_002, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Evern Cooper continues to describe her childhood growing up in Detroit. She recalls favorite activities and hobbies as a child, which included a love of reading and writing, and an interest in athletics. Cooper discusses her childhood education and describes some influential teachers from junior high and high school. She also provides a detailed description of her childhood neighborhood, and discusses the social and political climate of Detroit during the time she lived there. Cooper then discusses her experience at Michigan State University, which was mostly positive, except for an incident with a racist professor. Cooper describes her time as an exchange student in Toronto while in college, which she says improved her communication skills. She then discusses her first job upon graduation, teaching English classes in Detroit high schools.

Video Oral History Interview with Evern D. Cooper Epps, Section A2004_037_001_003, TRT:

0:30:00 ?

Evern Cooper describes in detail her period of employment with UPS, which began as a part-time employee. Cooper discusses her rise through the corporate ranks, which included time spent as a truck driver, a position which helped her to learn about every aspect of the company. She then describes her time on UPS's business development team, which eventually led to her appointment as President of the UPS Foundation, a philanthropic division in charge of the company's charitable donations both domestically and abroad. Cooper explains why her current position is so gratifying, and discusses the impact of UPS's service. She also describes her trip to Israel as part of a volunteer exchange program as a momentous occasion in her life. Cooper then considers her legacy, and the role of leadership.

Video Oral History Interview with Evern D. Cooper Epps, Section A2004_037_001_004, TRT: 0:20:45 ?

Evern Cooper explains why the UPS Foundation has expanded its charity work to focus on international service as well as domestic service, emphasizing a need to improve the conditions of women in developing nations. She then shares her advice about the corporate world to young people, and discusses the importance of preserving the oral history of African Americans. Cooper then describes several photos she has brought to the interview, which depict her life, family, and career.