

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lilliette M. Council

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Council, Lilliette M., 1902-2011
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lilliette M. Council,
Dates:	December 3, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:22:47).
Abstract:	Civic volunteer Lilliette M. Council (1902 - 2011) worked as a finisher in the fur industry in the 1930s, and served as the Secretary for the Women's Society for Service and Vice-President of United Methodist Women. In addition, she has volunteered over 5,000 hours at a veterans' hospital. Council was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 3, 2004, in Jamaica, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_247
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Community activist Lilliette M. Council was born on October 18, 1902 in Laurens, South Carolina. Her father, John Henry Dial, was a brick mason for T. C. Windham, the wealthy black contractor who built Birmingham, Alabama's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Council sang in the church choir after her father moved the family to Birmingham in 1907. Council's mother, Mary Lou "Tensacola" Young Dial, was part Native American and a homemaker. Starting at Birmingham's Industrial High School, then attending Spelman High School in Atlanta, Georgia, Council eventually returned to Birmingham where she graduated from Brooks Academy in 1921.

In 1921, Council married and moved with her husband, William Hewlett, to Cleveland, Ohio. Council separated from her husband in 1931 and moved to New York City. Employed in the garment industry, Council joined the Union of Furriers Joint Council.

Council joined the American War Mothers during World War II and volunteered more than 5,000 hours at V.A. hospitals in the New York area until she was 92 years old. She has been an active member of the Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church where she was twice awarded Mother of the Year. She is a member of the Order of Cyrenes and the Euclid Chapter Number 48 of the Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation.

Widowed twice, Council has seven grandchildren and lives in Jamaica Queens, New York.

Council passed away on September 19, 2011 at the age of 108.

Lilliette Council was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 3, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lilliette M. Council was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 3, 2004, in Jamaica, New York, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic volunteer Lilliette M. Council (1902 - 2011) worked as a finisher in the fur industry in the 1930s, and served as the Secretary for the Women's Society for Service and Vice-President of United Methodist Women. In addition, she has volunteered over 5,000 hours at a veterans' hospital.

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:

Council, Lilliette M., 1902-2011

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Council, Lilliette M., 1902-2011--Interviews

African American civic leaders--New York (State)--New York--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Community Activist

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Lilliette M. Council, December 3, 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 Lilliette M. Council, Section A2004_247_001_001, TRT: 0:30:39 ?

Lilliette M. Council describes her background and childhood. Her mother, Mary Lou Young, was born in 1882 in Clinton, South Carolina, and her father, John Henry Dial, was born about 1878 to Albert Dial and his wife. Dial's ancestors

were likely enslaved and may have been related to South Carolina senator Nathaniel B. Dial. Council's parents married in 1899 and she was born on October 18, 1902 in Laurens, South Carolina. The family moved to Greenwood, South Carolina and then to Birmingham, Alabama, where Council's father owned a meat market before working as a bricklayer for black architect T.C. Windham. Windham built 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, which Council's family attended. The church was bombed in 1963. She attended Birmingham's Industrial High School before enrolling in Spelman College's high school division in Atlanta, Georgia. After getting an eye infection, she returned to Birmingham and graduated from Brooks Academy in 1921. Council recalls her childhood in Greenwood and Birmingham.

African American families--Alabama--Birmingham.

African American churches--Alabama--Birmingham.

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

Video Oral History Interview with Lilliette M. Council, Section A2004_247_001_002, TRT: 0:29:27 ?

Lilliette M. Council talks about her high school years at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1921, she married World War I veteran and bricklayer William Hewlett. The couple settled in Cleveland, Ohio where Hewlett worked at the post office and the two joined masonic organizations. They had two children before separating in 1931. Council then moved to New York City where she worked in the fur industry, becoming member of the Furriers Joint Council of New York. In 1945, Council witnessed a B-25 Mitchell bomber crash into the Empire State Building. She describes her involvement with HistoryMaker Dorothy Height's Council of Negro Women and with Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church in Jamaica, New York, which she joined in 1952. She married jazz artist and dockworker Littleton Rose. After his death, she married Ernest Council, a patron of her Masonic lodge, in 1961. She talks about her volunteer work with World War II veterans through American War Mothers, and her love of bowling and singing.

Fur workers--United States.

Furriers Joint Council of New York.

African Americans--New York (State)--New York--Societies, etc.

African American couples--Ohio--Cleveland.

African American couples--New York (State)--New York.

African American churches--New York (State)--New York.

Video Oral History Interview with Lilliette M. Council, Section A2004_247_001_003, TRT: 0:22:41 ?

Lilliette M. Council reflects upon her life. She describes what she would do differently and her hopes and concerns for the African American community. In the 1950s, Council's aging parents moved to Jamaica, New York to live with their daughter. They both passed away shortly thereafter. Council talks about her legacy and how she would like to be remembered. She concludes her interview by narrating her personal photographs with her son William Maynard Hewlett.

African American parents.