

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Beverly E. Smith

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Smith, Beverly E., 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Beverly E. Smith,
Dates:	February 16, 2006
Bulk Dates:	2006
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:16:04).
Abstract:	Corporate chief executive Beverly E. Smith (1948 -) established the HR Group, Inc., a small business management consulting company. Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 16, 2006, in Marietta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2006_022
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate chief executive Beverly Ann Evans Smith was born April 12, 1948 in Massillon, Ohio to Louie Edward and Willimae Dumas Evans. After receiving her diploma from all girls Central Catholic High School, Canton, Ohio in 1966, she attended and graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1970 with a B.S. in education. Smith earned her M. Ed. degree in education in 1973 from Kent State University.

While still in graduate school, Smith taught high school speech and english for a year. From 1972 to 1974, she was Assistant Director for Student Financial Aid at Kent State University, and from 1974 to 1976, Smith worked as the Assistant Director, Upward Bound at Kent State. She was the Assistant Dean for Student Life for Georgia State University from 1976 to 1978. Smith worked as Manager of Business Services for Southern Bell Telephone Company from 1978 to 1983. From 1984 to 1996, she was employed by the Network Services Division of AT&T in Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked primarily as a District Manager in varied operations functions. From 1988 to 1990, Smith was a loaned executive from AT&T, serving as Executive Director for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Upon her retirement in 1996, she and her husband established The HR Group, Inc. of Marietta, Georgia, a small business management consulting company with clients from Fortune 500 companies to small business organizations.

Smith regularly serves as a trainer and workshop facilitator in leadership development and strategic planning for non-profits and church groups. Her civic duties include being a member of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources. Smith is Chair of Cobb County Georgia Board of Elections and Registration and a member of the Board of Directors of Chattahoochee Technical College. A member of Cobb Executive Women, Smith is a 1988 graduate of Leadership Cobb.

Smith is listed in *Who's Who Among Black Americans*. Additionally, she is listed in *Who's Who in the South and Southeast* and *Who's Who in the World*.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Beverly E. Smith was conducted by Ed Anderson on February 16, 2006, in Marietta, Georgia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate chief executive Beverly E. Smith (1948 -) established the HR Group, Inc., a small business management consulting company.

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:

Smith, Beverly E., 1948-

Anderson, Ed (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Smith, Beverly E., 1948- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Corporate Chief Executive

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 Beverly E. Smith, February 16, 2006. 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 Beverly E. Smith, Section A2006_022_001_001, TRT: 0:30:20 ?
Beverly E. Smith was born on April 12, 1948 in Massillon, Ohio to Willa Mae Dumas Evans and Louie Evans. Smith's maternal grandfather, Preston Dumas, was the son of John Dumas, who was a well-known civic leader in Houma, Louisiana; and a distant relative of author Alexandre Dumas. He worked as a railroad engineer, while his wife, Edna Olivia Hiem Dumas, was a homemaker of German descent. Smith's mother was born and raised in Louisiana, and she and her sisters studied at various historically black colleges to become teachers. Smith's paternal grandfather, William Evans, worked in Massillon, Ohio to supplement the income from the family's farm in Tallapoosa, Georgia. Her

paternal grandmother, Julia Dunston Evans, also worked as a seamstress and caretaker for a white family. Smith's father was a talented electronic repairman, who established a training program for African American youth interested in the trade. Smith recalls experiencing segregation during her family's road trips from Ohio to Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Beverly E. Smith, Section A2006_022_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Beverly E. Smith's great grandmother belonged to the Blackfoot Native American tribe in Georgia. Smith's father was raised in Tallapoosa, Georgia, where he was almost falsely accused of assaulting a white woman. Her parents met through her mother's cousin, and married after her father's return from World War II. They settled in Massillon, Ohio, where they raised Smith and her two sisters. A civil rights activist in his own right, Smith's father integrated the neighborhood where they lived in Massillon, in spite of threats from the white community. Smith was three years old when she began her education at St. Paul's Kindergarten. She went on to attend St. Barbara Catholic School and Central Catholic High School, where she excelled academically under the tutelage of the nuns, and played multiple instruments in the band. She describes her early personality, her father's autobiography and her mother's opposition to her decree to become a nun. Later, Smith married Stephen J. Smith, with whom she had two children.

Video Oral History Interview with Beverly E. Smith, Section A2006_022_001_003, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Beverly E. Smith attended Bowling Green State University, where she joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She was also the first student member of the board of trustees, and chosen as a speaker for her commencement in 1970. At this point in the interview, Smith talks about the civil rights era, the Kent State University shootings and the demographics of her high school and college. Smith earned her master's degree in university administration from Kent State University after marrying her husband, Stephen J. Smith. While there, Smith was the assistant director for student financial aid. From 1976 to 1978, she served as the assistant dean of student life for Georgia State University. In 1978, Smith began working for Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, implementing programs nationwide. She also served as the executive director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In 1996, feeling limited by the racial and gender prejudice in the corporate world, Smith established her own consulting firm with her husband.

Video Oral History Interview with Beverly E. Smith, Section A2006_022_001_004, TRT: 0:29:44 ?

Beverly E. Smith met Stephen J. Smith in 1969 during their summer internships in Dayton, Ohio, and they were engaged later that year. Together they had two children: Brian Smith, a teacher, and Stacy Smith, a graduate student of psychology. Both of Smith's children were vocal proponents of African American history and civil rights. Smith shares a message for her family regarding the importance of self-esteem. She reflects upon her career; her life and legacy; and how she would like to be remembered. Smith also talks about her hopes and concerns for the African American community; her views on the Civil Rights Movement, education and affirmative action; the role of religion in the black community; and the importance of history.

Video Oral History Interview with Beverly E. Smith, Section A2006_022_001_005, TRT: 0:18:00 ?

Beverly E. Smith narrates her photographs.