

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bea L. Hines

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Hines, Bea L., 1938-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 11, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:30:33).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Journalist Bea L. Hines (1938 - ) became the first African American woman to work in a full-time position at The Miami Herald when she was hired as a general assignment reporter in 1970. Her columns for the Herald were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. Hines was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 11, 2014, in Miami Gardens, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_201
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Beatrice “Bea” L. Hines was born in Williston, Florida in 1938. At a young age, her parents separated and she moved with her mother to Miami, Florida. Hines graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1956.

In 1966, Hines was hired as a file clerk in *The Miami Herald*'s library. A year later, in 1967, Hines enrolled at Miami-Dade Community College, where she studied journalism for three years. Then, in June of 1970, she was promoted to general assignment reporter at *The Miami Herald*, becoming the first African American woman to work as a reporter for the paper. Hines's work was featured in the education and the “Living Today” sections of the *Herald*. From 1980 to 1985, she wrote an issues column for the newspaper that garnered much praise. She also wrote other columns for *The Miami Herald*, including ones entitled “Parenting Again” and “Neighbors in Religion.”

Hines has taught and led workshops at several universities, including Savannah State University, the University of California-Berkeley, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and the University of Memphis. In 1981, her columns were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and, in 1985, she was recognized as one of the top five woman columnists in the country by *Savvy* magazine. In 1984, Hines was selected by the Washington, D.C., Spelman Alumni Chapter as one of four outstanding women in the country for community work. In 1985, *The Miami Herald* honored her work with the Service Among Us Award. She has also been honored by The Church of God Tabernacle in Miami, and appeared in the documentary *Instruments of Change* in 2013.

Hines was married to the late James Fredrick Hines. Their sons are Pastor James (Rick) F. Hines, Jr., who died September 14, 2013, and Shawn A. Hines, who lives in Rhode Island.

Bea L. Hines was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 8, 2014.

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bea L. Hines was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 11, 2014, in Miami Gardens, Florida, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist Bea L. Hines (1938 - ) became the first African American woman to work in a full-time position at The Miami Herald when she was hired as a general assignment reporter in 1970. Her columns for the Herald were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1981.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Hines, Bea L., 1938-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Champagne, Curt (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hines, Bea L., 1938---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Journalist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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## 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 Bea L. Hines, September 11, 2014. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:03 ?

Bea L. Hines was born on February 12, 1938 in Williston, Florida. Her mother, Ida Lawton Johnson, was born in 1919 in Plant City, Florida. Hines' maternal grandmother, Suzy Lawton, married John Henry Lawton, and had eleven children. Only five, however, lived to adulthood. She remarried after the death of her husband and gave birth to one more child. Hines' father, Adam Johnson,

was born in 1914 and became abusive toward Lawton Johnson. Lawton Johnson fled the relationship and relocated with her two children, Bea Hines and Adam Johnson, Jr., to Overtown, in Miami, Florida. She worked as a wet nurse and housekeeper for a family in Miami Beach, Florida. Hines describes her earliest childhood memories and remembers her parents' violent relationship. She talks about establishing a relationship with her father as an adult and her own marriage to James Hines in 1957 that, unfortunately, involved domestic abuse also.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:15 ?

Bea L. Hines was raised in Overtown, a historic African American community in Miami, Florida where HistoryMaker Dorothy Fields also spent her childhood. Hines recalls the sights, sounds, and smells of Overtown. She explains the etymology behind its name—the name stems from the black community's descriptive reference to the area as “over town”—and how her efforts got the name officially recognized. Hines attended Ms. Powers Private School, Frederick R. Douglas Elementary School and Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School. In 1948, her family moved to Fort Worth, Texas for one year and back into Liberty City, Miami. She attended Liberty City Elementary School and traveled across the city to attend Booker T. Washington High School. Hines enjoyed drawing, painting, and sewing and entered the Final Womanhood essay contest and remembers winning the \$100 first prize. Hines earned a singer's scholarship to college, however, her mother would not let her attend and Hines continued to sing in church instead.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_003, TRT: 3:36:00 ?

Bea L. Hines graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Miami, Florida in 1956. She married James Hines the following year and gave birth to two children. The marriage, however, was abusive. James Hines worked as a police officer and died in 1962. Hines worked as a maid in Burdines Department Store and remembers Sugar Ray Robinson's wife visiting Burdines and being offered a dressing room in the bridal department because the sales ambassadors were too embarrassed to show her segregated fitting rooms. Hines expressed interest in creative writing and enrolled in classes at Miami-Dade Community College in Miami after her husband's death. She majored in teaching and changed her major to journalism at the encouragement of Fred Shaw, an editor for the Miami Herald. Hines got a job as a file clerk with The Miami Herald in 1967. She talks about Thirlee Smith, the Herald's first African American reporter, and also concert pianist Ruth Greenfield and her Lunchtime Lively Arts Series in Miami.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_004, TRT: 4:27:35 ?

Bea L. Hines worked as a maid for a Jewish family four days a week and for a separate family on Mondays before getting a job as a file clerk with The Miami Herald in 1967. Both her previous employers had been racist, the Monday family, however, was kinder. Hines was the first black employee hired in a white collar position at The Herald. She often ate alone on her lunch hour or outside, until she was befriended by Hazel Ashmore. Hines pursued a journalism degree at Miami-Dade Community College in Miami, Florida and wrote for its student newspaper, The Falcon Times. In June of 1970, Hines was promoted to reporter at The Miami Herald. Her first assignment was to cover the 1970 riots in Liberty City, Miami—she reported undercover because the press was not allowed in black community meetings. Hines was harassed and sent to cover bogus news stories during her early days as a reporter, however, she developed a reputation as the go-to reporter for sensitive stories.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:40 ?

Bea L. Hines began covering schools as a reporter for The Miami Herald in the 1970s and earned a School Bell Award for her work. In 1981, Hines was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her collective columns in The Miami Herald, where she covered subjects like police brutality and profiling. However, she was forced by a resentful editor to discontinue her column in 1985. Hines talks about her street coverage of the riot following the murder of Arthur McDuffie in 1980 in Liberty City, Miami. She also talks about her coverage of a funeral for Haitian refugee children that were thrown off their boat to Miami and drowned. Hines describes experiencing difficulty interviewing celebrities including the Reverend Dr. James Cleveland as well as Aretha Franklin in the 1990s. She describes her journalistic philosophy and talks about memorable column topics including the treatment of rape victims and Haitian Vodou culture.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_006, TRT: 6:33:04 ?

Bea L. Hines describes an interview with Aretha Franklin for The Miami Herald during her visit to Miami, Florida. Hines describes her favorite interviews with non-celebrities, including an interview with the father of a fallen Vietnam War veteran. Hines paved the way for African American journalists at The Miami Herald and in 1972, the paper hired nine more African Americans journalists. Hines talks about the paper's other black journalists including HistoryMakers Leonard Pitts and Francis Ward, as well as her membership with the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). The Herald published an article written by Hines that addressed football player Ray Rice's physical abuse of his wife, Jenay Palmer Rice, and her own experience with domestic violence. Hines talks about T. Willard Fair and Miami's African American politicians, the preservation of rights and history in the African American community, and her hopes and concerns for the community.

Video Oral History Interview with Bea L. Hines, Section A2014\_201\_001\_007, TRT: 7:26:56 ?

Bea L. Hines talks about her article addressing the murder of Trayvon Martin in 2012—she had still been writing her Sunday Friends and Neighbors column in The Miami Herald at the time of the interview. Hines talks about her family, considers her life and legacy, and describes how she would like to be remembered. She concludes with the narration of her photographs.