

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Fred Rice, Jr.

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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>	Rice, Fred, 1928-2011
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Fred Rice, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 27, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:29:59).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Police superintendent Fred Rice, Jr. (1926 - 2011 ) was the first African American Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. Rice was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 27, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A1993_005
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Police superintendent Fred Rice was born on December 24, 1926 in Chicago, Illinois to Leola Moseley and Fred Rice, Sr. He was raised in Chicago and attended John Farren Elementary School, Edward Hartigan Elementary School and DuSable Leadership Academy.

After serving in the U.S. Army for two years in Korea in the early 1950s, Rice returned to Chicago and worked for the Chicago Post Office before passing the Chicago Park District Police Department examination in 1955. He later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Roosevelt University, and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Executive Institute in Quantico, Virginia.

In 1955, Rice became a patrol officer for the Chicago Park District Police Department, which later merged with the Chicago Police Department. He was promoted to sergeant, and then to the role of civil service captain. In 1983, Rice made history when he was appointed under Chicago Mayor Harold Washington as superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, becoming the first African American to hold the position. During his tenure, Rice ushered in a new era of race relations among the officers and promoted communication between them and the communities they patrolled. He retired as superintendent of the Police Department in 1987 and went on to serve as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at the University of Illinois from 1990 to 2001. He was also a founding member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Rice passed away on January 10, 2011 at the age of 84. He was married to Thelma Rice and was the father of two children, Lyle and Judith.

Fred Rice was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 27, 2002.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Fred Rice, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 27, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Police superintendent Fred Rice, Jr. (1926 - 2011 ) was the first African American Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department.

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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:

Rice, Fred, 1928-2011

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rice, Fred, 1928-2011--Interviews

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Chicago (Ill.). Police Department.

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African American police chiefs--Illinois--Chicago.

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National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

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College teachers--Interviews.

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Chicago (Ill.). Police Dept.

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# Occupations:

Police Superintendent

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|PoliticalMakers

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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 Fred Rice, Jr., June 27, 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).

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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 Fred Rice, Jr., Section A1993\_005\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:14 ?

Fred Rice recalls his parents' lives and his own childhood growing up in Depression-era Chicago, Illinois. He recounts his formal education through high school, and discusses his post-high school career path before he was drafted into the Korean War. Rice also lists his siblings.

Childhood--Illinois--Chicago.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Education--Illinois--Chicago.

Family histories.

Video Oral History Interview with Fred Rice, Jr., Section A1993\_005\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:38 ?

Fred Rice, Chicago's first African American police superintendent, recalls his experiences in a segregated unit in the Korean War. He then details his years as a Chicago police officer in the 1960s and 1970s. Rice also comments on O.W. Wilson's improvements to the Chicago police department.

Korean War, 1950-1953--African Americans.

Chicago (Ill.). Police Department.

Wilson, O. W. (Orlando Winfield), 1900-1972.

Video Oral History Interview with Fred Rice, Jr., Section A1993\_005\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Fred Rice, Chicago's first African American police superintendent, discusses politics within the Chicago police department in the 1960s and 1970s, such as its control by Irish Americans and the founding of the Afro-American Patrolman's League. He details his efforts to control gang activity at the time. Rice also recalls memorable events involving the department during that period, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march on Marquette Park, the Democratic National Convention, and the murder of Fred Hampton.

Irish Americans.

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968.

Hampton, Fred, 1948-1969.

Video Oral History Interview with Fred Rice, Jr., Section A1993\_005\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Fred Rice, Chicago's first African American police superintendant, recounts the events preceding his appointment, and his tenure under Chicago Mayor Harold Washington. He describes scandals undergone by the Chicago police department, and discusses the changes he made as superintendent.

Mayors--Illinois--Chicago--Election.

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.

African American police--Illinois--Chicago.

Police corruption--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Fred Rice, Jr., Section A1993\_005\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:27 ?

Fred Rice, Chicago's first African American police superintendent, reflects on his career and his relationship to Mayor Harold Washington. He also comments on the rise of community policing, and evaluates the Chicago police department's advances.

African American police--Illinois--Chicago.

Police-community relations.

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.

Washington, Harold, 1922-1987.