

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alice Palmer

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Palmer, Alice, 1939-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alice Palmer,
Dates:	June 9, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:38:27).
Abstract:	State senator Alice Palmer (1939 -) served as the associate dean and director of African American Student Affairs at Northwestern University before replacing Richard Newhouse in the Illinois Senate, where she was a member of the Appropriations II Committee. Palmer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 9, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_058
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Alice J. Palmer was born on June 20, 1939, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The daughter of Erskine and Mary Ward Roberts, Palmer graduated from high school at age sixteen and enrolled at Indiana University. After an extended leave of absence, Palmer returned to Indiana University to earn her Bachelors degree with the help of four jobs and a scholarship.

After graduating in 1965, Palmer found a teaching position in Indianapolis, Indiana, but soon moved to Chicago to work at Crane Junior College, later called Malcolm X College. She received her Masters degree from Roosevelt University and her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, where she co-authored two books and tutored in the Black House. Palmer remained at Northwestern University to serve as Associate Dean and Director of African American Student Affairs for the next five years. Palmer served as the National Voter Education Director for a national citizen action organization before becoming the founding director of the Metro YMCA Youth and Government Program in 1986. She also served as Executive Director of Chicago Cities in Schools.

On June 6, 1991, Palmer replaced Richard Newhouse in the Illinois Senate, where she served until 1996. While in office, Palmer served on the Appropriations II Committee, among many others. Palmer was replaced by Barack Obama in the state senate. In 1996, Palmer was hired by the University of Illinois at Chicago as an Associate Professor in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

Palmer was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 9, 2000.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alice Palmer was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 9, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. State senator Alice Palmer (1939 -) served as the associate dean and director of African American Student Affairs at Northwestern University before replacing Richard Newhouse in the Illinois Senate, where she was a member of the Appropriations II Committee.

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:

- Palmer, Alice, 1939-
- Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)
- Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

- African Americans--Interviews
 - Palmer, Alice, 1939---Interviews
-

African American women legislators--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American women college administrators--Illinois--Interviews.

Organizations:

- HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Illinois

Occupations:

State Senator

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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 Alice Palmer, June 9, 2000. 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 Alice Palmer, Section A2000_058_001_001, TRT: 0:29:41 ?
Politician Alice Palmer begins by recalling her election to the Illinois General Assembly representing Chicago's South Side. Palmer then details her family history in Boston and Indianapolis, discussing her family's connection to Madame C.J. Walker and her grandfather's medical practice. After talking about

her parents, Palmer shares memories of her childhood.
African American women politicians--South Side (Chicago, Ill.).
African Americans--Family histories--Indiana--Indianapolis.
African Americans--Family histories--Massachusetts--Boston.
Walker, C. J., Madam, 1867-1919.
African American grandparents.
African American parents.

Video Oral History Interview with Alice Palmer, Section A2000_058_001_002, TRT: 0:29:22 ?

Politician Alice Palmer recounts her early education, explaining how grammar school in Indianapolis, George Washington Carver, focused on black history and achievements. Palmer also recounts her high school experience and expresses gratitude for the diverse cultures she studied. She then talks about her college experience, explaining why she left Indiana University for Roosevelt University in Chicago. Palmer recalls the challenges she encountered while balancing her education with her family responsibilities. She then talks about her becoming involved in social activism in Chicago.
Education, Elementary--Indiana--Indianapolis.
Education, Secondary--Indiana--Indianapolis.
Roosevelt University.
Indiana University.
African American families-Responsibility.
Political activism--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Alice Palmer, Section A2000_058_001_003, TRT: 0:31:11 ?

Politician Alice Palmer details her service in the Illinois General Assembly, talking about her roles on various committees dealing with revenue, education, commerce and industry, and appropriations. Palmer considers the importance of diversity in the General Assembly, and talks about the specific responsibilities of black legislators. She then recalls what she and her fellow black legislators were able to accomplish during her tenure. Palmer also discusses the need to create a global network of black leadership.
African American women politicians--Illinois.
Diversity in the workplace--United States.
Illinois. General Assembly. House of Representatives.
African American leadership--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Alice Palmer, Section A2000_058_001_004, TRT: 0:08:13 ?

Politician Alice Palmer details her involvement in The People Program, an organization dedicated to increasing minority enrollment and graduation in higher education. She also considers her legacy.
Minorities--Vocational guidance.
Affirmative action programs in education.