

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lee Bailey

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Bailey, Lee, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lee Bailey,
Dates:	July 23, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:03:30).
Abstract:	Radio personality and broadcast executive Lee Bailey (1947 -) founded Lee Bailey Productions, a voiceover production company, and RadioScope, a popular syndicated urban radio show. Bailey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 23, 2001, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_002
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast executive Lee Bailey has always been fascinated with radio. He was a regular visitor to radio stations in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania while growing up. His first experiences with radio began while he was still in the Air Force.

Nicknamed "The Voice," Bailey began his broadcast career in 1970 as an on-air radio personality in Sacramento, California followed by a job at a radio station in Washington, D.C. Bailey achieved the most fame while working at Los Angeles's KUTE-FM. His talent also led to voice over jobs for radio and television commercials in Los Angeles. Bailey converted his garage into a studio in 1979 and formed Lee Bailey Productions, a voice over production company. Lee Bailey Productions specialized in radio commercial spots and corporate slide presentations. As the company expanded, Bailey and his wife, Diane Blackmon Bailey, created *RadioScope: the Entertainment Magazine of the Air*, a syndicated radio show, and Bailey Broadcasting Services (BBS), in 1983.

Today, RadioScope is aired in daily and weekend versions in over 100 U.S. markets and in over 70 countries. It maintains the largest following of any syndicated urban radio show. Lee Bailey Communications, Inc. also produces two other popular daily programs, Inside Gospel and the Hip-Hop Countdown & Report. In addition to radio programming, Lee Bailey Communications has a strong presence on the World Wide Web. BBS Interactive maintains the online publication the Electronic Urban Report, a website that shares urban entertainment news.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lee Bailey was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 23, 2001, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Radio personality and broadcast executive Lee Bailey (1947 -) founded Lee Bailey Productions, a voiceover production company, and RadioScope, a popular

syndicated urban radio show.

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:

Bailey, Lee, 1947-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bailey, Lee, 1947---Interviews

African American businesspeople--Interviews.

African American radio broadcasters--Interviews.

Rural-urban migration--United States.

Lee Bailey Productions.

Radio broadcasting--United States.

Grandparents as parents.

Radio stations--California--Los Angeles.

United States. Air Force--African Americans.

Interviewing on radio.

Internet--Periodicals.

Popular music--History and criticism

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Lee Bailey Productions

Occupations:

Radio Personality

Broadcast Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Lee Bailey, July 23, 2001. 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 Lee Bailey, Section A2001_002_001_001, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Lee Bailey briefly describes his grandparents, who raised him in rural Georgia during his early childhood. Bailey recalls early memories from his time in Georgia, including family reunions and his penchant for mischief. Bailey talks about developing a distaste for manual labor while working on his grandfather's farm. He says he did not like the work, but cites his grandfather as the major influence on his childhood, as his mother lived in Pittsburgh. Bailey talks about his personality as a child, saying that despite his mischief, he was generally well-mannered and dreamed of becoming a radio announcer while listening to radio drama and black music. He then describes leaving Georgia to move in with his mother in Pittsburgh. Bailey remembers his southern drawl and given first name, Harvey, making him a target for bullies. Bailey explains changing his first name to Lee, to appease a radio station manager.

African American businesspeople--Interviews.

African American radio broadcasters--Interviews.

Rural-urban migration--United States.

Lee Bailey Productions.

Radio broadcasting--United States.

Grandparents as parents.

Radio stations--Los Angeles (Calif.).

United States. Air Force--African Americans.

Interviewing on radio.

Internet--Periodicals.

Popular music--History and criticism.

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Bailey, Section A2001_002_001_002, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Lee Bailey talks about first discovering his unique voice, and describes how his friends used it to help romantic relationships. Bailey remembers being an average student, and says his desire to have a radio career motivated him in high school. He talks about his experience in the U.S. Air Force, and being based in Sacramento, California. Bailey talks about receiving his first experience in a studio while in Sacramento at KPOP, the station which eventually gave him his first on-air job. Bailey describes his nearly instant success at KPOP, where he endeared himself to the locals. He explains how his initial success led to numerous job offers in other markets, including stations in Flint, Michigan,

Stockton, California, and Washington, D.C. Bailey explains how he eventually ended up in Los Angeles, becoming a popular on-air personality at several different stations, but most notably at KUTE. Bailey then talks about his disagreements with KUTE owner Frankie Crocker, which eventually caused Bailey to want to leave KUTE.

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Bailey, Section A2001_002_001_003, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Lee Bailey describes losing his job at KUTE radio, and explains how he made a transition into being self-employed. He describes the start of his company, Lee Bailey Productions, and his syndicated program 'RadioScope.' After a discussion about the origins of urban radio, Bailey has detailed discussion about 'RadioScope.' He describes the program's early years, in which he struggled to find sponsors and its eventual success in all of America's major media markets. Bailey then tells of some memorable interviews he conducted for the show, and explains his strategy when interviewing a celebrity. Bailey goes on to talk about other successful programs produced by Lee Bailey Productions, and then talks about his successful online information magazine 'EUR Web.' Bailey discusses the impact of the Internet and multimedia on the radio broadcasting industry.

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Bailey, Section A2001_002_001_004, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Lee Bailey talks about the future plans for his business saying he wants to expand to many different platforms. He then talks about the demographics of his Internet publication 'EUR Web,' and discusses his advertising strategy. Bailey then talks about how he keeps up to date with current musical trends, and lists some of his favorite current artists. He reflects on his successful career, discussing how he has been a mentor to young black musicians. Bailey then discusses the current state of urban radio and radio broadcasting in general. Bailey explains why he feels urban radio could be more informative than it is, and discusses possible solutions. He then talks about how the Internet will force the radio broadcasting industry to become more personalized. Bailey also discusses the effects of consolidation on the radio broadcasting industry.