

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gloria Owens Hemphill

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hemphill, Gloria Owens, 1932-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill,
Dates:	May 1, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:01:11).
Abstract:	Civic leader Gloria Owens Hemphill (1932 -) is a community leader and eldest daughter of Jesse Owens Hemphill was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 1, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_096
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The daughter of Olympic track star Jesse Owens, Gloria Owens Hemphill was born on August 8, 1932, in Cleveland. She earned her B.S. in education in 1953 from the Ohio State University in Columbus, her father's alma mater, and an M.S. from the University of Chicago in education.

After earning her master's degree, Hemphill worked for the Chicago Board of Education, serving as staff assistant and coordinator for the Department of Government Funded Programs, the Department of Equal Educational Opportunity Programs and the Department of Curriculum. Hemphill is the former cadre liaison for the University of Chicago's Ford Training and Placement Program.

Following the death of her father, Hemphill, her sisters and close family friends established the Jesse Owens Foundation in 1980. Hemphill serves as scholarship chairperson and vice chairperson of the board of the Foundation, which seeks to instill Owens' spirit in youth and provides scholarship assistance to students from around the country.

Hemphill also serves as a member of the board of directors of the International Amateur Athletic Association and Up With People. A member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Urban League and the United Negro College Fund, she has also participated with the Windy City Chapter of the Links since 1987. As community service chair and president of her chapter, Hemphill was instrumental in the creation of a Link-Habitat for Humanity home in Harvey, Illinois, and a *Seasoned With Love* collection of recipes from the Chicago Area Cluster Chapters of the Links. She has two adult daughters and resides in Chicago with her husband, Malcolm M. Hemphill, Jr.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill was conducted by Adele Hodge on May 1, 2003, in

Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic leader Gloria Owens Hemphill (1932 -) is a community leader and eldest daughter of Jesse Owens

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:

Hemphill, Gloria Owens, 1932-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hemphill, Gloria Owens, 1932---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civic Leader

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 Gloria Owens Hemphill, May 1, 2003. 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 Gloria Owens Hemphill, Section A2003_096_001_001, TRT: 0:30:01 ?

Gloria Hemphill was born on August 8, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio to Jesse Owens and Ruth Solomon Owens. Her father was born in Oakville, Alabama and her mother was born in Decatur, Georgia. They had three daughters, HistoryMaker Marlene Owens Rankin, Beverly Owens Prather, and Hemphill herself. Both of Hemphill's grandfathers passed away when Hemphill was a young girl, but she knew her grandmothers, who were good friends. Hemphill enjoyed a close relationship with her maternal grandmother and visited her every summer in Cleveland, Ohio. As a child in the Conant Gardens community of Columbus, Ohio, Hemphill's parents often hosted athletes and lively gatherings in their home. She also shares memories of her father, who often traveled while working for organizations like The Harlem Globetrotters. Hemphill attended John J.

Pershing High School in Detroit, Michigan where she excelled academically and participated in activities like debate, community action, and tennis. Her tennis coach and high school counselor was an inspirational figure.

Video Oral History Interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill, Section A2003_096_001_002, TRT: 0:30:15 ?

Gloria Hemphill's father, Jesse Owens, enjoyed hosting annual birthday celebrations at the family's summer home in Union Pier, Michigan which were attended by many noted athletes like Congressman Ralph Metcalfe. Hemphill also enjoys vacationing in Cancun, Mexico. While a student at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, Hemphill decided to become an educator. She met her husband, HistoryMaker Malcolm Hemphill, Jr. at her first teaching job at Burke Elementary School in Chicago. She thrived under a nurturing community of educators led by principal Louise Gaines Daugherty. Hemphill then taught at Beethoven Elementary School before enrolling at the University of Chicago for the Ford Training and Placement Program. In 1971, Hemphill began working for the Chicago Board of Education in the Department of Government Funded Programs, and in the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. She reflects upon her teaching career and describes her father's enduring support of the Olympic Games. The Hemphills have two adult daughters.

Video Oral History Interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill, Section A2003_096_001_003, TRT: 0:30:54 ?

Gloria Hemphill describes her family's summer home in Union Pier, Michigan. Her father, Jesse Owens was friends with many other distinguished athletes like Jackie Robinson and Joe Louis. Hemphill also talks about her father's generosity in the community and her parents' marriage. She shares her father's value for family and community. After Owens died of lung cancer in 1980, his legacy was continued through the International Amateur Athletic Association, the ARCO Jesse Owens Scholars program sponsored by ARCO Oil, and the Jesse Owens Foundation under the leadership of Hemphill and her sister, HistoryMaker Marlene Owens Rankin. Hemphill describes the Foundation's commitment to mentoring academically average minority students through college. The organization also partnered with Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio to establish the Ruth and Jesse Owens Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2003.

Video Oral History Interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill, Section A2003_096_001_004, TRT: 0:30:01 ?

Gloria Hemphill describes a Chicago-based initiative of The Links, Incorporated she led to build a Habitat for Humanity home for the Jackson family in Harvey, Illinois. She describes the project's inception and execution as well as her hopes to continuing contributing to her community with similar ventures in the future. Hemphill is extremely proud of the family legacy her parents, Jesse and Ruth Solomon Owens, passed down to her and her sisters, HistoryMaker Marlene Owens Rankin and Beverly Owens Prather. The interview concludes with Hemphill's personal photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Gloria Owens Hemphill, Section A2003_096_Hemphill_Gloria_06_MED_001, TRT: 1:19:46