

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Andrew Young

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Young, Andrew, 1932-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young,
Dates:	August 27, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:55:30).
Abstract:	Civil rights leader, mayor, cabinet appointee, pastor, and U.S. congressman The Honorable Andrew Young (1932 -) is a civil rights legend, former U.N. Ambassador, and the former mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. Young was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 27, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_209
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Andrew Jackson Young, Jr. was born March 12, 1932 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The son of Andrew Jackson Young, Sr., a dentist and Daisy Fuller Young, a teacher, Young grew up in a hostile multi-ethnic neighborhood where his father taught him how to box for survival. Graduating from Gilbert Academy in 1947, at age fifteen, Young was an avid reader who idolized Dr. Ralph Bunche. Attending Dillard University for a year, Young transferred to Howard University where he was on the track and swim teams. Graduating with a B.S. degree in pre-med in 1951, Young was admitted to Hartford Theological Seminary. In 1952, in Marion, Alabama, he met future wife, Jean Childs, as he pastored summer bible school, studied the works of Ghandi and agitated for voting rights. Later, Young met and befriended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He earned his B.D. degree from Hartford Theological Seminary in 1955.

A product of the United Church of Christ's American Missionary Association (AMA), Young's first pastorate was at the AMA-founded Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Georgia. In 1957, he went on to the National Council of Churches in New York to work as associate director for youth work and as an administrator for United Church of Christ's Christian Education Program. Young moved to Atlanta in 1961 and joined the senior staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Young played a key role in negotiating the 1963 Birmingham desegregation agreement. He would do likewise in Selma, Alabama. After Dr. King's assassination in 1968, Young helped lead the Poor Peoples Campaign. In 1972, he was elected the first black congressman from Georgia since Jefferson Long, serving in the United States House of Representatives until 1976. Young was appointed by President Carter as United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 1977 to 1979 and was Mayor of the City of Atlanta from 1982 to 1990. He was named chairman of the Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund by President Clinton in 1995. In 1996, Young served as chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and co-chairman for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

In 2003, Young was elected as the twentieth president of the National Council of Churches in New York. He has

received numerous honorary degrees and awards including the Pax Christi Award from St John's University; the NAACP's 1970 Springarn Medal; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981; the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Peace and Justice Award in 1991; and the ROBIE Award in 1998. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Young is co-chair of Good Works International and a director of the Drum Major Institute. The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University is one of the country's best policy schools.

Young who is an associate pastor of First Congregational Church in Atlanta, is married to the former Carolyn Watson. He and his first wife, the late Jean Childs Young, have four children, Andrea, Lisa, Paula, and Andrew, III.

Young was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 27, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Andrew Young was conducted by Ed Anderson on August 27, 2005, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights leader, mayor, cabinet appointee, pastor, and U.S. congressman The Honorable Andrew Young (1932 -) is a civil rights legend, former U.N. Ambassador, and the former mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

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:

Young, Andrew, 1932-

Anderson, Ed (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Young, Andrew, 1932---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Occupations:

Civil Rights Leader

Mayor

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|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 The Honorable Andrew Young, August 27, 2005.
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 The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 12, 1932. His mother, Daisy Fuller Young, was born in New Orleans in 1904, the youngest of eleven children. Her grandmother had been a slave, but was freed by her husband, a ship captain named Czarnowski. Young's maternal grandfather, Joseph Fuller, did not contribute much to his family, so his grandmother, Louisa Fuller, and her sons were the main providers. Louisa Fuller was stern, a devout Congregational Christian, but also forbade Young's father from beating the children and freely gave food to those in need. Many of the Fullers passed for white and eventually found jobs in typically white professions. Young's father, Andrew Young, Sr., was born in Franklin, Louisiana, worked as a dentist, and had an ancestor who fought under Andrew Jackson. Young's paternal grandfather, Frank Young, was one of the richest businessmen in Franklin. Young remembers learning about racism due to a German American Bund near his family home during the 1930s.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_002, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young's paternal grandfather persuaded Governor Huey Long to hire black nurses at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana. Young's father, Andrew Young, Sr., attended Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C., which he paid for by playing baseball during the summers. Young, Sr. met Young's mother after graduating from Howard, but they had to wait six years to marry due to the hardships of the Great Depression. They settled in New Orleans where Young and his little brother, HistoryMaker Dr. Walter Young, played baseball with their father and also took up boxing, football and ran track. Young was often around music, since his father had a singing group and counted Louis Armstrong among his patients. He learned to read early, so when he entered Valena C. Jones Elementary School in New Orleans at age six, he was placed in third grade. He was raised by his father's strict moral code, which included being punished for not correcting a clerk who had given incorrect change.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_003, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young was temporarily expelled from Valena C. Jones Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana in third grade when his teacher found him and a friend playing with an icepick. A subsequent encounter with that same friend, who had developed a drug addiction, taught Young to value his educational opportunities. Young's elementary school was very violent, and since he was younger and smaller than his classmates, he had to talk his way out of disputes. Young attended Gilbert Academy in New Orleans and worked at his aunt's photography shop, as a hospital orderly and as a fruit seller. He swam on a segregated beach and realized that even German prisoners of war had a better swimming pool than blacks. Young frequently ran errands for his father, who

wanted his son to become a dentist. He was exposed to art and music through his parents' social and cultural clubs. Young was close to his uncle, Walter Fuller, who was devoted to charity but was murdered by one of the troubled youths he supported.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_004, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young was influenced by his coaches at Gilbert Academy in New Orleans, Louisiana and at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and instructors at his YMCA, including Elliott James Mason, Sr., who became a minister. Young graduated high school at fifteen, attended Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana for a year and then transferred to Howard, where he wrestled and ran track. He qualified for the Penn Relay Carnival in Philadelphia. During summers, he studied at the University of Southern California and Boston University. At Howard, Young joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and was a mediocre student, only barely qualifying for graduation. On the way home after college, Young had a religious conversion while running on a mountain in North Carolina. He accompanied Reverend Dr. Nicholas Hood, Sr. to a religious conference in Texas, where he resolved to study religion. Young volunteered at Camp Mack in Milford, Indiana, and then entered Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_005, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young attended Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. Young rarely traveled home and ended his training for the Olympics in order to spend spare time reading theology and philosophy. His first assignment was as pastor of a church in Marion, Alabama. While there, he met his wife, Jean Childs Young, who was home from Manchester College in Indiana. In 1952, she received a scholarship to teach in Europe, so Young also traveled there to work at an aid camp; they traveled together on breaks. Young was pleased by the lack of institutionalized racism but also shaken by the legacy of Adolf Hitler. He married in 1954, finished his degree in 1955, and then became a pastor full-time in Thomasville, Georgia where his first two children, Andrea and Lisa, were born. When Young involved his congregation in a voter registration drive, the Ku Klux Klan increased its presence in the area, but Young fended them off by securing support from the business community of Thomasville.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Andrew Young, Section A2005_209_001_006, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

The Honorable Andrew Young supported President Dwight Eisenhower, especially for his ability to appoint judges sympathetic to civil rights. Young met the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the first time at a forum on religious issues in Talladega, Alabama. Young was appointed the associate executive director of the Department Of Youth Work for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. He traveled abroad, debated white students during the integration of Little Rock Central High School in 1957 and worked with members of the gay community in New York. In 1961, Young joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) where he operated citizenship schools to promote literacy training. After the Selma to Montgomery march, Young became executive director of SCLC. He was one of the lead negotiators in the campaign to integrate Birmingham, Alabama, which was integral in spurring the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He also became one of SCLC's main negotiators with the white community.