

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jackie Trescott

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Trescott, Jacqueline
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott,
Dates:	August 28, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:08:58).
Abstract:	Newspaper columnist Jackie Trescott (1947 -) , was a reporter in the award-winning Style Section of The Washington Post from 1976 to 2012. Trescott was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 28, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_228
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Jacqueline E. Trescott was born on January 2, 1947 in Jersey City, New Jersey to Alfred P. and Adelaide C. Miller Trescott. In 1964, Trescott enrolled at St. Bonaventure University, and was mentored by Dr. Russell Jandoli. As a student, she interviewed Levi Stubbs of the Four Tops and interned at the *The Newark Evening News* when the urban uprisings of 1967 were raging. Trescott graduated from St. Bonaventure University in 1968, earning her B.A. degree in journalism.

In June 1970, she joined *The Washington Star* as a staff reporter. Her assignments were primarily for the Portfolio section, covering cultural personalities and events. From 1976 to June 2012, Trescott worked for *The Washington Post*, reporting for its award-winning Style Section. Her assignments included political and celebrity profiles, National Public Radio and the local radio stations, and arts events. Beginning in 1992, Trescott became the principal arts news reporter, covering Washington's museums, performing arts centers and theaters. She coordinated the sprawling beat and raised the national profile of the *Post* coverage. The stories ranged from the attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts, to the rise of arts facilities as economic engines for their communities to the construction of the National Museum of the American Indian. Coverage included fund-raising to administrative changes to investigations of management and building conditions. The Virginia Press Association cited Trescott and James Grimaldi for their reporting in 2007. The use of the Freedom of Information Act by Trescott and Grimaldi in reviewing records at the Smithsonian was a finalist in 2009 in the Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. competition.

In her last two years at the *Post* Trescott helped create the Style Blog – originally called the Arts Post – which combined arts news and culture. The blog has also served as a destination for features on the dedication of the Martin L. King Memorial – Trescott posted a month of civil rights songs to salute the occasion. In her four decades, Trescott has often interviewed musical and literary personalities, who helped define their craft: Toni Morrison, Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones, Chita Rivera, Denzel Washington, Oprah Winfrey and Alice Walker.

Jacqueline E. Trescott was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 28, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jackie Trescott was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 28, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Newspaper columnist Jackie Trescott (1947 -) , was a reporter in the award-winning Style Section of The Washington Post from 1976 to 2012.

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:

Trescott, Jacqueline

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Trescott, Jacqueline--Interviews

African American journalists--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

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 Jackie Trescott, August 28, 2012. 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 Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_001, TRT: 1:30:38 ?
Jackie Trescott describes her family background. Her mother was born Adelaide Miller, August, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York, to a nurse and an oil refinery

watchman. As a girl, her mother was sent to Hampton, Virginia to live with her uncle, a professor at Hampton Institute, and to attend the grade school that was associated with Hampton. Trescott's maternal great-grandmother, Josephine Matthews, was the first in the family to divorce. Trescott's father, Alfred Trescott, was born on July 15, 1910, in Charleston, South Carolina, to parents who worked in retail. He finished high school in the U.S. Army where he served for thirty years, including stints in Italy, North Africa, and Korea. Trescott's paternal family was staunchly Catholic; her own family attended Christ the King Catholic Church. She describes how her parents met, her likeness to her parents, her younger brother, her earliest memory of her father coming home from Korea, and her memories of growing up in the Greenville section of Jersey City. African American mothers.

Childhood and youth--New Jersey--Jersey City.

United States--Armed Forces--African Americans.

African American fathers.

African Americans--Religion.

African American families--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_002, TRT: 2:29:10 ?

Jackie Trescott remembers her love for music, shopping for records, playing her records in the family basement and dancing with her friends in her youth. In her childhood, the church was a center for social activities like the Girl Scouts. Trescott's Girl Scouts leader and her parents exposed her to culture by taking her to museums and Broadway plays like "The Amen Corner," "Purlie," and "Hello Dolly." Trescott's parents also brought home many black publications such as "Ebony" and "Jet". Trescott attended St. Patrick's Grammar School and Sacred Heart Academy, where she developed an early interest in writing. As a child, her role models were her cousins; she also admired celebrities like Lena Horne.

Trescott remembers President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963, his impact on and popularity within the Catholic Church, and his importance to the black community. She also talks about working on her high school newspaper, her high school mentor, and her decision to attend St. Bonaventure University.

Childhood and youth--Activities--New Jersey--Jersey City.

African American churches--New Jersey--Jersey City.

St. Bonaventure University.

African Americans--Education--Activities--New Jersey--Jersey City.

Role models.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963--Assassination.

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_003, TRT: 3:30:33 ?

Jackie Trescott talks about working for the newspaper and the library at St. Bonaventure University, a journalism mentor, and how the knowledge of the Freedom Summer in 1964 and the murder of Emmett Till in 1955 influenced her. As a young girl, Trescott attended dances at the Audubon Ballroom, and remembers her shock at learning that Malcolm X was assassinated there in 1965. Her parents admired Civil Rights Movement participants, and Trescott herself attended the March on Washington in 1963. She talks about her jobs in college, the Newark Riots of 1967, and the elections of minority mayors across the nation. In her senior year of college, her father died of a heart attack and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. She also talks about working at Western Publishing after graduating from St. Bonaventure University in 1968, a fellowship at the Washington Journalism Center in 1969, her first reporting job

at the Washington Star from 1970 to 1975, and her recruitment by the Washington Post in 1976.

St. Bonaventure University.

Washington Post Company.

Washington Journalism Center.

Western Publishing Company.

March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Washington, D.C., 1963.

Riots--New Jersey--Newark.

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_004, TRT: 4:30:24 ?

Jackie Trescott discusses the closure of the Washington Star in 1981, Washington, D.C.'s major newspapers in the 1970s, and her articles on black history and black cultural figures. During the Black Arts Movement, Trescott covered various writers, artists, and the Drum & Spear Bookstore. She also interviewed Nina Simone and Marvin Gaye for the Washington Star. In 1975, Trescott was recruited by the Washington Post for their style section, which covered arts and culture. Throughout her career, Trescott has reported on the National Endowment for the Arts, and other black cultural organizations such as the D.C. Repertory Company and Drum & Spear Bookstore, which are no longer in existence. Trescott also talks about covering D.C.'s Bicentennial and her general approach to writing about museums and the performing arts.

Newspapers--Washington (D.C.).

African American history.

Black Arts movement.

Washington Post Company.

Journalism--Technique.

Art criticism.

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_005, TRT: 5:30:41 ?

Jackie Trescott discusses the development of various African American museums over the past two decades in Washington, D.C., the establishment of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and some of the items that have been acquired by the museum, including the authentication of Nat Turner's Bible. As a reporter who has covered the arts for three decades, Trescott talks about this coverage. She has witnessed the struggle of establishing more public funding for the arts, and the sizeable revenue that is generated by investing in the arts. Trescott did several stories on the Smithsonian, including the Secretary of the Smithsonian's misuse of public funds as well as stories on gems and minerals. Her coverage of the Kennedy Center Honors has given her the opportunity to interview famous honorees such as Stevie Wonder and Quincy Jones. Trescott also talks about her coverage of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. statue on the National Mall.

National Museum of African American History and Culture (U.S.).

Museums--African American.

Smithsonian Institution.

Art criticism.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial (Washington, D.C.).

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_006, TRT: 6:30:26 ?

Jackie Trescott talks about her coverage of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in 2011. During her time at the Washington Post (1976-2012), Trescott covered major stories including a piece on family

histories at Monticello. Over the years, Trescott's knowledge of black history and culture has increased because of mentors like Maya Angelou, Leticia Woods Brown, Lori Stokes Sims and Eleanor Traylor. Since retiring in 2012, Trescott has focused on her art collection, and attending live concerts and baseball games. She also plans to write a book with Karen DeWitt on churches in Washington, D.C. Trescott discusses her hopes and concerns for the African American community, including the need to continue to push forward for change and the low percentages of African American males in college. Trescott describes her legacy. She also talks about her family and how she would like to be remembered.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial (Washington, D.C.).

Washington Post Company.

African American history.

African Americans--Mentoring.

Retirement--Activities.

Video Oral History Interview with Jackie Trescott, Section A2012_228_001_007, TRT: 7:07:06 ?

Jackie Trescott narrates her photographs.

Photographs.