

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jacqueline Sales

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sales, Jacqueline
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales,
Dates:	May 24, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:51:53).
Abstract:	Environmental engineer Jacqueline Sales (1946 -) was the first African American woman environmental engineer hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Toxic Substances, and the founder and president of HAZMED, Inc., an environmental engineering and information technology firm. Sales was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 24, 2013, in Lanham, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_170
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Environmental engineer Jacqueline White Sales was born on May 8, 1946. She graduated from Howard University with her B.S. degree in microbiology in 1968, and her M.E. degree in environmental engineering in 1975. Upon graduation in 1968, Sales served as Chief Technician of the Georgetown University Rheumatology Laboratory at the District of Columbia General Hospital.

In 1979, Sales became the first African American woman environmental engineer hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Toxic Substances. While there, she worked at EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C. and was assigned various scientific and public policy roles that involved writing and implementing federal regulations that protect human health, participating in congressional hearings, and chairing national and regional waste forums. Sales' efforts at the EPA between 1979 and 1988 helped safeguard the environment from the improper disposal of toxic and infectious materials, and hazardous wastes. She led the pioneering effort in development of the Land Disposal Restriction Regulations that governs how hazardous and toxics waste can be disposed and received national recognition for her role in developing federal guidelines for management of medical wastes. Sales also served in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) where she managed and directed the development of policy guidance documents for DOE Headquarters and field offices. In addition, she worked closely with the assistant secretary of Environment, Safety, and Health where she developed strategies for regulatory compliance and environmental restoration at radioactively contaminated sites.

In 1988, Sales became the founder and president of HAZMED, Inc. While there, Sales focus was on helping clients develop and implement strategies, plans, and programs to manage their specific environmental risks and to protect the public from toxic hazards. She led the effort with EPA to conduct the first study on Environmental Justice. Sales also served as Chair of the Foundation Board of Bowie State University and a National Trustee of the Arthritis Foundation. She served on the Foundation Board of Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland,

and the Prince Georges Economic Development Corporation Board, She is the owner of the Johnson Browne Business Center for new and emerging businesses.

Sales was recognized by the EPA, who honored her with both the Bronze Medal and the Women in Science and Engineering Award. She was also recognized by the United States Congress as an Outstanding Woman in Scientific and Technical Careers. In 2003, *The Network Journal: Black Professionals and Small Business News* named Sales as one of the “Top Twenty Five Influential Women in Business.” Under her leadership, HAZMED was named “Maryland Top 100 Minority Business Enterprise” and U.S. Small Business Administration “Minority Small Business of the Year 2000.

Jacqueline White Sales was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 24, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jacqueline Sales was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 24, 2013, in Lanham, Maryland, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Environmental engineer Jacqueline Sales (1946 -) was the first African American woman environmental engineer hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Toxic Substances, and the founder and president of HAZMED, Inc., an environmental engineering and information technology firm.

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:

Sales, Jacqueline

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Sales, Jacqueline--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Environmental Engineer

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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 Jacqueline Sales, May 24, 2013. 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 Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_001, TRT: 1:28:08 ?

Jacqueline Sales describes her mother's family, who came from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands of the United States. She discusses the Fire Burn Rebellion which freed the slaves on St. Croix and how her grandfather came to the United States. Sales describes how her mother, Lillian Augusta Browne, grew up in New York City, New York and met her father, Thomas Nathaniel White. After they married Sales' father was deployed in New Guinea during World War II and he returned in 1945. Sales was born a year later. She describes her parents, their personalities, and who she takes after. Her mother was a registered nurse and her father was an engineer, a night club owner, and a radio host. Sales shares her earliest memories and the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood.

Affirmative action programs.

Affirmative action programs.

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Affirmative action programs.

Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_002, TRT: 2:29:57 ?

Jacqueline Sales describes her schools in Copiague, New York. She was one of three students to be on the college track and did well in her courses. Sales was involved in the Girl Scouts and her family was close-knit. Sales remembers her family's outdoor activities, which helped form her love of the outdoors. Sales' father, Thomas Nathaniel White, was a member in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and took her to the first March on Washington in 1941. Sales describes her decision to attend Howard University, Washington, D.C. At first her father opposed her decision because he wanted her to attend New York University, New York, New York, but he eventually agreed to let her go to Howard University. Sales talks about how she enjoyed her time at Howard University.

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Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_003, TRT: 3:28:23 ?

Jacqueline Sales discusses her years as an undergraduate at Howard University, Washington, D.C., where she majored in microbiology and was one of the few women on the pre-medical track. Her father, Thomas Nathaniel White, died in 1966 at the age of forty-five. Sales married her first husband that same year. She had her first daughter in 1968, shortly after graduating from Howard University. She discusses the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther Kings. Sales' husband left her and she had to enter the work force as a rheumatology laboratory manager to support her daughter. After six years of work Sales decided to attend Howard University for a M.S. degree in environmental engineering, which she obtained in 1975. Sales talks about the Environmental Protection Agency and how she began to work with the organization.

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Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_004, TRT: 4:28:10 ?

Jacqueline Sales describes working for the Environmental Protection Agency, writing hazardous waste regulation and specializing in medical waste disposal and regulation. Sales moved from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Department of Energy to assist in the clean-up of nuclear waste sites around the United States. In 1988, she began her own company, HAZMED (Hazardous and Medical Waste Services), which subcontracts hazardous and medical waste clean-up. Sales describes the success of HAZMED and the challenges facing STEM-oriented businesses. Sales also recalls the Anne Buford scandal in the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_005, TRT: 5:28:01 ?

Jacqueline Sales discusses some of HAZMED's past projects, including hazardous waste sampling and analysis plans for the Department of Energy and nuclear waste clean-up in the Rocky Flats Plant in Denver, Colorado. In 1993 Jacqueline Sales participated in the National Security Seminar at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Sales describes how HAZMED has grown and diversified its services to include national defense and records management. She talks about her work as a member of the board of Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. Sales also describes her favorite HAZMED project, which involved hazardous waste clean-up in a remote area of Alaska.

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Video Oral History Interview with Jacqueline Sales, Section A2013_170_001_006, TRT: 6:29:14 ?

Jacqueline Sales describes her company's facilities and its partnerships. Starting in 2011, Sales has served as the chair of the board of Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland. She also is involved with the Small Business Administration and the Arthritis Foundation. Sales married Gregory Davis, the chief operating officer of HAZMED, and she has four children and nine grandchildren. Sales reflects on her life, her legacy, and how she would like to be remembered. She talks about her hopes and concerns for the African American community and provides advice for those interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields.

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