

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Manker Harris

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Family Memories Oral History project

Interview # FM-A-L-2007-040

Manker Harris, a Church of God (Anderson University) minister who was also very active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Family Memories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 23, 2007 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: July 30, 2007 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Elizabeth Simmons, ALPL Volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 51 Total Time: 88 min + 75 min = 2 hr, 43 min / 2.72 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 4, 2008.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Manker Harris, *Family Memories*, FM-A-L-2007-040

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Manker Harris was born in Englewood Tennessee on April 29, 1933, the son of a minister. He became aware of social issues as he grew up, and increasingly gained an awareness of the Christian teachings about justice. As a young man, he too decided to go into the ministry and enrolled in the seminary at Anderson University (Church of God) in Anderson, Indiana. Following his ordination, he became active in community faith life, and was increasingly drawn to a ministry in the Civil Rights movement. Active in the National Council of Churches, Manker pastored to all comers, and especially to minorities throughout the period of the 1960s and '70s. He served in Decatur, Illinois from 1964 to 1968, and in Cairo, Illinois from 1968 to 1971. He then moved to Springfield, Illinois where he remained until he started working on a government contract for the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He retired in December, 2001 and moved back Springfield, Illinois.

Topics Covered: life in 1930s and 1940s Tennessee; southern life; racial life in the south; Anderson Seminary, Anderson, Indiana; Civil Rights in Selma, Alabama; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Malcolm X; Cairo, Illinois, civil rights; Decatur, Illinois, civil rights and community organizing; Chicago, Illinois; Lansing, Michigan; police and civil rights; segregation; Christianity and civil rights; community organizing; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; protest at Illinois State Capitol; Vietnam War protests; FBI file on Manker Harris

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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