

California State University, San Bernardino

CSUSB ScholarWorks

The Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

Special Collections & University Archives

7-17-2015

Mansie Booker, Jr.

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges>

Recommended Citation

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation, "Mansie Booker, Jr." (2015). *The Bridges that Carried Us Over Project*. 5.
<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/5>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections & University Archives at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Bridges that Carried Us Over Project by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.

The Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee:

Mansie Booker, Jr.

Interviewer:

William Henry (Ratibu) Jacocks

Interview Date:

July 17, 2015

Location:

San Bernardino, California

Interview Summary completed by:

Roxanne Bogarin, 2021

Topic:

William Henry (Ratibu) Jacocks interviews Mansie Booker, Jr. where they discuss Booker's family history and his time in the US military as well as his work as a videographer for KCSB Channel 3 San Bernardino and his community involvement in San Bernardino.

Keywords:

- Military
- Videography
- US Air Force
- San Bernardino (Calif.)
- Arts & Entertainment
- Television
- KCSB Channel 3 San Bernardino

Comments:

None

Related Materials:

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation's "The Bridges that Carries Us Over Project" on CSUSB ScholarWorks, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>.

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Interviewee:

Mansie Booker, Jr.

Interviewer:

William Henry (Ratibu) Jacocks

Interview Date:

July 17, 2015

Location:

San Bernardino, California

Length:

00:40:31

Media format:

Streaming video

List of Acronyms:

RJ= William Henry (Ratibu) Jacocks

MB= Mansie Booker Jr.

TECH= Technical Assistant

Interview Transcript completed by:

Roxanne Bogarin, 2021

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

TECH: Yeah.

TECH: Testing 123 Okay, TEST,TEST 123.

TECH: That is.

RJ: He's not a real loud talker.

MB: I can talk up, but...

TECH: Go ahead and go ahead and talk testing 123 testing 123 I think that'll be okay. Testing 1212. I'll bring it up on here too. Okay, go ahead. Testing 123 testing One,

TECH: Two. Yeah, I think I think that's good.

TECH: So whenever you are ready, whenever we...

TECH: Okay...

RJ: I am ready. Today's date is July the 7th 2015. My name is Rodney TJ Cox. And I am interviewing Mansie Booker for the archive and Black History Project in the inland area. Will you spell your first and last name? Mr. Booker?

MB: First Name is Mansie. Last Name Booker.

RJ: And we're conducting the interview at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and thanks so much for allowing us to interview you, Mr. Booker. Notice here the you among arts and entertainment as one area you would like to be interviewed. And what do you mean by that? Art and entertainment? What do you think we [inaudible].

MB: Well?

TECH: Can we stop for a sec? Yeah, I see the signal moving. But I don't hear it.

MB: I do this for a living. Let me check.

RJ: This was for me then fine. So we can start again.

TECH: Don't actually hear it from here. Okay, test, test, test.

MB: [Inaudible]

TECH: [Inaudible], the menu, but that's fine. Do you hear it?

RJ: Do we start again?

TECH: Actually can start right, that next question you were gonna ask him?

RJ: Okay.

TECH: It was kind of in between?

MB: I remember the question. Yeah. The reason that, are you rolling? Straight rolling, okay. The reason that I say art to entertainment, because in my military career, I was a

combat videographer. So I traveled around the world doing video for the Air Force, and for the Department of Defense. After retiring, I was a production manager for Channel 3 here in San Bernardino. Again, arts and entertainment. So that's why I mark that.

RJ: So how long were you in the military?

MB: I spent 26 wonderful years when they put me out.

RJ: So where were you born?

MB: I was born in Burlington, North Carolina, which is about 70 miles from Raleigh, which is capital.

RJ: Okay, is Burlington?

MB: Burlington

RJ: Burlington. So is that on the coasts?

MB: No idea. It's in the central part of North Carolina.

RJ: Okay. And you grew up there. And what were your mother and father's name?

MB: My father was Mansie Booker Sr. We talked about that earlier. And my mother's name was Gladys Korbut Booker, obviously, and I grew up in Raleigh, actually, my father was a minister. And again, I was born in Burlington, North Carolina, but at the age of four, my father got reassigned to a church in Raleigh. So the family moved to Raleigh, and that's where I went to high school, elementary school and all of a...

RJ: So, you grew up in the church?

MB: Yes, sir.

RJ: And the reason I'm asking you that I know you work with our church, Temple Mission Baptist Church, and how long have you been working with Temple?

MB: Since 1994.

RJ: And you run our video production, video production at Temple Baptist, and when did you get the desire to work cameras and be on film and production and that type of thing was it in the military or before?

MB: It was before I actually, I remember when I was in the 10th grade, in high school, I had to write a composition on what I would be doing 10 years from that particular date. And I was the family photographer. So I used to play around with cameras all the time. So I said I wanted to be a photographer. So following the graduation from high school, I

went into the military, and the first three years or four years that I was in I was an intelligence, I was stationed overseas monitoring Russian communications, Chinese communications, Vietnamese communications during the Vietnam War. But eventually, I had a chance to retrain. And I went into the Motion Picture and Television department for the Air Force. And that's where my dream became a reality.

RJ: So there are other people as you were growing up, you're taking pictures, your father's preaching, was your mother's singing?

MB: My mother was in the choir, but I was just taking pictures of the family not in a kind of official capacity. Anytime you go to a picnic, or you go to a family gathering, you know, you take pictures, and I was one of those always had the camera, little brownie Hawkeye.

RJ: So who gave you the first camera you buy it or someone that bought it?

MB: My dad bought it.

RJ: He bought it.

MB: But I used to there was a man named Mr. Hinton, who was a professional photographer. And I used to watch him, and I was always fascinated with the pictures that he took any equipment that he had. So that's where my interest.

RJ: So how old were you when you started watching him?

MB: Probably 14 or 15. I guess.

RJ: So I'm trying to find out when you got the bug.

MB: The bug was early.

RJ: It was the bug was early, and you got infected, and you still doing it today. So let's, so what type of in the San Bernardino you got here through the military?

MB: I came here in the military, I got I was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, working at the School of aerospace medicine. I was doing video there for it was just prior to the space shuttle program. So a lot of the experiments, testing for astronauts and their survivability in space was done at the School of Aerospace Medicine. So we were there to document those experiments. And I got reassigned to headquarters, Air Force audio visual service, which was at North Air Force Base. That's the headquarters for all audio visual within the Air Force. So I got assigned here. And that's where I started to travel. I mean, I was gone about 150 days a year just traveling around the world.

RJ: So you got to see a lot of places?

MB: Every place.

RJ: So you call yourself well traveled?

MB: Yeah, I got to see it, because of the camera, I got to see and do a lot of things that the average person would not see and do.

RJ: Well, when you would take the pictures when you were a child, the average boy and girl was not taking pictures I assume.

MB: They will always want it to be in the pictures.

RJ: And why didn't you want to be in the pictures?

MB: I just enjoyed the technology of that time. You know, it was like a little brownie Hawkeye, you know, it was you had to develop the family eventually got to the Polaroid cameras, where it was self developed within the camera, and that was always fascinating to me.

RJ: Betcha, you have many stories to tell in front of the camera, but you always been in the back of the camera.

MB: And at a early age, I was in back of the camera and I've been that way ever since.

RJ: So what are some of the well, that was when I asked what are some of the organizations in this area you have worked with, taking pictures of , and know about could you name about [inaudible].

MB: Well, I was a production manager at Channel 3. Okay, so I can start with the Black Culture Foundation.

RJ: Okay.

MB: With the black history parade, when I got to channel 3, they didn't do too much as far as the black history parade was concerned. They said with one camera guy over on the West side, and he was scared because of the reputation of the West. He was scared. So when I got there, I just said, Hey, if we're gonna do a parade, let's do it like the guys on NBC and CBS. Let's do it like they do. So we took multiple cameras, instead of just one we took multiple camera we took a team we had commentators with Cheryl brown and Jim Keane would be the commentators. I called the city department asked, could we get one of the bucket trucks so that we could get a high angle shot over the street, and we did it nice and we got to do interviews before the parade did interviews during the parade. Rosa Parks, all of those people we videotaped at the Black History parade. So that's one of the things that we work with. I've worked with almost every United Way, St. Bernadino Medical Center, Easterseals just a lot of different organizations.

RJ: Okay, let me focus on the parade for moment? What year was that you began? We call it in the parade? Do you remember?

MB: I started work for the city in 1988, and I would say in 1989, that's when we expanded our coverage from that single camera, to multiple cameras and the commentators and all of that, and we continue to do that for every parade, not just for the black parade. But the red ribbon parade, the Christmas parade, any parade, we always did it with multiple cameras with a commentator and all of that, just to make it look professional, instead of just having one little skate camera guy out there.

RJ: So the city then on Channel 3, show that show, and how long did you have to edit it? Or?

MB: You have to. Yeah, because there were times when there was lagging in the parade, you know, it didn't flow very smoothly down the street, there were times when you have to go and cut stuff out to you know, maybe put a PSA or something in and come back and let the parade resume. But yeah, you'd have to be edited. You have to put graphics, their names and name of the group that's coming down the street, all of that stuff was done in post.

RJ: And how long did it take you to prepare? So it could be shown from the time the by the parade was off on a Saturday, and then timing you showed?

MB: I'd say by Monday afternoon, it was finished, because it was a finished product pretty much. When we left the parade, it was already recorded. It's just going back and putting those names and putting titles and all of that kind of stuff, and that's what stuff do we have to do in post?

RJ: Okay, so what are some of your highlights? So [inaudible], you say the United Way were like , Black History of the interviews of individuals at Channel 3, I know you did a lot of that, and there's a particular organization. What stands out in your mind as a either a funny one or interesting one that you did?

MB: I think the one that I'm most proud of is any interview with Rosa Parks.

RJ: Okay.

MB: And we did that at Jim King's home when he was living here in the Inland Empire, and to sit in that room was like sitting with royalty, and it was just Jim King, myself and Rosa Parks.

RJ: So what kind of questions Jim asked her do the interview?

MB: Jim was the interviewer and just basically having her to recount that famous day when she refused to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and she

talked about that, and it's something I'll cherish I got a DVD of it. I'll never let it go. I have a DVD of that interview. Jim King gave it to me.

RJ: Well, she was sitting there one of the question, I always want to ask her here, maybe you can help answer this for me. A lot of images of her and narrative for her was that she was so tired. She had to sit down and so she wouldn't give up her seat. Now the part of it that she was so tired of having to move that she wasn't then going to move anymore, which one of those are true?

MB: She told us that she was just tired. She had worked all day, she had tired and she just sat in the first thing that was available. The bus driver came back and asked her to move to the back of the bus. She refused.

RJ: So she just does [inaudible]..

MB: She was a seamstress and just tired.

RJ: Okay. So she was obvious was a hard working lady, and she was that day she just was too tired too move would be a...

MB: Very graceful lady to I mean, he, she didn't have to give us the interview because we were there to celebrate, like an after party for the Black History parade, and we just asked her would she be gracious enough to give us an interview? And she said yes. When we took her into a private area and sat her down and...

RJ: How old was she when you did that?

MB: She was probably that's in her 60's maybe.

RJ: And you know, we have interviews you've done with us, Kwanzaa early on, and I'm sure other organization you said the Black Cultural Foundation. What do you have for them? What have you interview with the Black Cultural Foundation?

MB: Well, for about the last 15 or 16 years, they've always asked me to do a video, kind of a profile of a person that has been nominated for the Humanitarian Award of the year, and they've included Dorothy Grant, they've included Valerie Pope...

RJ: Francis.

MB: Francis Grice, I could think of the name we're just talking about. Francis Grice.

RJ: Why Nina Scott?

MB: Nina Scott. Yes. Tim Evans, most recent one was Tim Evans from the Unforgettable. So there's a there's about 15 or 20 of those interviews that I've done, and

they always shown on the night of the Black Culture founded the Black Rose awards, they're shown on the at that event.

RJ: So do you know anybody in this area who's done more in broadcasts and the history of the blind experience than you have? Do you know some other photographers and otherwise who could you name that have done some of it?

MB: I know that KVCR has done a lot that on the station over at Valley College and I know they've done a lot. I think that because I was black that I opened the door for more black exposure.

RJ: Mm hmm.

MB: I know that.

MB: You know, going back to the parade, I gave it the exposure that I thought it deserved by bringing in multiple cameras and, and having a professional crew to come out and do that parade. Bringing in people to host our shows that were African American with Jim King, Cheryl brown did a show there when it was called...

RJ: When they think we can?

MB: Cheryl Brown okay, I'm sorry, show brown did a show there. Also, we had, we did a show called Sports Talk, and it was hosted by Mark Collins. Now I don't know if you know Mark Collins, but Mark Collins was a professional football player for the New York Giants and won a Super Bowl, but he went to high school here at Pacific High School. For him when he retired, he came back and we asked him to host a sports show and he did it. So we started to move up a little bit.

RJ: I heard a speech recently, and the fellow was talking about blue suede shoes, and he said where he came from in the late 40s and 50s. You could, blacks couldn't try on shoes so you could use a string, and he measured the feet, the foot and the shoe, and that's how you decide on what shoe because blacks couldn't try on their shoes. You couldn't measure the size of (inaudible). So when they got home, the shoe didn't fit. He wanted to take it back, but he didn't pay they wouldn't let him he kicked over the shoe rack, and is that it rushed him out of town, and he went to Chicago and he became a successful person in the Air Force. So he said the worst thing that happened to him was own blue suede shoes, but it was the best day, I want to know from you. Well, the worst thing that happened to you in this experience that turned out to be the best?

MB: I think there was a situation at Channel 3, I'd say after being there, maybe seven or eight years. When I first got there, I came in as just a camera operator, a production person, and the production manager got into a little bit of trouble. So they knew what they were looking for a new production manager, the senior person there was an ex Air Force guy. So he knew what kind of training I had received in the Air Force. He knew the education that I had gotten while in the Air Force. So he suggested that I move into

that production coordinator position, and I accepted that, and I started to change things a little bit because I was used to working on a grander scale, if you want to call it that, because I'd work with astronauts and, you know, President Kennedy, not Kennedy, I'm sorry, President Reagan. So all of those experiences that I had, I wanted to move channel 3 up into a little higher echelon. So I started to do that little by little, and at one point, I guess I got too big for my britches, as they say, because I was out shining my boss. He was one who put on a good show in front of City Council, but when he went back to his office, he didn't do anything. And so I was doing all the work, but he was taking all the credit. So he secretly tried to lay me off. Yes, and I didn't know anything about it, and I happened to I don't know if you remember Phil or [inaudible]? Who used to work with the council, I happen to go to his office for something else, and he said, you know, to try to learn it because he had seen the agenda for the meeting. He said, you know, they're trying to lay you off. I was on the agenda to be laid off. So he said, You know, they're trying to lay you off. I said, No, I didn't know anything about you say yeah, you're on the agenda to be laid off. So I said, Wow, so he said, you need to go back and prepare a presentation, showing what you've accomplished since you've been here and show your value to the city. So I did go back and I made this at home, I made me a nice presentation, and when we went to the budget hearing, this was when Norine Miller and Valerie and all of those guys were on the on the laughing and Esther Stroud and most people were on the council. So when I walked into the room, there was this letter that was being passed around to the council people and feel slipped me a copy of it, and it was saying that my boss, wrote this letter saying that he is not one to discriminate. He is a fair minded person. He has no, not a prejudice bone in his body and all of that, and I think what they were, he thought that I was going to do was that I was going to come in there and say that I was being laid off because I was black. That's what he had anticipated I was going to do, but I didn't do that. I came in and I told him how much money I had made for the city by going out and doing telephones for St. Bernardino Medical Center, later on. We did telethons for Easter Seals, and we help them to raise 1000's of dollars for their causes. We did them for the Rancho Cucamonga library system, Chaffey College, we did telethons for them. So I showed how much money we raised showed how many shows that we created, new shows that we created and just showed my value to the city where I had some of the equipment that the city had was not working very well. So I brought in my personal equipment to use so that we could accomplish the City Mission, and once I told them that Norine Miller and I'll never forget it, she says Booker, I never knew that you did all of that, and I got a seven o vote to keep me. Seven o vote over all seven council members voted to keep me in my position. So six months later, a manager was fired. The guy that tried to get rid of me.

RJ: So that's the blue suede shoes story. That's it and, and you finally left the city. So why did you leave?

MB: I retired.

RJ: Oh, you were retired.

MB: I retired in 2008.

RJ: Okay. And so you have two retirements, you paid retirement, just...

MB: I have a Air Force retirement, and I also have a retirement from the city of San Bernardino.

RJ: So it is to [inaudible].

MB: The social security too, God is good.

RJ: So that's maybe allows you to help still, people like our project and others who may not have the resources to pay for the expertise that you bring.

MB: I volunteer my services all the time. Just last week, I did a I'm on the board of the Highland YMCA, and every year they have to do a presentation to the city council in Highland because the city funds helps to fund the YMCA because that's their recreation department costs Highland does not have a Parks and Recreation Department. So the YMCA kind of functions as that. So the city of Highland gives them about \$400,000 every year, but they have to come in and make a presentation just before the budget year ends to get that money for the following year. Just last week, I did a video for the YMCA showing the services they are providing to the community and I do it every year and I don't charge them a dime. So I don't charge you guys ,Black Culture Foundation. I don't charge them at all I asked for a free meal at the at the Black Rose Awards.

RJ: And credit get them though they (inaudible)...

MB: I even videotape the Black Rose awards.

RJ: So that is wonderful. Let me ask you a couple of people that we are working on. One is Valerie Ludlum. What's your relationship with her? And how will you speak of her as she's not here anymore?

MB: I got to know her through operation a second chance because our studio was in that building. Our original studio was in the second chance building, and so I got to know her there. I got to know her through the city council. She was kind of my protector a little bit. You know, anytime anybody tried to mess with me, she was always there to put her weight behind the situation. So she was great for me. She did a wonderful she did a lot of great things for the for the West side of San Bernardino. I know that she will be thought of as somebody that's great. That did very positive things for the west side of San Bernardino.

RJ: So what would you say about Margaret Hill, she's still around and she's still doing things?

MB: I was with her Saturday, Margaret because is a buzz saw. A buzz saw, okay. Margaret has her hand and everything that goes on here in the city. She's on every

board. She's on every committee. She's on the school board. She's on the board with me at the YMCA. Margaret is great and fantastic. She is great for this community. She cares about this community, and she cares about kids. That's the big thing. Margaret was a principal at a school that was right around the corner from my house. Margaret loves kids. She's even written books about kids that she taught. So she loves children, and she is she's my buddy. I just texted her last night.

RJ: So, Mr. Artkinson, do you have any way relation?

MB: I didn't know him. I didn't know I knew who they were, but I did not know Arc. But I you know, with Brian, I knew I came in during the time when I think Mr. Arc was had either passed away or just prior to passing away. So I knew Brian, I knew his wife because I did some video stuff with her. She's a professional dancer. So we did some stuff at the Sturgis theatre with, with (inaudible). Yeah, with his wife, so yeah, my relationship with the Tausend family was more with Brian and Michael, especially with Michael since he was working with the congressman at the time.

RJ: How about Jackie, Mr. Jackie?

MB: I just did a video on him. Yeah.

RJ: I know that. So you had a relationship with him? You knew him well, to this catering.

MB: I did interviews with Mr. Hill. Well, what was it? I went to his house and did an interview. I think what yeah, he was for up Black Culture Foundation of Humanitarian the year one year.

RJ: So you have an interview?

MB: Yeah. I wouldn't do an interview with him prior to his wife died. Oh, yeah.

RJ: And one of the male in this area that you in the community leaders quote, unquote, that you had a relationship with? You remember? Male, African American male?

MB: I've done so many.

RJ: How about Wilbur Brown?

MB: Yep. Prior to his death. Yes, sir. Pastor Turner.

RJ: Pastor Turner.

MB: We did a lot of interviews with him. Brother Roy, you remember him? Brother, Roy. Even we even had him to do a gospel music program, because you know, he was on [inaudible] , over the University of Redlands. Yeah, so we brought him had him to come

and do his radio program on television. So we used to do a gospel music program on TV with brother Roy.

RJ: So you're touching just about all the bases.

MB: We tried to just upgrade our shows at Channel 3, and to give everybody exposure, we had Mayor Vyas to come in and she did a show and she did it in Spanish.

RJ: And you would call it..

MB: And I was the director of that particular didn't know where that they said, but I was there and I did it.

RJ: So how do you want Mansie Booker to be remembered? Had you thought about it.

MB: I really hadn't thought about it, but I think it would be that he gave his all. He tried to do everything that he could to make his community better to provide exposure to those people that would not have access to that exposure, meaning bringing them to that TV studio and letting them tell their stories. I think that that's one thing that I did was provide an opportunity for everybody to have a voice regardless of what your beliefs were or your ethnicity, it didn't matter. You come in if you've got a story to tell, I'll allow you to tell that story, and that I cared about this community, and especially the young people because I provided opportunities for the young people through internships at Channel three. So yeah, that was important to me.

RJ: I have a couple of philosophical questions, a lot like how important is the media to the media, to the African American community, the press the documentary, newspapers, how important is that our community?

MB: I think it's extremely important because without it, our story doesn't get told. Sometimes when you watch the news, it's always the negative things, the shootings to kill into javelins and the stabbings, but there's a lot more going on other than that in our community, and I think that that story needs to be told. With social media now it is being told, and it's being told instantly a lot of times, so it's extremely important your story will not be told. Without the media, I go back to Rosa Parks. Without the media, no one would have known that she was on that bus.

RJ: So then what are your wishes for young people say 10-15 years from now they say this and use it as my (inaudible) for your what would that be? What would you say?

MB: To continue to tell the story goes the story around every corner. Just be prepared to tell that and learn as much as you, if you want to get into the media, learn as much as you can. I was blessed to have started in the Air Force. They gave me a skill that I use to this day. So learn as much as you can, and be humble. Be humble in what you do. Don't do it to broadcast you, do it, because there's a story that needs to be told, and you want to treat it with respect.

RJ: So two times, I've heard you say you had the desire to take pictures early. You also say that you got a lot of training and experience and the Air Force, and a lot of experiences out here now, what else do you think that a young person would need? So 5 or 10 years from now besides those two things?

MB: First of all, I encouraged him to go to college. I hope that because technology now changes every day. So first thing I would encourage them to go to college, if you want to be a camera person or in journalism, go to college, that will give you the foundation. I know, at Valley College, we hired a lot of young people that came out of Valley College who were taking the courses there, go to college, get your degree, get you some equipment and practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, develop your skills. Then go out and do what you've been called to do, but always treat everything that you do with respect.

RJ: My last question is what were you said to them about obstacles that may appear and come in their life as you know, they are everywhere. So how, what were you said to them about overcoming those?

MB: You got to be able to go with the flow. You're going to have obstacles in your life, whether it's in your professional career, or in your day to day life, there are things that are not going to go perfect for you. You need to learn how to deal with those and move forward again, I talked about how they tried to lay me off I got beyond that and I move forward. So you can't let little things get in your way if you have a strong desire to do something and you want to do it well you step over the boundaries and keep moving.

RJ: Yeah, almost forgot the question my wife wanted to ask you ,what do you see you? You're still young he although you get into retirement is still a baby. What do you see yourself doing in the future?

MB: Exactly what I'm doing today.

RJ: So you enjoy it that much.

MB: I enjoy it that much. I love music and I love music. I was blessed maybe 15 or 16 years ago to be able to go out and do jazz concerts, smooth jazz concerts with some of the greatest artists in the world. You know.

RJ: You play the instrument ?

MB: I don't play instruments but I'm talking about as a videographer like I would take a crew out and I would go out and videotape these concerts. We created a channel 3 throughout keep going back to channel 3, we create with the footage that we recorded at these jazz concerts. I wanted to do something so different that I went to the artists themselves to Kurt Waylums, the (inaudible), the Jill Scott's, the Charlie Wilson's. I went to them and I said, "Hey, I want to do a show using your music on a public access

channel here in channel three in San Bernardino.” And I said will you allow me to use your footage? And they said yes, as long as there's no commercials as long as you're not selling a video as long as it's all public television. We don't care, and for the last 10 years before I retired, that's what I did. We were the only station in the United States Public Access station in the United States. That was showing live footage and Channel Four in San Bernardino. I mean in LA. They had a jazz program, but it was music videos. We had live performances on stages in Pasadena, San Dimas, Long Beach, Newport Beach, that's where all of our camera crews went. We recorded these guys. They gave us permission to use the footage. We brought it back and put a show together called The Jazz Connection. So I love music and I continue to do, I don't do the program anymore, but I do go and do the concerts. I'm getting ready to him in August getting ready to go to Long Beach Jazz Festival three day event with some of the major artists in the country.

RJ: Will you record that?

MB: We recorded.

RJ: So you, you don't just go to listen to the jazz?

MB: No I'm not going, I'm going to work, but it's fun work, most of the concerts that you go to whether it's a Nokia theatre, any place, they have the big jumbo screen so people can see in detail what's happening on the stage. That's what I do. I feed that jumbo screen.

RJ: Wow, and that's something new that I hadn't thought about, which makes me want to ask you this question. When?

MB: Can I get your ticket?

RJ: I don't know about that, but I do know that I will looking for musician, artists, writers, creative people, and maybe you can help us to organize that segment. We know politicians, we know religious leaders, we know business leaders, but this segment of our community is entertainment, we call it Creative Production. Will not really set on where we should go, maybe you can help us.

MB: You have Ray Fuller, who is a guitarist, Ray played.

RJ: He's local? Okay, that's what I'm talking..

MB: Ray played for Whitney Houston. Can't think of her name now. But anyway, he was the musical director for Whitney Houston. He lives right here in the Inland Empire. Okay, you got Phil Perry, who travels around with these jazz concerts. He lives in Rancho Cucamonga used to sing lead for the Mon Claire's. I don't know if you remember them or not, but he's a solo artist. You got drummers who live right here in Inland Empire I recorded right on stage.

RJ: Wow. So you have a big help, I think is worth the interview out there, because that was one of the day we were talking about struggling with and not sure where to go, but I think you may have answered, of course. Lastly, anything else that you would like to add that I didn't ask and you would like to just like to say, for the camera?

MB: I'd just like to say thank you for allowing me to share my story. It's I'm proud of my career. I'm proud of what I accomplished in the Air Force. I'm proud of what I accomplished at Channel 3, and I'm proud of what I'm doing for the community. So thank you for allowing me to tell that story.

RJ: Well I am the one that honored to do this because I've seen you my (inaudible) our photographer here behind me and not in front of me where I'm at.

MB: This is probably the last time you'll see me.

RJ: Honored. Please remember that I said I am honored to have him here. Thank you so much. Thank you, Man.

End of Interview:

[00:40:31]