

Lincoln Ragsdale Audio Recordings (Reel audio)

ASU-1/Tape 1B:

Box inscription: J.W. Mathews [sic] "Image of the Negro in the World"

Event recording of Joseph W. Matthews, Dean of the Ecumenical Institute of Evanston, Illinois. Location and date unknown. Meeting sponsored by the Wesley Foundation [Some audio quality/bleed through issues.]

ASU-2/Tape 14:

Box inscription: August 25, 1963, The Ragsdale Mortuary "Special Program" [mold]

Radio broadcast: Austin Coleman for Ragsdale Mortuary, Sunday Morning Program commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation. Religious music featuring Mahalia Jackson and several others.

00:06:15 Coleman briefly describes history and services of Ragsdale Mortuary.

ASU-3/Tape 17:

Box inscription: Rev. J.O. Monday – Bible [illegible] [Label inside:] Half-hour radio program – KCAC Sunday morning - 9 till 9:30 March 24, 1963 Ragsdale Mortuary and Valley Life Insurance Co. [mold]

00:06:15: Emancipation Day Program: Sermon given March 24th. Rev. J. O. Monday of Bible Missionary Baptist Church 217 W. Sherman.

ASU-5/Tape 29:

Box inscription: January 26, 1964, October 20, 1963 [crossed out] Emancipation Program

Radio broadcast: Austin Coleman for Ragsdale Mortuary, Sunday Morning Program commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation. Religious music featuring Gospelaire of Dayton Ohio.

00:04:10 Austin Coleman reads a letter received “in the last week” from Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Johnson of Coolidge AZ re: citizenship and freedom.

00:21:00: Lincoln Ragsdale reports on NAACP meeting “yesterday” with representatives from across Arizona. Comments re: absence of “negro” employees in Arizona state government positions, discrimination in public accommodations, calls for march on Arizona capitol if the accommodations bill is not passed.

00:24:40: Ragsdale introduces MLK audio clip re: “Three Words”. (All, Here, Now)

00:28:15: Ragsdale comments on local meaning of King’s words. Anticipates King visit scheduled for next Sunday (apparently did not occur).

ASU-6/Tape 35:

Box inscription: Ragsdale Mother’s Day 1964

Austin Coleman introduces Sunday Radio Program for Mother’s Day. Music of the “Singing Caravan” featured. Valley Life and Casualty is hiring.

00:04:15: Reading by Sid McCoy “At My Mother’s Knee”.

00:06:15: E. Lester King, Managing General Agent of the Valley Life Insurance Company. “Completely integrated personnel, working together in harmony and brotherly love.”

00:10:30: Eleanor Ragsdale speaks re: Mother’s Day.

00:23:30: Lincoln Ragsdale offers Mother’s Day sermon re: “the Negro Mother”.

00:26:30: Ragsdale asks for volunteers to assist with King visit on June 3rd at “Montgomery Stadium”.

ASU-7/Tape 3:

Box inscription: Ragsdale’s March 22, 1964

Austin Coleman host. Easter season broadcast. Gospel music.

00:02:30: Special news announcement re: Rye? Cookson, President SW Area Conference, NAACP, calls for a demonstration at the Capitol "Monday at noon", they will "spend the night".

00:04:28: Ragsdale Mortuary promo.

00:12:10: re: Ragsdale Mortuary "a great expansion program planned this year...watch for ground breaking..."

00:22:10: Lincoln Ragsdale: Easter message and general comments re: discrimination, "What price are you willing to pay for your freedom?" Repeats call to march at the state Capitol Monday. Meet at Valley Life Insurance building and "drive our cars" to the Capitol.

00:26:45: Lincoln Ragsdale "We ask you to pray for us as we go out and march..."

ASU-8/Tape 6. Box inscription: Ragsdale's March 1, 1964

Austin Coleman, host.

00:01:23: Dedication for Mr. Milton Thomas Ellis.

00:12:30: "Two special announcements": Wesley Methodist Church choir concert Wednesday, March 4th, and Sunday March 16th program on "Negro Education" sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministers Wives of Phoenix, at Southeast Broadway Baptist Church, Mrs. A. Obie(?) Bell, President and Mrs. Amelia Thompson, secretary, the Reverend S. Topps Jr., pastor.

00:15:42: Valley Life Insurance Company is installing "new IBM machines and new telephone switchboards" All women who have had some training in IBM C-punch or switchboards, will give "young negro women an opportunity to learn to use IBM machines and CBX switchboards..."

00:22:15: Ragsdale yesterday toured "the southern part of the state because of an incident that happened in Coolidge Arizona on last Sunday." Ragsdale describes an event where two blacks entered a restaurant to ask for food "that they might go outside and eat" and were arrested and fined \$1,500. They marched in Pinal County last year because they couldn't work for Pinal County. Calls for increased NAACP membership. Thanks Mrs. Gertrude Harper of Chandler

for her membership. How many of you have written your [AZ State] Senators to ask for their vote on a public accommodations law. It has passed the House....

ASU-9/Tape 7A. Box inscription: Sunday January 12, 1964

Austin Coleman, host, "...Many of us have made our resolutions for the year...1964"

00:06:50: Tribute to Ms. Lillian Brown, "member of the Wesley Methodist Church and President of the Women's Society in that church", employee of Valley Life Insurance Company. Next selection dedicated to pastor Rollins Winslow and members of the of the WMC.

00:10:35: Tribute to Miss Maybelline Walker "The youngest member on our staff at Valley Life and Casualty." Member of the Pentecostal Church where the Rev. Milly Mack is pastor.

00:13:05: Tribute to "Mrs. Flora Mae Smith, a mother of eight young children", member of the Union Baptists Church where the Rev. Allison B. Reed is pastor.

00:16:20: Tribute to Mrs. Freddie Mae Reagan, the newest member of VLC staff, member of the Pentecostal Church located at 18th Street and East Buchanon, the Rev. Bishop [Arthur?] Loring, pastor.

00:20:56: Lincoln J. Ragsdale speaks re: the year 1963 and advances in civil rights for Phoenix blacks. You marched against El Ray Café and you went down against Woolworth's and other stores "and these stores in turn hired your boys and your girls". Recognizes President Kennedy and Martin Luther King for their roles in advancing civil rights. Tribute/short biography of King, recounts attacks upon him and his family.

00:24:53: "Special program by Dr. Martin Luther King." News program format with excerpts from King speeches." Quotes Emerson. The "University of Integration". Ragsdale cites this "Emancipation Program" they have offered for the last twelve months, encourages comments from listeners.

ASU-10/Tape 7B

Bill Dickey substituting for Austin Coleman, who is in Birmingham AL. [Inconsistent audio levels at beginning, improves...]

00:05:45: The Beacon Light ...Church was organized in 1936... present pastor Ellison/Eldon C. Middleton came to Arizona in 1961. Middleton speaks

00:11:20: Dickey calls listeners to attend rally sponsored by the NAACP "this afternoon" at the Lucy ... Church 14th Street and Adams to raise funds for the widow of Medgar Evers and receive a progress report from Rev. George Brooks.

00:15:30: Honored superintendent of the ??? school Mrs. Emma Scott? speaks re: George Washington Carver

00:18:30: Dickey continues re: Medgar Evers and invitation to "mass prayer meeting".

ASU-11/Tape 8 Box inscription: Special program, Ragsdale Mortuary, September 9, 1963 [mold, poor audio quality at start]

00:19:35: Coleman tells of the Youth Council, Maricopa County Chapter, NAACP sit-in at the El Ray Café "under the supervision of Mrs. Estelle Williamson, their director". Lincoln Ragsdale speaks re: the "Stepped-Up Integration Movement". "Since the march on City Hall in Phoenix on July 26th ..." Describes the sit-in at the El Ray. "We have a free school set up..."

[Likely Estelle A. Williamson, 1921-2012 Charter member Southminster Presbyterian Church of Phoenix.]

ASU-12/Tape 9. Box inscription: Ragsdale Mortuary, Valley Life....(?), Last Sunday December 29, 196? [1963]

Austin Coleman, host. The last of the Sunday morning programs for 1963. Rev. G. Benjamin Brooks and Lincoln Ragsdale:

00:04:25: Rev. G. Benjamin Brooks introduced, Coleman gives brief bio/introduction: Brooks organized Southminster Presbyterian Church.

00:05:40: Rev. Brooks gives report of the NAACP for 1963, chronological account of events in Maricopa County that year. Gives credit to Lincoln Ragsdale's leadership.

00:13:30: Austin Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale, provides brief bio. Ragsdale commends work of Rev. Brooks, thanks citizens for 27,000 votes in his run for [Phoenix] City Council.

00:19:20: Ragsdale resumes "Where there is no struggle, there is no progress..." Refers to King, Bull Connor, Medgar Evers, assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Cites black workers employed in various Phoenix businesses, "shows what can be done when we stay together". Thanks several campaign volunteers and Jim Titus [?], manager of KCAC radio.

00:26:30: Ragsdale resumes with New Years wishes and thanks to Ragsdale Mortuary and Valley Life Insurance staff, describes plans for future expansion.

ASU-13/Tape 10. Box inscription: Ragsdale Mortuary, April 26 [1964] illegible/crossed out [mold]

Austin Coleman, host. Looks forward to Martin Luther King visit, \$2/ticket, students \$1, available at the valley Life Insurance Building. Scheduled for Montgomery Stadium, May 27th.

00:13:35: More Austin Coleman promo for Martin Luther King visit.

00:23:02: Lincoln Ragsdale introduced. Thanks friends for support of his father during illness. Commends Rev. A D Vie[?] Union Baptist Church for his work. Mentions several local pastors, volunteers and churches.

ASU-14/Tape 11. Box inscription: Ragsdale at Valley Life of Christ, October 13, 1963 Austin Coleman, host. October 18th, the Committee for Ragsdale is sponsoring a dinner at the 1st Institutional Baptist Church Reference to the "Action Citizens ticket".

00:11:42: Coleman states Ragsdale cannot join the broadcast since he underwent minor surgery that week.

00:16:40: Coleman promo for Action Citizen campaign dinner this Friday October 18th [1963]

ASU-15/Tape 16A.

Box inscription: June 14, 64 Ragsdale Program Austin Coleman Mr. E J. Ragsdale guest speaker. King March 25, 1965

Ragsdale introduction in voice over Martin Luther King speech on steps of state capitol in Birmingham at the conclusion of the Selma to Montgomery march (joined in progress). A recording of the speech made by Ragsdale from the ABC television network broadcast. Matches audio and text here:

http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/documentsentry/doc_address_at_the_conclusion_of_selma_march/

ASU-16/Tape 16B.

Austin Coleman, host. Happy Children's Day greetings. [July 14?, 1964]

00:07:45: Unidentified sermon.

00:15:40: "Mr. Ragsdale is in Oklahoma this morning." Introduces Mrs. Eleanor Ragsdale, who thanks listeners for their prayers re: Mr. Hartwell Ragsdale's illness and hospitalization. Congratulates high school and college graduates. Reports Martin Luther King's arrest in St. Augustine, Florida and asks for prayers for him. Eleanor Ragsdale speaks re: local efforts to get public accommodations law passed in the City of Phoenix. She calls for citizens to meet at City Hall tomorrow night. "Last Monday night over 400 persons came out."

00:25:10: "On July 21, that's next Sunday, the Sunday School of the First Institutional Baptist Church will hold its' first annual Alumni Day program." The guest speaker will be the Reverend Stanley King of Minneapolis, MN.

ASU-17/Tape 18.

Box inscription: Ragsdale Mortuary and Valley Life Insurance Co. Rev. H Y. Stevenson [?] Sunday April 21, 1963 [Actual date is July 7th, 1963]

Austin Coleman, host. Mr. Ragsdale is out of town with his family, guests are William Dickey and Mrs. Lillian Brown, Valley Life Insurance Company.

00:09:15: Mrs. Lillian Brown, supervisor of agents, Valley Life Insurance Company, re: careers for women as life insurance agents.

00:17:46: Mr. William Dickey, Executive Vice President of the Valley Life and Casualty Insurance Company re: Independence and Freedom. "Last Thursday" we celebrated Independence Day. Speaks re: segregation and quotes President Kennedy.

ASU-18/Tape 19.

Box inscription: Ragsdale's May 3, 1964

Austin Coleman, host. Problems in Phoenix re: housing, employment and education. Cites NAACP and CORE work in Phoenix.

00:23:15: Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale. Ragsdale announces change in schedule for Martin Luther King visit from May 27th to June 3, promotes King and his upcoming speech. [No indication of change in venue.] Thanks listeners for their prayers for Ragsdale's father. Ragsdale offers sermon of hope for the disadvantaged quoting from Mark 9:23. "You become what you think about" re: positive thinking.

00:27:04: re: Representative Gilbert Gray home from the hospital.

ASU-20/Tape 22.

Box inscription: Sunday July 14, 1963 Ragsdale's [Likely March 8, 1964]

Austin Coleman, host. Cites arrest of 175 people in San Francisco during discrimination protest. Calls for listeners to join the NAACP.

00:08:12: Special announcement re: Interdenominational Minister's Wives of Phoenix sponsors program on "the third Sunday March 15th" on "negro education" [see also ASU-8].

00:19:00: Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale. Ragsdale describes effort to lobby senators at the state capitol for the "civil rights bill", reports we have 24 Democrats and four Republican senators. He is told they plan to let the bill pass in the House and then kill the bill in the Senate. He asks listeners to contact their members of the legislature re: "public accommodations bill".

ASU-21/Tape 24A. Box inscription: May 26, 1963 [crossed out] 5/25 First Institutional Baptist Church [whited out] Jan 19, 1964 Ragsdale's [whited out, probably correct date]

Austin Coleman, host. Will feature Dr. Martin Luther King.

00:16:55: Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale, to speak re: NAACP. Ragsdale recounts 1963 programs celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the First Institutional Baptist Church and at Eastlake Park. NAACP events featured Dr. Hale and Rev. Jerry W. Ford. July 26th marched "5,000 strong" to Phoenix City Hall and presented list of grievances to the mayor and other officials. August protest at the El Ray Café is described. "The El Ray Café has been integrated."

00:22:32: Ragsdale resumes, introduces recording of Martin Luther King speech "Funtown USA" in which he describes racism to his daughter while riding to the Atlanta airport with her. (Available online at Youtube.)

00:29:19: Ragsdale resumes with brief response to King. This Sunday morning I'm going leave now and go to Mt. Cavalry Baptist Church in Tucson and worship with Rev. T. S. Jackson

ASU-22/Tape 24B

Austin Coleman for the Action Citizens Ticket, November 11, 1963 [day before election day]. Vote for Mayor, Richard F. Harless, for Council Robert L Aden, Charles Ferrell, Ed Korrick, Manuel Peña, Lincoln J. Ragsdale and Madeline VanArsdale. Introduces Rev. G. Benjamin Brooks.

00:00:50: Rev. George Brooks speaks in support of the Action Citizens Ticket.

00:02:38: Lincoln Ragsdale speaks on behalf of the Action Citizens Ticket.

00:04:18: Richard Harless speaks re: Lincoln Ragsdale's leadership, Harless' vision for a "better Phoenix" and equal opportunity.

00:07:56: Rev. A. D. Kendrick, pastor First Institutional Baptist Church endorses the specific members of the Action Citizens ticket.

00:09:03: Rev. Brooks resumes, urges citizens to vote.

00:10:02: Lincoln Ragsdale resumes, urges citizens to vote for the ticket.

00:11:00: Richard Harless resumes, urges citizens to vote and get a friend to vote. "The most important election in the history of the City of Phoenix."

ASU-23/Tape 25A.

Box inscription: April 7, 1963 Ragsdale – Valley Life Program Emmanuel Church of God in Christ [Audio levels are very inconsistent between performance recording and advertisements.] Church website at <http://www.theemmanuelcogic.org/#>

Austin Coleman, host.

00:00:59: Lincoln Ragsdale speaks, introduces program broadcast from the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, 16th Avenue and West Buckeye Road. Elder Felton Eugene King, pastor. Directors of "combined choirs" and musicians are introduced.

00:11:05: Ragsdale introduces Elder Felton Eugene King with bio and history of the church.

00:13:13: Felton King gives sermon, makes comments re: employment and transition from agriculture to manufacturing in Phoenix, education of blacks, and politics.

00:18:32: Coleman promotes upcoming event celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation featuring Rev. Jerry W. Ford, former pastor of the Tanner Chapel AME Church, and Dr. William H. Hale, president of Langston University of Oklahoma. "There will be a display of African culture and many other displays of public interest." Fourth Sunday in April, Eastlake Park, 4PM. [Arizona Republic article April 27, 1963, p 46 notes a 32 page historical booklet tracing emancipation will be distributed.]

00:22:40: Ragsdale resumes with sermon and religious poetry. Ragsdale reads "Tell Him So". Female voice (possibly Eleanor Ragsdale) reads prayer. Dial a prayer promo.

ASU-25/Tape 26.

Box inscription: December 15, 1963 Ragsdale's

Austin Coleman, host. "Thanks for the wonderful support given Mr. Ragsdale, and the Action Citizen's ticket."

00:16:55: Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale. Ragsdale identifies Coleman as "one of our campaign managers", thanks supporters for their support in fall political campaign. We forced City of Phoenix into a runoff, we are victorious...because we have united ourselves together for a purpose." Cites turnout numbers from south Phoenix, Ragsdale received over 98% of all votes cast "in those areas". Recognizes Marie Ogletree who "fell and hurt her back" but worked all day at the polls.

00:24:20: Ragsdale resumes, thanks Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Irvin, "who handled finances of our [Action Citizens] committee." Thanks long list of political volunteers.

ASU-26/Tape 31.

Box inscription: September 15, 1963 Special Program from the Ragsdale Mortuary and the Valley Life Insurance Co's. Austin Coleman

Very poor audio quality at beginning.

00:10:15: Austin Coleman introduces Lincoln Ragsdale, who gives progress report of the Maricopa County NAACP. Thanks participants in the El Ray Café protest. "The proprietors of the El Ray café will now serve everybody." George Brooks has agreed to run for election to the Board of the Roosevelt School District, Ragsdale calls for listeners' support of Brooks. [Audio quality decays/is variable...] Ragsdale encourages enrollment in the "free school" sponsored by the Valley Life Insurance Company. Need at least 25 men between ages of 18-28 to take our free apprenticeship training to learn to be carpenters, sheet metal workers, etc.... "Contact Rev. Brooks, myself or the Urban League."

rps: 12/20/2013