

Lincoln Ragsdale's Emancipation Proclamation Radio Shows

Robert Spindler

Curator, Arizona Collection

Speaking the Unspeakable Conference

Saturday February 18, 2017

rob.spindler@asu.edu



Lincoln Ragsdale

- Founded Ragsdale Mortuary and Valley Life Insurance Co.
- Known for their integrated workforce and opportunities for job training and advancement for black workers.
- Lincoln and Eleanor were important civil rights leaders in the Valley's black community



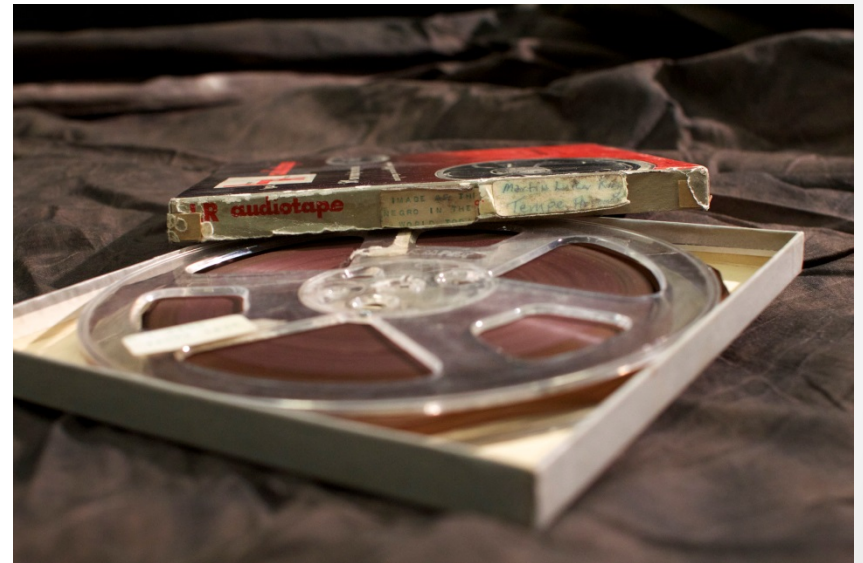
Maricopa County NAACP

- Lincoln Ragsdale was Vice President
- Worked with NAACP President Rev. George Brooks of Southminister Presbyterian Church on employment discrimination issues
- Brooks good cop / Ragsdale bad cop



Emancipation Proclamation Radio Shows

- KCAC radio, 1963-1964
- Austin Coleman, host
- 30 minute Sunday morning gospel music show
- NAACP update by Ragsdale in every broadcast



KCAC Radio Show Clips

- Eyewitness account:
El Rey Café Sit-in, ca.
September 1, 1963



- Echoes the March on Washington of August 28th
- “Stepped Up” Integration movement
- “Decency” in housing, education, employment
- Christian faith gives “strength”
- We Shall Overcome



KCAC Radio Show Clips

- Ragsdale's Easter message
Sunday March 22, 1964
 - Christian values of equality and brotherhood
 - Compares the sacrifice of Jesus to those of the community "What price are you willing to pay?"



For More Information

- *Lincoln Ragsdale Emancipation Proclamation Audio Recordings* (google: Lincoln Ragsdale Audio)
- Matthew C. Whitaker, *Race Work: The Rise of Civil Rights in the Urban West*, 2005
- Mary Melcher, “Blacks and Whites Together: Interracial Leadership in the Phoenix Civil Rights Movement” *Journal of Arizona History* 32(2):195-216 (1991).

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