

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Walter Theodore Hayden

PERSON

Hayden, Walter Theodore, 1926-

Alternative Names: Walter Theodore Hayden;

Life Dates: June 24, 1926-January 8, 2020

Place of Birth: Tuskegee, Alabama, USA

Residence: Fort Wayne, IN

Occupations: Entrepreneur

Biographical Note

Entrepreneur Walter Theodore Hayden was born June 24, 1926, in Tuskegee, Alabama, where his father, Rev. Charles Hayden of Greenwood, Mississippi, was chaplain of Tuskegee University. Hayden attended Hudson Elementary School in Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated from Birmingham's Parker High School in 1944; he was a pre-med student at Indiana University from 1944 to 1947.

In the mid-1950s, Hayden was a driver and broker for PR & R Trucking Company in Birmingham. From 1961 to 1964, Hayden was the owner and operator of Birmingham's Star Bowl bowling lanes. Star Bowl became a meeting place and a secret sheltering place for civil rights workers during the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. In 1964, Hayden moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he started Diamond Printing; soon thereafter, he began printing and distributing his own line of African American oriented greeting cards. In 1995, Hayden founded Fort Wayne Black Pages Business Directory.

A lifetime member of the NAACP, Hayden was also a member of the Urban League for twenty years, and for over sixty years was a member of the A.M.E. Church. Hayden and his wife, Ernestine, remained in Fort Wayne where they raised nine children.

Walter Theodore Hayden was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 23, 2005.

Hayden passed away on January 8, 2020.

Related Entries

A.H. Parker High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Hudson Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

U.S. Army [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1945 to 1946]

Company Clerk, 1692nd Engineer Combat Battalion

Star Bowling Lanes [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1960 to 1964]

Manager

Diamond Printing [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1964 to ?]

Founder

Fort Wayne Black Pages [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1995 to ?]

Publisher

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Lifetime Member

Urban League [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Turner Chapel AME Church [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Congregant