

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Bynoe

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Bynoe, John, 1926-2009
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe,
Dates:	October 16, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:36:33).
Abstract:	Federal government official John Bynoe (1926 - 2009) coordinated the civil rights program at U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and served as director of the Boston-area Regional Office of Civil Rights. Bynoe was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 16, 2004, in Mashpee, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_209
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

John Garvey Bynoe, born in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 25, 1926, had a distinguished career in the federal government and as a civic and community leader that spanned more than three decades. His parents, Edna V. Bynoe and John Leo Bynoe, immigrated from Barbados, in the British West Indies, in the mid-1890s. Growing up in Boston, Bynoe attended public schools, and after high school, he attended Boston University and the New England School of Law, where he received a bachelor's of law degree in 1957.

As a veteran of World War II, Bynoe was one of the youngest veterans to lead a Veterans of Foreign War Post when he was elected commander of Post 953 in Boston in 1947. He also served as chairman of the Veterans Committee of the Boston Branch of the NAACP. Following his military service, Bynoe became an employee of the federal government in 1948, starting as a supply clerk in the regional office of the Federal Security Agency in Boston, which later became the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

In the early 1950s, Bynoe became a claims representative in the Social Security Administration district office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He remained in that post until 1954, when he was promoted from the position of field representative to assistant district manager in Salem. The following year, he became manager of the Social Security Administration district office in Norwood, Massachusetts. In July of 1966, Bynoe returned to the HEW regional office and assumed the position of program coordinator for civil rights on the staff of the HEW regional director. The following year, the Regional Office for Civil Rights was established, and Bynoe was named director, a position he held until his retirement in 1982. Under his tenure, the largest number of Blacks, Asians and Hispanics ever to enter federal service in New England did so with his guidance and training.

Throughout his career, Bynoe was active in many social and civic organizations. He was a founder and director of Boston's first Black-owned bank, Unity Bank and Trust. He also served on the board of directors for the Boston branch of the NAACP, the Boston Legal Aid Society, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, the Museum of the

National Center of Afro-American Artists and the Massachusetts Pre-Engineering program. Between 1979 and 1982, Bynoe also served as the chairman of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

Between 1969 and 1989, Bynoe owned and operated the Professional and Business Men's Club. The P&B Club served as a vital community site for community meetings, forums and social and professional networking for Boston's black men and women of all classes and backgrounds. Bynoe and his wife, Louise, had two children, James and Jonathan. He had a son, John, Jr., and a daughter, Sandra, from a previous marriage.

Bynoe passed away on August 13, 2009 at age 82.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John Bynoe was conducted by Robert Hayden on October 16, 2004, in Mashpee, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Federal government official John Bynoe (1926 - 2009) coordinated the civil rights program at U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and served as director of the Boston-area Regional Office of Civil Rights.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Bynoe, John, 1926-2009

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Bynoe, John, 1926-2009--Interviews

African American civil rights workers--Interviews.

Public officers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Federal Government Administrator

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe, October 16, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe, Section A2004_209_001_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Civic and community leader John Bynoe talks about his parents' backgrounds and their immigration from Barbados to the United States. He recalls his childhood in Boston, Massachusetts, and talks about his elementary and high school experiences. John Bynoe describes his siblings and then explains his family's association with Marcus Garvey.

African American families.

African American parents.

Emigration and immigration--United States.

African Americans--Education--Massachusetts--Boston.

Childhood and youth--Massachusetts--Boston.

Brothers and sisters--Massachusetts--Boston.

Garvey, Marcus, 1887-1940.

Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe, Section A2004_209_001_002, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Civic and community leader John Bynoe describes his employment ventures while attending law school. He tells of his time at Boston University and Portia Law School, before moving into specifics of his professional career. Bynoe recalls the various positions he held in the federal government, most notably time spent with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He describes community and political affairs in which he was involved, and a number of ways he bettered his community through successful leadership.

Boston University.

Portia Law School.

United States. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

African American leadership.

Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe, Section A2004_209_001_003, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

Civic and community leader John Bynoe details his involvement with the Urban League, and various accomplishments throughout his life. He describes an organized effort to end segregation in schools in Boston, Massachusetts. John Bynoe considers his legacy and how he'd like to be remembered. Bynoe then narrates photographs documenting his childhood and professional life.

National Urban League.

Segregation in education--Massachusetts--Boston.

Photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with John Bynoe, Section A2004_209_001_004, TRT: 0:07:21 ?

John Bynoe narrates photographs of various family members and acquaintances.

Photographs.