

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Abe Thompson

PERSON

Thompson, Abe

Alternative Names: Abe Thompson;

Life Dates: November 22, 1951-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Oak Park, IL

Work: South Bend, IN

Occupations: Radio Station Manager; Broadcast Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Abraham “Abe” Thompson, Jr., was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 22, 1951, one of seven children in his family. After graduating from Calumet High School, Thompson attended Carthage College in 1969 and then transferred to Western Illinois University where he graduated from in 1974.

In 1975, Thompson joined the staff of WVON radio in Chicago as a salesman where he quickly found success. Thompson was hired by WGCI in 1980, where he became the local sales manager, and the following year he was named general sales manager. While at WGCI in 1984, Thompson met and married his wife, Launa Thompson, and in 1985, he became the vice-president and station manager of WGCI. Thompson moved to Detroit in 1986, taking over operations at WRIF while serving as vice-president and general manager; during his two years there, he helped turn the station around. Returning to Chicago in 1988, Thompson was named station manager of WVVAZ.

Thompson began marketing for films and international events in 1991, including the 1991 Cancun Jazz festival and the 1995 Sinbad’s Soul Music Festival in St. Martin. In addition, Thompson has been a highly successful motivational speaker. In 1999, Thompson became president and CEO of Partnership Radio, a group of radio stations in Northwest Indiana. In 2000, Thompson published his first book, *My Thoughts, Your Book, Our Journal*, for his son, Phoenix. In 2003, Radio Ink ranked Thompson as one of the thirty most influential African Americans in radio.

Thompson’s wife, Launa, passed away in 2004.

Related Entries

Calhoun North Elem School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Gladstone Elem School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Calumet Career Prep Academy High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Carthage College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Western Illinois University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

WVON Radio (Chicago) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Sales

WGCI FM (Radio Chicago) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

General Sales Manager

WRIF-Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President

WVAZ-FM [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Station Manager

Partnership Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner

Focus Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner