

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clinton E. Dye, Jr.

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Dye, Clinton E., 1942-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 13, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:33:58).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Nonprofit chief executive and social worker Clinton E. Dye, Jr. (1942 - ) worked for forty years in the field of human services. He was director of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, and became president and CEO of the Atlanta Urban League in 2000. Dye was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_166
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Clinton Elworth Dye, Jr. was born on April 9, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Charlotte and Clinton E. Dye, Sr. Dye grew up surrounded by his extended family. He attended Atlanta public schools, graduated from David T. Howard High School in 1960 and then entered Morehouse College. Dye dropped out of Morehouse College after his first year to work for Lockheed Corporation. He returned to Morehouse a year later and received his B.A degree in sociology in 1965.

Dye's first job was as a case aide for an alcoholism program at Emory University. In 1969, he received his M.A. degree from the Atlanta University School for social work and went on to receive his PhD. Dye has served the community for over forty years in the field of human services. He has held senior management positions at the state and local levels. He was the Director of Economic Opportunity Atlanta. He worked with employee assistance and state mental health programs and in the legislative area.

Dye is a veteran of the Urban League, having served as director of community services with the Atlanta Urban League from 1976 until 1979; and vice-president from 1979 until 1990. In 1990, he held senior management positions in the Georgia Department of Human Resources before returning to the Atlanta Urban League as its president and chief executive officer in April, 2000. He has served on several committees, including the Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health, State of Georgia; Regional Development Advisory Council, Atlanta Regional Commission; Board of Visitors Grady Memorial Hospital; Georgia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; and Georgia State University Department of Social Work Community Advisory Board.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr. was conducted by Denise Gines on December 13, 2006, in

Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit chief executive and social worker Clinton E. Dye, Jr. (1942 - ) worked for forty years in the field of human services. He was director of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, and became president and CEO of the Atlanta Urban League in 2000.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Dye, Clinton E., 1942-

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Dye, Clinton E., 1942- --Interviews

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African American civic leaders--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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African American executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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Human services personnel--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

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## Organizations:

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## HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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## The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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### HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## 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 Clinton E. Dye, Jr., December 13, 2006. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:10  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. was born April 9, 1942 in Atlanta, Georgia to Charlotte Anderson Dye and Clinton E. Dye, Sr. Dye's paternal grandfather, Corley Dye, Sr., owned a carpentry and home painting business, where Dye experienced

racial discrimination while working with his grandfather in Atlanta's wealthy, majority white community of Buckhead. Dye's paternal grandmother, Angeline Westmoreland Dye, had Cherokee Native American ancestry, and worked as a seamstress and as a cake decorator at Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.'s mother's catering business. His paternal grandparents shared their home with Dye and his parents. Dye's mother worked the night shift at Scripto Pen Company, and Dye accompanied her on her commute to protect her from harassment, while his father was one of the first licensed black plumbers in Georgia, and was employed by C.C. Hart, Plumbing. Influenced by his father's alcoholism, Dye went on to pursue a career in social work with a focus on addiction.

African American civic leaders--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American executives--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

Human services personnel--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:40  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. recalls his childhood in a working class neighborhood of Atlanta. There, he lived with his four siblings and parents in his paternal grandparents' home on McGruder Street, where his maternal grandmother, Charlotte Anderson, and maternal great-grandmother, Sadie Dallas, also lived. Dye's paternal grandfather purchased the property, initially a shotgun house, and expanded the home, adding indoor plumbing. As a child, Dye was inspired by the morals of Western films, which often played on television. He recalls his childhood hobbies and family outings, such as picnics with Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.'s family. However, African Americans were discouraged from participating in Atlanta's family traditions, like riding the Pink Pig at Rich's Department Store. Dye also remembers Atlanta's bootleg houses, where his father was once shot during an altercation, but survived. Dye initially attended Atlanta's C.W. Hill Elementary School, and later transferred to Nathan Bedford Forrest Elementary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:00  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. completed his primary school education at John Hope Elementary School. From 1955, Dye attended David T. Howard High School; and, although his parents had always emphasized school's importance, became aware of discrepancies in his education compared to that of white children. Outside school, Dye was involved with the YMCA, and attended Wheat Street Baptist Church, pastored by William Holmes Borders. There, he met his wife, Myrtice Willis Dye. While in high school, Dye was influenced by his cousin, Thaddeus Olive, Jr. to attend Morehouse College, and enrolled with the intention to become a physician like his namesake, Clinton E. Warner, Sr. To fund his education, Dye worked at Martin Marietta Corporation. Attending from 1960 to 1965, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Dye transported demonstrators like Lonnice C. King, Jr. to sit-ins at segregated lunch counters, but did not realize the possible consequences of involvement until the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:00  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. attended Morehouse College from 1960 to 1965, and was influenced by Benjamin Mays, Andrew Young, and Dr. David Satcher. After graduation, he married Myrtice Willis Dye, and was hired as an alcoholism case advocate at Emory University. From 1967 to 1969, Dye completed a master's degree in clinical social work at Atlanta University School of Social Work.

From 1969, he served as a mental health clinician at Georgia Regional Hospital, and then directed Economic Opportunity Atlanta from 1971 to 1973, where he implemented community addiction treatment programs. From 1973 to 1976, Dye developed policies at the Atlanta Regional Commission to address the intersection of addiction and mental health. In 1976, he joined the Urban League of Greater Atlanta as director of community services, and became vice president in 1979. Dye earned his Ph.D. degree at Atlanta University School of Social Work; and, from 1990, worked on mental health legislation at the Georgia State Department of Human Resources.

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_005, TRT: 0:30:36  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. returned to the Urban League of Greater Atlanta as President and CEO when Lyndon Wade retired from the position in 2000. Dye reflects upon his achievements and years of service at the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, and remembers his mentor, Whitney Young; his friendship with the family of Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.; and the lessons in management that he learned from Jordan's mother, Mary Belle Jordan. Dye describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, including his concern that the younger generations of African Americans were no longer attending historically black colleges and universities. Dye describes how he would like to be remembered, and narrates his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton E. Dye, Jr., Section A2006\_166\_001\_006, TRT: 0:06:32  
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Clinton E. Dye, Jr. narrates his photographs.