

ORIGINAL HARRY BENTLEY SUNDAY MORNING MEN BOWLING LEAGUE

Who was Harry Bentley? Harry Bentley born in 1911 was the originator of the Harry Bentley Sunday Morning Men Bowling league. His 100th birthday was last year. Sorry we did not do anything to honor him but I believe his name should be mentioned in the Black Bowlers Hall Of Fame . Harry was also one of the best secretary/treasurers in the city during the late 1940's and the 1950's and was instrumental in teaching a lot of other people how to be a secretary/treasurer of a bowling league. This was when everything was done by hand. No computers, calculators or any thing. Harry started this league some time around 1966 with approximately six teams. From that time the league has bowled at several different bowling centers and had grown tremendously. Some of these bowling centers do not exist today. Another trait that Harry possessed was that he was a semi truck driver and participated in several truck rodeos where he won trophies and other awards. In most cases he was the only black participant. There are a few of the senior bowlers around today that remember Harry from the old days. Joe Tate, Reverend Echols, Frank Moore. Also to mention some other names that should be mentioned with Harry are Hank Hardy, J Wilbur Sims, Ace Kilgore and Tippy Wilson Sr. It is a shame that we have no records of Harry's many contributions to black bowling but by inserting this little bit of information in the Black Bowlers Hall of Fame it gives some credit to him and lets black bowlers know who he was.