

[James F.]

Dr. Frank O. Moxley is the oldest child of Hester and _____ Jackson. Frank's mother Hester, after traveling into Alabama and seeing the historical black schools, returned to Bowling Green with the desire to make sure that each of her six children obtained a college degree. Frank's father had a fourth grade education, but taught himself to read and spent Sunday afternoons with the family requiring all the children to read from classical books as a form of education and entertainment. His father went on to study law and successfully passed the Kentucky and Ohio bar exams. Even though he could only assist white attorneys, he was a very competent individual in the field of law. Frank and his five sisters and brothers were brought up in a very strong Methodist home. Upon graduation from high school, his Mom decided on Wilberforce College in Wilberforce, Ohio, to send Frank to. Wilberforce is a Methodist supported school and it was far enough away from Bowling Green to where she felt that Frank would not be able to return home easily. This too was a philosophy she had about making sure that her children left home to go to college and were far enough to where they could not return to Bowling Green very easily. It was her belief that this would motivate them to concentrate on studying. When Frank reached Wilberforce, he associated with young men that were there preparing to become ministers. His next brother also attended Wilberforce. The third child, a girl, was allowed to go to Kentucky State, which is the closest to Bowling Green that the children were allowed to attend. Two others attended De Paul in Chicago, and one attended Talladega College in Alabama. Frank was the second child to obtain his PhD, with his youngest brother receiving his from De Paul in the area of math. He went on to work for the U.S. Space Program.

In the early 1940's, Frank, with the assistance of Mr. Buford the local principal of State Street School, attended Indiana University to attain his master's. All of Frank's master's and above were paid for by the State of Kentucky due to segregation. He was not allowed to attend the University of Kentucky, therefore, it was a state law that African Americans would have their advance degrees financed by the State so long as they sought their degrees from other institutions. Segregation actually assisted Frank in attaining a degree from a more prominent institution than any of those that existed in Kentucky. His first semester at IU he attended classes on the weekends. He drove on Friday afternoons to Indianapolis to take classes. During the first semester, he drove seventeen weekends in a row, again accompanied quite often by the school principal, Mr. Buford, under whom he was teaching at the time.

Mr. Buford always advised Frank that it was his responsibility to make sure that all the whites who questioned him learned to respect him. The main theme to his philosophy is gaining respect for those who question your abilities because you are black. Mr. Buford also advised him to never segregate himself. After leaving Wilberforce, Frank attended Ohio State for a while at which time he was pursuing a medical degree, though was convinced by Mr. Buford to come home and teach school. He later obtained a master's degree in psychology from IU and then later obtained a doctorate degree from South Florida University.

When Frank attended classes at Western during the 40's, he was the first African American student to do so. Shortly after he began taking these classes, he found himself being surrounded by white principals and superintendents that were taking these advanced classes and found that he was a source of information that all of them could utilize as they negotiated these advanced classes. Frank remembers that one of his fellow students at that time was Dero

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Downing. By following Mr. Buford's advice of gaining his fellow classmates and his instructors respect, he found that they were soon dependent upon him for assisting them in completing their work.

Mr. Moxley carried this same philosophy into his next careers as a guidance counselor and a coach. Many times when he carried his all black teams into white schools, he had to help his players adapt to being hit and spit on by the opponents and also learn to accept being cheated on by the other team and the referees without retaliating. Even though his teams were cheated on and humiliating, they had an amazing win loss record and were the envy of high schools throughout the area.

Moxley took all the area newspapers and read the sports section about the opposing teams. He did this many times due to the bias and discrimination that he confronted if he went into one of the high schools to scout the other team.

Mr. Moxley helped develop and wrote some of the early fundamental guidance and counseling program for the State of Kentucky. He worked seven summers in a row at WKU to create a guidance and counseling program. In 1975, he wrote and started elementary guidance for the State of Kentucky. Moxley has started agencies in the Bowling Green area, such as Model Cities and Legal Services. By taking Mr. Buford's advice and not becoming solely as administrator, such as a principal, he was allowed the flexibility of developing guidance and built on his psychology background. Soon after developing these programs in the State of Kentucky he was sought after by different school systems and has been a lecturer and presenter at national conferences for the last thirty years.

Moxley made it a point to bring prayer and Bible study into his coaching. He had a requirement that all of his players must attend church each Sunday. He is quite proud that of the young men whom he coached, six of them are presently ministers.

Moxley gives a lot of credit and respect for many of the joint projects that he was involved in to Mr. Joe Homby.

He attended the University of Indiana for one solid year following the semester that he drove each Friday night, constantly insisting on those in his surroundings showing him proper respect. He spoke repeatedly of the efforts and hardships he overcame traveling to Indiana, the closest school to Bowling Green which would allow an African American student to attend. Mr. Moxley constantly reverted back to his theme of overcoming racism by insisting and gaining the respect of those who discriminated against him. While many in the local area shunned away from him, there were others whom he won over due to his outstanding intellect and skill.