

**2010 PIONEER DAY
PIONEER NOMINATION AND
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM
BROWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
301 SOUTHWEST 13 AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33312
(E-MAILING THE ANSWERS TO THIS FORM
AS A NARRATIVE IS PREFERABLE)
TEL. 954-357-5553 • FAX 954-357-5522
dcunningham@broward.org**

PLEASE RETURN BY: AUGUST 1, 2010

PIONEER'S NAME: RAGINS
HENRY LAST LEE
FIRST MIDDLE

IF MARRIED, NAME(S) OF SPOUSE(S):
NEZEREE (WIFE OF 59 YEARS)

MAILING ADDRESS:
2235 Wiley St.
STREET SUITE/APT. NO.
Hollywood FL. 33020
CITY ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE: 954-925-5917 954-925-5927 / 981-8059

NAME OF CHILDREN:
HENRY JR., JOSEPHINE, JOSELINE
RONNIE, JUDITH, MARY

E-MAIL ADDRESS: RRAGINS55@YAHOO.COM

EDUCATION: MANNING HIGH SCHOOL
(WHEN - WHERE)

SELECTED BY: _____

MILITARY: N/A
(WHEN - WHERE)

PLACE OF BIRTH: MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA

YEAR OF BIRTH: APRIL 12, 1928

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN BROWARD COUNTY, IF BORN ELSEWHERE: JULY 1947

WORK HISTORY/PROFESSION/BUSINESS:
PEOPLES WATER & GAS CO. (DELIVERY MAN)
FOUNTAINBLEAU HOTEL (CABIN PORTER)
PHILLIPS 66 GAS STATION (OWNER-MECHANIC)

SIBLINGS' NAMES:
BROTHERS > WILLIE, CLEVELAND, LEON
HARRISON,

SISTERS: ADDIE MAY, RUTH, JOSEPHINE, GERTRUDE

MEMBERSHIPS:
N/A

METHOD OF ARRIVAL:
BY CAR 1947
(TRAIN, BOAT, AUTOMOBILE, AIRPLANE, ETC.)

PARENTS' NAMES: MARY, RAGINS
(MOTHER)
JOHNNY RAGINS
(FATHER)

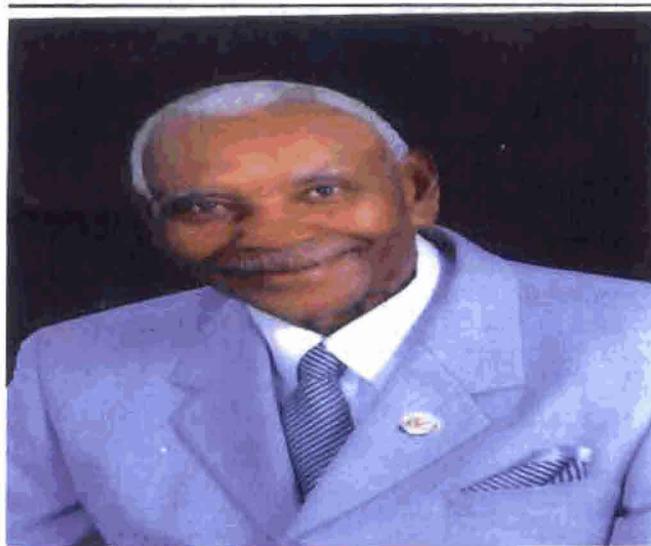
HOBBIES:
WORKING ON VEHICLES (ANTIQUES)
SPENDING TIME WITH GRANDCHILDREN
& GREAT GRAND CHILDREN

REMINISCENCES OF LIFE IN BROWARD COUNTY (FEEL FREE TO CONTINUE ON OTHER SIDE AND/OR ON ADDITIONAL PAGES):

I WORKING ON AUTOMOBILES FOR 47
YEARS AS A MECHANIC, AND I STILL ENJOY
TINKERING AROUND ON FAMILY + FRIEND'S CARS
I HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES IN MODERN
TECHNOLOGY ON AUTOS, & SEE MANY NEW
CHANGES IN THIS GREAT CITY OF Hallandale
IN THE PAST 60+ DECADES

AT: 25 West Pembroke ROAD IN Hallandale 33009
UNTIL RECENTLY. SINCE 1947.

THANK YOU!



Mr. Henry Ragins the first Black to be issued an Occupational License in the City Of Hollywood

Henry Ragins moved to Fla. In 1947

1st Job People's Gas Miami Plant * 2nd Job Porter At Fontainebleau Hotel Cabana Club

3rd Job was at a **Gas Station** which was owed by Mr. Johnny Necco, Henry demonstrated his desire to learn all he could as a mechanic and his work ethic was such Mr. Necco promised to sell the station to Henry. After managing the shop diligently for 15 years Mr. Necco, retired and fulfilled his promise to young Henry. Henry's wife Nezeree at the time worked as an Housekeeper and Aid for the wife of then City Commissioner Bill Wright, Mrs. Wright suffered a stroke and greatly depended on Nezeree for assistant which she provided outstanding care and service which Commissioner Wright very much appreciated.

When Henry applied for an Occupational License at the City of Hollywood, Henry was denied twice and advised licenses were not issued to Blacks. Henry was determined to succeed and his perseverance finally paid off because his 3rd attempt found him waiting when Commissioner Wright spotted him and asked him why he was waiting and Henry explained the issues/challenges he experienced trying to get a occupational license because of his race . Commissioner Wright, immediately had a license issued to Henry thus making **Mr. Henry Ragins the 1st Black Man in Hollywood** to be issued such a license to operate a Gas Station & Mechanic Shop in the city, the year 1969

