

Bronzeville Historical Society



(312) 428-8033

bronzevillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Institution: Bronzeville Historical Society

Collection Title: Izola White Collection

Date Span: circa 1954 - 2011

Extent: __ linear feet (TBD)

Provenance: Collected by Sherry Williams

Processors: Processed by Sherry Williams in January 2016

Restrictions: Duplications and use within educational projects permitted. Commercial use by written authorization only. The archives are a gift from the estate of Izola White for protecting the legacy of the business and philanthropy of Ms. Izola White for generations to come.

Abstract:

Ms. Izola White is founder and retired owner of Izola's Restaurant was located at 522 East 79th Street, Chicago, IL on the South Side of Chicago. Izola's Restaurant opened in late in 1940's in the Woodlawn community. Per historian Timuel D. Black the restaurant was known for great Soul Food. The restaurant moved to the 79th Street location in 1954 and closed in 2011. Ms. Izola White is a civic leader and philanthropist. Her restaurant served as the station and think tank for aspiring and active African American politicians, civic, education, community and social leaders. Ms. White contributed financially to political campaigns and religious institutions. Ms. White also encouraged young adults to attend college and pursue excellence. Ms. White was a maternal figure for countless customers and extended family members. Ms. White was widely respected for her role as a Black woman entrepreneur. Her charity reached many. Chicago's first African American Mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington frequented her restaurant. The walls of Izola's Restaurant were filled with more than 300 photographs of politicians, judges, lawyers, musicians, civic leaders, Chicago Police Officers, couples, families, and children of all ages. Mr. DeWayne Mason is executor of her estate which included the photographs, certificates, awards, plaques, and memorabilia spanning from 1960's to 2011.

Ms. Izola White was a resident on the South Side of Chicago. Her business held membership with the Chatham Business Association and many other civic groups.

The collection is organized into four series. The first series are certificates, awards, plaques and greeting cards from various institutions and individuals to Izola White. The second series are photographs of African American Chicago Police Department officers, commanders, and personnel that were displayed on Izola's Restaurant walls.

The third series is oversized framed photographs, memorabilia, and art work that date from the early 1980's to 2011. Many photographs in this series represent African American political

Bronzeville Historical Society



(312) 428-8033

bronzvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

leadership in Chicago during that era. The fourth series are the photographs of customers, infants, couples, children, and adults who donated images to Izola White. Many of the photographs added to this series in the collection were found loose without dates or original grouping. Also in the final series is regalia – and within this grouping are several framed photographs that chronicle salutes made to Izola White for her work as an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Biographical/ Historical Note

On November 3, 1922, Izola White was born in Kenton, Tennessee. Ms. White picked cotton and strawberries before her arrival to Chicago in 1945. Visit this website to hear interview and see photographs.

<http://www.southernfoodways.org/interview/izolas-family-dining/>

Contact Mr. DeWayne Mason, Court Appointed Administrator of the Estate of Izola White for further inquiries. Email: dlmason@comcast.net (773) 936-1455

Access Headings:

Container List:

Izola White Collection		Izola White Collection	
Box			
Series I :			
Series II :			
Series III :			
Series IV : Photos			