

CLARENCE “PROFESSOR” WHITE

CLARENCE PLAYED FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK AND BASEBALL AT SELMA HIGH

School. He went on to play football at Alabama State College and played on the 1936 Black National Championship team.

He came to Walker County Training School in 1936, as head football and basketball coach. Then in 1941, Clarence took three years off to serve in the military as a Chief Staff Officer. After his return to Walker County Training School, he then coached for 13 years and never had a losing season. He was also instrumental in getting the training school certified by the Southern Association for the first time. He served as principal of the Training School until its closure in 1969. He was then hired as an administrative assistant at Walker High becoming the first African American administrator at Walker. He served there until his retirement in 1977.



He was the first president of the Black Athletic Association in Alabama, as well as, the commander of the Black American Legion from 1947 until it was disbanded in 1962.

He started the first youth program for black children in 1954 and opened up voting for blacks in the county in 1946. With the help of Gov. George Wallace, he integrated Walker College in 1958.

“Professor” White as he was known by many became an avid and very accomplished golfer even though he did not take up the sport until late in life. He was married to the former Mary Barton and they have five children: Clarence Jr., Ed, Melvin, Febra, and Ralph. They also have ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Clarence is also a charter member of the Walker High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame.
