

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jack White

PERSON

White, Jack E., Jr.

Alternative Names: Jack White;

Life Dates: June 30, 1946-

Place of Birth: Washington, North Carolina, USA

Residence: Richmond, VA

Occupations: Magazine Editor

Biographical Note

Magazine editor Jack E. White, Jr. was born in 1946 in Washington, North Carolina. His father, Jack White, Sr., was a physician. White was awarded a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University in 1976 and studied African Affairs and American ethnic politics for one year. Prior to joining the staff at Time magazine, White was a staff writer at the Washington Post from 1966 to 1968, and then at the Race Relations Reporter in Nashville, Tennessee from 1969 to 1972. He also contributed articles to the Columbia Journalism Review, the Progressive, Ebony magazine, and Black Enterprise magazine.

White joined the staff at Time magazine in 1972 as a full-time staff writer where he contributed to the “Modern Living,” “Economy & Business” and “Energy” sections. In his twenty-nine year career with Time magazine, White served as correspondent in Atlanta, Georgia and Boston, Massachusetts; as a senior correspondent and editor of the “Nation” section in New York City; and, as a bureau chief in Nairobi, Kenya. In 1985, White became the Midwest bureau chief for Time magazine based in Chicago, Illinois. He was named deputy chief of correspondents Time magazine in 1987 where he managed fifty-one correspondents in ten domestic bureaus across the United States. White was the first African American staff-writer, bureau chief, and editor at Time magazine. In 1992, White left his TIME magazine and became a senior producer for domestic news on “ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings.”

In May of 1995, White was assigned by Time, Inc.’s Editor-in- chief Normal Pearlstine to recruit minority journalists for all magazines owned by the company, which include TIME, People, Sports Illustrated, Life, Fortune, Money, Sports Illustrated for Kids, In Style and Martha Stewart’s Living. He retired from Time magazine in 2001 and became a frequent contributor to The Root. White has also served as a writer-in-residence at the Howard University School of Journalism and as an adjunct professor of journalism at

Virginia Commonwealth University. He was the co-author, with Bari-Ellen Roberts, of *Roberts vs. Texaco: A True Story of Race and Corporate America* (1998). In 2005, White left his position as the Scripps Howard Endowed Chair at the Hampton University School of Communications.

White has won many journalism awards, including the Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York Association of Black Journalists, and the Unity Award from Lincoln University (Missouri). In 1995, Time, Inc.'s in-house newsletter recognized White as the best writer at any of the country's magazines. In 1999, the National Association of Black Journalists selected him as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Journalists of the Twentieth Century.

Jack E. White, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 28, 2013

Related Entries

McKinley Technology High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lucretia Mott Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

John Burroughs Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Taft Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Nieman Foundation for Journalism [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Swarthmore College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington Post [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1968]

Reporter

Race Relations Information Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 1972]

Reporter

Time, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to 1992]

Reporter and Editor

ABC News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 1993]

Senior Producer

Time, Inc. [EMPLOYEE OF]
[from 1993 to 2001]

Columnist

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBER OF]
[from 1979 to 1981]

Member