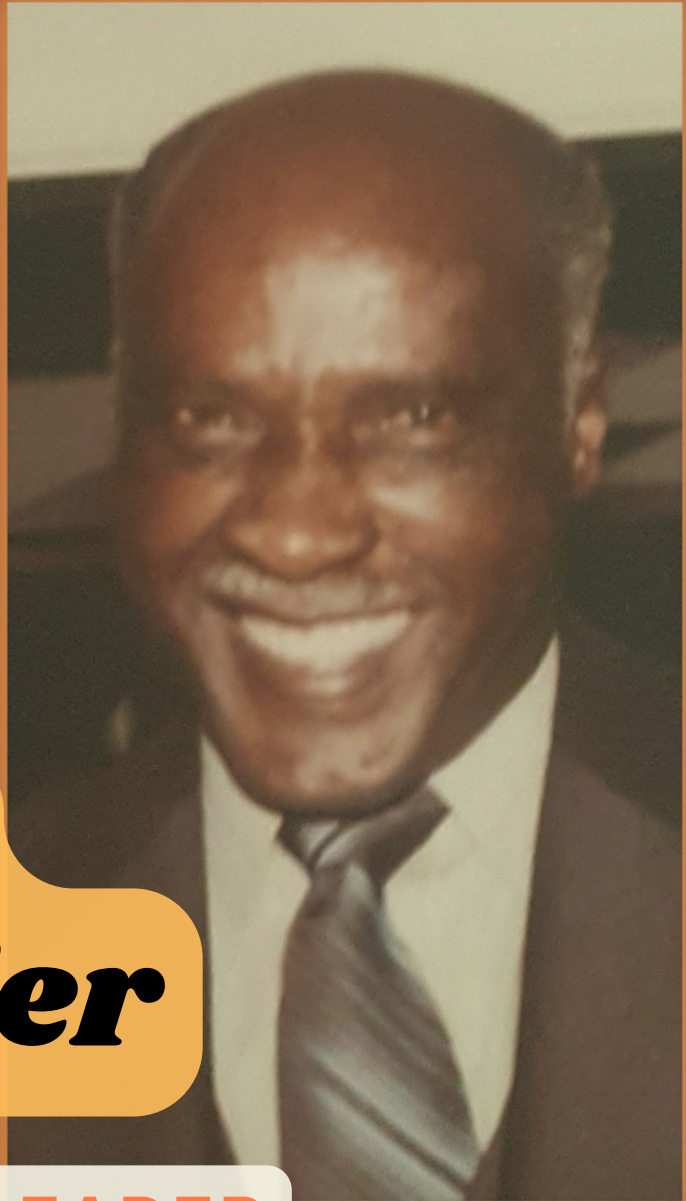


Clyde Alexander

**SAN BERNARDINO LEADER
(1950S-1980S)**



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Achievements

Carpenter's Union Member
Black Contractor
Black Developer
Owner and Operator of
Northgate Corporation

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Migration to San Bernardino



Clyde Alexander's family moved out to L.A. from Tulsa, Oklahoma bringing the culture and mindset of black business owners from Black Wall St. Then brought it into San Bernardino.

Being Black in 1950s Carpenter's Union



"there were masons like there were black masons who did brickwork and people that did a stucco and housing and generally with the unions, they would pick them last so they would go on jobs, maybe work four or five hours a day."

In the 50's Clyde was one of the first Blacks to join the Carpenter's Union alongside his brothers. However, the union prevented any other Black family or community members from joining, leading Norm Wilson to become a contractor to support Black community members in the industry.

Industry Networking

Through relationships formed in the Carpenter's Union, Clyde developed a professional network with key developers in the LA and San Bernardino Area. With the support of the such a network, Clyde gained his contractor's license, helping his team to get more jobs. Yet, racism still prevented Clyde and his team of 60 people (40 Blacks and 20 Latinos) from easy access to jobs.

Industry Barriers



"So first, they, white union contractors, try to pay the Blacks... the hourly rate. Then they try to say, 'OK, we'll pay, you piecework work,' and then to the piecework, they [Blacks] still was able to make more money...usually we'd get the project when it was very little project left, just enough to, you know, say, 'well, we have some black folks out there,' particularly in the civil rights era. So when they started outpacing everybody, they were just sending union guys out there and they would tell us to get off the job because we weren't on the list."



Being a Black Developer

"He [W.R. Buster] would teach my father how to do development projects, how to talk to different banks, how to talk to the city... how to get financing and even how to buy banks while he was doing development, if he ran into any racism. Which I thought was off the chain, I was like 12, 13 years old and I was hearing this guy tell him, 'This is how you control the bank.'"

-Clyde had to be innovative and understand the systems he faced in order to be successful as a Black developer and it greatly impacted his son-


Impact on San Bernardino

From there Clyde started up his own company Northgate Corporation bringing in skilled black workers he could support through various developments around San Bernardino, like the Orangewood Estates in the West Side of San Bernardino.

Orangewood Estates

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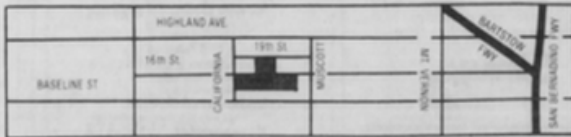
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May 24, 1981



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