



Image. George Kilpatrick. (Source: Photos from Kenneth Kilpatrick archives).

Image. George Kilpatrick pictured in his work apron alongside Joe Louis, boxer. (Source: Photos from Kenneth Kilpatrick archives).

George Kilpatrick

George Wendell Kilpatrick was well-known in the Brownsville community as a business owner and a community leader from the 1950s until the 1980s. He was particularly well-loved for his role in mentoring the youth of the community. Kilpatrick was born on June 11, 1917,¹ on a former plantation outside of Tallahassee, where his parents Susan Blydge and Eddie Kilpatrick² worked as sharecroppers. In 1936, Kilpatrick moved to Miami to work as a postal worker; he continued in that work until at least 1940.³ On August 1, 1947, Kilpatrick's family was residing with their grandfather Malachi Thompson⁴ in Railroad Shops Colored Addition when they were forcibly evicted from their home by City of Miami Police and representatives of the Dade County School Board. It is recalled that "While tending his fish market in nearby Brownsville, George Kilpatrick heard of the police raid from an out-of-breath customer who had run to tell him of the news, "Your wife and three kids have just been put out in the rain!" Kilpatrick rushed home to find everything he owned, including his brand-new refrigerator, dumped in front of the house. He recalled, "We had no place to go. We slept out in the rain all that night. A lot of other people did too." The Kilpatricks chose to remain outdoors under tarps, in tents, and in the storm to watch over their now rain-soaked belongings.⁵

By 1950, George Kilpatrick resided at the 50th Street Heights Apartment Complex in Brownsville with his family. George owned and operated the Spic and Span Grocery and Market in Brownsville for more than forty years, from 1946 to his retirement in 1987.⁶ His businesses were as follows:

- Grocery Store and Fish Market, unknown name and location in Brownsville, approximately 1946-1950⁷
- Spic N' Span Poultry, Fish, and Western Meat Market in partnership with Neal Adams Sr. at 4952 NW 27 AV, Brownsville from 1950-1952⁸

1 "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V44B-PDM : 25 December 2014>), George W Kilpatrick, 04 Mar 1990; from "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," index, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : 2004); citing vol. , certificate number 27808, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, Jacksonville.

2 "United States, Social Security Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT), 1936-2007," database, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6KST-FDCZ : 10 February 2023>), George Wendell Kilpatrick, .

3 "George Kilpatrick, merchant and area leader" The Miami Herald, March 6, 1990, p20. www.newspapers.com/image/63428885 Accessed October 30, 2023.

4 "Force Church, Land Owners Off Property" The Pittsburgh Courier, July 26, 1947, p1. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/40024052> Accessed October 31, 2023.

5 Connolly, N.D.B. A World More Concrete, The University of Chicago Press, 2014, p148

6 "United States 1950 Census", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6X2W-6SBD : Wed Oct 04 06:58:48 UTC 2023>), Entry for George Kilpatrick and Winifred Kilpatrick, April 20, 1950.

7 "George Kilpatrick, merchant and area leader" The Miami Herald, March 6, 1990, p20. www.newspapers.com/image/63428885 Accessed October 30, 2023.

8 "Spic & Span" The Miami Times, April 7, 1951, p2. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/888302270> Accessed October 31, 2023.

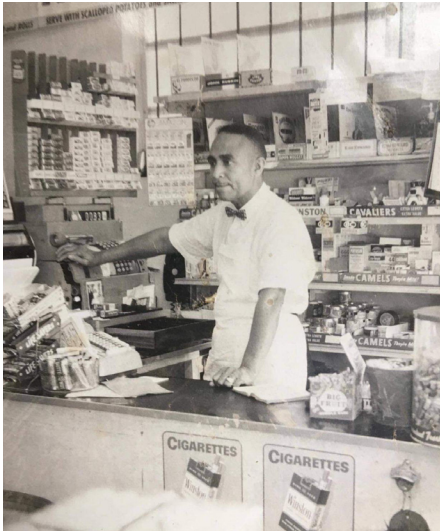


Image. George Kilpatrick in his grocery store, the Spic N' Span Market at 4801 NW 27 Avenue. (Source: Kenneth Kilpatrick archives).



Image. George Kilpatrick's granddaughter Natalye Paquin, current Chief Operating Officer of the Rockefeller Foundation, speaking on stage with Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. (Source: Kenneth Kilpatrick archives).

- Post Office Contract Station #2, served as clerk-in-charge, 4952 NW 27 AV, Brownsville, 1951-1952⁹
- Spic & Span Market, sole proprietor at 4952 NW 27 AV, Brownsville, 1953-1956¹⁰
- Spic N' Span Market, sole proprietor at 4801 NW 27 AV, Brownsville 1958-1987^{11 12}

George Kilpatrick is remembered for his selfless service to his community, and he served in numerous trailblazing and leadership positions in the community, including:

- One of 200 Black residents to attend first integrated Orange Bowl Games in 1948 and 1949¹³
- One of few Black attendees of Josephine Baker's performance at the Copa City Club in Miami Beach in 1951, the first non-segregated audience in Miami Beach, at the insistence of Ms. Baker.¹⁴
- Miami Negro Junior Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 1951¹⁵
- Northwest Miami Junior Chamber of Commerce, Director, 1953¹⁶
- Offered his Spic & Span Market at 4952 NW 27 Avenue as a location for free Tuberculosis Chest X-rays through the Dade County Tuberculosis Association in 1955.¹⁷
- George Washington Carver YMCA, Division Chairman, 1957¹⁸
- First Black foreman of a six-man Circuit Court jury in Dade County, 1958¹⁹
- Greater Miami Council of Churches' Commission on Cuban Refugees, Secretary
- Miami Community Action Board, Chairman
- Dade County Economic Opportunity Program (EOPI), Board member
- Model City, Governing Board Member

9 "2 Stations Opened By Post Office" The Miami Herald, April 6, 1951, p21. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/626143503> Accessed October 31, 2023.

10 Spic & Span Market Advertisements, The Miami Times, 1953, 1955, 1956. www.newspapers.com Accessed November 1, 2023.

11 Miami-Dade Property Appraiser Online Records, 4801 NW 27 AV, Accessed March 3, 2023

12 "George Kilpatrick, merchant and area leader" The Miami Herald, March 6, 1990, p20. www.newspapers.com/image/63428885 Accessed October 30, 2023.

13 The Miami News, December 12, 1948 p 35, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/297701644> Accessed October 31, 2023, and "Round the Town" The Miami Times, January 8, 1949, p13, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/888301618> Accessed October 31, 2023..

14 "Josephine Baker, the 'Toast of Paris'..." The Miami Times, January 20, 1951, p3, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/888301015> Accessed October 31, 2023.

15 "The Miami Negro Junior Chamber of Commerce" The Miami Times, December 29, 1951, p9. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/888305623> Accessed October 31, 2023.

16 "Northwest Jaycees to Install Tonight" The Miami Herald, March 20, 1953, p42. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/621535344> Accessed October 31, 2023.

17 "Free Chest X-ray Available" The Miami Times, July 9, 1955, p5. www.newspapers.com/image/888309578 Accessed November 1, 2023.

18 "Kilpatrick's Division Leads in Y Membership" The Miami Time, April 29, 1957, p13. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/888315163> Accessed October 31, 2023..

19 "Historic" The Miami News, September 11, 1958, p31. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/298213325> Accessed October 31, 2023.

Storekeeper Has Extras For the Kids

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economic range is from poverty to upper middle-class.

Many of the little ones who come into Kilpatrick's store are from the surrounding apartment and project buildings.

Kilpatrick started in the business in 1946. It has given him the opportunity to "raise" a lot of children.

"See this young man," he said as Jackie Rolle, a salesman, walked into the store. "That's one of my boys I raised in this neighborhood," he beamed.

"I HAVE NO CHOICE but to help these little ones," he said. "And in helping them you've got to give them respect. I never close my door on a child."

Said a woman who has known Kilpatrick for many years, but wishes to remain anonymous:

"This is a man who has a deep interest in youth. Children come into his store in the mornings in large groups, yet he takes the time to try to instill in them the common courtesies.

"And the warm way he addresses them, the children can't help but respond to him and to respect him," she said.

"For as long as I have known him he's had the same attitude and he's always saying, 'we've got to do something with our youth.'"

And so he does.

To This Brownsville Storeowner, His Best Merchandise Is Free

One of a Series

By BEA L. HINES
Herald Staff Writer

Some gifts can't be bought with money.

These are the little everyday gifts that encourage pride, self-respect and respect for others.

This is the way George Kilpatrick gives of himself and to his community — especially the children in the community.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



STANDING BEHIND the checkout counter in the Spic and Span Grocery and Market at 4801 NW 27th Ave., in Brownsville, Kilpatrick gives the same respect to his barefoot, shirtless little customers as he does his grownup customers.

There is a lot of traffic in the little store.

A youngster came rushing

in with his hand tightly wrapped around a nickel.

The little fellow didn't see the woman standing at the counter and quickly brushed past her.

"YOU JUST walked over that lady, young man," Kilpatrick admonished. "Now, what do you say?"

The little boy looked wide-eyed at the lady and said:

"Oh, excuse me please!" "That's better," Kilpatrick said smiling, as the youngster rushed out of the little store.

"I feel that it's a part of my responsibility as a merchant to help these children. I teach them how to act in a place of business, how to ask for it and how to purchase it," Kilpatrick said.

"YOU SEE, some of these parents have to leave home as early as 6 a.m. to get their buses to work. Many of the heads of the homes in this area are the mothers and there's just so much that they can do."

The Spic and Span Store is located in an area where the

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—Herald Staff Photo by BOB EAST

Merchant George Kilpatrick and a Young Customer

... 'I never close my door on a child,' he says

- Miami-Jackson Senior High PTSA, President for 15 years
- Metro-Dade Police Department Central District Citizens Advisory Committee, Chairman
- St. John's Institutional Missionary Baptist Church, parishioner and volunteer auditor²⁰

George Kilpatrick's legacy as a community leader lives on in his family. His granddaughter Natalye Paquin serves as the COO for the Rockefeller Foundation and previously served as the CEO for President George H.W. Bush's Foundation, Points of Light. His grandson Ken Kilpatrick continues to lead the Brownsville Civic and Neighborhood Association as the long-serving president of the organization; he also served as the chair of the Model City OCED (Office of Community and Economic Development) Community Advisory Committee, which led the Model City / Brownsville Charrette in May 2003 where over 200 community members, County officials, and planning professionals were involved in the charrette and the resulting recommendations for the neighborhood. Under the leadership of Mr. Kilpatrick, the Brownsville Civic and Neighborhood Association continues to meet monthly about issues important to the residents.

²⁰ "George Kilpatrick, merchant and area leader" The Miami Herald, March 6, 1990, p20. www.newspapers.com/image/634288885 Accessed October 30, 2023.

Image. 1972 newspaper article about George Kilpatrick. (Source: Miami Herald).