



# 150 Stories for 150 Years

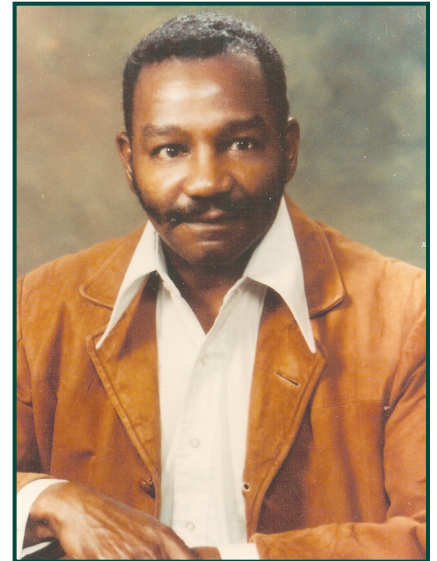
## Alumnus Met NBA Star at Hamie's

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I was saddened to read about the death (June 2, 2020) of Wes Unseld, one of only two NBA players to win the Rookie-of-the-Year and MVP in the same season (Wilt Chamberlain is the other). In my College days, I used to frequent a local establishment (bar) that was owned by Charles "Hamie" Graham, a great guy and an area civil rights leader, besides being a fine purveyor of some good down-home cooking.

I was unaware that Hamie was a friend of Wes Unseld. One evening in 1964 or 1965, I walked into Hamie's and sat down at the bar. Shortly after, my vision was blocked by someone twice my size, who sat down at the next stool. Hamie came over to say hello and introduced me to Wes. For about an hour, I had the pleasure of his conversation. He seemed a bright, engaged and genuinely nice person. He was also a tremendous basketball player, going up against the likes of Chamberlain, Russell and Jabbar at 6'7" and 245 pounds.

I was reminded of that long-ago day and it brought back great memories and a tear to my eyes thinking about that meeting – and about Hamie.



**Charles "Hamie" Graham**

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