

BIRT

Walter Raymond Birt and Dorothy Isabelle Martin

great-grandparents

Nothing is known of the parents or siblings of Walter Birt or Dorothy Martin. Walter was born August 21, 1903 in Indianapolis, Indiana and Dorothy was born November 1, 1905.

Walter and Dorothy probably married about 1925. The marriage ended in divorce after a relatively short period of time, during which they had two children, a daughter named Viola Birt and a son named Robert Frank "Bob" Birt, born in 1929.

Walter married at least one more time, to a woman named Bea, with whom he had a daughter named Darlene. They later divorced.

Dorothy married and divorced a man named Louis Henricks. They had a son named Major.

Walter worked for years making overalls in a facility near Manual High School in Indianapolis. Later, he lost his eyesight and was legally blind for much of his life. His living conditions, for a time, bordered on homelessness. He sometimes stayed at a hotel at 401 North Illinois Street in downtown Indianapolis but also frequented the Wheeler Mission and other charitable facilities.

Relatives recall that Dorothy had a rather odd sense of style – "like a hippie." Tales are told of vast amounts of purple, apartment fixtures painted gold and beads hanging in doorways.

Granddaughter Sue (Birt) Bosworth recalls with some amusement that, although Walter and Dorothy were long divorced, they were always both at family functions (each alone, as their subsequent marriages also ended in divorce).

Later, they even lived at the same nursing home on Thompson Avenue, a circumstance arranged by their son Bob who cared for both in their later years. Walter resisted the move and missed his life downtown, telling his son, "You're not doing me any favors."

Dorothy died on April 21, 1984 in Indianapolis. Walter, in his 80's, died on January 29, 1985.

Sources and Related Information

- Alice (St. John) Birt
- Sue (Birt) Bosworth
- Cheryl (Baxter) Krueger
- Social Security Death Index



Dorothy Martin



Walter Birt