

Harriet Joyce Greenwood
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NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

Presented by the Bon Marche

PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY, INC.

"WHEN YOU DREAM, DREAM BIG, AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE
YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE"

It is a great honor for me to participate in this tribute to the "Black Pioneers Program" sponsored by the Bon Marche.

I give heartfelt appreciation to the Black Entrepreneurs that have preceded me in the United States and most of all in the City of Seattle. They have paved the way for me to be able to receive the opportunities so that I could receive the recognition.

The beauty of life is a treasure to behold, with its infinite reservoir of challenges that have to be met. Open your minds to its beauty by becoming aware of who you really are, and who you would like to become. Self preservation is the first law of nature, therefore you must preserve yourselves and draw from your inner strength and faith to become whom-ever you desire.

Many times a day I realize that my inner and outer strength is built upon the labors of my fellow men, both living and dead. I must at all times give as much as I can to be able to receive. You too must take regular inventory of your deeds to determine whether your life is going the direction you have planned.

Has anyone ever told you that you are an extraordinary person, and that you deserve everything you have attained? It can be true for everyone to be that extraordinary person. You can be all you want to be, and no one can prevent you from attaining your goals. No one, that is, except yourself.

Within all of you at this time there is a sleeping giant. It is called **potential**. Scientific research tells us that the average person uses a very small portion of his or her potential during an entire lifetime. This means that you can tap into enormous resources of unused power. All that power is lying dormant within each of you.

With the untapped resources that you haven't begun to use you can achieve any goal. There is no reason for you to settle for second best. All you can ever dream of attaining is within your grasp. All you have to do is **GO FOR IT**.

Roger Wright

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RALPH C. RUFF, DIRECTOR

Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises

406 S. Water, Mail Stop, FK-11

Olympia, Washington 98504-4611

Interested persons may also call VIDA YINGLING, Administrative Assistant to the Director at (206) 753-9693.

The State Of Washington

P r o c l a m a t i o n

WHEREAS, the many contributions of black people in all walks of American life are acknowledged and celebrated across the nation each year during the month of February; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater, the first American community north of the Columbia River, was established by George Washington Bush, a black man, in 1845 prior to Washington becoming a U.S. Territory; and

WHEREAS, black people have made many important contributions to the growth and early development of the Washington state; and

WHEREAS, in the face of discrimination and hostility, black people settled in at least ten cities and in one third of the counties in the state, succeeding in businesses in Spokane and Seattle, in the coal mines of Roslyn, on the farms in the Yakima Valley, on the trains that travelled across the land and on the ships that docked in our ports; and

WHEREAS, "A Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers" will be held February 17-20, 1988, at The Bon Marche in downtown Seattle; and

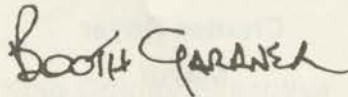
WHEREAS, this event will provide opportunities for all citizens to learn more about and appreciate the significant achievements of blacks in the Northwest and their contributions to the quality of life in our great state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Booth Gardner, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim February 14-20, 1988, as

NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS WEEK

in the State of Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing and commemorating the spirit and enterprise of our black friends and neighbors.

Signed, this 15th day of January, 1988.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Booth Gardner", written in a cursive style.

Governor Booth Gardner

City Of Seattle • Office of the Mayor

P r o c l a m a t i o n

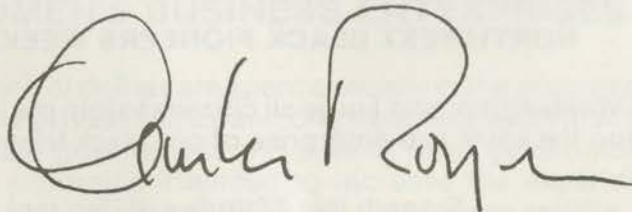
WHEREAS, since Manuel Lopes, the first Black resident in the village of Seattle, arrived in 1852 and opened his barber shop, our city has been a beacon of hope in the land of opportunity for Blacks in business; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is proud of the many notable accomplishments and contributions Blacks continue to make in the growth and development of our community and to the quality of life it affords; and

WHEREAS, "A Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers" will be held February 17-20, 1988 at the Bon Marche in downtown Seattle; and

WHEREAS, this event will commemorate the significant achievements of Blacks with special attention to Black businesses throughout the State of Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLES ROYER, Mayor of the City of Seattle, do hereby proclaim February 14-20, 1988 as **BLACK PIONEERS WEEK** in Seattle and urge all members of our community to witness and experience the delightful and enlightening exhibits, programs, and activities associated with this tribute at the Bon Marche during this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Royer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles Royer
Mayor

**Office of the County Executive
King County, Washington**

P r o c l a m a t i o n

WHEREAS, February has been designated as Black History Month, a time to recognize the Black people who have made significant contributions to our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the presence and contributions of Black people in the Northwest region predates the formation of the State of Washington in 1889; and

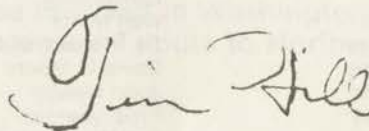
WHEREAS, Black pioneers have greatly enhanced the arts, culture and economic growth and development of Washington State and King County; and

WHEREAS, the Black Northwest Pioneers Steering Committee and The Bon Marche are sponsoring a centennial tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers to foster greater awareness and understanding of these people's contributions to our area;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tim Hill, King County Executive, proclaim
February 17-21, 1988, as

NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS WEEK

in King County and invite all residents to recognize the important contributions made by the Northwest Black Pioneers and to participate in Centennial Tribute.



Tim Hill

King County Executive

THE BROTHERS

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THE BON MARCHE

The Bon Marche has been an integral part of the Northwest for nearly 100 years. Established in 1890 by Edward Nordhoff and his wife, it was named after a fine store in Paris which Nordhoff admired as a young man.

The original store was at First and Cedar Streets. Their 30 ft. front dry goods store was operated by both of them. Nordhoff brought the first supply of pennies to Seattle in 1893 and began the penny economics of 69¢ and 98¢ pricing. In 1900 The Bon Marche moved to a larger location at Second and Pike Streets, then enlarged the store in 1905, and again in 1912.

Finally in 1929 the move was made to the present location into the art deco elegance of a building which was just completed and designed especially for the department store. The new five-story building occupied a full city block, and was the first store in Seattle to have "moving stairs" escalators.

In the early 1930s The Bon Marche became a part of Allied Stores Corporation. Expansion of The Bon Marche and addition of new stores followed World War II when Puget Sound population increased and many people settled in the suburbs. Allied Stores Corporation pioneered the concept of suburban shopping centers, and The Bon Marche expanded into the new centers.

Over the years The Bon Marche has opened or acquired stores throughout the Northwest, and currently operates 40 stores in the six states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. The complex operates under the leadership of Wilbur J. Fix, chairman and chief executive officer, and Robert Mang, president and chief operating officer.

In late 1986 a merger between Allied Stores Corporation and Campeau Corporation was finalized. Almost a year later Fix and Campeau announced exciting new plans which involve a complete reconfiguration of downtown Seattle Bon Marche. Construction starts this year and when completed an atrium will extend through the central core of all ten levels of the store and be topped with a massive skylight on the roof. This extensive construction will transform a Seattle retail landmark into a world class shopping experience for The Bon Marche customers.

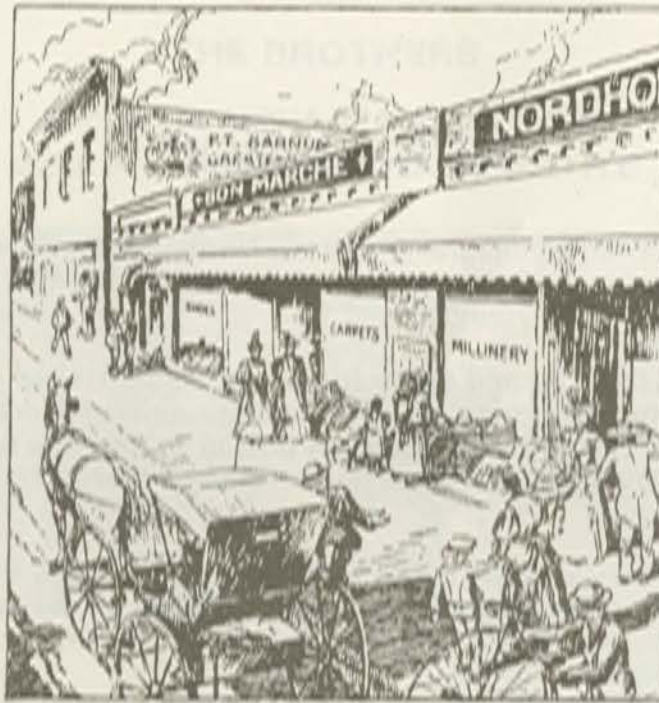
The Bon Marche is proud to be involved in Washington State Centennial, and to be the corporate sponsor of The Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers.

Sketch identification copy

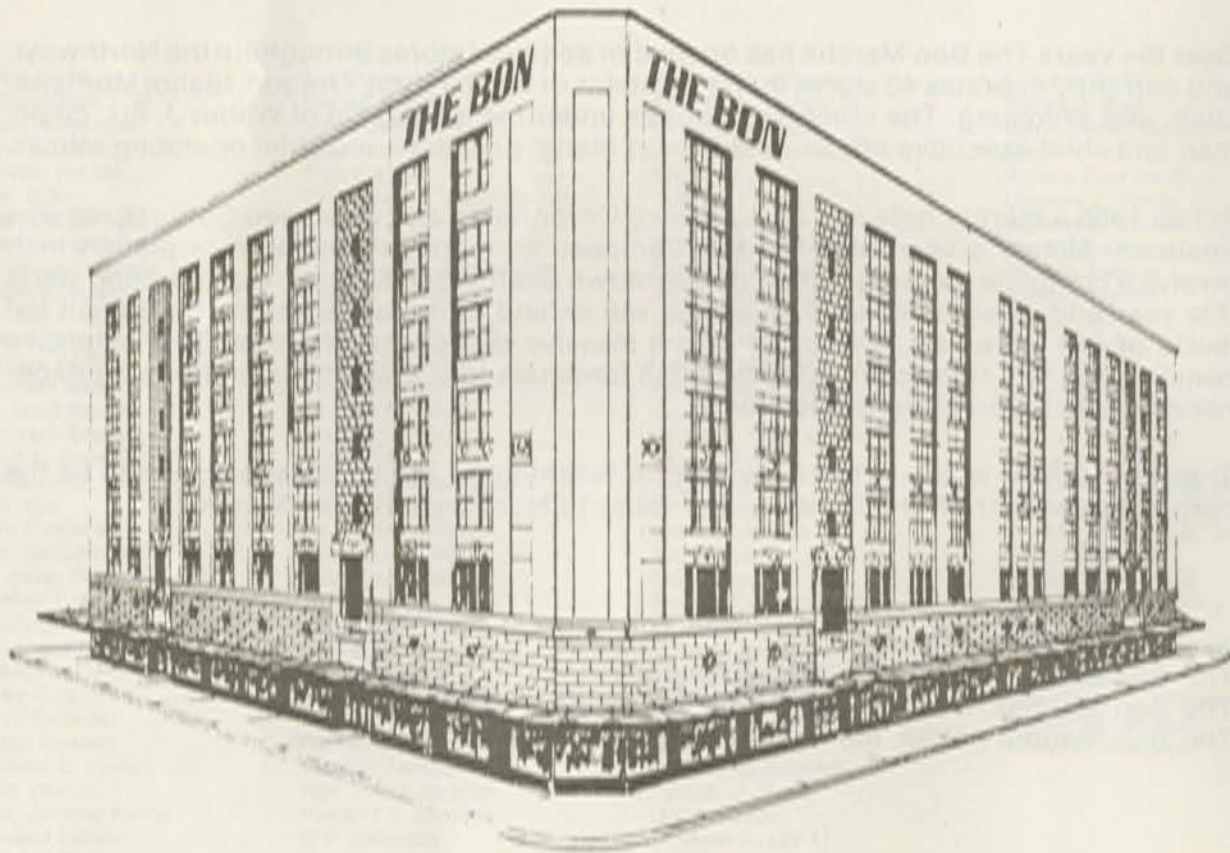
The Bon Marche - 1890 at First and Cedar

The Bon Marche - 1988, 4th and Pine, operating a total of 40 stores

The Bon Marche - 1990, the interior of the downtown Seattle store



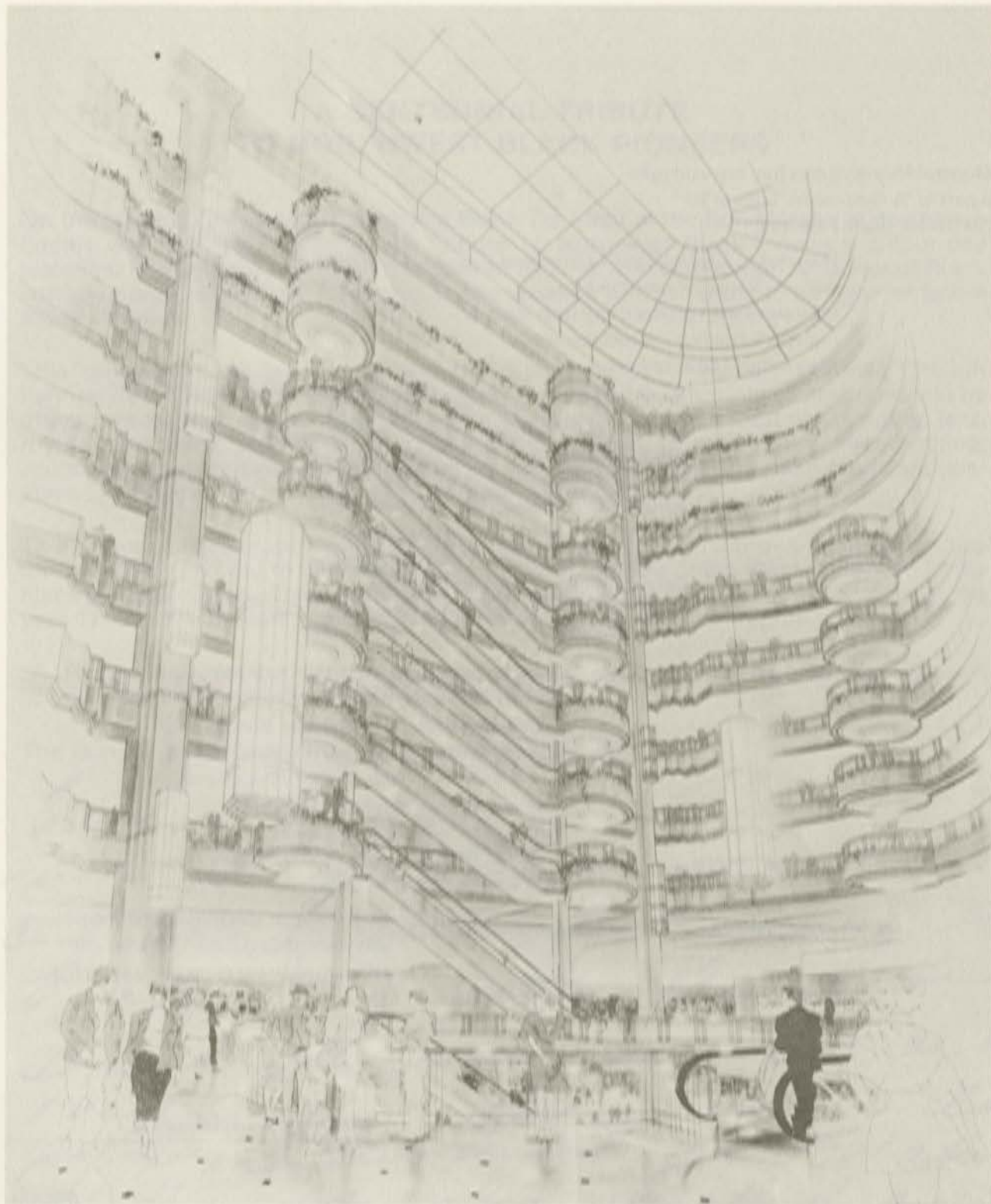
The Bon Marche 1890 - Downtown Seattle



The Bon Marche - 1987 Downtown Seattle,
one of The Bon Marche's 40 stores in 6 Northwest states.

Dave Highbanks/Cheryl Addams
The Rockey Company, (206) 728-1100

Joan Jarvis, Publicity Director
The Bon Marche, (206) 344-7089



This new ten-level atrium will be the centerpiece of the renovation, redevelopment and restoration of the eight-story, full block downtown Seattle flagship department store of the Bon Marche stores. Complementing the Art Deco style of this landmark 1929 building, the atrium will reflect the richness of that period with warm wood finishes, brass and glass detail, marble floors, baroque curved balconies and large vertical deco-designed chandeliers and wall sconces. The atrium will be topped by a massive glass roof providing natural light to all ten levels.

General Microsystems Inc. is proud to be
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Northwest Black Pioneers."

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A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS

On the evening of February 17, 1988, a Black Tie Affair at the Bon Marche in downtown Seattle will "kick-off" A Centennial Tribute To Northwest Black Pioneers, a four day historical and cultural event, the first ever of its kind. The celebration, in honor of Black History month, will donate its profits to the creation of trust funds to be held for future Black scholars.

This celebration will be open to the public beginning on February 18, 1988 through February 21, 1988, at the Bon Marche, downtown Seattle. A variety of programs will be offered throughout seven floors, including historical video presentations, singing, jazz, rhythm and blues, gospel, dance, photography exhibits, modeling of pioneer clothing, sculpture, creative designs, poetry reading, storytelling, black american foods and displayed academic and art work by K-12 grade students.

This centennial celebration will offer visual, listening, reading and browsing opportunities for the young and old to become acquainted with the role of the Black American in the history of this region, The Pacific Northwest, and will trace this unique history from the year 1770 to the present predating the birth of the state of Washington.

"A Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers" welcomes all Washingtonians to join in this unique opportunity of learning and fun!!!!

The Bon Marche is the official sponsor of this four-day event.

Ethel F. Craven of Roslyn Wash was a featured speaker: she cut the Ribbon for opening these Events, along with Governor Booth Gardner, received a standing ovation after her speech, & later was interviewed for TV channels 4 & 5. She also received a 12 flower Bouquet of Roses - Mrs Craven at 82 yrs of age is the oldest Living Black in the Kittitas County ¹¹ of Washington

Black Tie Affair
Wednesday, February 17, 1988

Reception/Music:	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Program Opening:	8:00 p.m.
Mistress of Ceremony:	Connie Thompson
Welcome:	Wilbur Fix, The Bon Marche Chief Executive Officer Paul Mitchell, Steering Committee Chairperson
Solo:	Venice Jones
Proclamations:	Booth Gardner, Governor Charles Royer, Mayor Tim Hill, County Executive
History:	Ralph Hayes (Introduction of ~~Dawnmarie~~ ^{CRAVENS})
Musical Selection:	FAME Choir, First A.M.E. Church
Introduction of Guest Speaker:	Dawnmarie Cooper
Guest Speaker:	Dr. Deborah Wolf
Closing Remarks:	Dr. Robert Gary, Co. Chairperson Steering Committee

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE
TO THE
NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS



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The goals of The Centennial Tribute Steering Committee are to 1) Make the greater Seattle area aware of the contributions that Blacks have made to the Pacific Northwest, 2) Expose the greater Seattle Community to Black Culture, 3) Expose the general public to Black artists, designers and craft persons, and their wares.

The historical event will feature live presentations daily, highlighting Black influence in education, music, art, theatre, science, foods, fashion and business.

As the committee works toward this very challenging and exciting activity and opportunity we will be inviting the entire community to get behind us and the Bon Marche to not only make this event successful, but a part of history and an annual event.

Four Day Activity Schedule

Thursday, February 18, 1988

10:00-11:00	Poetry Reading
11:00-12:00	Storytelling
12:00-1:00	Floyd Standifer Jazz Group
2:00-3:00	South Shore Middle School African Dance/Drum Ensemble
3:00-4:00	Madrona Youth Drama Group
4:00-6:00	E.S.P. Ensemble (vocal/instrumental)

Friday, February 19, 1988

10:00-11:00	Garfield High School Band
11:00-12:00	Storytelling
12:00-12:30	
12:30-1:00	SCATS Aerobics/Jumprope Team (Seattle Public Schools)
1:00-2:00	Poetry Reading
2:00-2:30	Vocal Music by Melanie Cox
2:30-3:00	Jason Lee Middle School Ethnic Percussion/Dance Ensemble Tacoma, Washington
4:00-6:00	WIL/HAR Drama Production

Saturday, February 20, 1988

10:00-11:00	Mt. Zion Baptist Church
12:00-1:00	Total Experience Choir
11:00-12:00	Storytelling
12:00-1:00	Poetry Reading
1:00-2:00	Madrona Youth Drama Group
2:00-4:00	Fashion Show
4:00-6:00	SILK/OBG (vocal/instrumental music)

Black entrepreneurs in the earliest days of the Pacific Northwest are related, in terms of jobs to those men whose single job was usually a many-faceted thing. Take fur-trading, for example. Here, one finds the name of Jean Baptiste Point Sable, also known as de Sable. He was a free mulatto and is associated with fur-trading in what is now the Middle West - the big city of Chicago. In 1794 he was there conducting a prosperous fur-trading business out of his own trading house; his customers were usually Frenchmen and Native Americans.

Trading not only meant dealing in animal furs, but where the Native American was involved, many items other than furs became items in commerce goods which were valuable to various family members. Mirrors, combs, etc., were extremely desirable. De Sable had limited competition until after the Louisiana Purchase was completed in 1803. Then big American companies headquartered in St. Louis entered the business. It was difficult for any little man to survive against the Big Ones. Usually, the single operator signed on to work for the Big Companies. According to Savage, one of the earliest Blacks to become so employed was Edward Rose.

But, if one were employed how would one claim to have qualified for an entrepreneur? The nature of business was such that one could use one's talents in variety of activities. Rose used his talents to interpret, sell, trade, guide. All between 1807 and 1832.

Named to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was Clark's personal servant, York, but he was more than a slave-servant. He functioned as any other member of the Expedition party. And though he and the entire trip was not designed as a money-maker, initially, its long-range-goal was to do just that once Americans gained possession of the Pacific Northwest from the British. While the British and Americans were jockeying for possession of it, a Black man by the name of George Washington, reached Fort Vancouver in 1829, later, traveling to Canada, where he was hired by the Hudson's Bay Company as a middle man. In fur-trading terms this meant one who buys and sells. Washington bought his furs from the Company, then sold same, making him one of a type of entrepreneurs of that period of time in that line of business. According to records in the Provincial Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Washington carried on this dual-business activity for over a year.

In 1844, another mulatto, named George W. Bush, came to the Pacific Northwest, or Oregon Country. This time he came to stay and became a farmer-homesteader in Thurston County. After his death, he was succeeded in the family farming business by his oldest son, William Owen. This brought the types of entrepreneurs from trading to agriculture, with several spinoffs in between, as was the case with Edward Rose and de Sable.

Bush reached here two years before the Americans and British agreed upon possession of Oregon Country in 1846. Americans by the wagon loads arrived in Oregon and soon to-be Washington Territory, where Bush had come to take up permanent residence. He was also joined by another mulatto from Missouri: George Washington. (No relation to that other Washington who hired on as a middle man).

The George Washington who arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 1850, ultimately homesteaded in Lewis County, next door to Thurston County and became very wealthy from a variety of economic activities-entrepreneur deals. First he farmed; then he bought more land; then he sold more land. Then he founded a city that became known as Centralia; so engaged in real estate dealings, he gave up farming altogether. Unlike Bush, he was not fortunate enough to have sons, one of whom could carry on in his name and success after his death. Yet this Black man has left quite a legacy in the entrepreneur history of the state of Washington.

Opportunities for Blacks were different then than now, particularly for the males who attempted to succeed in business. The relatively small population must have played quite a role in determining success. Without a good character reference, one need not entertain success, either.

Mr. Alex and Mrs. Rebecca Howard proved these points too. They were owners of a hotel and a restaurant in the city of Olympia in the 1870's. They were so successful, their Pacific House was one of the largest such businesses in Olympia and the entire county of Thurston.

Though successful themselves, the Howards must not have been able to set the business up so their adopted son could continue when they passed on. Perhaps this is unfair to Frank Howard, for so far research has not established what happened to their business after the 1880's, nor what happened to him either. I am still seeking answers to both questions. And it is hoped the result will not be too unkind to Mr. and Mrs. Howard.

The community in the Pacific Northwest to concentrate upon next, is that of the urban area, called Seattle. But a few transitional sentences are in order before presenting the business persons recognized as parts of this Centennial Tribute. In the introduction above, we touched upon the fur-trading industry in a generic sense before de Sable and Edward Rose. Then we presented sketches of York and George Washington; each was identified with a specific era in the economic development of what was to become America, and later, the Pacific Northwest within this same America.

Now we come to Black entrepreneurs in up-and-coming urban Seattle. Here, the all-important Lewis, Clark and York Expedition is vital to Seattle's beginnings. As indicated, the British had to be eliminated before Americans could migrate here in great numbers and possess their land. At first, they were mostly farmers. But no urban environment can exist, populated with just farmers. Urban dwellers make demands upon personal appearances, housing, recreational and leisure time, land, even jobs, that are not necessarily duplications of those of farming communities. And since rural and urban South had co-existed for a good many years, when Blacks did migrate to the Pacific Northwest, some already were acquainted with the outlines of an urban environment, though some came from the East, too.

In 1875 William Grose opened a restaurant-boarding house in Seattle. Thus, he began in the foods and hotel business. And he was the proprietor. Apparently, business was good until the fire of 1889 destroyed it. He did not fold, for he also owned some land and built a home for himself on some of it; he also built other homes. Thus, his birthplace, Washington, D.C., must have offered excellent background for learning to live in an urban setting, that also was useful while helping what became the Territory and state of Washington's largest city. He sold its citizens food; he provided for residents and transients alike, sleeping accommodations. And to others, he sold land. Thus, like many of his contemporaries, no matter what color, variety was his specialty in the rendering of service, or should one write, services?

Speaking of service, there was another type of entrepreneur that was closely related to the urban community. The barber shop. Black males had long been engaged in this type of economic activity where most of their clients were white. During slavery, and for some time afterwards, one has reason to believe, white males were the ones most capable of paying enough per visit to provide income for the barber. Thus the pattern persisted in Seattle in the early days. Besides, in the 1890 census, there were only 406 Blacks in the entire city of 81,000. And then there was the competitive angle. Cut hair of white customers, or go into another line of business.

Two men important in Seattle's early history became barbers for families also identified with this Sound City for many years. The Denny family and the Blethen family. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Cragwell, respectively.

Since the fire of 1889 destroyed almost all of downtown Seattle, including where William Grose operated his hotel-restaurant, much rebuilding had to be done. Two more men in post-fire Seattle, possessed the technical skills to become entrepreneur craftsmen. But one opted for the field of evangelism. The other became a carpenter and a contractor. Mr. Ray followed his wife into evangelism, giving up masonry. Mr. Harvey became the carpenter-contractor, specializing in home building.

The fire apparently did not destroy the business of Mr. Dean although it was located in downtown Seattle, too. Mr. Dean ran a colored employment agency; but given the total population of Black Seattle in 1890, he must have accepted clients who were non-Black to have survived. There were just too few Blacks to have catered exclusively to them.

Appropos of urban environment making demands upon people, and the reverse, Black urban pioneers experienced the editing and publication of their own newspaper. The Oxendines started the Seattle **Standard** in 1892. This paper lasted for two years. It was followed by another, The **Republican**, published by a Black man and his wife, Horace R. and Susie Revels Cayton, both college graduates when they arrived in Seattle in the mid 1890's.

Another early urban entrepreneur in Seattle owned a business where he was able to develop a spinoff that carried benefits to each. Mr. Norris was in the poultry business, later going into the transport business. The two together helped the Norris family provide greater services to its customers. And only the depression of the Twenties led to a downfall. In this sense, the Norris family was not alone.

Just how successful each of these businessmen and women were in terms of dollars, is difficult to determine, but that each became parts of the business scene in the early days of the Pacific Northwest, is the heart of the matter.

That each faced strong opposition is another matter of crucial importance; yet each survived. The nature of opposition changed and became much more subtle as well as overt as the twentieth century unfolded, bringing with it more population into Washington and Seattle. It became much more difficult for persons of color to become businessmen and women, except in their neighborhood where large numbers of Blacks lived or recreationed. Even then it was not easy. Such businesses as barbering, hairdressing, sewing, small cafes, and small grocery stores, lead the list, thus, reflecting two constants. One, specific locations where Blacks lived and recreationed. And, two, business ownership generally did not compete with those run by whites to any great degree.

And as we reach the twenty-first century, some of those old patterns still remain. Yet, on the horizon, more changes are still occurring. The world of high technology is here to stay. Blacks will become entrepreneurs in this area, too, just as they did when the economy changed from fur-trading, to farming, to urbanized industries, more suitable to a population locating in cities. And as America becomes more suburbanized, while its economy absorbs more international competition, Black businessmen and women will develop services to offer in these arenas, too.

Ralph Hayes,
Copyright, 1987.

Suggested bibliography:

1. Samuel P. DeBow and Edward A. Pitter. **Who's Who State of Washington**. The Searchlight Publishing Company. Seattle, Washington. 1926-27. F.F.
2. Interviews.
3. W. Sherman Savage. **Blacks in the West**. Greenwood Press. Westport, Connecticut. 1977. See Chapter 4.

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Dr. Deborah Wolfe

Dr. Wolfe, chairperson of the New Jersey Board of Higher Education, Professor Emerita of Education at Queens College, Flushing, New York, has formerly served as Education Chief with the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives. In this capacity she was chief of the professional staff Full Committee and was responsible for all matters pertaining to legislation affecting education and related subjects. She served as the liaison between the House of Representatives and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare on all educational matters. During her tenure in that office, 35 public laws affecting education and labor were made effective.

Dr. Wolfe has had many years of experience in Education, having taught on all levels from kindergarten through graduate instruction. She has been a classroom teacher, a principal, college professor and department chairman. Her experiences have taken her to many parts of the United States including: New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Alabama, Michigan, Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, and California. She has traveled in England, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, Austria, Thailand, India,

Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Mexico, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, U.S.S.R., Kuwait, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Japan and throughout the United States including Hawaii and Alaska -- every continent of the world.

Chairperson, Educational Foundation, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; President, Alliance of Black Clergywomen.

Because of her outstanding contribution to the education of youth in Macon County, Alabama, a Junior-Senior High School has been named in her honor. She served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Board of Education in her native town of Cranford, New Jersey, where she graduated as an honor student from the local high school. She currently serves as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Education. A dormitory at Trenton State College has been named in her honor. Nine institutions have conferred on Dr. Wolfe's honorary doctorates of Literature, Letters, and Humane Letters and Laws.

Such wide experiences and training, including a doctorate in Education from Columbia University and study at Vassar College and University of Pennsylvania and many other institutions, make her eminently prepared for the position which she now holds. She is listed in **Who's Who in America; Who's Who Among American Women; Leaders in Education; International Biography; Who's Who in the World; Current Biography.**

The Washington Army National Guard

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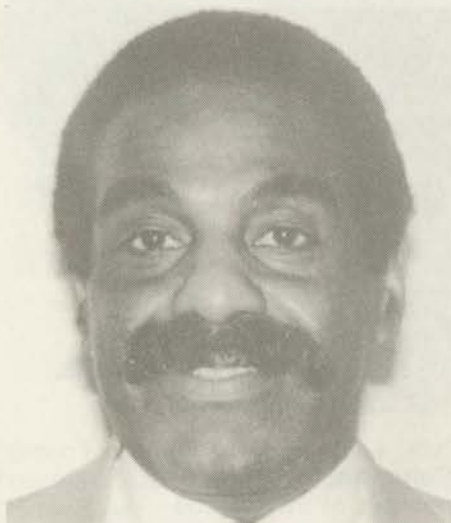
CO-CHAIR, DR. ROBERT GARY STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert Gary graduated from Garfield High School in 1952 where he was captain of the track team and All-City champion in the 100 yard and 220 yard dash on the Bulldog's City Championship Track Team.

He attended Washington State University, graduating with academic honors with a B.S. in Education, and as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

In 1966, Bob was appointed Vice Principal of Garfield, and sequentially, Principal of McKnight, Hamilton, Eckstein, and South Shore Middle Schools. In 1978, Bob received a Doctorate Degree

from Seattle University, in Public Administration and Collective Bargaining.



CO-CHAIR, PAUL MITCHELL

Employed by The Bon Marche since 1968, Garfield and Idaho State Graduate. Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Board of Management for downtown YMCA. Assisted in project by daughter, Nannette Mitchell who is a Management Trainee for The Bon Marche.



NANNETTE MITCHELL

May '87, USC Graduate, Member of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity.



DEWAYNE RANDELL

I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. After High School I went to S.O.I.C. to become a carpenter and cabinet maker. While learning the trade, I was convinced to go to school for professional sales, so I left S.O.I.C. and went to Sales Training, Inc. where I graduated at the top of the class, and was voted most inspirational. I went on to work at the Bon Marche in sales. I have been employed at the Bon Marche for the last sixteen and a half years. I sell audio and video equipment. My interests are landscaping, weight lifting, basketball and reading.

I am an active member of the Seed of Abraham Church and am on the Deacon Board.

BERNICE COX

Native of Virginia, Teacher in Seattle Public Schools for seventeen years. Currently Program Manager at Marshall Alternative School.

Recipient of the 1985 Excellence in Education Award. Member of National Alliance of Black School Educators, the Black Child Development Institute, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church where she serves on the Board of Christian Education.



DELL JACKSON

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Dell has been a member of the Seattle community since 1959. A graduate of Seattle University, he was in marketing sales and management for 13 years with the IBM Corporation before starting his own business in 1977.

Dell Jackson and Assoc., Inc. is a diversified automated data processing company that provides ADP products and services to customers in the Seattle area and throughout the United States.

DAWNMARIE A. COOPER
DIRECTOR PRE-ENGINEERING
PROGRAM (MESA)
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Previously taught within the Seattle Public Schools for twelve years. Currently Director of Seattle MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program. A community activist as President of Washington Rhinestone Club, Inc., First female Finance Chairperson of largest and oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Seattle, First A.M.E., member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Dawnmarie was one of the first Excellence in Education award recipient 1985. She also has been



featured in STA Advocate "Personality Focus" as an "active and concerned teacher". Singled out by Seattle Times for her contributions to young adults and the role model she is providing for youth. Former professional model for major department stores and non-profit groups.

RALPH HAYES



Retired Teacher. Taught for 30 years; 12 in Seattle, 18 in Bellevue. In between two quarters at Central Campus, Seattle Community College, and one quarter, Bellevue Community College. One Quarter Black History, University of Washington.

Researcher-Writer. Researching Blacks in Pacific Northwest and Washington since Summer, 1975.

Hobbies: Reading, writing, traveling and following baseball.

Education: B.A., M.A., Standard Teaching Certificate, all from the University of Washington.

Membership in Organizations: Former Treasurer-Board Member, Black Heritage Society of Washington State.

Currently Board Member of Ethnic Heritage Council, Constitution Committee, State Centennial Commission, Centennial Commission, King County.

Ethnic Heritage Subcommittee, King County Centennial Commission.

Tourism Subcommittee, King County Centennial Commission Mombasa, Kenya Sister City Committee.

BURL GARNETT, JR.

The aquarius; originally of Houston, Texas. Holds a B.S. and Master of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Prairie View A&M University of Texas, with subsequent college study at Seattle University and the University of Washington. Presently serving as Vice Principal of Garfield High School. Other service organizations includes; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, N.A.A.C.P., M.L.K. Lodge, and The First A.M.E. Church.





MILDRED GERMAM, ARTIFACTS

Graduate Clark College and Atlanta University School of Social Work, Atlanta, Ga. Former Secondary Teacher, School Social Worker and Director of Curriculum and Instructional Development for Multi-Ethnic Studies, Seattle Public Schools. Lead Teacher-Training Workshops for both Seattle and Neighboring School Districts. Active participant in numerous community and professional organizations.



DELL DURDEN

Seattle Resident 36 years
 Married - Florence 34 years
 Prudential Insurance 22 years
 Registered Rep. Securities Exchange
 President, Seattle Life Underwriters Comm.
 Association All Life Insurance Agents
 Seattle Mardi Gras Chair 1968
 Central Area Chamber Chair 1969
 NBL Seattle Chapter President
 Founder Member 1974
 United Way King Co. Vice Chair 1975
 United Way Wash. Vice Chair 1976
 Model City Advisory Council Member
 M.E.S.B.I.C. Of Washington Pres. 1977
 Member King County Pro Parks Bond Drive
 6-86
 Wash. State Employment Security Advisory
 Council
 Pres. East Madison Y.M.C.A.
 Board Member United Nations Seattle Chapter
 1977
 N.A.A.C.P. Credit Union Chair



PATRICIA H. STUART CHAIRPERSON, STUDENT ACTIVITIES

O.L. MITCHELL ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY COORDINATOR FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Native of Newton, Miss. Moved to Seattle in 1944. Graduated from Franklin High School in 1953, where he was a member of the Football and Baseball Team.

Graduated from Whitworth College, Spokane, Wa. in 1957 with a B.A. in Recreation & P.E. Have been active in youth activity in the Seattle Area for thirty years.

Member of First A.M.E. Church, 1st Church Steward Board, Seattle Park Dept., Board of Commission.





**SPENCER G. SHAW, PROFESSOR EMERITUS
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

Educator, Librarian, Lecturer, Raconteur. Served as public librarian and consultant in library systems in Hartford, Conn.; Brooklyn, N.Y. and Nassau County, Long Island, N.Y. Through his publications, radio, television and conference presentations, he is recognized as one of the influential leaders in the field of library service to children, library materials for children and young adults, folklore and storytelling. His teaching and lectureships have included appointments in Australia, New Zealand, England, Canada, Cyprus, Japan, Hong Kong, Alaska and Hawaii.

RALPH RUFF

Mr. Ralph Ruff is currently serving as Director for the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises for the state of Washington. Mr. Ruff was appointed to this position by Governor Booth Gardner on September 1st, 1986.

Mr. Ruff has over twenty-five years government procurement, industrial engineering and related experience as a contracting officer, negotiator, consultant, contract specialist, price analyst, method time measurements (MTM) analyst and program management.

Prior to the appointment as Director, Mr. Ruff was the owner of Investor Contractors, Inc. (ICI) an engineering firm.



**FRED BONNER,
COURT COMMISSIONER
SEATTLE MUNICIPAL COURT**

Native of Marshall Texas, graduate of Wiley College and the University Washington Law School.

A former member of the Board of Director of Big Brothers, active Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Works Omega's Teen Club.





JOHN W. GERMAN, ED. D.

Assistant Principal in Seattle Public Schools, received a B.A. in Education and Industrial Arts from Long Beach State University, M.S. in Secondary Administration and Supervision and an ED. D. from Pacific Western University in Education and Administration. John has served on numerous Boards throughout the California and Washington area.



**BARBARA JARRETT
CO-CHAIRPERSON
STUDENT ACTIVITIES**



EDIE MOORE

Native of Staten Island, New York, is a graduate of Boston College with a B.A. in Speech Communications (Television-/Radio) and English Literature.



ELMORE WILLIAMS, JR.

Born in Georgetown, South Carolina, graduated from Howard High School of Georgetown in 1962, he received a B.A. degree in Art Education from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina.

Teaches Art at Rainier Beach High School.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PEOPLE BELOW WHO WORKED BEHIND THE STAGE TO MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN.

ARTIFACTS

Constance Allen Pitter Thomas
Sylvia Gayton Wesley

FASHION

Patricia A. Johnson, Production Manager
Mary E. Tuggle, Assist. Production Manager
Kiboni Sims, Choreographer
Venetta Timmons

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Sonja Hampton

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Joseph Spates

Carl Thompson

Louise Thompson

Carolyn Vaughn Young

BLACK NEWSPAPER

Connie Bennett Camern

HOUSING

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN DISPLAY

William Booker

Dolores Booker

CARL C. THOMPSON, JR.



Carl C. Thompson, Jr. was born in Seattle, Washington on May 12, 1959. He attended Seattle Public Schools and the University of Washington. He received All Metro football honors in junior and senior years at Cleveland High School, as well as honorable mention High School All American. He also won the opportunity to participate in state track meets where he won many metals, placing 4th statewide in the long and triple jumps. He studied Sociology at the University of Washington and plans to use his skills to improve the community in which he grew up and now lives. He is self employed as the owner and operator of THOMPSON'S POINT OF VIEW RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE.

LOUISE CADNEY THOMPSON



Louise Cadney Thompson is a native of Mississippi, having moved to the Pacific Northwest as a child. She was educated in the Portland, Oregon public schools and Vanport College. In addition, she has completed paralegal studies in Seattle and has been employed for many years as a legal assistant. Her first love has always been the preparation and service of creole and "soul food" cuisine.

Mrs. Thompson has been active in community affairs having formerly chaired the Queen's Committee in the community's participation in Seafair and more recently, was the first female invited to join the Central Area Kiwanis Club.

She is married to Carl C. Thompson, and is the mother of two children, Linda Thompson Black and Carl C. Thompson, Jr.



REGINALD S. FRYE

Reginald S. Frye, President of 3A Industries, Inc. was born in Yakima, Washington and moved to Seattle in 1940. He was introduced to business operations at an early age when his father purchased a gas station at 14th & Yesler in 1942. For the next six years Reginald pumped gas and performed other related chores at that station and later at the second station on 28th & Jackson.

In 1948 Reginald's father, V.O. Frye, began his own chemical manufacturing company with one of his chemical inventions. Reginald worked for his father until 1964 manufacturing the chemical (Shur-Kleen Products), as a salesman, a jobber, a distributor and finally, as an independent dealer. 3A eventually purchased V.O. Frye Manufacturing Company in 1978 and it became 3A Manufacturing.

Mr. Frye and his partner, Hank Arviso started 3A Gas & Electric in 1972 installing and servicing plumbing, heating and hot water tank systems with five employees. The seasonal demand of this type of work necessitated that the company enter into the residential remodeling industry. Subsequent diversification followed as an insulation contractor for commercial and residential properties. During this period, Reginald was naturally drawn into the promoting of Black and other ethnic businesses as one of the authors of national legislation for the inclusion of Lower 48 Black and other ethnic businesses in work on the Aleyeska Alaskan pipeline. In 1975 3A became a manufacturer of crates and discontinuities for the General Electric Company to be used on the Aleyeska pipeline.

Locally Mr. Frye helped to initiate legislation so that the City of Seattle, King County, Metro, Port of Seattle and the State of Washington could implement specific programs which included Blacks, women and other ethnic businesses on public works construction projects. He became president of the Central Contractor Association (CCA) which was the first and most influential organization composed of Black and other ethnic contractors in the Pacific Northwest. He became a member and held executive positions on the advisory boards formed for the implementation of legislation of the special programs.

3A Gas & Electric became 3A Industries Inc. in 1976 to incorporate all of the diversified services being performed by the company which now included general contracting on major construction projects and as a consultant on Minority Business Enterprise. Mr. Frye and his partner have been recognized for their civic, social and business activities both by local and national organizations.

Mr. Frye and Mr. Arviso recently received the Small Business Administration's District and Regional Awards as the Small Business for 1987.

Mr. Frye is proud that he and his partner have had the opportunity to provide to and receive expert assistance from Joint Venture partners representing an Asian contractor, a Black contractor and a Black female consultant.

Listed below are recent projects which illustrate the diversity and scope of 3A. The corporation has employed a maximum of 100 employees and averages 30 permanent employees.

3A/MAGNOLIA JOINT VENTURE - 1985-1987 - \$14,000,000 contract.

Remodeling of family housing for the Navy at Whidbey Island, Washington as the general contractor.

Work consisted of: Underground utilities, installing car ports, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, flooring, drywall and painting.

Slides are available to be reproduced into pictures. Suggests that pictures are taken of the three partners. Reginald S. Frye, and Hank Arviso, 3A and Jerry Wong, Magnolia.

WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION AND TRADE CENTER - 1984-1988 - \$300,000 contract.

Consultant for the design, promotion and monitoring of the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program (MWBE) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEO).

Pictures of the construction site are available. Suggests that pictures of the project site office with Reginald Frye and the WSCTC Construction Manager are taken.

3A/EDJ JOINT VENTURE - 1987-1992 - \$1,200,000 contract.

Providing School Bus Transportation of Special Education Students for the Seattle School District on nine city-wide routes. Suggests that pictures are taken of Reginald Frye, 3A and Eleanor Johnson, EDJ with school buses.

FIRST HILL STRUCTURE & CENTER ROADWAY - 1987-1989 - \$7,500,000 contract.

Subcontract to Paschen Contractors the Prime for the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Work consists of: Installation of girders, panels, portals and other related concrete work.

Suggests job site pictures are taken of Reginald Frye, Gregory Frye, Scott Ayers, 3A and Jim Vaughn, Paschen.

3A/BENCO JOINT VENTURE - 1982-1985 - \$3,500,000 contract.

Seattle City Light Boundary Dam Project as a subcontractor.

Work consists of: All civil work including drilling, excavation of rock, dewatering, rebar and mass concrete pouring.

Pictures are available for selection.

WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS - 1972-to present

Work consists of: Installation of swimming pools, hot water tanks, gas furnaces, air conditioning, solar energy panels, commercial and residential hot water boilers.

Suggests pictures are taken at Washington Natural Gas with Reginald Frye, Hank Arviso and 3A employee.



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Elmore Williams Jr., John Little, Willis Ball, Albert Collins, Joe Bullock, James Thomas
John Anderson, Wille Simmons, Edward Chatman, Hamilton Brock, Charlie Waggener,
Glenn Taylor, Charle Huey

Frank Bolton
Cornell Richardson
Robert Ridley
Ed Woledy
Larry Moore
Thomas L. Allen
Harold Booker
Lynn Caldwell
Oscar Carter
Carver Gayton
Gary Gayton
Philip Gayton
Clinton Richardson
Dean Sanders
Tony Softli
Floyd Standifer Jr.
Billie Hilliard
Mathew Hudson
Wendell Harrell

Joe C. Jones
Dr. Robert Joyner, M.D.
Samuel Kelley
John Miles
Charles Mitchell
Ray Fregia
Felton Eagles
David Perkins
Wilbert Cusper
Dorsey Russell
Edgar Bridges Jr.
Duddy Brown
Rev. Frank Byrdwell
Jerod Jackson
Joe Fleming
Sam Cook
Dinnis Cook
Fred Bonner
Jesper Harris

James Staples
Carl Vinson
Louis Watkins
Joe Slye
James Dupree
Joe Comeaur
Robert Knatt
Dave Hookfin
Aaron Dean
Ervan Tolbert
Stevie Greer
Father, John Cornelius
John Gilmore
Amon McWashington
William Bailey
William Griffin
Willie Campbell
Richard Bruce
Issac Castle

THE PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE COMPANY, INC.



Rogers Wright

The Professional Maintenance Company, Inc., was founded in 1962 by Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Wright. A laborer by day at the Olympic Foundry, Wright also held a night job, a janitorial position in the Arctic Building in downtown Seattle.

A serious injury to a co-worker at the foundry pushed Wright into a major decision, whether to give up the inherent dangers that lurked at his day job or concentrate on turning his janitorial work into a business. He quickly turned one maintenance commitment into three and hired two employees.

Wright, a man of simple means and no formal education, then called on a friend, Sam Kimura, an insurance agent, for advice and financial assistance. He also hired Phoebe Franzel, an escrow officer for a savings and loan association, as a bookkeeper for \$50 a month. The Professional Maintenance Company was officially conceived.

By 1968, Wright had eight clients and seven employees. He also worked as well and still had no office for the company. Kimura wrote the checks and Franzel balanced the books. With the assistance of the Small Business Administration (SBA) for minority small businesses, Wright acquired the maintenance contract for the McCord Air Force Base. He invested \$7,000 into a truck, buffers and vacuums and upped employees by 35. The Professional Maintenance Company was growing.

Office space at 454 - twelfth Avenue, the Annida Building, was acquired in 1971. During this year, Wright also signed a government contract with Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. This put another 40 men and women on the payroll.

Wright's first downtown office building contract was consummated with Pacific Northwest Bell one year later and 12 more employees were hired to fulfill this obligation.

Wright's first ten years in business were substantial. With over eighty employees, three major contracts sealed and functioning smoothly and numerous smaller commitments, Wright was ready to expand.

In 1973, the Annida Building was for sale and Wright, again with the assistance of SBA, purchased the two-story office and apartment complex for \$100,000. He quickly added six garages to the rear of the building for storage space. It took Wright but six years to pay off this venture.

In the next six years, Wright, now strictly an administrator, cemented additional government contracts with the Hanford Atomic Energy Complex and the Environmental Protection Agency at Port Orchard, Washington. Telephone company contracts in Renton, Tacoma and Seattle also were negotiated.

1980 saw Wright and his company growing into a new market. With the military's decision to drop Kitchen Police, or KP detail, the need was there for civilians to satisfy this service. Wright quickly contracted with Sand Point Naval Station, Washington, to supply food service personnel. This major decision led to three more similar contracts at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Keyport Naval Undersea Warfare Station and Puget Sound Naval Ship Yard, adding 85 employees. During this period, Wright also juggled numerous private contracts.

Today's office facility, at 464 Twelfth Avenue, was built by Wright in 1980. The \$1.6 million office complex houses the Washington State Motor Vehicles Licensing Bureau, the Air Force Recruiting Center, both on a five year contract. It also houses his own offices on the fourth floor. He has since remodeled the Annida Building.

In 1982, Wright purchased a large piece of property on Twelfth Avenue and is currently preparing to build office and retail space on this site. During this year, Wright also entered into a joint venture with two other small business minority contractors, acquiring the food service contract at Fort Lewis, Washington, adding 450 new jobs.

With all his success, Wright refuses to stand pat. During the past four years the Professional Maintenance Company, Inc. has purchased additional real estate in central Seattle.

Wright's twenty-four years in business have taken him through various stages: Worker, negotiator, administrator, entrepreneur. His acute service and management and private contracts. He has literally put hundreds of people to work. His ability to acquire real estate at optimum moments is a serious strength not to be overlooked.

In summary, Mr. Rogers Wright, founder and president of the Professional Maintenance Company, Inc., was born on March 20, 1928 in Etion, Georgia, a small farming community. Raised very poor, Wright has no formal education. Self-taught and motivated, Wright, one of three children, found his way to Seattle in 1956 finding employment at the Olympic Foundry and a small janitorial firm. He ventured into his own business, the Professional Maintenance Company, Inc., in 1962. Mr. and Mrs. Wright were married on March fourth in 1950, and are the proud parents of eight children. Wright is also a member of the Goodwill Baptist Church. They are also the grandparents of nine grandchildren. Wright was awarded the NAVY Award by the Navy in 1983 for his food service contract at Sand Point and Contractor Minority Vendor of the Year in 1983 by Pacific Northwest Bell. Wright's career has been featured in a piece done for television by Channel 4, KOMO, Seattle. Personable and charming, Mr. and Mrs. Wright credit their success to the hard work they put into their business. He is most proud of the fact that he has never defaulted on a project in his 24 years in business. Mr. Wright's wife, Annie Ruth, is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Professional Maintenance Company, Inc.

SEAWAY CONSTRUCTION, INC.
P.O. Box 68385 Seattle, Washington 98188
(206) 242-3724



INTRODUCTION:

Seaway Construction, Inc. was organized as a general contracting firm in July 1975. The company was incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington in March 1980.

The primary focus of the company's construction activities is commercial construction, both new structures and renovation. Commercial work provides 80% of total revenue. Residential building contributes the remaining 20%.

We have a 13 year history of providing good quality construction work at competitive prices for a variety of clients. We take pride in our work.

The officers of Seaway Construction, Inc. have resided in the Seattle-Tacoma area for 25 years. They have participated in a variety of civic and charitable activities in the area. They bring to the company a wide range of experience and skills in the area of finance, accounting, business and construction management.

PRODUCT/SERVICE

1. Commercial Construction
 - a. Building Renovation - all phases
 - b. New construction - low rise structures 1-3 stories
2. Residential Construction
 - a. Single Family Houses
 - b. Multiple Units 1-3 stories

PLANT FACILITIES:

The company's office is located at 11225 - 8th Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98188, near the city of Burien in South King County.

We have easy access to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, South Center Shopping Mall, Renton, Kent, Auburn, Interstate 5 North and South, I-90, 405, Highway 99, The Boeing Company and other South Seattle and King County industrial areas.

OWNERS AND STAFF:

The officers, key staff and associates of Seaway Construction, Inc. are:

Barbara H. Pool, President

Has 17 years experience in Accounting, Financial and Construction Management.

John P. Pool, Secretary/Treasurer and Construction Manager

Has 12 years experience in construction management. He was formerly with the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

William C. Crocker, Project Superintendent

Has 15 years experience in carpentry and jobsite management.

Edward James, Cement Mason Foreman

He has 35 years experience working in all phases of concrete and road construction.

Ashok Nair, Plumbing Foreman

He is a licensed plumber with 11 years experience in all phases of commercial and residential plumbing. He is also a Vocational Plumbing Instructor.

Mohammad Pezeshk, Designer (Associate)

Has a Masters Degree in Architecture from the University of Washington. He has eight years experience in design and project management.

Robert D. Baetge, P.E., Estimator

He has a degree in Civil Engineering from Seattle University.

He has 20 years experience in estimating and project management.

COMMERCIAL CLIENTS:

U.S. Navy

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (METRO)

Port of Seattle

U.S. Department of the Interior

State of Washington Department of Transportation

General Services Administration

Seattle City Light

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION:

City of Seattle, Department of Community Development

Seattle Housing Authority

Sequoia Enterprises

SUMMARY:

We are an experienced professionally managed company.

We are a legitimately owned and operated Minority Women's Business Enterprise.

Our company is certified as Minority Women's Business Enterprise by the City of Seattle's Human Rights Department, METRO, King County, the State of Washington's Office of Minority and Women's Enterprise, Pierce County and the State of Washington's Department of Transportation.



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HISTORY OF FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SEATTLE

In 1886, Seaborn J. Collins organized a small Sunday School band held in various homes of persons of African Methodist Episcopal persuasion. One hundred years later, after much work and prayer, this organization is now known as First African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest and one of the most prestigious black institutions in Seattle.

First Church has a history of bold leadership that has laid an enduring foundation through the grace of God. Mr. Collins was one such leader. In 1890, Mr. Collins, along with laity members I.I. Walker, John T. Gayton, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Roy, Fred Lawrence and C.H. Harvey, transformed the Sunday School Band into a church. The first minister assigned to the congregation was Reverend L.S. Blakeney. On August 13, 1891, the church was incorporated. Signatures on the corporate charter are those of Pastor Blakeney, Secretary Milton Roy, Treasurer George H. Grose and lay-persons S.J. Collins, Alfred P. Freeman, R.R. Brown and J.C. Blocker.

On a sizable lot in the Central Area, S.J. Collins converted a large dwelling into a place of worship. The property was purchased on September 2, 1890, for \$2,000.00 at 10% interest; an unusually high rate in those days, indicative of barriers erected against most black ventures. This house was the parsonage, as well as the parishioners' primary place of worship. Numerous structural improvements were made, and the building served adequately for several years. It was called Jones Street Church, taking its name from what is now 14th Avenue.

The congregation continued to grow through the turn of the century. The original sanctuary was replaced by the present edifice in 1912, and a separate parsonage was provided for succeeding pastors. The principal mortgage on the building was the large sum of \$10,000.00, but this small group possessed courage, plus a desire to worship in freedom and dignity. Thus they ventured forth, with faith and determination.

In June 1921, during the pastorate of Reverend J. Logan Craw, this same mortgage was burned; a major milestone in First Church history. In 1923, with an eye toward expansion, two lots located north of the original site were purchased. By December 1938, the mortgage for this property was also burned, under the pastorate of Rev. Fred A. Hughes.

World War II and the years after swelled Seattle's black population with laborers from the Bremerton Shipyards and the Boeing Company. Many were enamored with life in the Pacific Northwest and stayed. This migration increased the congregation and rendered the existing church inadequate. In 1950, a new building program began under the leadership of Reverend C.D. Toliver. By August 1955, \$100,000.00 worth of major additions had been made. They included: enlargement of the sanctuary, a new wing for religious education, a kitchen, nursery and choir facilities. In 1959, property to the east and south of the building was purchased and eventually became parking areas.

The 60's, along with social upheaval and racial unrest, brought new challenges to the congregation at First Church, some being: 1) Christianity's role in a changing moral atmosphere, 2) maintaining its effectiveness and relevancy in a modern society, and 3) providing guidance in the continuing fight against racism and discrimination in the black community. Into this caldron stepped Reverend Dr. John H. Adams and in the tradition of bold leadership, he took First Church to the struggle's forefront.

The times dictate the man, and Reverend Adams was a man for the time. In addition to being pastor, he was also a community-wide leader, influential in decisions that affected the entire city and its future course. He was co-founder of the Central Area Motivation Program (C.A.M.P.) and the Central Area Citizens Committee (C.A.C.C.) in 1964, plus vice-chairman of Seattle Opportunities Industrializations Center (S.O.I.C.). Reverend Adams believed that advancement of black goals must be intertwined with broader city-wide objectives. In his words: "I am a citizen of the community, as well as a citizen of the ghetto. I will work in the overall community of which the ghetto is a part. They must move to achieve 'community'".

The early 70's brought much economic growth to First A.M.E. Guided by Reverend Solomon Hill (1969-1971) and Reverend Cecil Murray (1971-1977), the church purchased the Imperial Apartments at 1427 E. Pike, the Texada Apartments at 1128 - 13th and entered into negotiation for the then newly built Bryant Manor complex at 18th and Yesler Way. These purchases broke new ground in First Church involvement with housing for Senior Citizens and low-income families.

Bryant Manor Complex, built for two (2) million dollars, offered a completely new opportunity for First Church. It was acquired under the leadership of Reverend Cecil Murray. This acquisition represented a joint venture between First A.M.E. Church and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.). Reverend Murray brought inspiration to the youth of First Church and the community. He initiated the Commission of Social Concerns which included voter registration, and the Prison Ministry. He organized the F.A.M.E. Young Adult Choir during his leadership. A \$40,000.00 mortgage was paid off and a \$25,000.00 renovation project to the sanctuary was completed.

In 1977, Reverend Dr. Fred Stephens was assigned to First Church. Dr. Stephens believed that our church reflected love of God, so many improvements were made to the buildings and grounds. Reverend Stephens organized the Men's Brotherhood and the Chancel Choir. He was instrumental in widening the participation of our church members in the Commission on Social Concerns which included Voter Registration and The Prison Ministry. This program has been inspiration to all participants.

Reverend Dr. James H. Oxley's appointment as pastor of First Church in 1983 heralded a new program toward modernization and renewed community involvement. Under Reverend Oxley's leadership, the church has taken more responsibility for its housing and day care programs. An \$151,000.00 renovation of the sanctuary, plus refurbishing of restroom facilities has been completed. Future goals include the development of a much needed educational wing. The Prison Ministry Program flourished. More Prisons were included.

On October 3, 1984, Mayor Charles Royer signed City Ordinance #11928, designating First Church as a historical landmark. This document, co-signed by City Councilman Norm Rice, states that First A.M.E. Church is a "significant" way with major aspects of Seattle's cultural, political and economic heritage.

In summary, First African Methodist Episcopal Church has a rich and deep history, steeped in tradition, rooted in Christianity and the A.M.E. doctrine of racial self-help, self-esteem plus religious freedom. From 17 original parishioners, our rolls have grown to over 2,000 and, by the grace of God, we have reached 100 years of service.

This is another major milestone of which we can be proud, but still merely a marker. Thanking God for His blessings upon this congregation, let us go into the next century with the same faith, plus determination, that brought us through the first. And let us strive, in soul and spirit, to follow the Gospel of Christ:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:29-30

Researched by Willie McClarron



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THE BLACK PRESS: WE WISH TO PLEAD OUR OWN CAUSE

By Connie Bennett Cameron

Ever since the first Black newspaper was published in 1827, Blacks have always felt a sense of pride, protection and an inner sense of strength through the Black Press, that comes with knowing that true freedom exists only when we take it upon ourselves to do for ourselves.

The motto of the Black Press, "We wish to plead our own cause, too long have others done it for us," stands out boldly and speaks courageously for itself. It rests on the laurels of a conscientious group of people who know what it's like to be lynched, fire-hosed, spat upon, and other turn-the-other-cheek maneuvers we one helplessly and painfully had to endure.

We thank God those days are behind us now. However, had it not been for the Black Press, the history of such injustices may never have come to pass. And the likes of Dr. King and others may never have taken their rightful places in history. It has been the experience of the Black Press to speak out against slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, intimidation, incrimination, apartheid, and other injustices.

With the fact firmly established that the role of the Black Press is to provide economic, political, social and religious freedom, let us take a look at some of the historical facts surrounding the National and Northwest Black Press.

After President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 many Black editors thought their mission was accomplished. By 1870, there were only 10 Black newspapers, a far cry from what was really needed to fight the pressing issues of the day.

By 1877, a rebirth of the Black Press emerged and by 1880, 31 Black papers had joined the scene to fight mob violence, Ku Klux Klan activities and lynching.

By 1890, a record 154 Black newspapers were fighting new forms of slavery --- segregation and sharecropping.

* At the turn of the century in 1905, a rural Georgian who put himself through college, founded the Chicago Defender, one of the most widely read newspapers in the country. Robert Sengstacke Abbott's efforts made him a millionaire, and soon therefore many other newspapers came on the scene, inspired by his ambition and success.

Abbott had no children of his own, but he raised and educated one of his brother's children, John H. Sengstacke, who took over the Defender in 1940 after Abbott's death.

* In 1940, John H. Sengstacke, sensing a need to pool the resources of the Black Press to strengthen its work as an advocate for racial equality, founded the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association.

Today, NNPA has over 200 member publications, reaching millions of homes. It is one of the strongest and most respected voices in America.

* Major Black magazines that have come and remained through the years include publishing tycoon John H. Johnson's Ebony and JET magazines, and Essence and Black Enterprise.

The Black Press of the Pacific Northwest: Significant facts:

* The first newspaper for Blacks in the Northwest was founded in 1892. The Seattle Standard was founded by Britain Exendine.

* In 1894, the Seattle Republican was founded by Horace R. Cayton. Although operated by a Black man, for almost two decades, the paper directed its readership toward both Black and White audiences throughout Washington.

* In 1902, The Searchlight was founded. It was specifically directed to Seattle's Black community. It eventually failed, as did the Spokane Citizen and the Tacoma Forum.

* The Facts Newspaper, founded in 1961 by Fitzgerald Beaver, is the longest running Black newspaper in the Northwest.

* The Seattle Medium Newspaper, founded in 1970 by Chris Bennett, is an offshoot of several other newspapers and two radio stations, including the Tacoma True Citizen (1974), Seattle Metro Homemaker Shopper's Guide (1974), Soul Town Review Magazine (1987), KRIZ Radio 1420 AM and soon-to-be KAAR 1460 AM in Portland.

* In 1983, Virginia Taylor began publishing Tacoma's Northwest Dispatch.

* The history of the Black Press expands over 160 years, and is still going strong. In fact, its leaders are more determined now than ever to fight the good fight of faith. So much has changed through the years for Black America. Hands that once picked cotton are now picking presidents. And it is up to the Black Press to ensure that the voice of Black America be heard loud and clear.

CHRIS BENNETT: DEAN OF THE BLACK PRESS IN THE NORTHWEST

By Connie Bennett Cameron

Chris Bennett sits behind this desk at his two-story stacks of pink message slips. It's early morning still; already Bennett is swamped with messages, and his phone is ringing off the hook.

There are obvious frustrations at times in running any business. But there are also the rewards, however small they may appear. While some seek gratification in the power and monetary rewards successful business brings, Bennett's gratification lies in the fact that he has helped his community move steps ahead toward achieving economic and political freedom.

Much of Bennett's strong desire to help his community comes from a Southern upbringing. He knows first-hand what it's like to be poor, and what it's like to be discriminated against. He knows what racism is all about, and he doesn't flinch when it comes to speaking out against injustices either through his newspapers or his radio station. "That's what the Black Press is all about. That's why it was founded in the first place. If we don't fight for justice, who will?"

Bennett started The Medium with little more than a prayer. But as he grew, he brought others in the family from Georgia to help them, and they in turn helped him. "That's the kind of person he has always been. He knew the hardships we faced back there, and he was determined not to live the rest of his life that way, and he wanted to help others in the family do the same," said Mrs. Anderson, his mother.

Bennett's three newspapers --- The Seattle Medium, Metro Homemaker's Shopping Guide, and Tacoma True Citizen --- have done much to uplift the spirits of the community. The publications have taken bold stands against drugs, child abuse, discrimination, racism and other hard-pressing issues. They have won several local and national awards for journalism excellence in news, feature writing and advertising. A trophy case in the lobby of The Medium displays many of the awards.

In addition, a journalism internship program at The Medium had played a pivotal role in the careers of many Black journalists who have used their training and experience as an opportunity to effectuate change at major dailies and national publications. A similar program now exists at many Black newspapers around the country.

The Bennett family's communications empire also consists of a regional full-color entertainment magazine, Soul Town Review, founded just last year, and a Seattle-based radio station, KRIZ, acquired four years ago. The 24-hour KRIZ 1420 AM, now located in the heart of the Black community, is the only Black-owned and operated soul station in the Pacific Northwest.

Bennett recently purchased another station, KAAR 1460 AM, in the Portland area. The 24-hour full-power station is pending FCC approval. It will take on the same format as KRIZ, including regular and religious programming.

Bennett is also a man of national stature. He served two consecutive terms (1983-87) as president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Last June, he was instrumental in helping the NNPA elect its first woman president, Patricia Thomas, who published the Milwaukee Community Journal.

In 1985, he was voted the prestigious Publisher of the Year by fellow publishers. The motto, "All for one, one for all," became the trademark of his remarkable administration.

Often referred to as the Dean of the Black Press in the Northwest because of his outstanding contributions, Bennett attributes much of his success to prayer and a caring and devoted family, including wife Gloria, sons Bernard, Jawann, Khalid, and daughter Malika. Of the future, the 44-year-old Georgia native said, "I believe it is my mission through the newspapers and radio stations to help set my people free economically, spiritually and politically. With God's help, we will see the Promised Land..."

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Hank Roney

For over 30 years Hank Roney has been self-employed in construction projects from implementation and development to completion. Hank's work spread across nine (9) states in the East, Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

To the many who know him, Hank Roney is a complex man: entrepreneur, businessman, community leader, activist; however, one simple goal has run through his entire life, that of working to improve the lives of Black people. Whether he was involved in one of the many construction projects, leading civil rights organization in the 1960's, negotiating affirmative action ordinances in the 1970's, or being politically active in the 1980's, he has always struggled to demonstrate that Blacks must share in the economic wealth of this country. Through his many endeavors, some noticeable, some unrecognized, he has made a contribution to the State of Washington, the Northwest, and to the many people whose lives he has touched.

Hank grew up in a small Texas community. Orphaned when he was seven, Hank's ties with his aunt and other family were deep and strong, strong enough to carry him through the jungle of poverty and violence familiar to many southern-born Blacks.

From his brothers, who had learned their crafts from their father, Hank learned all the buildings skills. When other boys were out playing games, Hank was building and rebuilding a brick wall under the critical eyes of his brothers, pouring concrete and papering houses. He perfected his skills in trade schools, but also studied music in Hawaii and attended other colleges.

Hank Roney came to Seattle in 1954, and was one of the first Black general contractors in the Northwest. He was also the first Black issued a contractor's license by the State of Washington. "Construction is a tough business," he said once. It's very difficult for a Black to establish a business. "Many times I was ready to give up, but then I would see someone who was less fortunate, and I kept on fighting." Today Hank Roney has to his credit several hundred construction and remodeling jobs in the state of Washington.

Hank was able to pass some of his expertise to his daughter, Theresa, and founded Global Consultants/Construction, Inc. Theresa was named President, and Hank is Executive Vice-President, his wife Elizabeth is Secretary Treasurer. Global has worked on projects as diverse as the West Seattle Bridge, the 3rd Lake Floating Bridge, mixing and placing 28,000 yards of concrete on the Cedar Falls Dam project. Global as a Joint Venture Partner won the "Build America" and the "Excellence In Construction" awards for the construction of the Duwamish Head Outfall Pipe Line for the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle in 1986.

He organized with his brother in 1961, the first organization for blacks in construction in the Pacific Northwest. He has been active with the central Contractors Association, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the N.A.A.P., the Urban League, and is president of the National Association, Northwest Chapter. He served on the King County Democrat Central Committee, and was elected to represent King County Democrat at the state level of the Democrat Party.



CHARLENE WILLIAMS
 Owner
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Charlene had faith in the central area when other citizens, both black and white, were fleeing the area to escape from the racial turmoil of the 60's. She positioned her business at 2108 East Madison in 1968. She purchased her own building when they would not let women buy property without a husband.

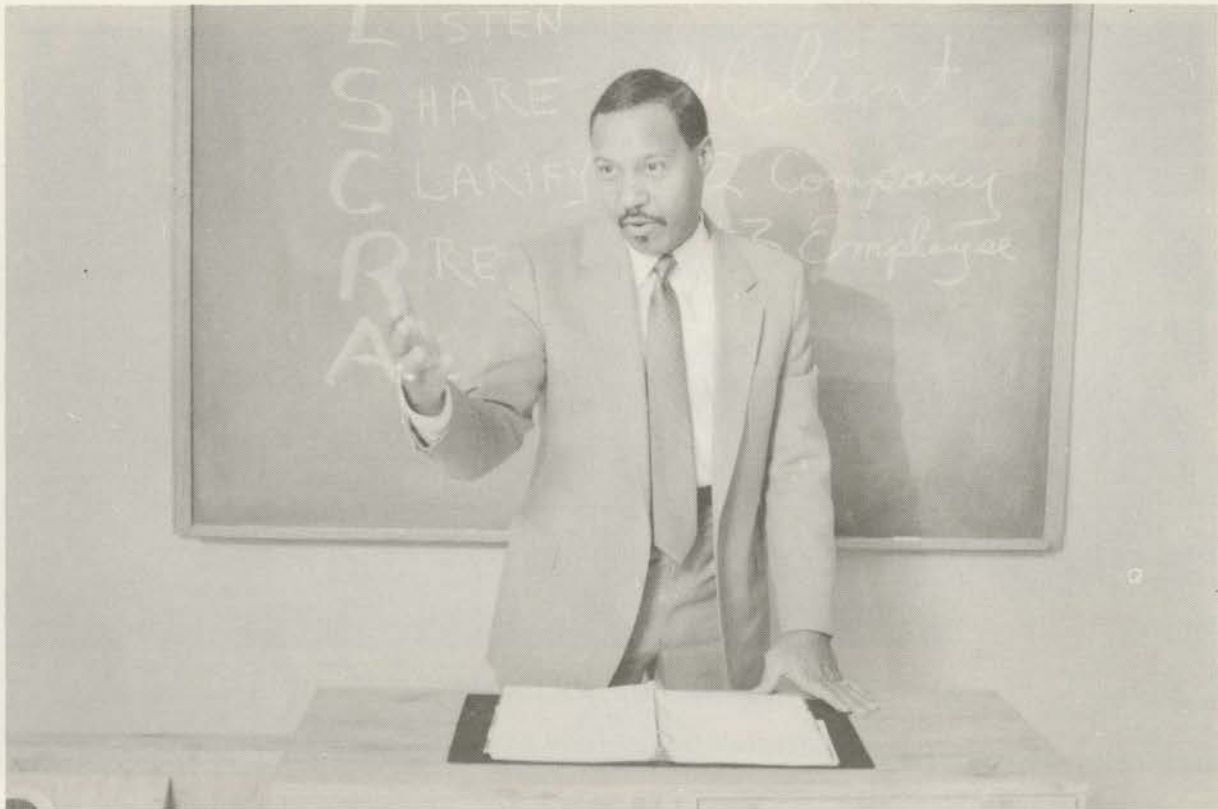
Her activities and accomplishments started early in life. At the age of 16 she completed high school. During the same year she also completed a clerk typist course. At the age of 17 she had obtained her license at the Edward's Beauty School.

She is a licensed Beauty Instructor. For 22 years she has received awards in her profession, especially in the areas of hair color, hair styling, and she is known nationally for her cosmetics for Dark Skin Tones.

"My dream is to make all women beautiful."

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1966 Co-founder - CAYA (Central Area Yough Association)
Ladies Guild
- 1966 The first black business person to donate money to the YWCA, Cherry Street location, for a fence.
- 1967 - 1968 Mardi Gras Festival Community Board
- 1970 SOIC Ladies Guild Board
- 1973 Chairman, Ebony Fashion Show National Council of Negro Women
- 1973 Miss USA America Pageant
- 1983 Delegate - Affiliate 7 - National Hair Dressers Association, State Convention -- was sent to help clean up some of the money problems.
- 1983 Appointed by Charles Royer, Mayor of Seattle, for a two-year term, to the Small Business Task Force Board.
- 1984 Founder - Central Area Chamber of Commerce
- 1984 Member Women Business Exchange



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A nationally respected authority on the care and styling of textured hair, Mr. Johnny Guillory is the owner of the Northwest's two largest salons that specialize in the care and styling of textured hair. Mr. Guillory began his hairdressing career in 1964 and in 1972 he and his wife Pattee, operating under the corporate name of Jopaco, established their first salon in Seattle's Rainier Valley. Mr. Guillory opened his second salon, Emerald City Hair Designers, in downtown Seattle in 1986.

At Jopaco we feel the achievements of an organization are the result of the combined efforts of each individual in the organization working toward common objectives. These objectives should be realistic, should be clearly understood by everyone in the organization, and should reflect the organization's basic character and personality.

If the organization is to fulfill its objectives, it should strive to meet certain other fundamental requirements:

FIRST, there should be highly capable, innovative people at all levels throughout the organization. Moreover, these people should have the opportunity -- through continuing programs of training and education -- to upgrade their skills and capabilities. Techniques that are good today will be outdated in the future, and people should always be looking for new and better ways to do their work. We emphasize this through our training program at our downtown facility where all our stylists are instructed in the most efficient way to serve their clients.

SECOND, the organization should have objectives and leadership which generate enthusiasm at all levels. There can be no place, especially among the people charged with management responsibility, for half-hearted interest or half-hearted effort.

THIRD, the organization should conduct its affairs with uncompromising honesty and integrity. People at every level should be expected to adhere to the highest standards of business ethics, and to understand that anything less is totally unacceptable. We are experienced professional hair designers. Our primary job is to provide service to our clients and over the years our salons have established a solid reputation for dealing fairly and honestly with our clients.

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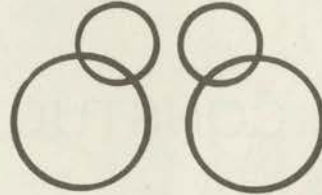
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KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER
LADIES AUXILIARY

JANUARY 27, 1988

This Catholic National Organization was named in honor of Peter Claver, the Apostle of the Slaves. Peter Claver was born in Northern Spain. He cared for the sick and dying in the most unselfish manner. Peter Claver met every slave ship on its arrival; bringing with him food and other needed items that were necessary for the survival of the slaves.

St. Peter Claver Organization was founded November 7, 1909 at Mobile, Alabama and incorporated July 12, 1911. The Fourth Degree was authorized in 1917. The Junior Knights were authorized January 14, 1917. In August 1922 the Ladies Auxiliary was authorized and its constitution adapted at Opelousas, Louisiana. The Junior Daughters were established in 1930.

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary was organized in Seattle, Washington, June 28, 1980; therefore becoming part of the National Order of Peter Claver. The National headquarters is located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Junior Daughters were organized in Seattle in 1982. This Organization is domiciled at Immaculate Conception Church; which is pastored by Father John Cornelious.

The Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver are committed to the spiritual and Social Programs of the Community. They contribute to worthwhile causes, award scholarships, visit the Rest Homes and the Sick, adopt senior citizens, help feed the poor, help to develop youth and participate in various parish and community activities. The Organization also provide social and intellectual fellowship for its members as well as proper guidance.

"Where there are two or three gathered in My Name, there will I be also."

The biblical quote was a true testimony of faith for the origin of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. A small group of people who wanted a Black Baptist Church gathered, in 1890, at a storefront on Fourteenth and East Madison. They included Mr. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Butler, Mrs. Braxton, Mrs. Edmunds, W.H. Teemer, Mrs. Eliza Washington, Mrs. Eliza Shephard, and others whose names are not recalled.

The budding congregation was very similar to a tree which, although having withstood the "sands of time," had battled gusty winds, torrential rain storms and eroding soil around its roots. There were a series of pastors, changes in locations, fluctuations in membership, and many financial crises which rocked the struggling churchgoers. For instance, in a ten year span, the church occupied four locations: the Young Naturalist Hall at 4th and University in 1894; the Peoples Church at 3rd and East Madison in 1896; a site at 2nd and Spring in 1899; and a building at 9th and Olive in 1903. Three years later, property was purchased at 11th and Union.

At times there was happiness in the struggles. The construction of the first church edifice in 1906 was cause for rejoicing. The building was a one room wooden frame structure. A boardwalk crossed a gully in front of the church. The windows were plain glass panes and placed high enough to permit light. In the back of the pulpit stood the choir stand. For heat, a pot-bellied stove was placed in the center of the room. The pews were backless wooden benches.

Later, the structure was raised upon stilts and a partial basement added. The basement was used as a dining area and for Sunday afternoon fellowship. While housed at this location the leadership of the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Carter had profound effect upon the viability of the Church. The congregation grew, and the mortgage was paid.

Although the 11th Avenue site was a credit to its founders, the growth of the membership necessitated seeking a new location. In 1918, a beautiful eight room house and a lot, eighty feet by one-hundred twenty-two feet, were purchased at 19th and East Madison. After remodeling, the house became the parsonage. Dr. Felix Cooper chaired the Building Committee whose efforts resulted in groundbreaking ceremonies for a new building. Upon completion of the edifice, the local Cayton Weekly carried the following...

"The new church building is fifty-three feet wide and eighty-seven feet long with a seating capacity of about seven hundred. It is well equipped with ladies' parlor, choir rooms, baptistry, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, pastor's study and gallery. The basement is equipped with everything to make it a modern workshop for the Sunday School. This property is an evidence of the Church pride of its members and race in general in Seattle. It is valued at \$30,000.00 and bespeaks the sacrifices made by members and friends."

The wisdom of the membership in the creation of such a utilitarian edifice had far reaching effects on the role of the church. It became, and remains, a center for religious, educational, political and community activities.

In 1940, two lots adjacent to the church were purchased. The size of the membership reflected the economic periods of depression or prosperity. A significant period of growth was seen following World War II. Because a bus was purchased to transport children and adults, the Sunday School flourished. Women organized a missionary outreach program which served those at home and abroad. Nursery service during worship was created and Junior Church re-emerged with a greater emphasis on early religious training.

The desire and need for a new church structure led to the creation of the Building Fund whose Committee Chairperson was Mrs. Jessie Shields. The fund grew under three pastorates, and, in 1962, the parsonage was razed, making room for a new educational unit which was completed in 1963.

The present pastor, the Reverend Dr. Samuel B. McKinney, began his ministry to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church on February 1, 1958, and embarked upon a path of leadership that has provided a Federal Credit Union, a Preschool and Kindergarten, an Ethnic School, and an expanded program of spiritual development, Christian education and fellowship, greater missionary, social and civic outreach, and new construction.

In 1965, the membership celebrated its Diamond anniversary. Recognition was given to those who have been members of the Eleventh Street congregation and remained active in the church. They included: Mrs. B.H. Barrow, Mr. James E. Allen, Mrs. Lillie Smithea, Mr. Ernest White, Mr. Joe Staton, Mrs. Genevieve Roberts, Mrs. Elizabeth Wells, Mrs. V.M. Christian, Mr. James Davis, Mrs. Mable Parker. With apologies for any omissions, the church maintains gratitude for all of the great souls whose dreams and labors helped to make it the institution it is today.

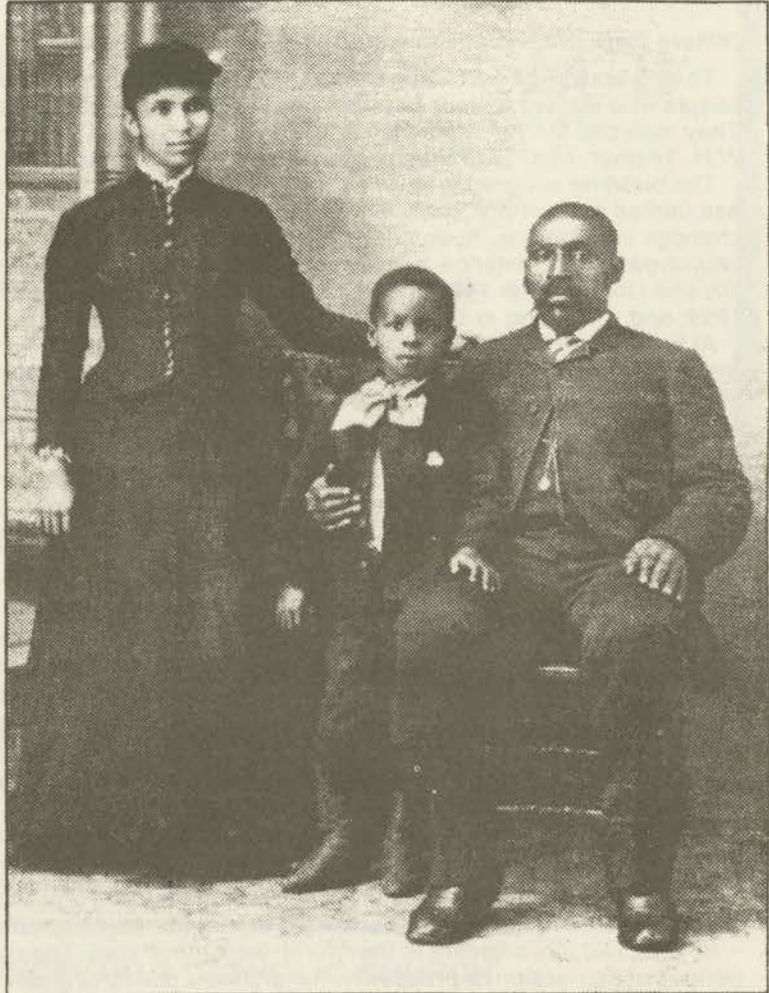
In 1974, the old church was razed and in March, 1976, Mt. Zion walked into its present sanctuary, a structure whose architecture and art reflect its African, Christian, early and contemporary history.

From humble beginnings to a place of prominence in religious and civic affairs in the greater Seattle area, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church looks forward to 1990, in which year it will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Regarded as the mother Church of Black Baptists in the Puget Sound area, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, pioneer church in the Pacific Northwest, stands as a tower of strength and good will to the community and welcomes the challenge of a larger measure of service.

WITHIN HER CITADELS, GOD HAS SHOWN HIMSELF A SURE DEFENSE.

AREA PIONEERS GAVE WANETA SCHOOL

Pictured at right are Ole Washington, his wife, Lucy, and their eldest son, Oley. The Washington family figured prominently in the Waneta School whose students are planning an all-school reunion Saturday, July 17, at St. Joseph's School. The Washington family donated the land for the Waneta School in April of 1901. When the land was given, it was stipulated that it be returned to the family when it was no longer needed for a school. That took place in 1944. The school building still stands and is used as a residence now. Mrs. Vivian Sears, Mabton Road, is the only surviving member of that family, one of seven children. She is 81 now and has a vivid recollection of the history of the area, known then as the Sage Valley. The Washington family came to that area in 1891, Mrs. Sears said, from Roslyn where they had worked in coal mines. The district, at that time, was designated as district #35 of Yakima County. Mrs. Sears remembers that Benton County had not yet been formed and Yakima County extended all the way to the Columbia River at Pasco.



Historical Sketch of the Sears Family.

A Look at a Black Family (Business Life)
Sunnyside, Yakima Valley, Washington State

1920 - 1930's Philip Sears born September 20, 1896

Vivien Washington born March 14, 1901

were wed April 29, 1920 and of that union (6) six children were born:

Veatha Sears Bell, Waynes Sears, Dona Sears Clash, Mark Sears Lucia Sears Newborn, and Paul Sears.

Philip and Vivien Sears was a forceful couple willing to pursue and endeavor on new horizons. Philip at the time of their marriage was employed by C. Speck Motors, a Chevrolet and Buick dealership in Sunnyside, Washington. Philip was a mechanic and worked in the service department. He also had great salesmanship skills. He desired to sell cars as well as work on them. He talked to Mr. Speck about being a salesman. Mr. Speck replied he liked his work and ability, but could not employ him as a salesman because he was black (negro). Philip was not daunted by Mr. Speck's decision. From that day Philip was self-employed.

In the following years Philip and Vivien moved into the business world. Entering the business world was not always easy with racial barriers and obstacles, but they worked hard to accomplish their goals.

In the early 1920's they purchased 20 acres of land from Martin Maloy, a black pioneer bachelor owning several pieces of property. The land they purchased was on the Sunnyside-Mabton Highway, Sunnyside, Yakima Valley, Washington. On the 20 acres they built and operated a gas station/grocery store. The station and grocery store was the first of its kind outside of a major town. The operations was located on the main highway connecting the Columbia River to the south over the Horse Heaven Hills. The gas and products sold were by Standard Oil and the grocery store products of the major labels of that era. Their business was brisk and Philip and Vivien worked hard. By then they had two young children with a third on the way. As time progressed their business location became an oasis serving the immediate area in the county as a neighborhood store. Customers came from miles around to buy gas, shop for groceries, use the telephone and to socialize. The central location of the business was also a beacon of welcome to weary travelers driving in from other states. For many newcomers both black and white it was their first stop in the state of Washington. On the remainder of the land was a traveler's campground, farming and diverse use.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's business was not as prosperous, so they sold the business and moved back to Vivien's parents home, Ole and Lucy Washington in the Waneta District, Sunnyside, Washington.

1930-1940's Philip never let the adversity of the late 1920's and early 1930's stop him or his imagination and creative mind. Philip wanted to provide for his family, so he contracted out his service to farmers. He created a new business of hauling fertilizer (manure); he constructed and adopted a horse driven fertilizer spreader to truck mount and mechanically operated.

The family moved back to the 20 acres in the mid 1930's. From the mid 1930's to the early 1940's the family was engaged in many businesses. Farming, raising fresh produce, major crop watermelons, shipping to markets in Seattle and Portland by the railroad boxcar loads. Sand was also an item sold from the sandpit in the amounts from a shovel to truck loads for concrete use to private. The family was always seeking new ways to keep things going. During the time before the toss away era the family built and operated a burlap sack repair shop. Burlap was used to package and ship many products. The height of the pre-war days the family opened and operated a junk yard. The specialty was used rubber tires, tires were a hot item as we were going into World War II.

1942-1955

1942 was an eventful year. Philip and Vivien Sears opened up yet another business, The Sears Music and Exchange in Sunnyside, Washington. The business at first sold new and used furniture, second hand goods, pianos and musical instruments. A name change of the business was Sears Music Store, at that time they were selling Baldwin, Ivers and Pond pianos, Conn organs, major brand instruments and accessories. Many marketing media were used to promote the business, live radio show from the store on KIRO radio station, Sunnyside live on set T.V. show KIMA Yakima. Weekly jam sessions were held at the store on Saturday night giving aspiring musicians a chance to share their musical talents. Philip would be there playing the piano, drums or marimba. The Sears Music Store was involved in many, many community events: Co-sponsors of the Community Concert Series bringing to Sunnyside many artists; Hazel Scott - Black pianist and vocalist; Todd Duncan - Black tenor first to sing Porgy and Bess, now on faculty at Howard University; DePau Chorus - Black Male Chorus; Wings Jordan Choir - International Black Gospel Choir; Country and Western Singer - Ray Acuf, now of Nashville Fame. For all these varied events Sears Music Store provided 9 foot Baldwin grand piano, Conn organs and other instruments. The business sponsored amateur shows at the local theatre during matinee time. All contestants received a prize.

The Sears were always in the community and committed to their family. It would not be unusual to see the family at affairs, county fair, the drive-in movies, revivals, and crusades. The Sears were members of Mt. Hope Baptist Church, Yakima, Washington. A weekend trip might find them in Seattle visiting friends and attending Mt. Zion Baptist Church where Rev. Benjamin Davis was a close family friend. Many times business and pleasure would take them to Spokane where they conducted business with Roy Goodmana pianos and the Oslund Music Store. The Spokane trip always included a visit to Calvary Baptist Church and Rev. Reed, a close family friend dating back to the 1880's in Illinois. The Sears also sponsored a gospel singing group from Spokane. They performed at several churches in the Yakima Valley.

1940-Present

In the 1940's and on, the children began to make their mark in the world: Veatha Sears married William Bell, William is a master brick mason and masonry architect. In the 1960's the Bells went into the masonry design, material, construction business. William was the design, material, construction change person; Veatha, business partner, administrative assistant, bookkeeper. The Bells are now retired.

Wayne Sears (deceased) was involved in various labor and contracting.

Dona Sears Clash, graduate of Central Washington University, Ellensburg. Education and Art Major. A very talented artist, she has pursued the profession of Education. She was of the first Black teachers in Seattle, teaching at Whitworth School, Columbia City, Seattle, Washington 1950-1955. Dona is presently a first grade teacher with the Grandview Public Schools. Dona and husband, Samuel have two children, Vivian and Philip.

Mark Sears, after completing a stint in the army, employed by Safeway, Brookside Division, Grandview - 1955-to present - position supervisor in mid management. Mark and wife Gwendolyn have two children, Martin and Leanvia.

Lucia Sears Newborn, graduate of Central Washington University, Ellensburg. Master's Program, University of Washington focus Early Childhood Education. Employed by Renton Vocational Technical Institute as instructor and consultant in Early Childhood Education.

Paul Sears, employed in heavy construction, truck driver and heavy equipment operator. Paul and wife Celia have three children, Paul, Jeffery and Jennifer. Paul is also a master brick mason.

Our mother, Vivien Washington Sears, still lives on the family farm where we were all raised. Mother will be 87 years young on March 14, 1988. Mother has been through many experiences, happy, sad, burdens and grief, all things that comes with time. After our father's death in November 1955, Mother kept going. Gradually getting out of the music business. We went into the cattle industry producing and raising angus and herford cattle and alfalfa hay. Engaged in the cattle business with Mother were Mark, Lucia and Paul. All the family contributed in support, time and energy. The farm now is not in crops, dormat but vital waiting to be revived to carry on the legacy established by Philip and Vivien Sears and carrying back to our grandparents, Ole and Lucy Washington (mother's parents), roots established here in Roslyn 1889 and the homestead in the 1890's Sunnyside, Washington.

Lucia Sears Newborn
Daughter
February, 1988

