

Vivien Washington-Sears



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Vivien Washington-Sears was Born March 14, 1901 in the homestead claim shanty of her parents Ole and Lucy Washington. Their permanent home in the same area of Grandview was built in 1903. Their home was a hospitable haven for friends, relatives and newcomers. Among the numerous friends were:

"BIG JIM" Shepherdson

Recruiter of Black Miners in the Eastern States.

Mrs. Idella Stanton-Robinson

Former owner of present site, on South 1st and Mead, of Fred Meyers and Safeway.

Vivien Washington-Sears attended Grandview public schools, graduating in 1919 as an honor student. She married Philip Sears April 20, 1920 and they became a forceful couple in the continuing history of the Grandview-Sunnyside Area.

They owned and operated the first gas/grocery store between Yakima and Prosser, WA - 1925. It was located on the Sunnyside-Mabton Highway, the only state highway running north and south to the Columbia River.

They also owned and operated a New and Used Exchange, Sunnyside, WA - 1942. Later switched to new pianos and organ rolls.

The site of the present Sears home was bought from Martin Malloy, Ann Arbor, Michigan, a trained Black Landscaper, in 1925.

Mrs. Sears made civil rights a daily practice -- ceasing to do business with firms and suppliers who made derogatory remarks about blacks.

Horseback riding to Grandview High School was a daily happening and she became a good horsewoman, adept in animal husbandry. After the death of her husband and armed with his knowledge, she began cattle raising. She is the