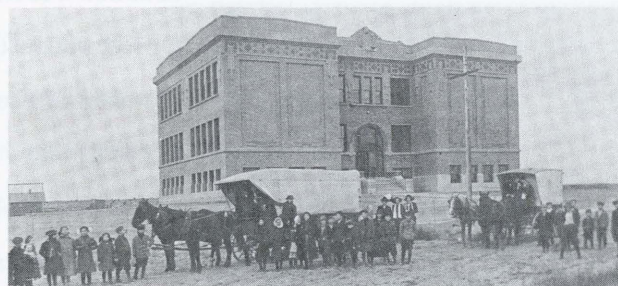


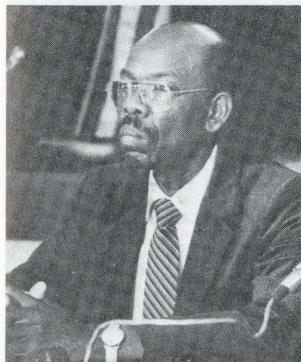
In 1943, the Federal government began construction of the Hanford Works. The growth and expansion of the area was tremendous. The Tri-Cities were transformed from sleepy farm towns into bustling communities. The combined Tri-City population in 1910 was 13,000 soaring to 65,000 by 1950. The black population, 25 in 1910 increased to 2,000, in 1950. North Richland, a separate community near Richland, had a black population of three hundred living in government barracks and trailers. The blacks were employed primarily as construction workers at the Hanford Works.



*Students and horse-drawn school "buses" in front of Whittier School on Pasco's East Side, Circa 1912*

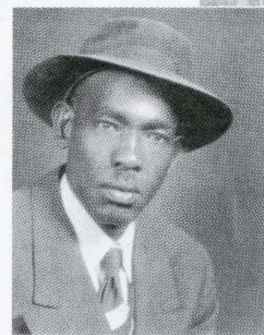
It was during this boom period that more black pioneers, lured by the opportunities Hanford presented, began to venture into, and stay, in the Tri-City area. By the mid-1940's, 1200 blacks lived in East Pasco and their children attended Whittier School, which was closed in 1965. Though they found economic doors were being held warily open for them, other doors were, like the places they left, closed shut.

Blacks entering Pasco or Kennewick were systematically steered into East Pasco, the only housing in the area available to those with dark skin. Blacks brought to work specifically on the Hanford Project were assigned to segregated barracks and trailers in North Richland, and found it very difficult to find housing in Richland. Warned to "get out of Kennewick by sundown," blacks avoided the town which would later be called, sadly, the "Birmingham of the North".



*Joe Jackson, 1st black mayor*

Despite these difficulties, blacks came and stayed in the Tri-Cities. Tom Jackson left Arkansas in 1948 and settled with his family in Pasco. Tom and Lula Jackson remained in Pasco and the family has left its mark in the area's history. His son Joe, is a Pasco city councilman, and a former mayor of Pasco, the



*Tom and Lula Jackson*