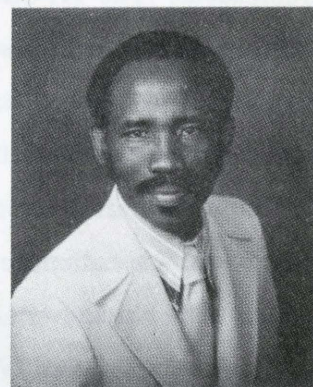




*Michael Jackson, former Seahawks
linebacker 1981*

first black to hold this office. His other son, Webster, is Personnel Purchasing Officer for the City of Pasco. His grandson was a Pasco High football standout, member of the 1978 Rose Bowl Championship Football team at the University of Washington, and a professional football player with the Seattle Seahawks.



*Webster Jackson works for
the City of Pasco*

Other families have been influential in Pasco's growth as well. Virgie and Richard Robinson came to Pasco in 1949 from Seattle, and settled permanently. Virgie was instrumental in getting Kurtzman Park in Pasco completed and was its first director. The park is home to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Youth, a recreational facility completed in 1975. The Robinson's son Ricky and his wife Rosalyn were largely responsible for the Miss Black Junior Miss Pageant, which awarded scholarship funds to young black women for college.



*Virgie and Richard Robinson
Photo courtesy of The Tri-City Herald*

Owning property was virtually impossible for blacks. Outside of East Pasco, owners refused to sell to black customers. Local banks in turn, redlined East Pasco, refusing to loan to residents from East Pasco. But some blacks found ways around this financial hindrance. J.D. Evans financed and bought his night club, the Dew Drop Inn, by having his white lawyer buy the property for him. Similarly, in Richland, a real estate broker bought the land for Judson Phillips, on which he located his tailoring business near what is now Seattle First Bank.