

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 Leannia.

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