

GILES GRAVES, 1888-1985

GILES GRAVES was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1888; his sister, Zola Maie, had been born in Kansas 6 years earlier. Before the turn of the century, after receiving training in chiropody in Chicago, their parents, JAMES and LETITIA (Denny) GRAVES, moved their family to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Graves then opened their first business of barbering and early-day chiropody, in Lincoln, Nebraska, going by wagon back and forth from Council Bluffs. It was in this surrounding that Giles received his first training in chiropody from his mother and father.

Hearing of opportunities in the Northwest, Letitia Graves came out to Seattle to set up housekeeping. She returned to Iowa to help the family pack. The Graves moved to Seattle in 1906 where they established family businesses, first in wig-making and hairdressing, and eventually converting to their studied practice of chiropody in the People's Building on 2nd and Pike. James Graves was able to enjoy the Seattle practice only a short time, as he died in 1910.

Zoe remained in Chicago where she married George Young. Their daughter, THEODOSIA, a current Seattle resident, was born in 1910. When she moved with Theodosia to Seattle, Zoe also worked in the family businesses, eventually opening her own electrolysis study next door. She went on to become one of Seattle's famed art collectors, with her gallery in her home on Lakeview Place. Zoe died in 1972.

When Giles first came to Seattle with his parents, he attended night school. In 1914, he married CLAUDINE WRIGHT, the daughter of BONITA (Riley) and ARTHUR WRIGHT of Tacoma. Giles and Claudine parented two children: IRENE, born in 1915 during their residency in Twin Falls, Idaho, and JAMES, born in Seattle in 1919. When James was still a baby, Claudine became ill and died suddenly in 1921.

After her death, Giles returned to Chicago and received his degree as a Doctor of Podiatry at the same school his parents had attended. Returning to Seattle, he joined the flourishing family practice in the People's Building. Letitia Graves was still actively working at the time of her death in 1952.

Giles met DAESIE C. LAW when she applied for work in the office. He and Daesie married in 1934, and built their family home on Mount Baker overlooking Lake Washington. Daesie became one of the earliest minority teachers in the Seattle Public School System, having received her master's degree in education from the University of Washington. Their daughter, ROSELEN, was born in 1936. Roselen now resides in Sacramento, California, where she is the senior neurodiagnostic technologist at Mercy General Hospital. Daesie Graves died in 1979, a half-year after their 39th wedding anniversary.

Giles became a deacon in the First Baptist Church, was an ardent gardener, and an excellent swimmer and bowler, winning awards in the senior citizen's league. He enjoyed golf and playing cards. He was honored with other "over-90" ROOTS in 1985. Giles Graves died in Seattle in September 1985 at the age of 97.

In Loving Memory of GILES GRAVES,
From His Daughter and His Grandsons: ROSELEN GRAVES RICE,
JAMES WESLEY GRAVES, LEIGHTON L. HUGHES, and DAVID J. HARRISON