

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM LANGWORTHY, SR.
and
IN RECOGNITION OF BESSIE LOU (HAWKINS) LANGWORTHY

WILLIAM (Willie) LANGWORTHY was born September 9, 1905 in Mansfield, Louisiana. He was the eldest son of Edward and Minervia (Harris) Langworthy.

BESSIE LOU (Sister) HAWKINS was born March 21, 1911 in Lake Providence, Louisiana. She was the only child of Louvinnia Hawkins; her father was Joseph Devenzenzi.

Bessie and Willie Langworthy were married March 22, 1925 in Gassoway, Louisiana. They moved to Eudora, Arkansas where Willie learned carpentry from his brother-in-law, Richard Reed. After 3 years, he contracted on his own, and the two became the only Black builders in this small "delta" town.

Bessie had a total of ten pregnancies, although only five of these children survived. She gave birth to 3 of their 5 children in Eudora: William (Buddy), Jr., November 15, 1933; Louvelle (deceased) August 1935; and Gloria Jean (Jeannie) December 7, 1943.

Willie moved to Seattle in July 1944 to prepare for the family's move there the following month. Not accepted in the Carpenters Union, Willie secured a job with the Naval Supply Depot at Pier 91. During their residence with Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones on 6th Avenue North, Bessie gave birth to their next two children: Frances Kay on December 1944, and Alice Faye on March 23, 1949.

In 1952 they purchased their home at 521 21st Avenue East where they resided until the death of Willie, Sr., on August 15, 1976.

Willie worked at Pier 91 from 1944 to 1967 as a carpenter until his retirement. Bessie was the consummate housewife and social "do-gooder." She nurtured not only her own family but numerous welfare children. Bessie also conducted a day care facility in their home for working parents. She had an open door policy for any and all children in need. Two of the foster children, Rita and Curtis Hamilton stayed in Bessie and Willie's household from infancy to adulthood.

