



One from the Present

Thurgood Marshall is the first man of acknowledged Black descent to ever sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. From 1940 to 1961 he was director of the Legal and Defense Fund of the NAACP.

President John Kennedy appointed him Solicitor General of the United States in 1961 and Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the Supreme Court in

1967 where he has served since. An Episcopalian, A Mason and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (the oldest Black Fraternity), he is an alumnus of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

His achievements include superintending the greatest change in the litany of civil rights since the Magna Carta. For we Blacks had never asked for alms or mercy only opportunity and justice.

Five from Garfield

A graduate of Seattle's Garfield High and of the University of Washington, **Louis E. Coaston** is a District Staff Manager assigned to Consumer Affairs.

At the University, Lou was a hot shot basketball player. His senior year basketball team finished second to Cal (Berkeley) in the conference.

No piker academically, Lou belonged to the elite Oval Club (upper classman's honorary society). He was secretary of the Lettermen's Club and secretary to the Washington Alpha Phi Alpha chapter (the same fraternity as Thurgood Marshall).

Lou's wife, **Geri**, is also a Garfield Washington graduate who majored in Art and interior decorating. Geri was born in Las Vegas, Nevada and came to the state of Washington with her family when she was in the sixth grade. Her mother (formerly Natalie Hollis), a native of the state of Nevada, was the first black born in Las Vegas. Natalie's aunt, Minnie Hollis, was the mother of the noted poet Langston Hughes.

They have three daughters, **Natalie, Leslie, and Laurel**, all students at the University of Washington. Natalie is in her second year and Leslie and Laurel (twins) are in their first year. Natalie and Leslie are pre-

majors interested in Business Administration. Laurel is majoring in Biology with an interest in medicine. In High School, quite naturally, Garfield, they were very active in gymnastics, track and field. During her senior year, Leslie was the High School State champion in the 200 meter dash and tied for the 100 meter hurdle championship.



Both Leslie and Laurel expect to participate in track and field at the University of Washington.

In the 25th hour of a given day, Lou is involved with the NAACP, as Treasurer of the Central Area Mental Health Program, with the African sister City Committee, the Telephone Company Credit Union and the Consumer Credit Counseling service of Seattle.



Garfield, Again.

Girard J. Stone has been an employee for Pacific Northwest Bell for the past nine years. He's a District Staff Manager assigned to duties involving PhoneCenter Stores.

After he'd graduated from Seattle's Garfield High School, Girard went on to get his B.A. degree in Education at the University of Washington. He ended up with yet another degree, a coveted Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from the University of Southern California.

Girard, his wife **Susan** and their three children live high above Seattle's Golden Gardens, a view dear to a Naval Officer's heart. (He's a Navy Lt. Commander in the Reserve.)

But Girard has very little time to take his ease. Two activities keep him hopping. First, he's a member of the Seattle School District Citizen's Committee for Academic Excellence.

Second, he's a Pacific Northwest regional representative for Graduate Studies in Business for a consortium consisting of Washington University in St. Louis; the Universities of Wisconsin, Rochester, North Carolina and, naturally, Southern California.

As if that weren't enough, Girard is active and interested in almost all sports including fishing on Puget Sound. For relaxation, he reads business and financial journals. Quite a model for youth.

Frederick Douglas

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The present we share today, as American Blacks, could have been radically changed for the worse had it not been for one Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey who later changed his name to **Frederick Douglas** when he escaped slavery.

At the tender age of eight, Frederick Douglas had been squeezed from the loving care of his grandmother to work on a plantation. He was sent to Baltimore where his master's wife taught him to read and write. He soon employed this skill to writing out passes for runaway slaves.

Douglas said that he was "kindly" treated but this did not deter him from attempting escape (in 1836). He was thwarted, put to work as a ship's caulker. Later, disguised as a sailor (there were many freed slaves who were sailors) he es-

caped. He became active in Anti-Slave circles, wrote an expose of slavery, went to England where 150 pounds was raised to buy his freedom.

He edited a weekly newspaper dedicated to the end of slavery. His **The Life of Frederick Douglas, An American Slave**, published in 1845 is one of those stories excised from American public school history.

Douglas was an orator, an advisor to President Grant, the U.S. Minister to Haiti, a man whose native intelligence triumphed over whatever deficiencies he may have had in formal education.

During the civil war he advocated the use of Black troops in the Union Army. He literally raised himself out of the mire of being a non-person to becoming a personality who fused the abolitionist cause for the emancipation of slaves.

