



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Delegate Magazine 1981

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[[advertisement]]

"I started with the phone company 36 years ago as a janitor. Today my grandbaby is a management trainee. That says a lot about my family and the Bell System." John Sears

[[image]]

[[caption]] John Sears and granddaughter Charnette. [[/caption]]

"When I started at Pacific Telephone, I didn't know I was starting a family tradition. That was back in 1944. I got out of the Army on a Tuesday and went to work for the telephone company that Thursday.

"I started as a janitor. I worked hard and by '56 I was promoted to heavy duty equipment mechanic. That same year my daughter, Bobbie, fresh out of high school, joined the company as an operator. Now she's a personnel manager. That Bobbie's always been a go-getter. So is her husband, Jerry. She met him at the company. He's a methods manager, but he began as a frame worker.

"Now my granddaughter, Charnette, is following in her parents' footsteps. Three years ago she started as a directory assistance operator and already she's in a management training program.

"My niece, Lorraine, also works for the company as a processing supervisor in computer programming.

"The Bell System has been good to us. When I retired in 1967, I had worked my way up to traffic dispatch supervisor. I wouldn't have wanted to work anywhere else. The rest of the family feels the same way."

[[image - family eating dinner]]
[[/advertisement]]



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