

## Robert Alexander "Bumps" Blackwell '37

Nominated by Barney Hilliard '56, Dr. Carver Gayton '56 and George Griffin '55

"Bumps" Blackwell '37 was a charismatic, entrepreneurial soul who had enormous impact as a musician, businessman, music producer, arranger, songwriter, bandleader and teacher. The "Bumps" nickname is said to derive from his losing fights as a child in Seattle. Blackwell, was a musician and athlete while at Garfield and went on to study music at Cornish College. Bumps played piano and drums, but his favorite instrument was the vibraphone. He became a well-known bandleader traveling the West Coast in the 1940s. Bumps was influential with many talented musicians and his band was included on a number of known labels, working with Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Buddy Catlett, Charles Taylor and Ernestine Anderson.

In the late forties, Bumps was a Washington State National Guardsman and served as bandleader for an all-African American band of local youth that he had assembled, instructed and recruited in Seattle central area for the Washington State National Guard. That band included a young Quincy Jones.

In 1950, Bumps Blackwell moved to Los Angeles where he joined Specialty Records as an arranger and producer. He became the producer for many artists including Sam Cooke, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Ike and Tina Turner, The Neville Brothers and Guitar Slim. He was the arranger for Little Richard, Jessie Belvin, Sam Cooke and The Turks. He co-wrote songs for Little Richard that became popular hits. Bumps was also a producer, arranger and songwriter with Keen Records and Mercury Records. In later years he was the producer for The Coasters, The 5th Dimension, Lou Rawls, Ernestine Anderson, Bob Dylan and Sly and the Family Stone. Bumps Blackwell was definitely an influential record producer.

In later years, Bumps generously served his community by providing free music lessons to children who could not afford to pay. He continued giving free music lessons to children even after glaucoma caused him to start going blind in the seventies.

Bumps and his wife Marlene Kaufman Blackwell had one child, Kelly Lee Blackwell who lives in New Orleans where she is known as **Baby Bumps**→. She is a DJ for a Baltimore internet radio station and a culinary tour guide in New Orleans. She attended the GGG annual luncheon to accept the posthumous award for her dad on his induction into the Garfield Golden Grads Hall of Fame.

More extensive information about the life and accomplishments of Bumps Blackwell can be found in an article by Michael Macleod '60 published in the Autumn 2022 Garfield Golden Grads Gazette.



## John W. Lundin '61

Nominated by Wendy Jaquet '61 and Lee Weinstein '61



**John W. Lundin '61**, born and raised in Seattle, was an active student at Garfield who played basketball for two years and served as Honor Society President. Lundin attained his law degree from the University of Washington, and worked in Washington, DC, as a lawyer for the Dept. of Transportation and a civil rights trial lawyer in the US Dept. of Justice. He earned a master's in Urban and Regional Planning in his spare time. Returning to Seattle, he was an Assistant US Attorney (a federal prosecutor) and a trial lawyer in private practice for many years. He was highly rated by his peers and ranked by *US News and World Report* as having one of the best regional law firms in criminal defense, general and white collar.

As a retired lawyer, Lundin began a new distinguished career and has become a famed Northwest Snow Sports Historian and Author. His extensive research, detailed books, lectures and skilled exhibits on snow sports in the Northwest have led to increased national and international interest and awareness of the magnitude and influence of skiing and other snow sports in Washington and Idaho. He splits his time between Seattle and Sun Valley, and is a lifelong skier, a rower and a sailor who has done several Victoria to Maui races.

Lundin has published four books, which all have received national recognition, including Skade Awards from the International Ski History Association, the Harold S. Hirsch Award for Excellence in Snowsports Journalism, and the Western Ski Heritage prize given by the Far West Ski Association. He has also written numerous articles for magazines, given history lectures and book talks, and appeared on many Idaho TV shows. A founder and board member of the Washington State Ski and Snowboard Museum on

Snoqualmie Pass, he helped organize ski jumping exhibits at Seattle's National Nordic Museum and the Regional History Museum in Sun Valley. His work can be seen on his website, <https://www.johnwlundin.com>.

## William (Bill) North, '66

Nominated by Randy Bosley '66



**William (Bill) North '66**, better known to his classmates as "Spud", is a Major League Baseball legend and a community youth advocate. His professional career as an MLB center fielder spanned 13 years; he played for the Chicago Cubs, Oakland Athletics, LA Dodgers and San Francisco Giants. Bill was known to be one of the fastest in the game, and a switch hitter who threw with his right hand.

After graduating from Garfield, Bill attended Central Washington University and was the first Black Student Union President and three-year president of the Foundation Fundraising Board. In 1987, he was inducted into CWU's athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2022, inducted into the WA State Sports Hall of Fame.

Bill always kept in touch with his friends and his community. While playing professional baseball in Oakland, he worked with the Black Panthers to help launch the Free Breakfast Program silently, with Major League Baseball. In the nineties he served on the board of the East Madison YMCA and started "Reviving Baseball in the Inner City," still active today. He was a charter member of and fundraiser for Central Area Youth Association (CAYA) and served on the board of the American Foundation for the Blind.

After retirement, Bill returned home and redoubled his work here in our community. He continues volunteering immense time, talent and money locally. Remaining active with CAYA is a top priority, because he understands the benefits provided by this outreach and service organization. Bill represents Garfield's best and is dedicated to the value of giving back to help others prosper.