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**TEACHING** became one of the earliest ways for the Negro to achieve economic success. Happily, there are now many other areas, too.

“Almost any college graduate, white or colored, can get a job today and almost name his own terms,” he said.

The children of Horace Mann Junior High notice these things, which is why it is so important for them to stay in school. And when Principal Skinner talks to the youngsters, he has little difficulty seeing things as the youngsters see it. “I flunked second grade myself,” he grins, a little sheepishly.

It was shortly after the Skinners moved to Omaha from Denver (Eugene was born in Lexington, Mo., and was 7 when the family came here). He spent a few months at Lake School, a week at Long, then moved to the Howard Kennedy School district, and the constant changing caused him to be held back a year.

Once he got going there was no more trouble, especially on the athletic field at Tech High, where he set an Intercity record of :09.9 seconds in the 100-yard dash and a state record of :51.4 seconds in the 440. His stepfather was a packinghouse laborer and his mother a cleaning woman at the old Brandeis Theater Building, and there would have been no college without an athletic scholarship.

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