

# HOWARD UNIV. STUDENTS WHO MARRIED ON BET MAY HAVE TO REMAIN MARRIED

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10— Two young Howard university student couples, who were married on a bet last September, were disappointed this week when Justice Oscar R. Luhring of the District of Columbia Supreme Court announced that he doubted his authority to annul their marriages.

The four well-known university students decided to marry while driving to Highland Beach, a summer resort on Chesapeake Bay. John Robert Risher offered to bet William Grayer Williams, Jr., \$10 that he would not marry Caroline Ellen Harris. Williams declared that he would marry Caroline if Risher would marry Doris Mae Carter.

It was agreed and the two couples started to Annapolis, each promising the others not to back out. A justice of the peace refused to perform the ceremony but he called a license clerk who met the four students a few minutes later at the courthouse. Although it was September 1, the clerk dated the licenses August 31 and after issuing the licenses he directed them to the home of a preacher where the marriage ceremonies were performed.

## Return To Washington

Their promise having been fulfilled the couples returned to Washington and separated as if nothing had happened. All of them testified that the marriages had never been consummated.

Before Miss Carter, the first witness in the annulment proceedings, had completed her testimony, Justice Luhring interrupted her to say that he did not see where there was any fraud involved and under the code of the District of Columbia he was not authorized to annul the marriages. He commented on the fact that both the boys and

girls were college students, well educated, well raised and should have known what they were doing.

Miss Carter is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Carter. Miss Harris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer M. Harris. Risher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Risher and Grayer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grayer Williams. All four were minors at the time of the marriages.