

Here To Yonder

Langston Hughes

Negro History Week

DR. CARTER G. WOODSON, head of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, is the man who founded Negro History Week. America owes Dr. Woodson a debt of great gratitude. For many years now he has labored in the cause of Negro history, and his labors have begun to bear a most glorious fruit.

Year by year the observance of Negro History Week has grown. Today the week is observed all across America. Formerly, only a few Negro groups paid any attention to it. Today many Negro groups and almost all Negro educational institutions observe it, and its observance is



spreading to non-Negro organizations as well. For instance, this year the National Maritime Union is observing Negro History Week by a series of programs at its New York hiring halls. Ships at sea will have on their bulletin boards material relating to the glorious history of Negroes in America.

For glorious our history has been in this country . . . in spite of hardships and set-backs. In his **NEGRO IN OUR HISTORY**, in his **JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY**, and his well-edited **NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN**, Dr. Carter G. Woodson has recorded the dates and data of our struggle for a place in the democratic sun. That struggle has been a noble one.

Fighters For Freedom

FROM CRISPUS ATTUCKS who died on Boston Common for American freedom way back in Colonial days to the last young Negro American aviator to fall on the European battle fronts in this year of our war, 1945, the record of the Negro in democratic struggle has been a most worthy one. Fighters in every war, fighters in every good American cause from that of abolition and women's suffrage to that of the end of the poll-tax and the establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices committee, Negroes have been right there.

Frederick Douglass, back in Abraham Lincoln's days, was a fighter not only for the freedom of the slaves, but for the right of women to vote, as well. The Negro congressmen in Reconstruction times fought not only for Negro rights at the polls but for the rights of all poor people. Dr. Charles Drew's contributions to blood plasma developments now in our time aid not only the saving of Negro lives but the lives of all Americans on the battle fronts of the world.

Negro History Week calls attention not only to achievements of value to Negroes . . . but of value to the entire democratic commonwealth of which we are a part. That is why Negro History Week should be observed not just by Negroes . . . but by all America. That its observance is spreading and our white fellow Americans are beginning to take part in it, is a portent of the growth of the power of the idea behind it. Dr. Woodson has brought into being a movement that not only helps build race pride in Negroes, but democratic pride and understanding and appreciation in all Americans for what the sun-tanned tenth of this nation has done for all."

Work of Association

IF THIS COLUMN in this newspaper reaches into some nook or corner of our country where Negro History Week is not being observed, and if you reading this now should not know how to get hold of materials to help you observe this important week . . . pictures, books, study plans . . . write to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1538 Ninth street, N.W., Washington, D. C., and ask him to send you a list of their publications and photographs.

This association is a non-profit making association, and its founder is a serious and self-sacrificing man. Years ago I worked in the national office myself. I know from daily contact with its founder that there is not in Negro life today a more serious-minded, hard-working, careful, and pains-taking executive at the service of the democratic cause.

Many people in public life have their forgivable share of "bull" about them. This quality is utterly lacking in Dr. Woodson's make-up. Perhaps that is why his work and personality are so little publicized in comparison with some other of our racial leaders. But Carter G. Woodson does not need high-powered showmanship and sensational publicity to put over the cause for which he labors. Behind him he has all the dignity and power of Negro history in America . . . and the world. That dignity and that power are considerable. Even Mr. Bilbo must respect Negro History Week.