

# Negro History Week

Negro History Week looms more and more as an important occasion as the struggle for recognition and equality gains momentum and intensity. For years white historians have deliberately failed to give the Negro his proper place in the evolution of this American culture.

Where he is mentioned it is only a passing, pruned down reference with no particular emphasis or broad delineation. Yet the black man has contributed his share to every important phase of this civilization.

He tilled the soil, cleared the forests to prepare the way for the development of the structural framework upon which rests the nation's incomparable aesthetic beauty. He has participated and spilled his blood in every war in which the United States was engaged.

His heroism in those great conflicts has been either minimized, played down or completely ignored. Brought here in chains, and kept in servitude for nearly 300 years, the Negro has managed to survive the ordeal of bondage and make himself an indispensable cog in the country's agricultural and industrial economy.

And since 1863, when he received his physical freedom, the Negro's progress has been tremendous in many fields of endeavors. He has risen to the point where he can safely challenge the theory of white superiority. He has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that where he is given an equal chance, his achievements compare well with those of the white people who have had superior advantage from birth.

Now that we are concerned more than ever before with erasing the handicaps, it is good to stop and think of the many Negroes who have not retreated in the face of adversity but have gone forward.

And to think how much greater their contribution might have been with a full measure of human rights through the years. It was in order to make sure that succeeding generations were not fed the opiate of black inferiority that the late Dr. Carter G. Woodson inaugurated Negro History Week.