

# The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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**EDITORIALS**

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## Negroes Play Active Part Serving At White House

WASHINGTON. (ANP). When the Congress of the United States voted to preserve the historical old White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, rather than to replace it with a duplicate substitute, the majority of the American people felt that a victorious decision had been made.

This gorgeous, original, two-story, white freestone castle with its portico of gigantic Ionic columns, surrounded by a spacious green, rolling lawn has proven to be a favorite landmark for the posterity of this great country for several generations.

Every American citizen realizes that this magnificent mansion has served as the home of Presidents for a century and a half, but few realize that the famous White House is also America's No. 1 business center the hub around which the wheel of governmental activities revolve.

It is not generally known that the White House staff is composed of some 300 persons who serve as important cogs in this wheel of progress which keeps the American way of life in action. Still fewer persons realize that one-sixth of the White House personnel are Negroes.

Presidents come and go at the White House according to the will of the American people, but the faithful White House staff stays on until age or length of service allows them retire.

Historians can readily name each of the Chief Executives who have occupied the White House from the time of John Adams in 1800 to the time of President Truman in 1945, but few people are familiar with the duties and activities of those persons who make the famous White House comfortable and liveable for America's No. 1 boss.

A number of the Negroes now employed at the White House have been there almost a half-century. Their experiences have been wide and varied. Many of them have been thrown in contact with persons from every country in the world and in every walk of life. They have met and chatted with every type of personality from the aggressive business lobbyists of Amer-

ica to the Dignified Crowned Heads of Europe.

When in their jubilation over the victory of John Adams around 1800, his jovial supporters crashed the inaugural ball and in their celebration literally tore up the White House Reception room and broke up the furniture. It was the servants who devised a plan to lure these rollicking ruffians from the sacred White House chambers to the open air park across the street.

And again in 1948 when the famous White House was literally falling apart from deterioration, it was the janitor who made the discovery and called in the architect just in time perhaps to save the ceiling of the mighty East Room from collapsing and crashing the three 5060-piece-cut glass, German made chandeliers which were placed in the White House during President Grant's administration at the cost of \$1800 each.

A detailed report of the Negroes employed at the White House, their names, their duties, their tenure of service and their experiences will appear in the September issue of Service magazine, published at Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

### Protestant Episcopal Church in N.Y. to Install Second Largest Carillon

NEW YORK. (ANP). Dr. John H. Johnson, brilliant shepherd of St. Martin's Protestant Episcopal church here announced last week the church will install the city's second largest carillon in late September or early October.

The carillon of 40 bells, covering three and a half chromatic octaves, will be installed in the 90-foot bell tower. Total weight of the bells will be 25,000 pounds, with the largest weighing 3,100 pounds and the smallest 20.

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by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Permanently housed in the new Jackson wing of the museum at Scotts Bluff National Monument, Gering, is a large collection of the the paintings, sketches and photographs of William H. Jackson, the noted pioneer western artist. The wing was dedicated and the pictures were put on display for the first time in ceremonies conducted by the American Pioneer Trails Association on August 8.

These significant works of art have been placed at Scotts Bluff in accordance with the wishes of Jackson himself. The noted artist first visited Scotts Bluff Aug. 2, 1866. At that time he was a bull whicker making his first trip west. He drove an oxen team through Mitchell Pass and camped at the west side of the bluff. Years later he drove a stake in the spot, where there is now a marker.

In Tim Exposur, his autobiography, Jackson wrote of his first visit to Scotts Bluff as follows: "At thirty miles the bluffs began to take on the aspect of some fabulous city out of the Arabian Nights. At twenty miles I saw turrets and minarets. And at ten I could almost discern bearded Persian lords and their veiled ladies peering from the balconies! But I kept my visions of Scotts Bluff closely to myself."

The next day, he reported, going from the bluffs to Fort Mitchell he had "no time for such walking reveries." The road was narrow and steep, and at one time his wagon threatened to skid into a canyon, dragging the bulls and himself with it. By dint of frantic effort he managed to stay on top and continue along the trail.

Jackson's life spanned nearly a century—he was 99 years old when he died June 30, 1942. During that time he achieved international fame as a photographer. Particularly noteworthy are his photographs of the old West, many of them representing the first time the wonders of the region had been caught by the camera. Hardly less notable are his quick, offhand sketches.

Jackson used the leisure of his later years to interpret the West in water colors based on his early photographs and sketches. Exhibiting a rare artistry, these water colors—many of which are now in Scotts Bluff museum—



By Kathryne Favors.

### After the Civil War

After the Civil war, the Negro lost his right to participate in government in several of the states. He found jobs very difficult to get and was thrown into confusion. The newspapers got into the habit of exaggerating stories about Negro criminals. Some papers still do that today. They headline their stories with such words as "Negro Murdered Child." When an Irish person commits a crime one never sees an article entitled "Irishman Hangs for Murder." With the newspapers against the Negro in several states after the Civil war, he had a hard time defending himself. Lynching became almost an institution then. People would often blame the Negro for crimes he did not commit and lynch him for it. The same is true today in many southern states. Lynching became a widely known practice. "According to General Sheridan, 3,500 persons were killed in the South during the first decade after emancipation; 1,884 were killed and wounded in 1868, and probably 1,200 between 1868 and 1875. During later years the number of Negroes annually lynched in the whole country aggregated between 50 and 100, and the whole number for the reconstruction and readjustment periods not much less than 3,000." Jobs became exceedingly scarce for the Negro. "Poor whites unwilling to work often so terrorized Negroes that they were afraid to remain in places where they might have been employed; and those who engaged in labor in the more peaceful districts were cheated by dishonest landlords whose word stood as law before local courts. Few Negroes had acquired sufficient land or capital to become employers of large

depict faithfully and with great beauty the life of another day in the American west.

The Jackson collection represents a significant increment in Nebraska's cultural assets. It is worth driving miles to see.

numbers, and those who did obtain land often found themselves dispossessed of it by methods which illiterate persons could neither prevent nor understand." The Negro must have been a very strong person to have put up with all of this and yet survive.

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