

TODAY and TOMORROW

FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

WASHINGTON . . . arts
Whenever I have an opportunity to roam around Washington, where I lived and went to school from the time I was ten until I was 21, I get new impressions of the Nation's Capital, and the people who live in it.

More and more I am impressed with the feeling that Washington is becoming the nation's center not only politically but in the fields of science and the arts, as well as of information on every imaginable subject.

In the Library of Congress, for example, there are more books and documents than in any other one place in the world, all indexed and available for reference. A new eight-million-dollar annex has just been added to the Library to accommodate the growing store of knowledge on every subject under the sun.

The new National Art Gallery, the gift of the late Andrew Mellon, is nearing completion. It will house the finest collection of paintings in the world, in addition to two great art collections already in Washington. Nearly all the important scientific societies have headquarters in Washington, and more and more national business organizations are establishing themselves in the Capital also.

PEOPLES . . . Negroes
Every race and nation of the world is represented in Washington, either by an ambassador and his staff, or by larger groups.

Of the racial strains which make up the American people there is a higher percentage of Negroes than the average for the whole nation. The largest Negro institution of learning, Howard University, is located in Washington, turning out doctors, lawyers and teachers who go forth to serve the people of their own race.

There is a large number of Negroes of both sexes employed in the Government offices. Nearly all official elevators are run by colored girls, and the messenger, door-keeper and janitor staffs of the departments are practically all Negroes. They get good pay, life jobs and pensions at retirement age. A few Negroes hold really important Government positions, but they are the exceptions.

The majority of Washington Negroes live in alley slums, which furnish about the worst living conditions to be found in any large city. Many public officials have tried to do something about the Washington slums, but little has been done effectively.

VOTES . . . segregation
For years there has been a strong movement to give the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote. So many of those holding Government offices, however, find it important to retain their voting residences in their home states, that the movement to give the District residents the franchise has been blocked by the fear of Negro control of the local government as much as by any other one cause. Nearly a third of Washington's permanent residents are Negroes.

While separate schools are provided for the colored folk, they cannot legally be segregated in street cars or excluded from seats in theaters. Once across the Potomac, in Virginia, Negroes have to ride in "Jim Crow" cars.

PREJUDICE . . . equality
I seem to have got into a discussion of racial prejudices. That subject is up toward the top of world discussions right now. It is almost unescapable.

I know few, if any, persons who do not have a feeling that some or all people of other races than their own are inferior in one way or another. I believe that is an inherent and ineradicable trait of human nature. But such prejudices are no excuse for depriving those we dislike of their common human rights.

We can admire the achievements of persons of a different race without giving a blanket indorsement of the whole race. The wise thing, it seems to me, is to tolerate all races and welcome whatever contributions they can make to the general good, without

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either banishing them, as Hitler is doing with the Jews, or opening the doors of our private lives to them.

Equality under the law is one thing, which every good American should insist upon, especially if the legal rights of one of another race are infringed. But social equality is something else. The right to choose one's associates and friends is as sacred as the right to worship according to one's individual conscience.

been barred because of her color. The ladies are, of course, entirely within their rights. There probably are few if any Jewish members of the D.A.R., and certainly no Negroes. But racial prejudices are racial prejudices and the line is drawn sharply in Washington, even against a great artist.

ONE WEEK AHEAD
Continued warm weather recently advanced the cabbage and other truck crops in Carteret County at least one week ahead of the average date.

MUSIC . . . achievements

There are two races which stand out among all others for their achievements in the field of music. They are the Jews and the Negroes. Probably a majority of the outstanding musicians of the past two centuries have been Jews. Certainly musical ability is more common among Negroes than among the white races generally.

Many eminent critics of today acclaim Marian Anderson, a Negro, as the greatest singer of modern times. In Washington no hall large enough to hold the crowds who want to hear her can be obtained.

The largest auditorium in the Nation's capital is Constitution Hall, which is owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the D.A.R. has refused to let it be used for the Anderson concert. Heifetz, Elman, Menuhin and many other famous Jewish musicians have given concerts there, but Marian Anderson has

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