

Dunning a Copperhead, and Rhodes an exploiter of wage labor. Not one of them apparently ever met an educated Negro of force and ability."

A number of later revisionists are agreeing with historian Howard K. Beale that "many more Negroes were educated and able than one would have thought possible so soon after the education and experience needed to carry on government slavery, and more than historians have been led to believe."

Among an impressive list of free Negroes who were registered in the Census of 1860, as nearly a half million, was John Willis Menard. He was one of twenty-three Negroes serving in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate. Menard's election was not recognized by the House vote, but

he was the first to be elected and to appear for recognition, for which also he received the salary.

Those Negro legislators disproved the assertion that they were illiterate and unworthy. On the contrary all of them had attended schools and were men of character and local distinction when elected. Moreover, to call Reconstruction an "orgy of Negro rule" is erroneous, because most offices were held by white men, and the black men who were elected were equally as competent. These men proved their personal worthiness by their speeches and their personal conduct. In this respect Reconstruction was a success by reason of the reforms initiated in the needed democratization of our government. Here's hoping that this stereotype will soon vanish in the face of truth! ■

THE NEW NEGRO

Within the darkness my eyes find a dark man
Gentle and old are his ignorant expressions of life
Unaware is he of the future
that so proudly
his descendants
now
prepare.

The old Negro of yesteryear stands content
Abiding the white man's unwritten law
The new Negro, the thinking Negro, burns with frustration
Of his badly scarred history
and shames
mankind
as
one.

And so the Negro that will survive,
With all regrets, ambitions and the shame,
will be without violence
For it was violence in the beginning
of his long laboring grasp
for
self
preservation.

Wilbur J. Taylor, Drumright, Oklahoma

War Is Yet To Come

Now is the time,
When men must die.
White and Black together,
The question is, "Why?"

The race problem today,
Is extremely great.
A Country full of ANGER,
A Nation full of HATE.

Men have died in riots,
A War is yet to come.
The dead will number many,
The living will be NONE.

This war must be prevented,
Yes, prevented, not prolonged!
Man never made a right,
By dealing with two wrongs.

The United States must stop and think,
Then grant equality to all.
The more time wasted at this point,
Will lead us to our fall!

George S. Williams III