

11/13/49
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Unveil Mural At Carver Center Today

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The mural "Pursuit of Freedom" which a gifted young Negro artist has painted on one of the walls in the auditorium of Carver Community center will be unveiled this afternoon.

After months of research, planning, rejecting, and starting over again, twenty-six year old Clarence Shivers has completed a job that is worthy of a more mature artist, according to those critics who have had a preview of his work.

Young Shivers, who has been drawing ever since he can remember, and painting since he was a young lad, has feelingly portrayed the attempt of the Negro to achieve equality. Not in a disorderly or confused composition, but in a forthright design that is touched with the magic of serenity. His style is simple and direct showing imagination and sensitivity to his theme.

AGAINST A BACKGROUND of buildings and a suggested Statue of Liberty are such prominent figures in Negro achievement as Judge Ralph Bunch, one of today's leaders; George Washington Carver; Ernest T. Atwell, who founded Carver Center, Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and Col. Benjamin Davis, who was Shivers' commanding officer of the 98th Fighter Squadron flying unit in World War II.

Shivers was an instructor, and during his three years stationed at Walterboro, N. C. he did several murals for the air base.

"WITH THE EXCEPTION of Atwell and Dr. Carver I have only seen yesterday in discussing his work. I have tried to show in this painting that children, as well as adults must fight to reach the top; that we must help one another."

The painting was done as a mural project under Dr. Harry Wood, dean of fine arts, Bradley University, where Shivers is completing his final semester under the G. I. Bill.

IN SPEAKING OF the work, Dr. Wood says, "Shivers has a real future as a muralist. He has very successfully combined the theme of accomplishment and aspiration with satisfying artistic structure."

"The mural is not only ably painted but it shows the exceptional ability of the young painter. It is sincerely and movingly conceived."

Shivers came to Bradley from Lincoln University at Jefferson City, Mo. Three of his paintings won prizes at an exhibition in Atlanta, Ga. and one of them was



A PORTION OF THE 8 BY 8 FOOT MURAL, "THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM" on a wall in the Carver Community Center which will be unveiled and signed this afternoon by the young artist (on step ladder) Clarence Shivers. Depicting the attempts of the Negro to achieve equality the artist has in this grouping symbolically portrayed some of the more prominent men who have achieved success. In the foreground is Ralph Bunch, recently appointed to a judgeship, the first of his race to receive such an honor. Immediately to his left, with a guiding hand on his shoulder, is George Washington Carver whose effort in behalf of his people were endless. At the left is the late Ernest T. Atwell, founder of Carver Center, and back of him is Col. Benjamin Davis. On the extreme right is Jackie Robinson who has distinguished himself with the Brooklyn Dodgers.—Staff photo by George W. Sommer.