

# Negro Cracks Race Barrier

Hollywood (AP) — Gordon Parks is a professional photographer, author, poet, composer — and the first Negro ever signed to direct a major production for release by a major movie company.

He'll direct the film version of his autobiographical novel *The Learning Tree* around Fort Scott, Kan., next August, for Warner Bros.-Seven Arts. Parks already has composed the film's musical theme and will write its musical background.

"This is a tremendous break-through, a thing we've always fought for," he said of his directorial assignment's significance to Negroes. "It might encourage other black boys to say 'My God, maybe I can be a director, Parks, 55, has been a Life magazine photographer-writer for 19 years.

A Minneapolis high school dropout, he has composed piano and orchestral works performed in Venice and elsewhere.

Puffing a pipe, tilting back in a chair in his rooms at the Beverly Hills Hotel, he told of his unlikely beginnings:

Childhood "on the other side of the tracks" in Fort Scott as the youngest of a dirt farmers' 15 children, six of whom survive.

Strong influence by his mother, Sarah, a religious woman who told him, "You can do anything a white boy does." She advised him to make every experience his "learning tree."

Boyhood traumas like seeing two Negro women slash each other to death with knives and being locked by white undertakers in a room with a trainmangled corpse.

A youthful enemy's knife-gash left one nostril still closed. In an eyelid Parks still carries a fragment of window glass from a clash with a white boy who called him "nigger boy."

A bartender-waiter's job enabled him to buy a \$12.50 camera.



STOKELY CARMICHAEL



MIRIAM MAKEBA

**GETTING MARRIED** — Singer Miriam Makeba and SNCC official Stokely Carmichael. Marriage would be second for the South African song stylist and first for Black Power advocate. Date has not been announced.

## Miriam Makeba to Wed Fiery Stokely Carmichael

New York (UPI) — Black Power advocate Stokely Carmichael and South African singing star Miriam Makeba are engaged to be married.

A spokesman for Miss Makeba, 35, said no date has been set for the wedding. The songstress, whose latest "top ten" recording was a popularization of the South African folk song, "Pata - Pata," was in Nassau, the Bahamas, and opened at Mr. Kelly's Club in Chicago Monday.

Carmichael, 27, former chairman and now Washington-based field secretary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has not been married previously.

Miss Makeba's marriage to Hugh Masakela, a South African recording star, terminated in divorce. She has a daughter, Bongie, 17.

Miss Makeba came to the United States in 1959 as a protegee of singer Harry Belafonte. She is famous for her "Click" songs in her native tribal tongue. She also designs African-styled fashions and has opened a boutique, Makeba's Hut, in Nassau.

## Legs of Mays Still Supple

Phoenix — While the usual accumulation of annual spring baseball practice is burying Willie Mays, along with the oft-crippled Mickey Mantle, the perennial San Francisco star is ready to win his ninth annual Rawlings-sponsored 'Golden Glove.'

The magazine editors had conveniently forgotten that Mays was the greatest center-fielder in baseball, for the 14th straight year, in 1967; that he is the only player in history to win a Rawlings' glove every year they have been issued.

Even Bob Clemente cannot match that mark for super fielding.

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