RED, WHITE, AND BLACK is both exciting western history and a necessary historical corrective.

Fortunately, there is a wealth of first-hand commentary in our nation's archives, museums, and libraries about and by black westerners--letters, diaries, memoirs, newspapers, government hearings and reports, and court testimony.

The visual record is equally rich--original photographs, lithographs, Frederic Remington's paintings of the Buffalo Soldiers, and existing sites of import to the history of the black West.

RED. WHITE, AND BLACK takes advantage of the living record as well, with filmed segments from the black rodeo and contemporary sites of importance to the history of the black West. In addition, historical perspective will be provided by both western historians and historians specializing in the black West.

RED. WHITE. AND BLACK relates the story of the black West era by era--weaving the participants' stories into the well-known historical chronology of the Old West. The film begins with black explorers, and 'black Indians' (1500's to 1800's); black '49'ers and the western slave controversy (mid-19th century); Buffalo Soldiers, black cowboys and outlaws (late 19th century); black settlers and townbuilders (late 19th century); and, finally, blacks in the mythmaking of the old West (late 19th and 20th centuries).

The film employs a narrator for continuity and analysis as well as voice actors to read primary sources.

PRODUCTION

A project like RED, WHITE, AND BLACK needs to be approached systematically. The first step involves researching the visual and literary record at the following archives:

California State Library
Municipal Archives
Beinecke Library, Yale
Black West Museum
Kansas state Historical Library
New Mexico State Archives
Oklahoma State Historical Society
Private Collections
New York Public Library
Texas State Library
Library of Congress
National Archives

Berkeley
Sacramento
San Francisco
New Haven
Denver
Topeka
Albuquerque
Oklahoma City
New York City
New York City
Austin
Washington
Washington

At these archives and others, the visual record will be explored and tagged for filming. Literary documents will be photo-copied or transcribed