



Woman, thou art
the cool earth upon
which I rest my cheek,
fevered still by the
slap of humanity. In
the warmth of thy
acceptance am I nurtured
and in the energy of
thy love do I become
a part of all things.
Woman, I weep for thee
that others could not
have known thee.
That thy days were
not forever bathed
in golden light,
thy faith not forever
kept.

Flick
SOUNDER playing
at the Cine Royale,
starring Cicely Tyson
and Paul Winfield, a
Radnite/Mattel Production.

Mattel Toys has produced an old-fashioned family movie, a nostalgic look at childhood and hard times faced by a warm, loving family, who happens to be black. It reminded me of "I Remember Mama" and all those sentimental stories about back-home-on-the-farm viewed by a child approaching adolescence.

It's a pleasant change to see this kind of film after the black James Bonds and dope sellers. It's the kind of film to which black

mothers may want to take their children to show them a kind of romantic heritage, and it's the kind of film to which white mothers will want to take their children to show them blacks as human beings.

"Sounder" is about a family of share-croppers, trying to eke out a living in rural Louisiana during the early 1930s. It recognizes the subtle and not so subtle forms of oppression faced by blacks during this period, but it also explores the good times, especially the warm, interpersonal relationships on the farm where the nuclear family has meaning. The most important relationship is between the father and son,

because in this family the father really has time to spend with his children. But when the father goes to jail (for stealing food for his family--Jean Valjean never dies in this type of film) the mother becomes the central character. No shrinking violet, she withstands incredible hardship, working the farm with her children, taking in laundry without any washing machine, walking miles to see her man. She is strong, she can do anything she has to, she will endure.

So far I've talked about the script, but the best thing about this film is its craftsmanship. It truly cap-

tures life in the rural South.

It was filmed entirely on location and the viewer has a true sense of Louisiana; the trees, the rivers, the fields, the rain, and the heat.

The background music by Taj Mahal is perfect. Often you just hear him moaning and playing his guitar and other times singing authentic folk songs.

The most serious criticism is perhaps that "Sounder" succeeds too well in re-creating rural life, and like rural life the film itself is very slow moving. But if you have a bit of patience, "Sounder" is a rich and rewarding film.

HELP WANTED--FEMALE

When queried by local N.O.W. about the lack of women reporters at WVUE, Alec Gifford replied: "I'm like the bachelor you've heard about so often. I haven't got anything against women. I'm just waiting for the right one to come along. For your information we have a woman reporter on our staff as a trainee. If she shows promise and the right opening comes at the right time, she'll have a job. If not, she won't."

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

"Dependable girl, good typist and general clerical ability. Permanent position and excellent opportunity for advancement."

"Experienced wool and silk presser. Also part time counter girl."

"Cocktail waitresses age 18 to 21; also settled woman for hotel maid work at night."

"Part time secretary--assistant for new office. Must be 18-28 years old, neat, attractive, intellectual, cheerful, obedient, and trustworthy!"

"Masseuse--young and attractive, no experience, will train."

"Middle-aged woman needed for baby sitting and housekeeping."

COMING...

The 1st annual women's art auction is forthcoming in February, and we need paintings, sculpture, photography, crafts, drawings, prints, etc. If you have any work (or money) to contribute, please contact the Women's Collective at 899-8153 or 895-1362. Thank you very much.