

# BOOKS

By DICK MILLER  
Highland School Librarian

PRESENTED HERE ARE REVIEWS of two books; one for boys, one for girls. Both books deal with the subject of the Underground Railroad, which spirited away slaves from the South to freedom in the North, in the days of the Civil War.

BRADY, by Jean Fritz. Illustrated by Lynd Ward. Coward-McCann, N.Y., 1960. \$3.50.

BRADY MINTON'S TROUBLE was that he couldn't keep a secret. He just naturally had to tell everything he knew.

After all, there were so many interesting things to talk about; his brother Matt had just been appointed a professor of history; his friend Range knew where the best trout fishing was; and something strange was going on at Drover Hull's cabin.

That was what really started the trouble. Brady just had to tell about the runaway slaves he thought he saw at Drover Hull's cabin. The minute he said it, Brady could tell by the look on his father's face that he'd opened his mouth once too often again.

SLAVERY WAS SOMETHING Brady Minton had never thought about at all. When he learned of his father's part in the slavery controversy, Brady wanted to help him, but he knew his father didn't trust him to keep a secret.

Jean Fritz has written a sympathetic, moving story of a young boy in pre-Civil War days who was forced to make his own decision on the question of slavery, and who learned how important it can be to keep a secret.

A well-known author, this is Jean Fritz' seventh book for Coward-McCann. She says she is not methodical and schedule-conscious about writing. "I just write when I can and all I can and am grateful if the peas don't boil over meanwhile." Mrs. Fritz lives in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

THE NAME OF LYND WARD is both famous and respected in the field of children's book illustrating, as well as other art fields. Winner of the Caldecott Medal in 1953, his books have often included in the "Fifty Books" selections of the American Institute of Graphic Arts. Mr. Ward lives in Cresskill, N.J.

The sensitivity and talent of both author and illustrator perfectly combine to make BRADY a warm and moving experience in children's books.

SUSAN'S SECRET, by Hildreth T. Wriston. Illustrated by W. T. Mars. Ariel Books, Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York, 1957. \$2.75.

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED years ago--before the Civil War--Susan, her younger sisters and older brother lived with their parents in a big white house just outside of Montpelier, Vermont. Susan knew that something queer was going on in that house; conversations between her mother and father that stopped when she came into the room, the creakings on the stairs after she was long asleep, candlelight shining under her door, whisperings, and the click of harnessware outside in the dark. Hidden away in the living room, she found a strange newspaper that she had never seen before; it was called THE LIBERATOR.

Although Susan did not know the big secret she sensed her family was concerned with, life was exciting and good fun until she found out that many people in town were unfriendly to her parents, and that her own best friend would no longer speak to her. She would not even answer the notes that Susan left in the hollow trunk of their favorite tree. When Susan questioned her father and mother, they became tight-lipped and stern, and even her brother Daniel refused to talk. Then a crisis put Susan in the middle of an emergency, and she not only learned about the secret, but she had to harness her father's horses and make an important trip--by herself, in the dead of night.

GIRLS AND BOYS will enjoy reading about Susan's colorful everyday life in the Vermont capital a century ago, and they will understand

## "Constant Exposure To Segregation Problems Needed"

NO LESSER AN AUTHORITY than Dr. Dan Dodson, representative for New York University's Center for the study of Human Relations, made the statement before 250 Clark County School District classroom teachers and administrators that "many communities, including southern Nevada, need to be exposed constantly to the problems of segregation, or attitudes and ideas receptive to change will remain unchanged in a hard and fast resistance sense".

As keynote speaker of the December session of the District's Equal Educational Opportunities In-Service program held at Clark High School, Dr. Dodson told of his experiences and research in actively working with school districts in the eastern and southern portions of the country. Results of these experiences and research, "suggest that all school age students need to experience inter-racial relationships at the earliest possible age and now--not at some distant point in the future", Dr. Dodson said.

The eminent Human Relations consultant noted that "traditionally, communities take two separate paths in tackling desegregation--"forced" and "permissive" mile ways. "In the forced mile way, desirable social change is pressed through (Civil Rights) legislation to produce integrated classrooms," he said.

"ON THE OTHER HAND," Dr. Dodson added, "the permissive mile way finds communities and public school systems cooperatively working out desegregation on a planned basis which eliminates undue pressures or resistance." Dr. Dodson pointed out that a slow, gradual approach is not the only answer to desegregation problems.

The Clark County School District-sponsored Equal Educational Opportunities In-Service Program is part of a planned, continuous effort on behalf of the District to focus on equal opportunities in terms of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes of the unique academic and social problems facing educationally disadvantaged youth, and is programmed for 15 sessions.

In addition to the District's classroom teachers and administrators, members of the District's Planning Council attended the half-day event as well as members of various community agencies who are vitally concerned with school-community desegregation and integration.

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her feelings when she is cut off from her friends and fun just because her parents are mixed up in some grownup problem they will not explain to her. They will be pleased but perhaps not surprised when Susan learns the secret and shows her family what to do about it.

Hildreth Wriston and her husband own and manage The Tavern Inn in Vermont. She is well fitted to write about SUSAN'S SECRET and the Underground Railroad; she was born in Vermont, she is a member of the state historical society and an amateur local historian, and is an established writer of books for children. Two of her five previous books, CAMPING DOWN AT HIGHGATE and OPEN WATER, were selections of the Junior Literary Guild.

Readers will find that SUSAN'S SECRET is a good story and one that has meaning for present-day children who are unwittingly caught up in adult issues that interfere with their life at home and at school.

## JO MACKEY SCHOOL Bulletin

H. P. FITZGERALD, school Principal reports that the school could use basketball coaches on a volunteer part-time basis. Youngsters now in high school who plan to go into the field of education or physical education in college could gain valuable experience in dealing with children by coaching after school and on Saturdays.

The school basketball courts could be used for practice beginning at 3 p.m. daily. All games are played on courts at the North Las Vegas Elementary Schools. The school now has two basketball teams.

WORKING WITH YOUNGSTERS in athletics also affords leisure-time activities for Senior Citizens who have had experience in this field. All interested persons are asked to please contact H. P. Fitzgerald at school or call him at his home at 382-4292 after 5:30 p.m.

The North Las Vegas Recreation Department also hires a few part-time recreation leaders for Elementary Schools in that city to work after school hours and on weekends and holidays. Interested persons should contact Mr. Robert Fordson at the Fun Center in North Las Vegas.

ENROLLMENT IS STILL OPEN in free basic Adult Education classes now being held at Jo Mackey School. Classes will continue through June 3, 1966, according to H. P. Fitzgerald, Coordinator for the project, which is sponsored by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 under Title II-B.

So much interest has been shown in the classes that it has been necessary to add a new class since the project began on Nov. 8 last year. There are now more than 135 adults from the age of 18 and up enrolled in eight classes. Class instructors include Lee Rayford, Walker Campbell, Hershel Williams, Miss Shirley Satterfield, Mrs. Dorothy Taylor, Mrs. Joanne Pughsley, Isaac White, Herbert Freeman and Theron Goyens and Robert Cooper, who also are Recruiters-Counsellors. Ted Halberg is the Project Psychologist.

TEACHER AIDES are provided by Miss Eva Huston, Supervisor of a Demonstration Project under Title V of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Her offices are located in the State Building on East Bonanza Road. A total of 12 teacher aides are supporting the Project at the present time. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7 to 10 p.m.

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