

BOOKS

By DICK MILLER
Highland School Librarian

LADYCAKE FARM, by Mabel Leigh Hunt.
J. B. Lippincott Co., 1952. \$3.25

The Freed family (Negro) are going to move. And they do it in a rather unique way; they take their house with them. (That is quite an adventure for any child, especially a child between the ages of 8 and 12, which is the level for which this book is written.) But move they did. Their house was raised and put on rollers and they trundled along right down the street, moving from the town to the country.

They were going to be farmers. They had a book to tell them how; HOW TO MAKE A LIVING ON THE SMALL FARM. And as soon as they were in the country Little Joe, India Rose and Pearl May began to learn to take care of the animals on their farm. Their father knew all about it. He had gone to school--to night class--for a year at the Agricultural College.

When school started, they went by bus, and Little Joe--who was a good deal like Big Joe, his father--bravely solved several problems about getting on with their schoolmates and making friends.

THIS IS A charming family story, truly heart-warming in its understanding of the ways in which white and Negro neighbors may enjoy and help each other in our modern world.

DICK MILLER

A distinguished writer for children has given herself to a question which has long been close to her heart--the need for friendship between races. Every page of her story is warm and kind and happy. It will please not only the children, for whom it was written, but many parents, librarians, and teachers who are alive to the problem it solves, and from whom Miss Hunt received encouragement to undertake such a book. One of the nicest things in the story is the delightful and surprising meaning of the word LADYCAKE.

LADYCAKE FARM is in its seventh printing and the author continually receives letters from small readers. One of the finest tributes Miss Hunt ever received came in a letter from a ten-year-old boy. He wrote: "I like LADYCAKE FARM the best of all your books, because it is the most kind." And from a girl came this warm response: "I feel that you are my Very Special Friend." It is comments such as these that keep Miss Hunt writing finer books each year for the audience she calls "the most delightful people--children."

MABEL LEIGH HUNT has written many books; twenty books, to be exact. Her home is in Indianapolis, where she first engaged in children's work and later became a branch librarian. In 1938, she decided to devote her entire time to creative writing. Miss Hunt's talents are versatile and distinguished. In addition to many books for the 8 to 12-year-old group, she has written several stories for younger readers as well as a group of biographies and novels for older boys and girls.

(PROFILE OF A MAN, from page 1)

Military Service, the last two of which were with the U.S. Public Health Service in which he held the rank of "Surgeon" (equivalent to Major). During his tenure of duty with the Public Health Service, he was the Executive Officer of the Mission to Liberia, 1944-46. He reorganized the Liberian Government Hospital at Monrovia, and founded the School of Nursing, there.

It has not been my intention to attempt to impress the reader with Dr. West's background. There are many people around with an equally impressive background, but how many of them are dedicated to the assurance and attainment of human dignity and equality of opportunity for all American citizens, through the Democratic processes, as is our Dr. West?

WHAT THE PRESENCE of Dr. West in Las Vegas over the past eleven and a half years has meant to the Negro Community is obvious, and any objective observer must agree that Dottie and Buck West have been the most stimulating tonic to the area that ever happened.

May I tell you the story of how and why they happened to make Las Vegas their home? Dottie and Buck were motoring to California from Detroit and had stopped over in Vegas to spend some time with Buck's lifelong friend, Count Basie, who was playing the Strip. They explored the City with their own particular enthusiasm for learning everything new and meeting everyone possible wherever fate chanced to place them.

Several days later, while sunning ourselves at one of California's overrated beaches, Buck and Dottie told of their brief stop-over in Las Vegas. As the conversation progressed, Buck mentioned his surprise at learning, while here, that there was not a single Negro doctor practicing medicine in the State of Nevada. To make a long story longer, we finally agreed that this unbelievable situation should be remedied. And who do you think we decided should be the pioneer. Dottie and I systematically beat down all Buck's futile arguments that he had been out of medical school too long to take an Examination; we overruled any and all expressions of "uprooting at my age". "Smart as you are", we convinced him, "you can do anything. Consequently, after telephoning to Carson City, and learning that, coincidentally, State Medical Examinations were being given at that time, Buck took a plane to the Nevada Capitol, took the Examination, flew back to Los Angeles and completed his vacation. Weeks later, they telephoned me that he had received the report that he had passed the Nevada State Examination and they had made a decision to move to Las Vegas.

THE REST OF IT is civic history. Dr. West involved himself in every community interest. Shortly after they had moved here, plans for opening the Moulin Rouge were announced. Hundreds of Negroes from all over the country poured into Las Vegas seeking and waiting for employment at the first Class Resort Hotel on the Westside. There was delay after delay, and Buck and Dottie veritably ran a combination "Grand Hotel", employment and screening office in their modest Wyatt Avenue bungalow. They fed and slept more people than the Salvation Army ordinarily takes care of in the same given amount of time. They counseled, suggested, and carried the burdens of a multitude on their shoulders and always with a smile and a joke.

In the meanwhile, Dr. West was busily building up a practice, and engaging himself in civic and community work.

THE TROUBLE WITH CARING about people is that involvement brings on more and more involvement, particularly where the need is great. . . and in Negro communities all over the country, the need is great as it is in Las Vegas.

As a doctor, Dr. West knows full well the danger of too much involvement and overwork. He relaxes week-ends, when he can, by fishing.

Cautioned by a concerned wife, he has attempted to slow down, but as ever, his concern is for the people. He has attempted to recruit younger doctors to come into the area, and, only this week, it appears that help is on its way, and Dr. West can, in truth, retreat to the semi-retirement that he has sought and is one in name only.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, he seeks to encourage participation in community involvement by all those who are sincerely interested in the welfare and future of our people. Many individual stories could be told of the aid, sound advice, and encouragement that has been given by our Buck.

As editor of the VOICE, I am going to print this story about Dr. Charles I. West with or without his permission. It's simply a case of "flowers while you can smell 'em", Buck. I know of no one who deserves them more. *AM*

United States Senate
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, D. C.

May 5, 1960

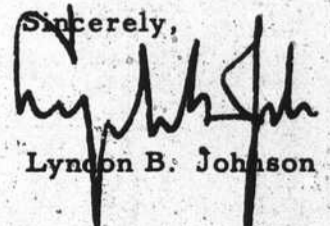
Dear Dr. West:

Lady Bird and I were so pleased and proud to have the chance to visit in Las Vegas last week. I don't know when we have felt more at home and we appreciated so much the warm welcome you folks gave us.

I have always liked the State of Nevada and I feel that many of our problems are mutual ones. I want to pledge myself to do all I can to find adequate solutions and in this regard I would be very happy to hear from you from time to time. I know I would profit from your advice and good judgment.

If there is any way that I can be helpful to you, I hope you will let me know. Thanks again for what you did to make our visit as pleasant as it was.

With warm good wishes.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Indicative of the recognition accorded Dr. West and the esteem in which he is held, is the above letter, one of many such in his personal correspondence file.

Art's Shell Service
TIRES, BATTERIES Free! Free! TUNE-UP and ACCESSORIES With This Goupon GENERAL OVERHAULING
Brake Adjustment
With Lube, Oil Change & Filter
800 WEST BONANZA ROAD 384-3020



A REAL DEMOCRAT AND A FINE FRIEND-- Doctor West is one of those unusual people who are possessed of Race Pride without Race Prejudice--It is no secret that "some of his best friends are White people". Here he is shown with Governor Grant Sawyer who he staunchly supports, and with good reason. On the right, Dr. West is in one of his happy, joke-telling moods as he "cuts up touches" with friend Michael of Michael's Shoe Stores.

STEVE'S Barber Shop
NEW LOCATION
OPEN NOW!!!
PROCESSING
APPOINTMENTS
by PHONE
Cleveland Dyson
Proprietor

813 W. Owens