

# BOOKS

By DICK MILLER  
Highland School Librarian

"IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN there is an island known to few people, called Farbe Island (n. lat. 58 degrees, w. long. 16 degrees) which is shaped like a fish. It was discovered in 1795 by Captain Farbe, a French fisherman from Brittany. The waters surrounding this Island so abound with fish that until this day its existence has been kept in severe secrecy. When the Island was discovered, it had no inhabitants; not one person or animal lived on it. Captain Farbe and his small crew were pleased at this and were also pleased to find the ground fertile, trees full of good fruit, streams bubbling with fresh water from noisy springs.

"These fishermen hurried back to France, took their wives and children to their boats and rushed them back to the Island. There they settled down to an easy and sumptuous life. With no trouble at all, they grew many fine vegetables. An abundance of remarkable fruit dropped off trees, and the amazing and perpetual run of fish made everything most pleasant.

WITH SUCH an ancestry, and because of the manner in which the people of Farbe Island were brought up, it seems quite natural that Farbons, as they are called, should be quite different from other people. The life of a Farbon would most probably seem funny to us. For example, as a young baby his first words, instead of being mama or papa, are possibly words like mackerel or swordfish. His first few steps are toward the sea. His first lie is a story of fish. In his youth, he fishes. In his old age, he turns to canning and salting fish. His graveyard, of course, is the roaring sea.

Farbe Island exports all kinds of fish to other countries and makes so much money in this way that it is, without doubt, the richest island for its size in the world. It is very small and is governed by a mayor. It seems quite natural that the mayor should be the best fisherman on the Island and he fishes all day long. He not only fishes in his own waters, but he also travels in summer to other countries where he goes on fishing trips with presidents, kings and dictators.

"NEXT IN IMPORTANCE to the mayor are the three policemen of Farbe Island. These three policemen do not fish at all. Their ancestors must have been ship's cooks. They wear very handsome uniforms and look very important. Nobody knows, however, just how good they are as policemen. This is because the people of Farbe Island are all so happy and busy that they never do anything wrong.

"In their spare time, which is almost anytime, these three policemen design and make their own uniforms, which get more and more elaborate. This seems to be their only work.

"One other person who does not fish and who lives on Farbe Island is a ten-year-old Farbon named Bottsford.

"Bottsford says his American parents were tight-rope walkers. They were on a world tour which stopped when their boat sank some forty miles off the coast of Farbe Island.

"Bottsford wears all the old uniforms after the three policemen are through with them, in exchange for which he takes care of the three policemen's bicycles.

"It is about these THREE POLICEMEN and this YOUNG BOTTSFORD that this book is written."

SO BEGINS THE extravagant story by William Pene Du Bois, called THE THREE POLICEMEN, published in 1938 by The Viking Press. Like all the books by Du Bois, this one is so unbelievable in its wonderful way that you find yourself actually believing it before you have finished reading it.

This is the youngest mystery story you will ever read. Regardless of your age you will be amused by the story and the pictures. When the fish nets are stolen and Bottsford (whose skin pigmentation is rather dark) devises the plan to build artificial fish to recover the missing

## All About Equal Educational Opportunities



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES--Featured as the keynote speaker during the last Clark County School District-sponsored Equal Educational Opportunities In-Service Training Program at Clark High School was Dr. John Robinson (Center) Professor of Education, San Francisco State College, seen talking with Special Coordinator Dr. Joseph Caliguri (left) and James Lewis, District consultant for the Study of human relations from New York University.

(Clark County School Dist. Photo)

### In-Service Training Program In 3rd Month

THE NEXT SIX semi-monthly Clark County School District Equal Educational Opportunities In-Service Training Program meetings at Clark High School will focus on curriculum offerings, methods, materials and testing relative to minority group student problems.

Outstanding authorities from colleges and university as well as District personnel will serve in leadership roles, according to Dr. Joseph Caliguri, Special Coordinator. Dr. Caliguri added that many community representatives and leaders will participate as well.

The 13-week program, held on alternate Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., started Nov. 20 and will continue until April 30. The project involves 225 teachers and 25 administrators from District elementary and junior high schools vitally concerned with equal educational opportunities for all boys and girls.

AT LAST SATURDAY'S meeting, the keynote speaker was Dr. John Robinson, Professor of Education, San Francisco State College, who focused attention on "Human Relations and the

Curriculum." Small group discussion followed centering on main points of the lecture. Finally, principals and staffs met to identify problems incident to segregation and integration for further review at the individual school level.

Dr. Robinson pointed out that changes in the curriculum are important to meet educational requirements of all students in a changing world. The relation of special needs of socially disadvantaged and minority group youngsters of every community is at the heart of general social change. Dr. Robinson posed three major questions for consideration:

- (1) What experiences can the school provide which will help students think well of themselves?
- (2) What current practices in the school tend to lower student self-estimates and could, therefore, be eliminated from a youngster's school experience?
- (3) What ideas about people and their relationships with each other have a legitimate place in the school curriculum--those which might help students gain greater understandings of themselves and others?

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nets, you will find yourself hoping and scheming right along with him.

William Pene Du Bois has the uncanny ability to create a special "Du Bois" atmosphere in every book he writes and illustrates. THE TWENTY-ONE BALLOONS is a prize-winning book about another secret island which eventually blows up along with a volcano full of diamonds. PETER GRAVES (the book which introduced me to Du Bois) is the story of an amazing invention; anti-gravity metal. The other Du Bois books are equally fantastic...and interesting...; THE GREAT GEPPY, SQUIRREL HOTEL, THE GIANT, LION, BEAR PARTY, OTTO IN AFRICA, etc., etc.

FOR FUN and adventure in a wild but completely believable form, read THE THREE POLICEMEN. If you get nothing else out of it, at least you can build yourself an artificial fish with the plans provided on Page 48.

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