

BOOKS

By DICK MILLER
Highland School Librarian

ARE COMIC BOOKS bad for children? Perhaps they are and perhaps they are not. Certainly a few of the comic books now being published are not good for children, but for the most part, this writer believes that comic books are relatively harmless. Indeed, in many cases, comic books can be quite beneficial.

For example, there is one child who learned some basic scientific facts from Superman. In one comic book story, a giant lens was needed immediately for some Earth-saving escapade. Superman saved the day by using his super strength and speed to rub sand between his hands until it melted and formed glass, thus proving to the young mind that glass is made up almost wholly of sand.

In another story, Superman squeezed a lump of coal into a diamond, demonstrating that both coal and diamonds are only carbon in different forms.

THERE ARE WELL-MEANING parents who will not allow their offspring to read comic books for fear the young minds will become warped by "so much violence." At the same time, these parents permit their children to devour fairy tales to the point of memorization.



DICK MILLER

If, for a moment, you will recall a few of the fairy tales of your youth, I believe you will agree that there has never been a gorier, more violent story than the average fairy tale. Do you recall that gay old tale of Hansel and Gretel? The wicked stepmother forces the father to take his two children deep into the woods and abandon them. A pretty wild opening scene in itself--but it's only the beginning. Later, the two cherubs are captured by the witch, who claps Hansel into a cage, where she intends to fatten him up for the pot. As if this were not enough, these two innocent, dewy-eyed children eventually shove the old girl into her own oven where she is promptly roasted to a turn, while they beat it homeward on the back of a swan, to find the stepmother dead...and they all lived happily ever after. Good clean story, what?

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE that the story of Hansel and Gretel is not simply an isolated instance. Practically any fairy tale that comes to mind follows a similar vein. A blood vein, no doubt.

In The Three Little Pigs, two of the pigs are eaten by the wolf and finally, the wolf is boiled and eaten by the third pig, who is commonly referred to as "the practical pig." There must be some correlation there, if I could just think of it.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is relatively mild--it only involves cutting out Snow White's heart and feeding her a poisoned apple.

Jack the Giant Killer was a clever chap. Remember how he tricked the giant into slicing open his own stomach? Nice fellow, that Jack.

Another Jack worth remembering was that bloke who climbed the beanstalk and robbed the giant blind. Perhaps the giant deserved it. After all, he was going to grind Jack's bones to make his bread. Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum!

NOR WERE THESE fairy tales without a little hanky-panky. In The Tenderbox, the soldier lied to the witch and stole her tenderbox, after which he seduced the king's daughter, not once, but three times. Of course, he married her later, and perhaps it served him right.

I could go on practically forever; Rapunzel--kidnapping; Sleeping Beauty--vengeance; Cinderella--cruelty; etc., etc., etc. Almost every fairy tale and childhood story is saturated with monsters, killing, lying and various forms of violence.

When a child has been brought up on a diet of fairy tales and other charming little ventures into the macabre, it is rather doubtful that comic books are going to scar the personality.

The COVE Free BINGO Daily
2:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

Solons Salute Negro History Week

LEWIS & CLARK, 1791-1806
JAMES O. RYAN, 1911-1912
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, 1933-1945
JOHN F. KENNEDY, 1961-1963
ROBERT F. KENNEDY, 1964-1968
JAMES EARL RAY, 1936-1968
JAMES EARL RAY, 1936-1968
JAMES EARL RAY, 1936-1968

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

February 11, 1966

Miss Alice Key, Editor
Las Vegas Voice
960 West Owens
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Miss Key:

It is a genuine pleasure to commend the Las Vegas Voice for its presentation today of a historical review of Negro History Week.

Certainly, the history of the Negro in the United States has not always been a happy one, but it has been one of pride and determination. A study of history is vital if we are to apply the lessons of the past to the problems and challenges of the present and future.

A study of the past will reveal the role of the Negro in assuming leadership in the sciences, government, and religion. It can only deepen our resolve to work harder for the attainment and preservation of the goals of all people--the liberty, freedom and dignity of the individual.

You have my very best wishes for success in this most worthy undertaking.

Sincerely,

Howard W. Cannon

HWC:jjs

THANK YOU FOR ADVISING ME THE LAS VEGAS VOICE IS OBSERVING FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH 19 AS NEGRO HISTORY WEEK. AS YOU MAY KNOW I HAVE CO SPONSORED A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DESIGNATE FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH. YOUR EFFORTS REGARDING THE NEGRO ROLE IN HISTORY COMPLIMENTS HIS DRIVE TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN OUR NATION'S HERITAGE BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS. ALAN BIBLE USS

(ALAN BIBLE, UNITED STATES SENATOR)



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF LAS VEGAS

Oran K. Gragson, Mayor

This week, citizens throughout this great nation are observing National Negro History Week, a period set aside for the recognition of Negroes and to commemorate their contributions to our society.

The City of Las Vegas and its Citizens of all races, creeds and colors are proud to pay just tribute to members of the Negro race and their significant role in the progress and development of our own great city and state.

In proclaiming this to be "NATIONAL NEGRO HISTORY WEEK IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS," I urge all citizens to give thought to this memorial week, so that a deeper appreciation may be had of the contributions of Negroes, and so that tolerance -- one of the greatest moving forces of mankind -- will prevail among us all.

Oran K. Gragson
City of Las Vegas

February 10, 1966

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