

# The Learning Tree

By Betty Brown

I had the pleasure of visiting the site of a relatively new and much needed community service a few days ago. I am referring to The Learning Tree, a tutoring service located at 1040 North Rancho Road in the Twin Lakes Shopping Center.

The Learning Tree, whose motto is "Take this child and make him grow," is a neat and pleasant place with a friendly atmosphere which is conducive to learning. In addition to its office, it has two well equipped classrooms and a library filled with interesting books and learning materials.

The philosophy of this unique business has been beautifully expressed by Bethu Bell, one of the Directors, who says, "Some of the simplest meanings of learning are: A — To gain knowledge, B — To memorize, C — To be informed of

something, D — To discover and E — To see, hear and understand. The three greatest doctrines of life are to know, to be and to do. All people are born with a capacity to learn. One may learn faster or slower than another, while still others may learn more; but this can only result from longer study and concentration or application.

"The idea of linking learning to a tree is a very good one, for most trees are strong and sturdy when planted in a right and proper soil, whether nurtured by nature alone, or when assistance is given by man."

Today many parents are faced with receiving notices from school indicating that their child is failing in one subject or another, or that their child received low ratings on national aptitude and scholastic tests. Marion Tompkins, Co-Director of

LEARNING TREE DIRECTOR MARION THOMPKINS reviews one of the many books in the tutoring service library with Dorothy Spencer.



TEACHER MELVIN WASHINGTON assists student Jerome Spencer, while students Gerald Davidson, extreme left, and Kenneth Edwin Hines complete assignments in their workbooks.

The Learning Tree, discussed how the tutoring service can be of help to such children by improving their reading and math skills, helping them get better grades and enhancing their self-confidence.

The Learning Tree offers reading improvement skills, including phonics, reading acceleration and reading comprehension;

basic foundation courses in math, reading and spelling; and junior high and high school tutoring in all basic subjects. Children can be taught in small groups or individual schedules can be arranged.

The instructors, all of whom are fully accredited, include Melvin Washington, Emma Gordon and Carol Jones.

Fees are nominal.

So why not drop by the Learning Tree and get acquainted with the nice people there, who are interested in assisting your child? The studio opens at 10 a.m. daily.

Or better still, HELP YOUR CHILD. Invest in and insure his future. Enroll him in The Learning Tree Tutoring Service today.

## Jackie Robinson

from page 18

co-sponsoring, along with the Mets, Yankees and the commissioner's office, an eight-week, non-credit seminar in sports management at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y., every Tuesday. Scholarships are still available through the foundation (16 Court Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.) or through the university's office of Athletic Administration, which already has placed several graduates with leagues, teams or colleges.

The summer course is available for people like Mavion Moore of New York, a 21 year old black man who was disabled in the Marine Corps and who said the other day: "My playing days are over but maybe this is a way for me to stay in sports."

When she looked over the 25 young persons at the first session this week, Mrs. Robinson observed dryly that there were not enough women, blacks or Hispanics to satisfy her. Jackie Robinson would have said the same thing.

Since baseball allowed Jackie Robinson to retire in 1956 without a serious offer, not much has changed. Frank Robinson (no relation), the first black manager — at Cleveland from 1975-1977 — coaches for Baltimore now, doubting he'll get another chance to manage. Larry Doby managed a few months with the White Sox, but Maury Wills, John Roseboro and Bill White never had a managing job while Alvin Dark has had five and Dave Bristol four.

Bowie Kuhn, the commissioner of baseball, has reminded the owners of the need to hire more blacks and Hispanics as managers and coaches. Kuhn was the guest lecturer at St. John's last week, stressing that there are only 26 managing jobs in baseball but hundreds of other jobs in professional sports.

"There is a need for young people, with new ideas, from different backgrounds," Kuhn said, adding privately: "We are in an era of specialization, unlike the old days when you could move players from the field to the front office."

While some athletes are well educated and (See Jackie, page 22)

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