

and REVIEWS

Once Round The Sun

By Ronald Fraser, New York. The MacMillan Co. 160 pp. \$3.95.
Reviewed by
Mary H. Schmidt

This book is for people who want to know what the headlines are all about. It's not for scientists and it's not for children. Also it's not recreation.

It's a serious effort by a serious scientist to explain the international geophysical year to a serious people.

Dr. Ronald Fraser is administrative secretary of the International Council of Scientific Unions. It is this group, working with the United Nations, that is sponsoring the world-wide effort to find out more about the earth, from its core to its sun.

NO IVORY TOWER affair, the geophysical year has landed on the front pages because it led directly to the satellites and to the expeditions to the antarctic.

It takes Dr. Fraser 100 of his 160 pages to prepare the reader for the main theme of the book. Those 100 pages are tough going. But one half a thin book is little enough to explain weather, wind, tides, sunspots, the atmosphere, the rotation and composition of the earth AND how they interact on each other.

WHAT'S MORE, Dr. Fraser doesn't do badly. It's marvelous enough that he gives general un-

derstanding to a careful reader. More, he gives a feeling of the drama of the situation—man sitting on a globe and variations of one great theories from the tiny class available to him. Class like magnetic fields and variations of one or two seconds per thousands of years in the length of the day lead to theories that explain the weather and the aurora?

Then, on page 100 the reader feels a great relief as he gets back to people, coping with simpler problems like organizing 64 nations to cooperate in raising and spending 100 million pounds on a concentrated effort to study the world from pole to pole during a period of maximum sun-spot activity.

DR. FRASER explains why the antarctic expeditions were necessary to the study, how the sunspots come into it, and what the satellites will contribute to science.

For the reader that manages to get through the first part of the book, the trip "Once Round the Sun" is a very rewarding experience. It's a chance to get inside the scientific mind and watch it struggle with problems so abstract that the layman usually becomes conscious of them only when he begins to reap the benefits of their solution.

Deadline Every Minute

By Joe Alex Morris, 356 pp. New York. Doubleday & Co., Inc. \$5.00
Reviewed by
Tom Phillips

"Deadline Every Minute" is not a book for the general reader. It is a volume written by a newsman for other newsmen, especially those whose careers lie with that peculiar type of news-gathering agency—the wire service.

Joe Alex Morris was a United Press newsman for 15 years. During that period his love affair with the UP flowered, and although he left the organization in 1943, the romance continued, as his newly written history of the organization testifies.

MORRIS' BOOK cannot be termed history in the strict sense of the word. Rather it is a chronological collection of incidents, anecdotes and tales of men who worked for the UP from its birth in 1907 to its present position as the second largest wire service—the Associated Press, which was a giant before UP was born, still being the largest.

The United Press was incorporated in June of 1907.

The man behind its organization

was a new paper chain owner Edward Willis Scripps, and his son, who was mad at the Associated Press.

THE AP, Morris writes, was willing to provide a news report to some, but not all, of Scripps' newspapers. He was not willing to go along with this because his newspapers were published in the afternoon and he was convinced the Associated Press was dominated by large morning newspapers which exerted their influence to give the morning newspapers a monopoly of all the important news.

So Scripps organized the United Press.

How the UP rose from virtually nothing to become the AP's biggest competitor makes an interesting although often obviously slanted story.

"Fifty years," Morris writes, "is a long span for reporters who have a deadline every minute. In the half century after the United Press

Association was founded in 1907, history moved at a headlong pace. . . . Everywhere there was ferment and change. But perhaps nothing changed more rapidly than the business of collecting and distributing news around the face of the globe.

"THE FIRST news dispatches bearing the credit line 'By United Press' went out over a one-wire Morse telegraph system or by regular mail to 300 newspapers. . . . But by the time the 1950's rolled around the miracle of transmission of news and photographs by radio to multiple destinations had made it possible to bring the

whole world into almost instantaneous contact."

The part the United Press played in the distribution and the development of "news" as we know it now is the tenuous thread which binds Morris' book together.

"Deadline Every Minute" is interesting reading, but it contains one major flaw. It is slanted in such a manner that the unwary reader is led to believe that there is only one major wire service worthy of the name—the United Press.

That this is not true is obvious, and those who would like to get the other side of the story are advised to read "AP: The Story of News," by Oliver Gramling.

Platero And I

By Juan Ramon Jimenez, translated by Eloise Roach. 180 pp. Austin. Tex. University of Texas Press. \$5.
Reviewed by
Donald A. Yates

When Juan Ramon Jimenez won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1956, there were only a few Hispanophiles in this country who had known anything of his work and his accomplishments in the realm of poetry and prose poetry. But to two full generations of Spanish-speaking peoples, his name was known and revered as that of the classic called "Platero and I."

For his other poetry and mostly for the prose poetry of "Platero and I," the Nobel award came to Jimenez, now a self-exile in Puerto Rico. The book, made up of brief, exquisite sketches of word pictures of the experiences of the author and his little don Platero, describes the people and the surroundings of Jimenez' beloved town of Moguer in Spain.

THE BEAUTY and sensitivity that the poet expresses (and that

the translator, Miss Roach, carries remarkably well into English) is evident in this impression called "Wild Geese": "I have gone to give Platero a drink. From the silence of the yard we hear, far above, incessant calls that, in the serene night, pass swiftly among the soft white clouds and silver stars."

"Wild Geese. They are going in, fleeing from a sea storm. From time to time, as if we had ascended or they had swooped carthorn in their flight, the lightest rustling of their wings is heard, the lightest rubbing of their bills. Hours and hours the calls will continue to be heard, passing in an endless fleeing."

"Platero, now and then, stops to look and raises his head as I do, like the women of Millet, up to the stars in gentle infinite yearning."

Any Number Can Play

By Clifton Fadiman, 404 pp. Cleveland. World Publishing Co. \$5.
Reviewed by
Donald A. Yates

Clifton Fadiman, for the past decade or so the common man's guide to the proper exercise of intellect, has published his second book of essays, "Any Number Can Play."

It is a collection, for the most part, of the ideas Fadiman has developed over the past five years in his column, "Party of One," in *Harvard Magazine*.

Unlike his earlier volume of essays, which took the title of his column, "Any Number Can Play," is a very strong thesis. The unexpressed title one feels Fadiman would like to suggest for the book is "You All Must Play."

WHAT THE AUTHOR is at-

tempting to do is, first of all, to show that the mind of the average American lies almost idly during his leisure time. He makes the point that the leisure time we spend is important—at least as important as the time we devote to pursuing our careers. His keynote is the quote he offers from Irwin Edman: "The best test of the quality of a civilization is the quality of its leisure."

Next, Fadiman tries to show us when can be accomplished during our free moments. He goes on to display some things (essays in this case) that he swears he wrote during his leisure time. These essays are "You All Must Play," in which he composes the body of the volume and in subject matter from puns, limericks, and eccentricities to treatments of Horatio Alger, mathematics, and "televangelism."

Written with Fadiman's casual charm, urbanity and modest wit, they are without exception entertaining and worthwhile pieces. For readers who do not yet know Fadiman, this is a chance to get acquainted.

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—Lynn Carter

Will-O-Way Scholarships Offered

The Turner work scholarship and the Treasa Merrill scholarship will be offered again for the spring term at Will-O-Way, an apartment house, 10 Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills.

Applications are being accepted now through Sunday, March 2. Registration for the term begins Saturday, March 8 and continues through Tuesday, March 18.

The Turner scholarship is offered to any man, 15 years of age or older, who is interested in theatre and has some theatrical background. The individual should have a need for financial assistance.

The Merrill scholarship is offered to any woman, 16 years of age or older, who is interested in theatre as a means of personal development, or as an avenue to professional theatre.

Guidance Directors Elect Mrs. Andrae

Mrs. Clarke Andrae, 919 Glen-garry, Bloomfield Village, has been elected vice-chairman of the Oakland county child guidance clinic board of directors.

New Birmingham board members are Mrs. Lloyd Smith and Mrs. Karlton Pierce. Noel Buckner of Pontiac is board chairman.

Catholic Book Reviewer to Speak

The well-known book reviewer for the Michigan Catholic, the Rev. F. X. Canfield, will speak to the members of the library committee of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Altar society next week.

The meeting, slated for Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the church social hall, will be open to the public. Mrs. Milton Young heads the Altar society's library committee.

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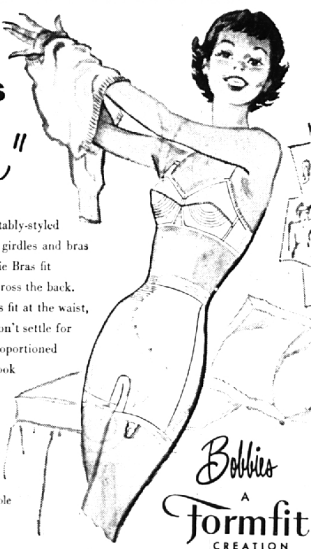
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