

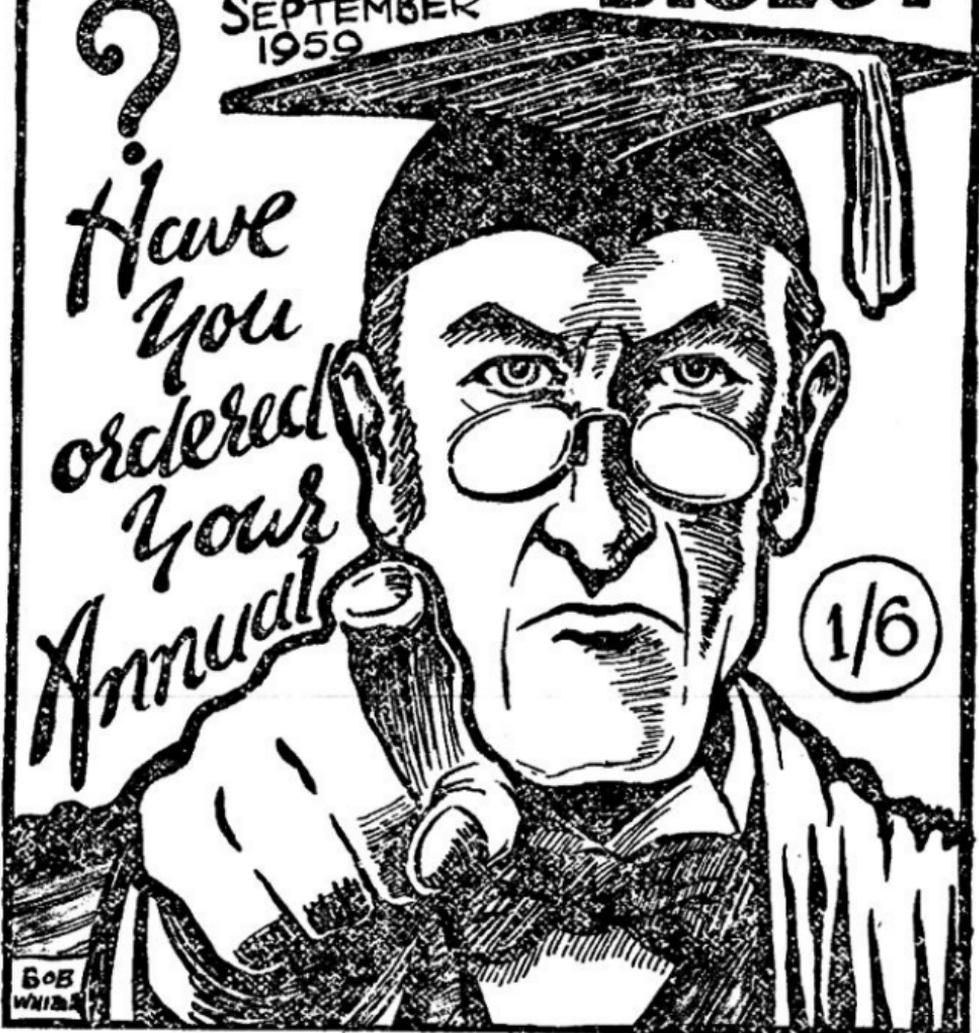
# The COLLECTORS DIGEST

VOLUME 13, No. 153

SEPTEMBER  
1959



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# THE COLLECTORS' DIGEST

Vol. 13 No. 153

Price 1s. 6d.

SEPTEMBER, 1959

Editor: HERBERT LECKENBY  
12 Herbert Street,  
Hull Road, York.

o r

c/o YORK DUPLICATING SERVICES  
12A The Shambles, York.

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## From the Editor's Chair

DEATH OF OUR OLDEST MEMBER. I deeply regret to announce the death on July 9th, of our oldest member, Arthur W. Lawson. He was aged about 90. A little tribute to him by Bill Lofts, who knew him well, appears on another page.

Arthur Lawson, so far as we are concerned, was the last of the Victorians, and had a vast collection of the "bloods" of that era. He amused me once when he said he did not find the C.D. very interesting because it dealt with all that modern stuff - like Jack, Sam and Pete!

Many of you will remember that delightful picture of him and some of our teenage members of the time which appeared in the famous 'Leader' article several years ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ANNUAL. All goes well. One big event since I last wrote you has been the arrival of Eric Fayne's contribution entitled "Tom Merry Cavalcade" - A Game with Time. It is quite off the beaten track, yet every bit as good as anything Eric has ever done before; and that's saying something. It arrived one morning whilst I was at breakfast and I got so engrossed in it that I had to make a fresh brewing of tea. Honestly, it's a delightful blending of fact and fiction; a really clever idea. It's - no I won't say any more except to say you are in for a treat for the Christmas fire-side.

Charles Churchill has also come along with an article on the

St. Frank's Masters which will interest all Lee fans, and Dan Webster weighs in with one of his slick little pieces, this time "New Kid!"

There's one thing about which I am not so happy. So far I have received very few adverts. Adverts are imperative to make it a success. So you'll send some along won't you?

Just one little point - when making out your Questionnaire Forms please give your full Christian names rather than initials.

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT LECKENBY

\*\*\*\*\*  
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# Blakiana . . . . .

Conducted by JOSEPHINE PACKMAN

27, Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E. 22.

Next month I shall be able to give you some details of the programme for the Sexton Blake Circle's feature THE MAN FROM BAKER STREET in this year's C.D. Annual. I cannot add any more at the moment except that there will be plenty to interest all Blake lovers, so watch out for the details in next month's C. Digest.

I am hoping to be able to incorporate two instalments of Walter Webb's "Century-Makers" in the next issue. It will be a tight squeeze, but with a bit of luck I think I can just about manage it. Incidentally, if any of my readers would like to send me a little article - not more than two pages in length, I shall be very pleased to receive them,

Next month's instalment will be "WAR YEARS", and assuming I can squeeze in the seventh part it will be entitled "RECRUITS GALORE."

JOSIE PACKMAN

\* \* \* \* \*

CENTURY-MAKERS

(And a few other interesting statistics)

BY WALTER WEBB

INSTALMENT FIVE

ENTER - G. H. TEED

Who was responsible for the highest yearly output of Sexton Blake stories?

If there was one author likely to smash any existing record set up by William Murray Graydon that man was (32) GEORGE HAMILTON TEED, who, like Graydon, came to devote practically the whole of his career to the writing of Sexton Blake stories alone. Arriving too late to set up any sort of a challenge in the race for the distinction of being the first author to write 100 Blake stories, Teed made an immediate onslaught on Graydon's other record - the yearly output of 16 novels which the latter set up in 1906. Two records actually, for Graydon also held the record up to that time of having written and had published 15 stories in the U.J. alone.

Teed made quite a sensational entry, for in 1913, his first full year as a Sexton Blake writer - he beat Graydon's 1906 figure by two; but those eighteen stories included no fewer than four double-length

offerings, being published as follows: "The Great Mining Swindle" in the BOYS' FRIEND 3d LIBRARY, and, in the UNION JACK, novels for the Easter Double Number, in March, the Bank Holiday Double Number, in August, and the Christmas Double Number, in December, in which he introduced his famous and well-loved characters Yvonne Cartier, Dr. Huxton Rymer and Prince Wu Ling.

The introduction of Yvonne had an unhappy coincidence, for just between the publishing of the first and second stories of this captivating character there passed on, at the age of 71 years, Mr. George Andrew Hutchinson, founder and first editor of that splendid boys' periodical, the "BOY'S OWN PAPER." He had been in the editorial chair for 36 years, and died whilst still in office.

Teed's chief support in 1913 came from Andrew Murray, who contributed 12 stories, so that between them the pair were responsible for over half the Blake novels published in the U.J. during that year. A glance through the records show how the regular old-timers - Graydon, Maxwell and Kent - were gradually being squeezed out by the new arrivals. Two stories by Beverley Kent, one only by Murray Graydon, and no contributions at all by Herbert Maxwell. Graydon's inactivity enabled Mark Darran to creep a little closer and the former's lead at the end of the year had been reduced to 33, and with his total of stories standing at 75, Darran was well in sight of the attainment of his century.

The four leading positions, which had not undergone any material changes for many months, now began to fluctuate as first one author dropped out of the running, and then another. First to go was Herbert Maxwell with (at least) 28 Blake stories to his name. Maxwell, who was a schoolmaster named Lomax, also wrote for CHUMS round about this time, so his ability as a writer is unquestioned, for the editors of that famous paper had no time for duds. On deserting the Blake field Maxwell commenced writing serials and complete stories of another detective - Denman Cross and his boy assistant, Tip, and Jack the Marmoset. These all appeared in CHUMS, illustrated by T. W. Holmes, a well-known artist, who left off drawing for the U.J. about the time Maxwell ceased writing for it. The latter's place was taken by Arthur S. Hardy, who moved into fourth position on the strength of 25 Blake stories; but Andrew Murray, in a fine burst, rapidly overhauled him and took his place with 29 well-written yarns featuring his now famous U.J. and S.B.L. characters, Count Ivor Carlac and Professor Kew. A splendid achievement this, considering that Murray only began contributing two years previously.

In 1913 came either the retirement or passing on of the writer whom we only knew as "Beverley Kent." This author only conceived one noteworthy crook character - this being Gideon Preece, a master-criminal, who appeared in two stories. They were "The Laboratory Mystery" (U.J. No. 420) and "The Great Hotel Mystery" (U.J. No. 515). The latter title proved to be the last Blake story ever penned by Kent, and was, it must be admitted, his poorest in the eight years he was engaged in turning out novels of the world-famous character. To this day his identity remains undisclosed, yet somewhere in the dusty archives of Fleetway House, appended to certain records of the writings and payments made for the stories by him, his real name is there for the unearthing. As, from such a source, were the identities of Michael Storm and Cicely Hamilton definitely established, so, assuredly, will that of "Beverley Kent" come to light in the same way, eventually.

Lying third, below Graydon and Darran, with a total of 37 novels, which included three double-length contributions to the BOYS' FRIEND 3d LIBRARY, namely "A Woolwich Arsenal Mystery" (No. 27), "Sexton Blake, Clerk" (No. 57) and "Sexton Blake's Trust" (No. 68), Kent's place was taken by Andrew Murray, whose total number of stories at the end of 1913 stood at 29.

Positions of the leading authors at the end of the year 1913 was as follows: W. Murray Graydon 108 stories; Mark Darran 75; Andrew Murray 29; Arthur S. Hardy 25; Cecil Hayter 20.

In addition to the good work of Teed and Murray during this particular year was the welcome appearance of Maxwell Scott, who introduced a husband and wife-criminal combination. The stories of Sexton Blake's tussles with Charles Major, alias the Scorpion, and his attractive wife, Judith, made good reading then and still do today.

The good fare of 1913 was somewhat marred by the series of stories revolving round the exploits of a crook known as The Snake. Poorly written and patchily illustrated they were a blot on an otherwise successful year, which was also noteworthy for the fact that it brought to the boys' papers the work of a very promising newcomer to the realms of sport and adventure fiction.

Over now to CHUMS for a preview of this youthful author. He is not introduced here as a Sexton Blake author, though in the rather distant future and with many story successes behind him he was to join the colourful throng and, through the medium of the S.B.L., write some very tough thrillers just prior to and during the second World War.

Those who possess the 1914 volume of CHUMS, or a copy of the issue of that publication for the week ending 4th July (No. 1138).

will see, if they turn to page 776, an excellently reproduced photograph of a youth. Remarkably good-looking, with wavy hair, from which calm and reposeful features clear eyes, a wide mouth and firm chin are instantly noticeable, this was the first published photograph in the boys' paper of John Hunter. Born in 1891 he would be only 22 years of age at the time of his introduction to CHUMS.

Before finishing altogether with 1913, mention should be made of the several serials of Blake which ran in other journals apart from the U.J. Two by Cecil Hayter and illustrated by J. Abney Cummings, famous for his drawings of Jack, Sam and Peter, appeared in the green pages of the BOY'S FRIEND and were - somewhat surprisingly - never reissued in volume form in the fourpenny library. They were "Tinker's Boyhood" (later reprinted in serial form in the U.J.), and "Tinker Abroad" (never reissued at all.) The third serial, notable only for the number of famous characters which appeared in it, commenced in the DREADNOUGHT on 26th July, and under the title of "The Great Conspiracy" featured, besides Blake and Tinker, Plummer, John Marsh, Will Spearing and Count Ivor Carlac, a character borrowed from Andrew Murray's repertoire. Following on was "The Men Who Changed Places" by E. Alais, subsequently reprinted in the forthcoming S.B.L. "The Heir From Nowhere" by the same author, and also reprinted in the S.B.L., was next; but the next serial, commencing 4th April, 1914, entitled "The Man of Mystery" featuring a crook character called Lightning Jim and written by an author quite unknown to me, was evidently not considered worthy of repetition, for it never appeared later in the Library.

Following the world-wide catastrophe of the war which broke out suddenly in the dying summer days of 1914, many enforced changes were to take place affecting materially the leading positions of the contestants in the Blake field.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNION JACK TITLES FOR THE YEAR 1914

No. 534	The Golden Calf (The Scorpion)	M. Scott
No. 535	The Mystery of the Monastery (Kew)	A. Murray
No. 536	The Workings of Chance (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 537	Plummer's Prisoner (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 538	The Secret of the Well (The Scorpion)	M. Scott
No. 539	The Snake's Fang (Henri Garrock - The Snake)	-
No. 540	The Garden City Swindle	L. Jackson

No. 541	Plummer's White Hope (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 542	The Case of the Pewter Candlestick (The Snake)	-
No. 543	The Grey Domino (Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
No. 544	The Death Cylinder (Kew)	A. Murray
No. 545	The Case from the Clouds (Scorpion)	M. Scott
No. 546	The Man who Sold His Estates (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 547	The Pursuit of Plummer (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 548	The Case of the Radium Patient (Rymer, Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
	(Spring Double-number dated 11th April, 1914)	
No. 549	The Gentleman Crook (Aubrey Dexter)	M. Osborne
No. 550	A Bid for a Battleship (J. Lawless)	A Murray
No. 551	The Case of the Missing Britisher (Dexter)	M. Osborne
No. 552	The Pirated Cargo (Wu Ling)	G.H. Teed
No. 553	The Madman's Fortune	M. Scott
No. 554	The Boundary Raiders (Lawless)	A. Murray
No. 555	The Council of Eleven (Wu Ling, Count Beauremon)	G.H. Teed
No. 556	The Sixpenny Doctor	M. Scott
No. 557	The Great Train Mystery	M. Osborne
No. 558	The Death Club (Yvonne, Hammerton Palmer)	G.H. Teed
	(Summer Double-number dated 20th June, 1914)	
No. 559	The Lost King (Council of Eleven)	G.H. Teed
No. 560	The Mountaineer's Secret (C. of Eleven)	G.H. Teed
No. 561	Arms for Ulster (Lawless)	A. Murray
No. 562	The Sheep Stealers (A. Dexter)	M. Osborne
No. 563	The Bogus Prince (Lawless)	A. Murray
No. 564	The Crimson Pearl (Rymer, Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
	Special Holiday Double-number dated 1st August, 1914)	
No. 565	The Land of the Golden Beetle (Losely)	C. Hayter
No. 566	Plummer at Sea (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 567	The Mystery Millionaire	M. Osborne
No. 568	The Case of the Blind Baronet (Dexter)	M. Osborne
No. 569	The Mystery of "Shamrock IV"	A. Murray
No. 570	The Case of the German Admiral (Lawless)	A. Murray
No. 571	A Fight for an Earldom	G.H. Teed
No. 572	The Commerce Destroyer (E.Q. Maitland)	M. Osborne
No. 573	The Sweater's Punishment (Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
No. 574	The Case of the German Trader (Plummer)	M. Osborne
No. 575	Made in Germany (Lawless)	A. Murray
No. 576	The Refugee (Council of Eleven)	G.H. Teed
No. 577	Sexton Blake in Togoland (E.Q. Maitland)	M. Osborne
No. 578	Business As Usual (Lawless)	A. Murray

No. 579	A Voice from the Dead (Wu Ling)	A. Murray
No. 580	The Case of the Secret Explosive (Dexter)	M. Osborne
No. 581	The Blood Brothers	A. Murray
No. 582	The Great Cigarette Mystery (Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
No. 583	The Case of the Belgian Relief Fund (Maitland)	M. Osborne
No. 584	A Soldier and a Man (Yvonne)	G.H. Teed
	(Christmas Double-number dated 19th December, 1914)	
No. 585	The White Feather	A. Murray

(Number 534 is dated 3rd January, 1914, and Number 585 is dated 26th December, 1914.)

Note: The author of the stories featuring "The Snake" (Henri Garrock) is not known. See Walter Webb's article in this issue.

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THE LATE ARTHUR LAWSON - A TRIBUTE

It was with very deep regret that I learned of the death of my old friend - and fellow collector, Arthur Lawson. Arthur I can easily say, had one of the finest and largest collections of all time in Victorian juvenile literature; and had many items which were unknown to the British Museum.

It was my pleasure to meet Arthur for the first time not long after I had started to take an interest in boys papers in 1953. And in compiling my lists of 100 years of Boys' Weeklies and other data on Victorian papers - published at times in the C.D. and S.P.C. I always owed a lot to Arthur for the most generous way in which he always allowed me to peruse through his wonderful collection to gather information and facts for my articles.

I was always made welcome at his house in Hoxton Square - and his new home - so was any other collector for that matter; and I shall always remember the interesting and happy times I had discussing with Arthur about the merits of various Victorian authors and artists - of which he was of course an expert. Although well in his eighties Arthur was a very active man, and always in the best of health. All the more tragic is that he died as the result of a motor accident, as I'm sure that he would have lived for many years to come.

Arthur was, I should say, the very last of the real old type of collectors - even the "Magnet" and "Gem" were very modern to him. When I go round the local market places, especially Petticoat Lane, I shall miss meeting Arthur with his shopping bag still looking out for copies

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of books to add to his collection; a cup of tea with him in a cafe, and all the latest news on Victorian Boy's Papers.

So on behalf of all fellow collectors - goodbye Arthur. We will certainly always remember you.

W. O. G. LOFTS

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## HAMILTONIANA

Compiled by HERBERT LECKENBY

Recently, Charles Van Renen, of Uitenhage, South Africa, wrote a letter to the "Sunday Times" - South Africa's leading weekend paper. It created a lot of interest as will be seen from some comments by the Editor himself.

My word; if only one could have kept a press-cutting book of all the articles which have appeared in the newspapers and magazine during the last few years - what a size it would be. Here's the Editor's comments in the case of the South African paper.

### FAT OWL OF THE REMOVE

Billy Bunter, the fat schoolboy of Greyfriars, is still alive and kicking. Or rather, being kicked, for who cannot conjure up pictures of boots and canes thudding constantly against the tight trousers of the boy with the instiable appetite for pastries, pop and all the other good things in a schoolboy's life?

The joy of a reader who wrote to the SUNDAY TIMES last week that he had rediscovered "the fat Owl of the Remove" will have been shared by countless thousands of others - and shared warmly too, judging by the letters about Bunter which reached us during the week.

Why should we like to remember Bunter? Perhaps the real pleasure lies, not in nostalgia, but in the comfortable feeling that like Gibraltar or the Pyramids, Bunter has stayed just the same, even though we and the world have changed. It is pleasant to think of him still at the "old school", still so fat, still living in a world of fagging, prefects, house matches, roll call and cosy teas round the study fire. One also enjoys the communal pleasure of sharing with entirely new generations of boys (and girls, we are told) an affection for Billy Bunter and his contemporaries like Harry Wharton and Co.

Can Bunter last? Our only answer is this: He must be fifty now, if he's a day - but take a good look at him, and if he seems an

hour older than fifteen, we'll buy him a gross of jam tarts for tea.

\* \* \* \*

### LET'S BE CONTROVERSIAL

(In this series, Eric Fayne touches on certain matters of interest to students of the Hamilton papers. He gives his own views superficially. If you will write to him, expressing your opinions on the topics he discusses, he will summarise readers' views in a future issue.)

#### No. 30. WHAT MAKES A GOOD STORY?

A best-seller is not, of necessity, a good story. In fact, mass taste being what it is, the chances are that a best-seller may be a poor tale, indifferently written. As an example, "From Here to Eternity" had gigantic sales in this country and in the States, but few, who skipped through this immense chunk of boredom, would have described it as a good story, even if they found something fascinating in its smut and squalor.

What is the most important factor in any story? Is it (a) good writing (b) sound plot (c) fine characterisation (d) natural dialogue (e) convincing atmosphere (f) originality? Think of your own favourite Magnet or Gem series, and decide what it had that put it ahead of the others for you.

My personal opinion is that good writing is far and away the most important factor. A thin plot can get over if it is well written. The Gem's "Old Bus" series had merely a framework, no plot at all, but beautiful writing, superb atmosphere, and delightfully inconsequential dialogue made it the English holiday series supreme.

Facetious dialogue, of the type found in the "Old Bus" series, and in many Gem stories which featured Gussy and Lowther, presented considerable pitfalls for the author. So easily, this sort of thing could be tedious and irritating. That it rarely, if ever, became so, is a tribute to the skill of the writer.

So plot, though important, particularly for youngsters, was not essential for a good story. Many of the substitute stories had reasonably good plots. When they failed to ring the bell with some readers, it meant that those readers looked for something more than a good plot.

Repeated themes got by with readers who knew what was coming simply and solely because the re-hash was well done. If the repeat had not been well written, we should have thrown it aside in annoyance.

The acid test for any story is whether it stands reading, re-

reading, and reading yet again. Roger Jenkins, with absolute truth, made that point in his Annual article last year. No doubt we have read plenty of good stories, which, despite their goodness, we should not want to read again. Yet, with many of these school stories, we read them again with the knowledge that we have read them many times before. Therefore, it is not sufficient that a story is good. It must have something more, something which is, perhaps, indefinable.

Take three series which figure among the most popular of all - The China Series, the Stacey Series, the Rebel Series - and decide what factors have made them evergreen. In each, the plot was not so important as individual situations and perfect development. Atmosphere played a big part in the first, character work in the second, clever dialogue in the third. In each, on the initial reading, there was no foregone conclusion as to what would happen next. But each was splendidly written and there is the key.

If any good story is to be so good that it is readable many times over, it must have that indefinite something - that magic touch which few authors are able to give to their work.

It would be extravagant to claim that every story by Charles Hamilton has been good, even allowing for the fact that tastes vary. It would be idle to suggest that all of his good stories can be enjoyed, time and time again. It is, however, an undoubted certainty that his greatest series and single stories - and their number is remarkable - are read, re-read and read again by his countless admirers. And that, for any author, is a strange and wonderful achievement.

It's just my point of view! What's yours?

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CONTROVERSIAL ECHOES

##### No. 28. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

ROGER JENKINS writes: "It was certainly very useful for a different pen-name to be adopted for Charles Hamilton's various schools. I remember that when purchasing copies of the Schoolboys' Own Library I always used to look at the author's name to see which school the story featured. Of course, this was not always a reliable guide; I recall that I once bought a Cedar Creek story thinking it was a St. Jim's tale, and a Grimsdale story instead of a Greyfriars one. But on the whole, the system worked well.

On the other hand, it seems likely that the pen-name system adopted caused the Amalgamated Press to be less fair to their school story

readers than to the detective story public. Any name put on a Sexton Blake story was certainly not someone else's, whereas the 'Frank Richards', who wrote a Greyfriars story, might have been anybody.

It is interesting to note that Charles Hamilton has stated that he used to feel differently, according to the pen-names under which he was writing at the moment. He always tried to keep the personalities of his various pen-names strictly apart, and succeeded so well that I used to feel that when Martin Clifford described Harry Wharton's visit to St. Jim's or when Frank Richards related how Gussy visited Greyfriars there was always a slight element of discord, a strange feeling that the character was not being so well handled as usual. This is really a measure of the success that Charles Hamilton achieved in keeping his writing in watertight compartments."

GEORGE SELLARS writes: "I must admit that I never knew that Charles Hamilton was the author of all the stories we love until my brother told me the news he had seen in a magazine during the last war.

I remember he was as amazed as I was to learn that one man could write under so many pen-names, and had such an immense output.

What's in a name? A great deal to me, because I always thought Martin Clifford's style of writing was different, and the majority of his stories more serious and more dramatic than those of Frank Richards and Owen Conquest. To quote Maurice Down, Editor of the Gem in pre-war days: 'The Gem has always struck an older note than the Magnet.' Probably that is why I always thought that the three pen-names stood for three different writers.

There is a great deal in a name, and I feel sure that the magic of the stories was intensified by the use of the pen-names. The secret of Charles Hamilton's charm was, and still is, his knowledge of human nature, plus the fact that he was heart and soul in his work."

DON WEBSTER writes: "I am very much in agreement with your comments in "What's in a Name?" It should have been obvious to the discerning reader that the best stories of all the schools were coming from the same pen. Despite a difference in style accorded to Greyfriars, St. Jim's and Rookwood, there were ample clues, as, for example, in Magnet No. 118 - 'The Remove's Challenge' - in which Greyfriars play Rylcombe Grammar School at cricket, and Tom Merry and Co (including Gussy, of course) are present. Maybe we didn't think it credible that one man could turn out so much each week. Perhaps, too, many readers suspected something, but at my early age most youngsters are very gullible. Some thought St. Jim's really existed.

To your tag I would add another - "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise." I could find it in my heart to wish that the secret of the identity of the writer had never been divulged. I was sorry to have so many illusions destroyed by the curtain being lifted to show what went on behind the scenes."

\* \* \* \* \*

RESULT OF QUIZZLE NO. 9

Solution to Clue Down - "And Billy Went Too." Hidden words - "Breaking Up for the Summer Holidays."

First correct solution received from Donald B. Webster, 23 West Park Road, Surrey, to whom 5/- has been sent.

Northern - 40 points; London - 30 points; Merseyside - 20 points.

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

WANTED: Rookwood School Stories. Send offers and prices to:  
J. CHAMBERLAIN, 2 BRATHWAY ROAD, SOUTHFIELDS, LONDON, S.W.18.

\* \* \* \* \*

WANTED: Magnets Nos. 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, 55, 517, 648, 740, 742, 749, 756, 757, 758, 759, 767, 768, 771, 773, 920, 921, 933, 952, 1037, 1191. Your price paid - or Red Magnets offered for any numbers from 517 onwards.

Write: LOFTS, 56 SHERINGHAM HOUSE, LONDON, N.W.1.

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR DISPOSAL: About 200 Magnets in ranges: 1000-1298; 1300-1399; 1400-1495; 1601-1682. Also about 50 Gems. SALE or EXCHANGE for ½d. Magnets and Gems. Offers to:

A. J. MORRIS, 87 PARK END, BROMLEY, KENT.

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## QUIZZLE No. 10

A			1	2					
B		3							
C			4	5					
D		6	7						
E	8	9							
F			10						11
G		12	13						
H				14		15			
I				16					
J		17	18						
K	19			20					
L	21				22				
M		23				24			
N			25		26				
O					27	28			
P			29						30

The letters in the numbered squares, if placed in sequence in the lower grid, will spell out something we usually enjoy at the start of the Autumn Term.

CLUE DOWN: A. Where the new boy at Rookwood may find himself.  
(3, 9, 4.)

CLUES ACROSS:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- A. Gussy's tenor solos surely were not.  
B. Without direction, is this Rookwood senior as he does?  
C. Ale, gent, for Mauleverer.  
D. Skinner starts Bunter, and the start of Loder ends him.  
E. This Remove master was not so gentle as he sounded.  
F. Noted at Roll Call.  
G. When Mr. Quelch got to the bottom of things many were caned in the Remove.  
H. Only Herries described Towser thus.  
I. How the Bounder found his father.  
J. According to Bunter, his gold watch had many.  
K. Mellish, the funk of the Fourth, felt this.  
L. Tom Merry could deal with it on Little Side. (3, 4.)  
M. What we expected when the Magnet ended.  
N. They made Field into Squiff.  
O. I noted ten in Nobody's Study.  
P. What Billy Bunter brings to most of us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Write on a postcard the words in the lower grid and the answer to the Clue Down. 5/- to the sender of the first correct solution received by the Editor.

I MEET GEORGE RICHMOND SAMWAYS - PART 2BY W. O. G. LOFTSForeword:

In my opinion easily one of the most valuable jobs of research in our hobby was carried out by John Shaw during the last war. John by his own perusal of nearly all the "Magnet and Gem" stories - succeeded in sorting out which stories in his opinion were written by other writers than Charles Hamilton in these two papers. His findings and lists of them were published in the 1949 C.D. Annual.

He did not claim that it was in any way official except for some help from Mr. Charles Hamilton and in view of what has come to light since (as explained by Mr. Samways in his interviews with me) .. it is remarkable that there were not more errors in its lists than there were, for he certainly took on a tremendous task.

In sending Mr. Samways my record book containing the John Shaw list of substitute stories for him to mark off the Greyfriars and St. Jim's stories that he wrote - I feel that his comments on the list are of great importance to all "Magnet" and "Gem" collectors - and they are as follows:-

"After very careful study of this list, I am confident that quite a number of these alleged 'substitute' stories, were, in fact, written by Charles Hamilton! I have a very vivid memory, as sub-editor, of reading the mss. of series of "Magnet" stories - listed here as being by a substitute writer - and that these were genuine Hamilton stories I have no doubt. In my period of office, substitute writers (apart from Pentelow) were not entrusted with a series of stories as a general rule - though in my own case I did write quite a few including 646 to 648 dealing with Archie and Phyllis Howell characters I created.

Certain "Gem" stories dealing with Reginald Talbot and Marie Rivers, also listed as substitute stories, were also certainly Charles Hamilton's. These were in my opinion easily the most finest and powerful stories that he ever wrote for the "Gem." At a later date I did in fact write a few stories featuring these characters, but this was an exception. All other stories were by Hamilton, who had created the characters.

Now you ask me how one could tell a genuine Hamilton story from a substitute one. I answer that at once with all my experience as chief sub-editor. There is no sure way. To ~~be~~ <sup>one</sup> to assume that a Hamilton yarn was always par excellence, and a substitute yarn and ill-written dud, is just not true. Hamilton's style was not fixed; it had many

fluctuations and variations. His standard was remarkably high, considering the vast number of stories he wrote; but for one to assume that he never had his "off" days, like every writer, would be absurd.

It is of course, easy to tell a Pentelow story from a Hamilton. Pentelow scorned to model himself slavishly on Hamilton, and wrote in his own natural style, which unfortunately was prosy and lacked Hamilton's verve and sparkle.

Some substitute stories, however, were so closely modelled upon Hamilton's - all Hamilton's tricks were reproduced - short, snappy dialogue - quotations from the classics - actual phrases of Hamilton's that at this distance of time I defy anyone, however expert in MAGNET lore, to distinguish one of these non-Hamiltons from a genuine Hamilton. Even Hamilton's habit of ending a story with the repetition of the title, which was foolishly regarded by some as proof of his authorship, was copied by certain substitute writers.

And so on the other hand, I am certain that there are many stories which have been credited to Charles Hamilton which he did in fact not write.

By a re-perusal of Magnet and Gem stories published whilst I was on the staff, I am confident I could tell a Hamilton story from a substitute, because in my own case old memories would be evoked to assist me; but if I perhaps attempted to identify the authorship of the later stories, I should probably fall into the same sort of errors as the "Experts!" I could always tell what stories I had written, but that is as far as I could go.

Substitute writers have, in my opinion, been unjustly maligned. Such writers were not regarded, in my day, with contempt or derision by their journalistic confreres. In the absence of Hamilton stories these writers filled the breach, and on more than one occasion saved the papers from suspension. Neither did substitute stories have an injurious effect upon the circulations; indeed it was to the reverse, with the publication of "Sportsmen All!" the Magnet circulation rose appreciably. Hinton expressed his gratification, and commissioned me to write "SCHOOL & SPORT." Out of the many thousands of letters received during my period of office in the "Magnet" and "Gem" there was never one complaint about the substitute stories - to the contrary, often or not there was great praise for them. A Magnet or Gem story therefore should not be judged by lofty literary standards, but by its appeal to the public for whom it was written.

Looking back, I am not ashamed of anything I wrote in those far-off days. An imitative writer is, of course, inferior to a

creative writer like Charles Hamilton; at the same time, I brought all my youthful enthusiasm to the job, and know that my stories gave enjoyment to the readers, which after all is the main test.

Postscript:

In view of Mr. Samways remarks in the above article - both Derek Adley and myself have been working on a full list of official substitute stories in the "Magnet" and "Gem" - complete with the actual name of the author. We can confirm Mr. Samway's statements that the John Shaw list is not correct in some cases - by official documents in our possession. At Herbert Leckenby's suggestion we are hoping to have this published in this year's Annual - but it all depends on the speed in which we can contact various substitute authors - and time at our disposal. The first alleged substitute story in the "Magnet" No. 85 entitled "The Greyfriars' Visitors" was, I know for a fact, written by Charles Hamilton.

Part 3 next month.

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## OLD BOYS BOOK CLUB

LONDON SECTION. The September meeting will be held on Sunday, the 20th at 706 Wood Green, London, N.22. Kindly let the host, Bob Whiter, know whether you intend to be present. Phone in business hours, BOWES Park 6793. An enjoyable programme has been arranged. Herbert Leckenby hopes to be present and the Greyfriars Cup will be on show.

UNCLE BENJAMIN.

NORTHERN SECTION O.B.B.C. MEETING. 239 Hyde Park Road - August 8th, 1959. Another gratifying attendance which included Roger Jenkins who once again took the road from Hampshire to Yorkshire for his annual visit.

The last of the "Crusoes" made their choices. They were a mixed lot. Molly Allison led off with the 1917 "Chatterbox", 1928 "Little Folks" and the Magnet Bertie Vernon series. I followed with my sentimental reasons. A 60 year old issue of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Boys' Friend which was the very first copy of that famous paper I ever saw, B.F.L. 1st series "Britain at Bay" - part of that remarkable invasion story by John Tregellis (David Goodwin) and B.F.L. Jack Jackson's Enemy - the first of the Wycliffe stories.

Geoffrey Waine chose a volume of "Magnets" 1331 - 1382, Gems

1397, 1448 and the Holiday Annual, 1935. Tony Potts went quite off the beaten track with Capt. Slocums "Yachting", "Robinson Crusoe" and Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book!

Roger wound up with Bought Honours, The Boy Without a Name and its sequel Rival and Chums and the Bunter Court series.

After refreshments, Gerry Allison set one of his teasers. It had me completely beat, but not some of our wizards. Ron Hodgson solving it first.

Next meeting, September 12th. It's Jack Wood's night, the title of his talk "Round the World in 80 minutes." Sounds intriguing. He has dropped a mysterious hint that I had something to do with it, but I'm blown if I can think what it is. Anyway, come and see.

HERBERT LECKENBY, Northern Section Corres.

MIDLAND SECTION O.B.B.C. Meeting held 27th July, 1959. Maybe one or two of the newer members have thought that our meetings of late have not been interesting enough. True that there has been quite a lot of business matter to sort out and consequently the programmes have suffered. But no one could deny that this meeting was one of the best if not the best of this year. Apart from the items being of the highest standard and nicely varied, we were overjoyed to see our popular colleague Jack Ingram again, also Ron Dickens. Add to that the appearance of our two Burton members and we had some consolation for the absence of Ted Davey, Harold Bradbury and Anne Mercer. Fourteen members in attendance and Tom Smith putting in a fleeting appearance. Business having been disposed of we commenced with a jolly good quiz by Ray Bennett. "Twenty Questions", all nicely varied from Magnet, Gem, Boys' Friend and Nelson Lee, proved fairly tricky and Jack Tomlinson was winner with eleven right. John was on his mettle tonight as apart from winning the quiz, he gave one of the best impromptu talks we have had for a long while. From the Magnet he roved to the Gem, on to the Boys' Friend, giving us his likes and dislikes. Putting in a defensive word for the unfortunate substitute writers.

The first of the proposed "Desert Island Books" items was given by Tom Porter. His selected books were - Monster No. 2 "The Black Sheep of the Remove", Monster No. 5 "Bullies of Sr. Frank's", Greyfriars Holiday Annuals for 1920 and 1923, Magnets (volume) Nos. 954-982, Gem volume Nos. 770-798, Christmas Double Number for 1913 and finally volume of Boys' Friends Nos. 865-918.

Then Norman weighed in with one of his controversial items. What was our various opinions of the following fact. The "B.O.P.", "Chums" and the "Captain" did not feature a single detective tale. This,

in spite of the fact that dozens of detectives were operating (fictionally) of course, from all the other rival papers.

The night ended with a reading by Madge from a C.D. Annual, 1952 to be precise. This was Herbert Leckenby's "Lesser known Schools," and for this item - Cliveden and St. Ninian's were dealt with. (Note: I'm afraid Norman was in error where "Chums" was concerned for it ran, at least, three of Maxwell Scott's Martin Dale Detective serials. H.L.) HARRY BROSTER, Secretary.

MERSEYSIDE SECTION MEETING, August 16th. The decision to hold a meeting during the holiday month of August was amply justified by the excellent attendance at Neville Road, and to make up for the non-attendance of one or two of the regulars we enjoyed the pleasure of the company of that grand pioneer of this Section - Bill Horton.

The Greyfriars Cup Competition was discussed at length, and the necessary arrangements made for a successful bid by Merseyside for the honour of holding the trophy for the next year at least. Concern was expressed over the non-appearance, as yet, of the S.B.L., and enthusiasts feel that the silence is rather ominous - what a tragedy if it owes its demise to a strike, of all things!

It was decided to postpone our customary debate until September, but members enjoyed some unusual quizzes and competitions. The first called "From Land's End to John O' Groats", which entailed marking on a map of Britain towns and cities which formed the scenes of some of the classics. There was a dead-heat for first place between Don Webster and George Riley; Bill Horton came second, and Pat Laffey and Norman Pragnell tied for third place. In the second competition members had to identify twelve scenes from the famous classics, and Pat Laffey proved his knowledge by winning this, with George a very good second and Bill Horton and Don jointly third.

Then came refreshments and library business, and the library has received a grand fillip by the acquisition by Don of many new S.O.L.'s, Gems and Magnets, many of which were very eagerly snapped up. The meeting ended with another unusual quiz - members were shown twelve flags of different nations, and then had to write down as many characters from the famous schools as they could think of from these various countries. One or two of the more modern flags gave considerable difficulty, but Don proved a very easy winner here, at a canter, so to speak, and again George took second place, with Pat third.

Well, this meeting got so lively and interesting that after the closure at 9.45 another unofficial meeting took place until 10.15 -

some members were very reluctant to go, Let's make the next meeting an even better one, so make a note of the date - Sunday, September 13th at 6.30 p.m.

FRANK UNWIN

THE GOLDEN HOURS CLUB, SYDNEY. The weather was perfect, the rendezvous ideal, the menu good enough for a gourmet and the members enthusiastic - does that sound the recipe for a really enjoyable meeting? Well, that's how the stage was set when the members assembled at 6 p.m. on Friday, August 14th, in Cahill's Restaurant, Sydney, for their monthly meeting and the forecast proved correct.

As always, the letters from overseas proved most interesting - highlight of the evening was a letter received by our Chairman, Syd Smyth, from "The Master" himself, Charles Hamilton or as he signed in his inimitable style, Frank Richards. The copy of the "People" containing the write up on our hobby and the Australian club members had interested him greatly, despite its inaccuracies and he had written to express his thanks for the magazine and sent as well a most interesting feature which he had written about the famous "Billy" on T.V..... naturally our keen Hamiltonians hope that one day our television may bring us Bunter in all his glory.

A letter from Frank Unwin, was read and enjoyed - our first, but we hope not our last letter from Merseyside's most energetic secretary.

And last but not least, may I say how much we are all looking forward to the tape recording you are sending - this is the idea of the century and we do appreciate the trouble and time you have all spent to make this possible.

BETTE PATE, Secretary.

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## NELSON LEE COLUMN

by JACK WOOD, Nostaw, Stockton Lane, York.

Phone: 25795

\* \* \* \* \*

For the moment, at any rate, Nelson Lee has vetoed any reference to the amazing story of Zingrave's latest effort to rule the world, and the adventures of Nelson Lee and Nipper and Co. in preventing that disaster.

There is a great deal which must still remain untold if panic is not to be widespread; much clearing up has to be done in high places, for the Professor's new League had tentacles everywhere.

However, Jim Cook, our roving correspondent, has been down to St. Frank's again and has been told of a very curious affair which happened recently. He tells the story as follows:-

It was a glorious sunny day when I embarked at Victoria Station for my usual trip to St. Frank's. Nipper had written and promised he would meet me at Bannington station and travel on the local together. But before the London express had halted I saw Nipper and Co. approaching my carriage. Dear old Montie was beaming with that urbanity that always precedes his old world courtesy and Tommy Watson was bursting with words that would not come. Nipper with a cherry smile, greeted me as I stepped down onto the platform and we crossed to the other side and entered the local branch train that stopped at Bellton on it's way to Caistowe.

I love these visits to St. Frank's. It's though I am entering another world, another sphere, where the past still lingers and the glory of yesterday yet remains to be enjoyed. The quaint old village of Bellton has defied the onrush of future planning on which the historian depends for justification of a metier. This must be one of the very few places where the gas provides the kitchen light and the oil lamps glow dimly behind old lace curtains. You can catch up with the long forgotten years as you stroll through Bellton on your way to St. Frank's, and your memories will remain as fresh as the morning dew as you pass the juniors in Bellton Lane on their way to the river Stowe.

It is very nice to know one can always come here for a rest and a change. Nobody has ever been refused entry to St. Frank's, except perhaps, the violent ones who would wish it destroyed. There's always somebody who's against something. But if you think the old school is dull and leaden you would be in for a shock. I had no idea what news awaited me when I met Nipper and Co., and although I made several guesses coming down in the train I did not forecast what this letter was going to be about. I should have thought of a possible new boy making headlines for a change but I didn't. Up to now I haven't seen any fresh faces in the Lower school; Nelson Lee once told me it is very hard to get on the books here. You get registered when you are born; sometimes an opening occurs when there is an expulsion or somebody leaves, but it is rare. But the unexpected must have happened for a new boy has made an appearance in the Remove, and I am going to tell you about it exactly as Nipper related it to me.

It has very often been remarked that we all have doubles; persons so very much similar in facial appearances and body angles that placed side by side hardly any difference could be noted. Of course, put these

two people face to face then many critical changes are obvious and the similarity ends abruptly. Except in the case of twins where it is difficult sometimes even for relatives to spot the one from the other. But when you come across two pronounced strangers looking exactly alike in appearance it isn't very surprising when things become very awkward for both.

At the end of term last Spring, a vacancy occurred in the Remove owing to a junior going to live abroad with his parents. This junior was a comparatively new-comer to the school so the records will not suffer from his omission from the list of regular characters. But the fellow who gained admittance to St. Frank's owing to this opening should have even less right to its worthy chronicles except for one thing. He will be remembered for his embarrassing likeness to Pitt! He was slim, dark and lithe of action. His finely chiselled features, his clear complexion and his very dark hair all went to make him Reggie Pitt's double. The first time they came together they must have experienced the shock one received on seeing oneself unexpectedly in a mirror.

But whereas Pitt is everything that goes to present the honest, healthy schoolboy, keen on sport and a fine swimmer, quick and very keen witted, the new boy had none of these qualities. He possessed nothing of the humour, good nature and fine sense of judgment that made Reggie Pitt so popular.

In fact, the new boy, whose name was Factor, went purposely out of his way to prove that he lacked these fine virtues the first day he arrived at St. Frank's.

Factor had arrived the previous day and, as is the custom, he had slept in a bedroom reserved for new boys; consequently the first time the boys saw him was when he appeared in the Form room the next morning. Nipper knew a new boy was coming, but the fact had been overshadowed by other pressing demands relevant to a Form captain.

The day's lessons had started well and old Crowell's benign look had persisted longer that had been expected. It makes all the difference to a schoolboy's world if his Form Master is tolerant or otherwise. An atmosphere of forbearance had therefore been created and the juniors willingly settled down to the morning's work.

Suddenly, without warning, the electric bulb which hovered immediately above Mr. Crowell's desk shattered and myriads of glass particles rained down. Old Crowell jumped away in alarm, and fell to the floor. Handforth ran forward and assisted him to his feet, but it was evident Mr. Crowell was badly shocked. Fellows like Bernard Forrest,

Bell and Gulliver chuckled with glee at seeing the Form master's discomfort, and welcomed the diversion; but the startling explosion of the light bulb was a mystery.

Mr. Crowell was assisted to his feet, but he was feeling so groggy that Nipper went along to Nelson Lee's study and sought the aid of his gov'nor. As a result, Biggleswade took over for the rest of the morning and old Crowell recuperated in his study.

A passing plane was attributed for setting up the vibration that caused the electric globe to smash, but Vivian Travers knew different. For Travers had seen Factor eject an eraser from a rubber band in the direction of Crowell's desk. The rubber cube had capapulted to the light bulb and scored a direct hit! The resulting sudden explosion was so startling that several fellows thought old Crowell had been shot! But the Form Master may easily have been cut by falling glass so there was nothing funny in Factor's act.

The striking similarity of Pitt and Factor was not so evident at first. But as the hours of the day went by it became the main topic. In fact, the fellows began to wonder if there were not some blood relation between the two juniors they were that much alike. And of course, there were moments of confusion when Pitt was mistaken for Factor and vice versa! The incident in the Form room had been forgotten except by Travers. And as the evening progressed another plan was already in the mind of the new boy.

Handforth closed the door of Study D with unnecessary violence and strode moodily down the Remove passage. Church and McClure, his long-suffering study-mates, had stood together and defied him. It was one of those periods when Handy had to be firmly sat on. Flesh and blood just couldn't hold out any longer. An on these occasion, which were frequent, old Handy left home, so to speak, and waited for an interval to alapse when absence healed the wound and the chums of Study D were as one again.

But the interval had first to elapse, and as Handforth mooched down the passage Pitt appeared and collided into him with such force that the leader of Study D went down with a crash that shook every bone in his body. Then Pitt's feet trampled over his stomach, crunched in his face and, as a parting shot, Pitt's shoe ground into Handy's nose as Pitt streaked out of sight.

To get this chronicle right it must be stated at once that although Handforth actually saw Pitt commit the offence it was really the new boy, Factor. Factor at no time occupied Handforth's mind and when he saw his attack Handy's mental image created the vision of Reggie Pitt.

Thus to poor old Handforth Pitt was going to be made responsible for the assault.

Several juniors were gathered in the lobby of the Ancient House discussing this and that, as Archie would say, just before prep when suddenly Handforth came running, highly excited and demanding to know where Pitt was hiding. Pitt detached himself from the knot of juniors and looked at Handforth wonderingly. The warlike leader of Study D, looking extremely unsociable, then commenced scrapping and the dust began to fly. Reggie Pitt returned punch for punch but he lacked the enthusiasm for a fight because there was no apparent reason for it.

Of course, it wasn't allowed to go on. The two juniors were soon separated and Handy was forced to explain. Although the good natured leader of Study D was willing to fight anybody on any pretext the juniors seldom saw him so angry as they did now. Pitt was amazed when he was accused of the assault, and it was some time before Handy was convinced Pitt could not have committed the attack, for Reggie had been with the other chaps discussing the forthcoming cricket match with Helmford. Travers suggested the new boy must have been the culprit and that Handy mistook him for Pitt. As soon as the idea was issued, it became obvious that that must be the truth. The fellows began to realise how much alike were the two boys, yet the fact had been apparent ever since Factor's debut in the classroom.

But when Handforth finally found Factor the new boy firmly denied the charge and was backed up by Forrest and Co. Already the sads of Study A had begun to exploit the newcomer to St. Frank's, but had they know it they were on a losing wicket! A very puzzled Handy returned to Study D and the little tiff with Church and McClure was forgotten. His faithful chums wisely acknowledged this form of surrender by their leader and life in Study D went on as before. But Handforth wasn't going to allow the incident to be forgotten. Nobody was going to stand on his face and get away with it. No, not Handforth's.

It was a half holiday the next day and the afternoon turned out very sunny. As the match with Helmford was being fought away most of the juniors had left St. Frank's so see or play in it. Consequently, Factor found the Triangle bare when he emerged from the Ancient House. Forrest and Co., having reached the conclusion that they were wasting their time dropped the new boy when they found him unwilling to co-operate and share his purse. They roped in Claude Gore-Pearce for their afternoon's entertainment which probably was questionable. Gore-Pearce being the son of a parvenu millionaire, offered a sporting chance at least of being milked.

Augustus Parkin of the Sixth saw the new boy and, having a very little while ago passed Pitt on his way to the match, wondered how "Pitt" could have returned so quickly. But as the Sixth former came nearer he detected some slight difference in Factor's attitude that was not usual in Pitt.

After remarking on his likeness to Pitt of the Remove, Parkin, seizing the chance to make the new boy fag for him, asked if he would go to the village and obtain some things from the shops. Parkin is Kenmore's friend and they take the line that fagging should not have been abolished at St. Frank's.

To Parkin's astonishment he received an affirmative reply, and Factor departed for Bellton whistling merrily.

Parkin immediately rounded up fellows of his own kidney like Grayson, Simms and Kenmore and declared the juniors were weakening. Whereupon plans were made for restoring the system of fagging at once. But I believe these false signs of the juniors submitting to fagging for the seniors never came to any good. Fagging was put down well and truly some time ago when the boys formed a secret society and thrashed those seniors who made the juniors fag for them.

Meanwhile, the new boy had reached the stile at the bottom of Bellton Lane where he halted. Pulling a packet of cigarettes from his pocket he withdrew one and lit up.

It was a very lonely lane that stared back at Factor, and after a while he threw down the finished cigarette and quickly made his way to the village. A plan had formed in his mind and judging from the smirk that appeared on his face somebody was going to suffer. For it was an ugly transformation and entirely foreign to Pitt's countenance. His resemblance to Reggie finished at once.

Arriving at Bellton he entered the shop owned by Mr. Sharpe, the ironmonger. After juggling about the several objects he threw them down with feigned disgust at the poor quality. The up-ending several bags of nails and screws he scattered them over the floor. Old Sharpe, gazing in bewilderment, ran out from behind the counter and attempted to grasp the boy he thought was Pitt of St. Frank's. Factor flew out onto the High Street and vanished.

He visited many shops and on each occasion was mistaken for Pitt. And in each case did a certain amount of damage. Whatever was the new boy's motive, or his reason for making the angry shopkeepers of Bellton concentrate their fury on Reggie Pitt was a mystery. For it was obvious Dr. Stafford was very shortly going to be informed of the destruction. Pitt was very well known both in Bellton and Bannington. Concluded

next month.

LATE NEWS

Just as we go to press there's the welcome sight of the S.B.L's back on the bookstalls. Unfortunately it's too late to have them reviewed in this number, but we hope to be back to normal next month.

Yes, it's good to have them back for it's evident from the many letters I have received since they went into cold storage, they have been missed.

Now, having got them, I hope you will read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the editor's remarks and warning. All of you, new and old readers, back him up in every way you possibly can so that the sight of the S.B.L's on the bookstalls will gladden our hearts for many a year to come.

I am sure, too, that all old timers will agree that the editor deals with the subject of the "old characters" logically, convincingly and well. H.L.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB WHITER

I strongly advise you to get hold of a copy of the "Hotspur" for August 8th. On page 19 you will see a page of sketches by our own Bob, under the heading all about the "Cowboy's Kit." They are really superb, with a real professional touch about them. May they be the first of many more. I for one, know how hard he has worked to gain you ambition.  
H.L.

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WANTED: GEMS - 313, 314, 315, 316, 319, 320, 321, 322, 356, 358, 359, 376, 385, 387, 392, 457, 459, 493, 773, 775, 881, 935, 946, 948, 950, 951, 953, 954, 956, 964, 967, 968, 970, 975, 976, 977, 979, 980, 984, 986, 990, 992, 993, 998, 1116, 1126, 1129, 1133. MAGNETS - 45, 52, 134, 136, 138, 141, 195, 205, 238, 277, 318, 319, 325, 344, 346, 347, 353, 357, 358, 386, 388, 400, 411, 417, 469, 717, 719, 752, 773, 806, 809, 811, 834, 842, 849, 850, 856, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 868, 990, 921, 924, 925, 935, 936, 940, 942, 943, 944, 946, 948, 949, 950, 951, 954, 955, 958, 965, 967, 988, 996. POPULARS - 370, 385, 390, 395, 396, 398, 418, 428, 455, 461, 466, 474, 475.  
ERIC FAYNE, EXCELSIOR HOUSE, GROVE ROAD, SURBITON, SURREY.

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