

The St. Franks Saga

By Robert Blythe

It has been suggested several times that I do the same for the Nelson Lee as John Geal did so ably for the Magnet in 1949 and Eric Fayne for the Gem in 1951. That is, give a complete list, together with short descriptions of the various series.

Well, it so happens that I did give such a list spread over the year 1949. That list was given primarily to help collectors to know the start/stop numbers of the various series and also as they are rather difficult to find, even if you possess the C.D. for that year without a lot of searching, I'm giving the list again, but this time fully revised and elaborated. However, I must confess that my main reason is to show what a wealth of good reading there is to be found within the pages of the good old Nelson Lee.

To disbelievers and unrepentants (R.J. please note) please observe how many times you see a straightforward detective series recorded!!

Incidentally, I have not included any of the 2nd and 3rd New Series, mainly because to do them justice I would need at least another four pages and that, with this article at its present length, is out of the question. Perhaps I'll do that another time. However, of one thing I'm certain, those who are only superficially acquainted with the Lee are in for a surprise.

ORIGINAL SERIES 1915-17

No's 1 - 111. Almost without exception a complete detective story each week.

1917

No's 112-120 (with the exception of 113, 115, 117, 119),

INTRODUCING ST. FRANK'S

Nelson Lee and Nipper arrive at St. Frank's as Mr. Alvington and Dick Bennett. Most of the stories are complete in themselves with the overall picture of Nipper settling in and raising the Ancient House from the doldrums by ousting Fullwood from the captaincy.

No's 121-131 (excepting 121, 123, 124, 127)
Complete school-detective stories.

No's 132-135. NELSON LEE V. THE CIRCLE OF TERROR

Exciting school-detective story introducing Cecil De Valerie and Sessue Yakama. Yakama's life is threatened by the Circle of Terror, a criminal organisation headed by Prof. Cyrus Zingrave, De Valerie being the innocent dupe. All their efforts, of course, are foiled by Nelson Lee still in his disguise as Mr. Alvington.

No's 136-139 ARRIVAL OF TOM BURTON

Tom Burton arrives and incurs the enmity of Fullwood and De Valerie. Two rascally sailors, Cept. Jelks and Bill Larson, attempt to kidnap Tom in order to force his father, Dept. Burton to disclose the whereabouts of certain treasure. An exciting prelude to the summer holiday series.

1918

No's 140-141.

DE VALERIE REFORMS

Complete in themselves showing how De Valerie reforms. This is brought about because he is under the mistaken impression that he has caused the death of one of the village boys. The struggle between his baser and better self is well described. This struggle with his conscience results in his confession. He then discovers that the whole thing has been engineered by a crooked bookmaker for the purpose of blackmail.

No's 142-147. Nelson Lee v. Prof. Zingrave and the Circle of Terror.
School detective stories.

No's 148-157.

HUNTER THE HUN

The first of the barrings-out and one of the best. Mr. Hunter arrives and by his despotic and bullying attitude soon earns the nick-name "Hun". After his attempt to subdue Nipper, Tregellis-West and Watson by starvation the Remove rose in revolt. The barring-out is held among the ruins of the Monastery complete with barbed wire entanglements. They are forced out of here but manage to take up positions on Willards Island. They return to the school after receiving a written promise that all is forgiven, only to find they have been tricked. Nipper & Co. are cruelly flogged and imprisoned. The efforts of the rest of the Remove to start another barring-out is foiled. Hunter the Hun is the victor. However, Nelson Lee, although ostensibly absent from the school, had not been idle, for Hunter was a Hun - literally. In fact, he was a spy and after several exciting events is finally captured and turned over to the police.

No's 158-165. NIPPER & CO IN THE SOUTH SEAS

Capt. Burton takes some of the Removites with him on his search for treasure. Trouble is caused by the afore-mentioned Capt. Jelks. Together with battles against cannibals and a volcanic eruption which leaves their ship high and dry in a lagoon, they have a tough time of it. Nevertheless the treasure is found and Jelks is defeated.

No's 166-169. NELSON LEE v. THE CIRCLE OF TERROR

Lee fights another round with Zingrave's criminal band and wins. Lee and Nipper's real identity is revealed to the school as a whole for the first time in this series.

170-177.

ARRIVAL OF REGGIE PITT

One of the most popular characters celebrates his arrival by completely wrecking the study of one of the River House Masters, as an act of spite against Welbourne & Co. for which the latter are flogged. He soon proves a thorough rascal and earns for himself the name of "The Serpent". As part of his plan for avenging himself upon Nipper & Co. he is instrumental in getting Tregellis-West and Handforth expelled. Watson is to get the same treatment but at the last moment he is involved in a fire from which he is rescued by Pitt (the only one who knows where he is) at the risk of his life. Pitt has a change of heart and confesses to his trickery.

178-186. THE BOY FROM BERMONDSEY

The arrival of Jack Mason, later known as Jack Grey. He thinks he is an orphan, but his uncle, Mr. Grell, knows that a locket Jack has in his possession is the clue to his parents as well as a lost treasure. Jack has a great influence upon Reggie Pitt and they become firm friends and it is the latter who is mainly responsible for foiling the wicked uncle, although it is Nelson Lee who establishes Jack's parentage.

1919

No's 187-194. COLONEL CLINTON

A new housemaster takes over the College House and things begin to hum, for Col. Clinton is a militarist of the most virulent type. Drills, parades, saluting and guard duties are the order of the day. But Col. Clinton is proved insane and the juniors get their demob. papers.

195-204. THE BULLIES LEAGUE

Starke, Kenmore and other shady characters among the Fifth and Sixth start a reign of terror by incessant bullying. The fags are easy meat but the leaders of the Remove form the "Secret Combine" and commence to give the seniors a taste of their own medicine until they are too scared to start anything for fear of the retaliation. Also running through the story is the mysterious X, who is responsible for a series of burglaries.

205-212. NIPPER EXPELLED

Starke, still smarting after his defeat, fakes evidence of an assault for which Nipper is expelled. Nipper, however, returns to the school in disguise and manages to prove Starke's guilt, as a result of which he, in turn, is expelled.

213-220. IN SEARCH OF THE TREASURE OF SAFRA

All aboard for North Africa in company with Lord Dorriemore and Umlos. The clue to the treasure is contained in the locket owned by Jack Grey. The treasure is discovered and the villains are foiled (of course there are villains, that's where all the fun and excitement comes in!) The scene shifts to West Africa where the party have a skirmish with the natives, and so on to the Atlantic. As storm and engine trouble, getting marooned upon an island and finally stuck in the middle of the Sargasso Sea rounds off a series full to the brim with adventure.

221-222. TITUS ALEXIS AND THE GREAT FIRE

Titus arrives with a deep hatred of all things British. He, naturally, gets pushed around a bit and in revenge he sets fire to the College House. Of course he's nuttier than a fruit cake and is removed from the school. But the whole thing is a dramatic curtain-raiser to the next series, which is -

223-228. ST. FRANK'S IN LONDON

The school takes up quarters near Holborn. Detection is well to the fore in this series, as it concerns an opium smugglers' ring and the kidnapping of Tregellis-West. The last story introduces Fatty Little.

229-236. BARRING-OUT OF MR. MARTIN

This barring-out follows the familiar pattern of a tyrannical new Headmaster and the inevitable revolt. No new angles in this plot but, of course, plenty of action.

237-239. Christmas with Lord Dorriemore at Cliff Castle.

1920

240-249. THE SPENDTHRIFT

An unusual series this. The Hon. Douglas Singleton, a newcomer to the Remove blest with a fortune of over £200,000, proceeds to spend some like water. As might be expected, he falls into the hands of three unscrupulous crooks led by a Mr. Gore. They begin to fleece him by various means until he has not a penny left. By this time he has well and truly learnt his lesson and has become a steadier and more reliable person in the process. By a trick he manages to trace them and hand them over to the police. Mr. Gore then proves himself to be - Nelson Lee. So Singleton gets his fortune back and all's well.

250-255. THE SERVANTS STRIKE

An amusing series with Timothy Tucker well to the fore as a Communist agitator. The school staff decide to go on strike and are backed up by the juniors. Heaps of fun and games with the juniors doing the cooking and making the beds etc., meantime keeping the fresh staff off the premises by various devices. The old staff eventually get their raise in pay, and things return to normal.

256-263. Mr. Crowell, suffering from a nervous breakdown, is replaced by Handforth's brother-in-law, Mr. Heath. Mr. Heath is being blackmailed by a Count De Plessigny. Handforth does a spot of detective work and causes a split in Study D as a consequence.

264-274. EL DORADO

One of the most famous holiday series, full to overflowing with adventure.

Lord Dorriemore takes a party up the Amazon in search of Col. Kerrigan. They discover the lost city of El Dorado and a race of giants known as the Urzacs. What with battles with pre-historic monsters, a war between rival armies, and hair-raising escapades together with volcanic eruptions thrown in for good measure, there's never a dull moment. E.S.B. certainly pulled out all the stops for this yarn.

275-283. ARRIVAL OF DICK GOODWIN

Back to St. Frank's and straight away up to the eyebrows in mystery. Dick has invented a mechanical gadget and certain doubtful types try to steal it.

284-293. BANNINGTON CINEMA

Soloman Levi persuades his father to buy Bennington Grange for conversion into a cinema. Mr. Webb, the only other cinema owner in Bennington, objects - violently. Story tells how he attempts to put paid to the scheme by nefarious means - and fails - naturally.

294-304. THE COLLEGE HOUSE WITHOUT RULES

This period of "no rules" was introduced by Mr. Smale Fox, the new Housemaster. No rules, no punishment - result chaos! The rotters take full advantage and bring the name of St. Frank's into disrepute. Nelson Lee takes a hand and proves that Smale Fox is deliberately allowing these happenings as part of a plan of revenge against the school. The story also tells of the boxing prowess of Ernest Lawrence as a professional.

305-311. THE HOUNDS OF THE TARGOSSA

A holiday crowd on a trip in an airship which is wrecked in the Adriatic. The boys are saved by a ship which is drifting without a crew. The ship in turn is wrecked on the coast of Mordania. The party is captured by the Targossa, rebels who hold power in the country. They escape and go in forces with the Royalists. There is a terrific battle between the two factions before the rebels are subdued and the party can return home.

312-319. JERRY DODD AND THE TEST MATCHES

Jerry Dodd, a youth who lives for cricket, is told by his father "no cricket, school is a place for study". How he gets over this and ends up playing in a test match is told in a way that puts Brooks in the forefront of sports-story writers.

320-327. IN THE WILD WEST

Justin B. Farman's father is having trouble with rustlers etc. on his ranch in Montana. He invites Nelson Lee and Lord Darriemore and a crowd of the lads out there for a holiday. Whilst there, Lee feels that it's up to him, and so we're treated to as full-blooded a western yarn as could be wished for.

328-335. PITT'S EFFORTS TO SAVE THE FAMILY FORTUNES

Dramatic episode relating Reggie Pitts' efforts to make money to help his father, who is bankrupt after being rooked in a business scheme. Pitt, who is reckoned the finest winger in St. Frank's football history, gets a job as outside-right with Bannington Football Club. And so we have a football series with a spot of skulduggery provided by one Simon Raspe who had caused Pitts' father to go bankrupt in the first place.

336-349. THE MADNESS OF DR. STAFFORD

Dr. Stafford is being poisoned by a Mr. Trenton, the new Science Master. The poison causes him to fly into uncontrollable tempers, each attack being worse than the last. The boys, not knowing what to make of it, begin to take sides for and against. Those against, led and influenced by Timothy Tucker, go communist, which leads to them gaining control of the school. There's a small barring-out and clashes between them and the other party, termed the Loyalists.

This is a long series and there's too much in the plot to cram into a small space. However, Trenton is exposed and the school gradually returns to normal.

1922

349-357. THE COMING OF ARCHIE

This series, which concerns efforts which are made to recover treasure from Willards Island, is enlivened by the arrival at the school of one of the very best characters in schoolboy fiction - Archie Glenthorne. Archie, the walking fashion plate, is absolutely one of the "ones". His manner of speaking alone is sufficient to endear him for ever to the reader.

358-365. Young Ching is kidnapped by members of a Chinese Tong and is taken on a ship en route to China. This leads to:-

366-374. A HOLIDAY IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

Lord Dorriemore and the usual crowd on board The Wanderer give chase to the kidnapers, duly rescue Young Ching and carry on to the South Seas. Here they get wrecked on a coral island and live like the Swiss Family Robinson. Archie's valet, Phipps, comes into his own as a sort of "Admirable Crichton". They are finally rescued by aeroplane which brings us to:-

375-380. THE NEW ANGLIANS

One of Brooks' so-called "far-fetched" stories. The aeroplane takes them to the antarctic where they discover the lost country of New Anglia, only to find that they have landed just when a war between the two halves of the country is about to start - with what results to the St. Frank's party you can imagine.

381-397. Back to the peace and quiet (!!) of school life. Complete stories.

1923

398-407. PEPPICOAT RULE

Miss Trimble, a newly elected chairman of the Governing Board, objects in public to the Headmaster administering corporal punishment. He resigns in protest, followed shortly afterwards by the rest of the masters. Miss Trimble seizes the chance to prove a theory that boys are better trained by women and installs women teachers. The boys treat the whole thing as a joke at first, but the joke turns sour when Miss Trimble bans most of the privileges such as tea in the studies etc. The final straw is when the juniors are banned from using the studies. From then on it's war - to the bitter end! A well-remembered series with Brooks at his best.

408-414. ALF 'UGGINS ARRIVES

Alf Brent, son of the Chairman of the Board of Governors has a theory that if he went to St. Frank's under his own name he would be treated with respect, but if he went as Alf Huggins, an ordinary working-class boy, he would be ostracised. How the idea works out is brilliantly and movingly told.

415-422. WHITSUN HOLIDAY SERIES

The Removites spend a caravanning holiday touring the highways and byways of rural England.

423-432. IN AMERICA

The Remove, for various reasons, find themselves in America. They travel from New York to Hollywood, where they meet Lord Dorriemore who takes them on The Wanderer into the Pacific. Here they meet with more adventures on a certain island. Brooks wrote this story whilst in America and it has the ring of authenticity.

433-441. INTRODUCING BUSTER BOOTS

From the Editor's remarks concerning this series: "It was power and leadership that he coveted and he found that he could more quickly attain success by instituting a reign of terror——. As we have seen, Nipper proves to Buster that two could play at that game, and when the new Remove leader began to experience some of his own medicine he realised that there was some truth in the saying that 'He who lives by the sword perishes by the sword'. The light of reason brought home to him at last the folly of his mad lust for power. He was sobered, and felt ashamed of himself. His old supporters now turned against him. They regard him as a bully and a coward, and it remains for Buster to prove that at heart he is neither."

442-447. Nelson Lee's tustle with the Night Owl, otherwise known as Caleb Droone, and the criminal organisation The Alliance of Thirteen.

1924

448-454. THE DR. KARNACK SERIES

Dr. Karnack takes over the post of Curator to the school museum, and weird things begin to happen. Some parts of this story would not be out of place in the "Not at Night" books, as witness some of the titles: "The Evil Eye of Baal", "The Curse of the Moon God" etc. This series was most topical at the time, for Tutankhamen's tombe had just been discovered.

445-463. BARRING-OUT AGAINST WILLIAM K. SMITH

Smith, a German-American millionaire, buys up most of the countryside surrounding St. Frank's with the idea of building vast factories. As a result of his scheming Dr. Stafford is forced to resign and one of Mr. Smith's stooges, a Mr. Ponsonby Small, is installed. Small is not big enough for the job and soon has everyone in open revolt. This rebellion interferes a great deal with Smith's plans and in consequence there's loads of excitement culminating in a thrilling finale when his workmen (all foreigners, by the way), maddened with drink, storm the school and attempt to set fire to it.

464-470. THE CIRCUS COME TO TOWN

A circus comes to Bennington and then the fun starts. The performers go on strike and the Removites take over. Imagine Handy, as a strong man, tossing 500 lbs. weight about!

471-476. A story with, for a boys' paper, a most unusual plot. It tells how Mrs. Stokes, the new Housemaster's wife, having been cured of a serious illness by the use of drugs, had become, in part, a drug addict.

Her fight to return to a normal life, whilst being encouraged to take more drugs by a reptilian Chinaman, is dramatic, to say the least.

477-484. IN THE SAHARA

One of Brooks' "far-fetched" holiday series. This time they discover a lost Roman city in the middle of the Sahara Desert and experience all the thrills and adventures that one might associate with such an event.

485-492. THE SCHOOL WITH A BAD NAME

Another unusual story of a type not usually met with in boys' papers. During a champagne party held by the "blades", a senior dies of heart failure. A London newspaper gets hold of the story and the resulting scandal nearly causes the school to close down. However, most of the Remove manage to stay on and, under Pitts' leadership, manage to restore the good name of St. Frank's.

493-500. Complete School Stories.

1925

501-512. TOMMY WATSON AT MOAT HOLLOW

Owing to his father's finances being somewhat shaky, Watson is sent to the new school recently opened at Moat Hollow between St. Frank's and Bellton. A shock awaits him, however, for the school is nothing more or less than a prison, where the boys have all the spirit knocked out of them and are, in fact, treated like slaves. Brooks must have read Nicholas Nickleby, for this is the type of school that Dickens exposed. A thoroughly good yarn with Nipper doing his stuff at the end as the "Phantom Protector".

513-522. A cricketing series with a feud between the Ancient and Modern House thrown in as good measure and to add to the complications.

523-528. ST. FRANK'S TAKES UP SCOUTING

Owing to part of the school having been damaged and accommodation lacking, the Lower School take up Scouting and camp out on the Downs overlooking Shingle Bay.

529-536. IN THE SOUTH SEAS AGAIN

Lord Dorriemore takes the usual crowd to a South Sea Island in search of pearls. This is Brooks at his best and his description of a tropical island is convincing. There is also a most realistic description of a cyclone.

537-541. THE REFORMATION OF FULLWOOD

Fullwood, until now the acknowledged leader of the "cads", had been present on the holiday in the last series and mainly owing to the influence of Clive Russell, began to see the error of his ways. In this series we see the transformation completed. All is not made easy for him, and he has an uphill fight before he can cut loose from his old associates. The school is enlarged to five houses in this series.

542-549. EZRA QUIRKE

In the opinion of many this is the finest series that Brooks ever wrote. It made such an impression on one of our circle that he decided to take up the profession of stage illusionist as a career.

Briefly then: Ezra Quirke arrives, riddled with superstitions and a dabbler in Black Magic. He has a powerful personality and very soon has his own circle of believers. Those who ridicule him seem to run into bad luck. However, the die-hards form themselves into the "13 Club" and defy Quirke to do his worst. As a consequence they suffer all sorts of misfortunes and the "13 Club" disbands. Quirke utilises a cellar in the East House where he holds meetings and where he achieves all sorts of weird phenomena. Eventually he has nearly everyone believing in him except a very few. Led by Browne of the Fifth, they eventually find the means to expose him. How this is brought about and why Quirke is at the school I won't reveal as it would spoil your fun if you haven't already read the story.

Brooks at his very best.

1926

550-560. THE REVOLT AGAINST GUY SINCLAIR

Guy Sinclair, a 6th Former, and one of the worst, succeeds in becoming Head Prefect of the West House mainly owing to the fact that he has a hold over Mr. Stokes the Housemaster. His success goes to his head and he becomes a petty dictator. Life is made unbearable for the juniors and so they rebel. Eventually the rest of the school join in and with Masters and Prefects absent for various reasons the unruly elements get the upper hand and mob rule is only stopped by the intervention of Mr. Stokes. Sinclair is finally exposed by Stokes and is expelled.

561-568. HORACE STEVENS AND HIS FATHER'S PLAY

For this, the last of the Old Series, Brooks takes us behind the scenes of London's Theatre-land. Stevens' father, before he dies, had been a great actor and had written a play. Stevens tries to get it produced and also reveals his own capabilities as an actor. How the play is stolen from him and how with Brown's and Nipper & Co's help he finally triumphs is well told in a most dramatic fashion.

1st New Series

No's 1-11. SPORTS MAD AT ST. FRANK'S

Fenton starts a Sports Carnival and Nipper suggests a Young England v. Young Australia playing in a test match with the final game at Lord's. St. Frank's thinks of nothing else except sport this term, but the Headmaster tries to bring them back to earth by setting them a specially stiff exam. So what with sports and study and everything going with a mad rush, everyone has a hectic time, trying to fit things in.

12 - 19. HOLIDAY ADVENTURES IN CHINA

Young Ching is kidnapped and Nelson Lee, Dorriemore and Umlosi, to say nothing of Nipper & Co. go to China to effect a rescue. They are

taken prisoners and get mixed up in a battle between rival War Lords before everything smooths itself out.

20 - 25. HANDFORTH IS REMOVE CAPTAIN

As a result of a joke that went wrong, Handforth is elected captain. He proceeds to make a thorough nuisance of himself, until the whole Remove is fed up to the back teeth with his weird and wonderful ideas of how a form should be run. A very funny yarn.

26 - 33. ST.FRANK'S ON ITS HONOUR

An American Professor persuades the Headmaster to adopt the "Honour System", with dire results. The decent element form a vigilante committee to bring the others to their senses. Meanwhile, Fullwood is tempted to desert the straight and narrow, but his better self prevails.

1927

34 - 43. THEY DISCOVER NORTHESTRIA

After spending Christmas at Handforth Towers the holiday party go on a trip to the Far North, in an airship owned by Lord Dorriemore. As one might expect, the airship gets out of control in a violent storm and is carried well into the Arctic Circle. They get pitchforked over a range of mountains and find themselves - in Northestria - a land of knights in armour. In other words, back to the Middle Ages. Although this is one of Brooks' "far-fetched" stories, I, personally consider it one of the best. The party arrive just as the Gothlanders are about to invade Northestria. Lee and Dorriemore are given the job of organising an army to repel them, and using modern weapons and ideas, do the whole thing in grand style.

44 - 50. THE GREAT FLOOD

Pine Hill Reservoir bursts during heavy rains and floods the whole of the Stowe Valley. St.Frank's is complete cut off. However, a couple of barges float into the school grounds together with an old barn (Fort Resolute of the Trimble barring-out) and Handforth gets the bright idea of lifting the barn on to the barges. They use "Handforth's Ark" as a means of escape from the school. They get carried out to sea and are wrecked but manage to save the barges. They return to the coast and when the floods subside, a few of them, acting as bargees, return the barges to their rightful owner.

51 - 54. THE FUNK OF ST.FRANK'S

Harry Gresham, son of a county cricketer and himself an expert at the game, arrives only to be branded a funk. Handy takes him in hand and helps to prove that his cowardice is more imaginary than real.

55 - 60. THE FRESH AIR FIENDS

The Headmaster's sister persuades him to allow those who wish to take advantage of the summer weather to go under canvas. Her husband is in search of Roman treasure for which purpose he buys Holt's Farm. The camp is washed out by a storm and some of the lads persuade the Heed's

sister to allow them to carry on at Holt's Farm. Her husband objects at first but eventually allows them to stay and help him in his search.

66 - 67. ON THE CONGO

This holiday starts out with no particular end in view, except as a trip to the Congo in the company of Lord Dorriemore. However, when they arrive they learn that trouble has broken out in Umlosi's tribe, the Kutans's, and that Umlosi has disappeared. They at once set out to do the rescuing business, only to be captured by a slave trader, one Otto Lorenzo. Needless to say, they put paid to him, but not before we have had our full quota of thrills and adventures.

68 - 71. THE FEUD OF THE FOURTH AND THE REMOVE

What commences as a new spirit of rivalry between the two forms is turned to hatred by Bernard Forrest (who took over the reigns as chief "cad" from Fullwood.) He, with some of his friends, fan the flames impartially by introducing such things as stones and dog-whips etc. into the rivalry. Forrest is in due course exposed and is drummed out of St.Frank's.

72-75. THE CASTLETON TWINS

Allan and Arthur Castleton arrive, the former at St.Frank's and the latter at St.Jim's. Although they are as alike as two peas outwardly, their natures are poles apart. Allan is a thorough-going young rascal, and eventually makes himself so unpopular that he suggests to Arthur that they change places as a joke. Arthur agrees and goes to St.Frank's, only to find that he has to pay for his brother's sins. Allan meanwhile is conscience-stricken and returns to take his medicine. The story also tells of the various attempts on the life of Lord Pippinton.

76 - 79. DEATH OF WALTER CHURCH

One of the most dramatic stories ever written by E.S.B. Church is pursued by enemies and his life is saved only by prompt action by Nelson Lee. To prevent further attempts Lee and Dr.Brett announce that Church has died. Although McClure is convinced, Handforth refuses to believe it, and does his best to force Nelson Lee to explain. The fine thing about this story is the description of the fellows' reactions, particularly Handforth's and McClure's to Church's illness and supposed death. To those who regard Handy as purely a comic this side of his character is an eye-opener.

80-99. HANDFORTH'S BARRING-OUT

Handforth is falsely accused of setting a trap for Mr.Pyecraft, and is due to be flogged. Handforth, being the chap he is, and highly incensed by the injustice, starts a harring-out with his two friends. Very soon others join until the whole Remove is in revolt. The rebellion starts in the Ancient House studies, takes over the store-house as more join, and end by the juniors taking over the Modern House. The harring-out is finally brought to an end by the confession of the culprits, in this case Merrell and Marriott.

1928

90-93. THE BOOT-BOY BARONET

Sir James Potts, Bart. comes to St. Frank's as a boot-boy to earn his living. He is helped to regain his position in life by an old friend and new boy Vivian Travers, and the story ends with him becoming a member of the Remove.

94-99. The Earl of Edgemore is in Queer Street what with mortgages being foreclosed etc., but the Remove rally round and with Nelson Lee doing his stuff on the side, everything works out nicely, thank you!

100-108. HANDFORTH THE OUTCAST

Handforth, usually good-natured and cheerful, gets into a thoroughly bad temper which gets worse as time goes on, and all over nothing. He realises that he's at fault but Handy is as obstinate as a mule and considers everyone owes him an apology instead of vice-versa. Things go from bad to worse until he is ostracised by the whole form. Even his faithful chums, Church and McClure, leave him to get on with it. Of course, Handy comes to his senses but not before he nearly gets himself expelled.

109-117. Chambers of the Fifth, owing to sheer laziness, is sent down to the Remove. He attempts to assert himself by bullying, but is soon put in his place. Showing no effort to improve himself, the Headmaster decides to put him into the Third - amongst the fags. He has a terrible time of it, the fags taking the opportunity to pay off old scores. He soon pulls himself together after this and eventually gains his old place in the Fifth.

118-123. ON HOLIDAY IN INDIA

Lord Dorriemore takes the usual crowd on holiday again, this time to India. The plot is basically the same as the China Series, except that this time it is Hassi Ranjit Lal Kahn who is kidnapped.

124-127. A story of fun and games, when a series of japes are carried out between St. Frank's and the River House.

128-131 WILLY HANDFORTH'S DOG

This yarn tells how Willy Handforth forms an attachment for a greyhound, of his efforts to buy it from a brutal owner.

132-139. A mixed bag of very short series, concerning the Blue Crusaders, Kenmore the prefect and his reformation, and ghostly happenings at Raithmere Castle re-introducing Ezra Quirke.

1929

140-151. THE ST. FRANK'S TOURING SCHOOL

The school go on an educational tour of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. I don't know what they learnt but they had their full quota of adventure. Brooks may or may not have visited these countries, but his descriptions are most realistic.

152-159. THE SNEAK'S PARADISE

Note:- 152, 157-159, complete school stories.

Dr. Stefford has retired and instead we have a Dr. Morrison Nicholls. He has a theory which he puts into practice, that the schoolboy code of honour, which says "one should not 'sneak'", is all wrong, and that if a boy is bullied, or knows of some misdemeanour, he should report the matter. What happens, of course, is the opposite to the Headmaster's hopes. It's a field day for the cads.

160-169. ON TOUR AGAIN

Coming so quickly after the other touring school series, one can only assume that it was a publicity stunt. This time they travel about England in a special train, stopping a few days at various points. Each stopping-place provides a different adventure.

170-174. Lord Dorriemore turns up again and takes a party off to Arizona in search of gold.

175-178. Stanley Waldo son of the "Wunderman", arrives, and proceeds to stagger the school.

179-182. Bernard Forrest is reinstated and immediately starts his old games.

183-186. Nelson Lee and Nipper's lives are threatened by a Chinese Tong (the same one that caused them to go to St. Frank's in 1917 and the Tong's vengeance is for the same reason!)

187-189. Christmas with Handforth at Trevis Dene.

190-194. Edgar Fenton, the popular Head-Prefect, is saddled with an uncle - in the Remove! And what an uncle! He soon earns the name of "the worst boy in the school", and is in fact an unscrupulous young blackguard. Nephew Edgar has a dreadful time before his uncle is finally expelled.