

THE STORY PAPER COLLECTOR

JANUARY 1959

No. 68 :: Vol. 3

"COURTING EXPULSION!"

A magnificent new extra long
complete story of Cliff House.



The School Friend

Every **2nd** Thursday



**RAIDED BY THE HEAD-
MISTRESS!**

(A Dramatic Moment in the New
Story, Long Complete Story of the
Work of Cliff House School continued
in this issue.)

Front Page, *The School Friend* Number 287, November 8, 1924

COMIC PAPERS OF THE PAST

By LEONARD PACKMAN

PART TWO

Comic Cuts—Another of the best-known comic papers of all time. Who can forget "Tom" (the "Ticket-of-leave Man"; the "Menagerie Man"; "Jolly Tom") and the "Mulberry Flatites" (Miss Olemaid, Frowsy Freddie, Oofbird Esq., and Bachelorboy)? 3006 issues (17.5.1890 to 12.9.1953). Published by Amalgam'd Press.

Comic Life—Originally *Pictorial Comic Life* and printed on pink paper. As a multi-coloured paper ran for many years, featuring Butterball and Tall Thomas on the front page. A great favourite of the 1914-18 period. 1543 issues (14.5.1898 to 21.1.1928). Originally published by Henderson but taken over at a late date by Amalgamated Press.

Comic Home Journal—Printed on pink paper, and a very good production. 488 issues (11.5.1895 to 10.9.1904). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Crackers—A 12-page coloured comic and one of the casualties of the last war. Copies are very difficult to obtain today. 615 issues (23.2.1929 to 31.5.1941). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Dan Leno's Comic Journal—A very scarce paper today. Produced at the time when Dan Leno was at his wonderful best on the "Halls." The proprietors obviously were trying to "cash in"! 93 issues (26.2.1898 to 2.12.1899). Published by The Proprietors of Dan Leno's Comic Journal, 28 Maiden Lane, London, W.C.

Dazzler—Another Bath production and an excellent paper. Printed on yellow paper, it contained a full-sized four-page inset, *The Ovaltine's Own Comic*, printed on pink paper. 294 issues (19.8.1933 to 8.4.1939). Published by Target Publications.

Favorite—Companion to *Butterfly* and *Merry and Bright* but became a First World War casualty. 324 issues (21.1.1911 to 31.3.1917). Published by Amalgam'd Press.

Film Fun—One of my only two comic papers still running, but bearing no relationship today with that of my boyhood. A grand paper in the 'twenties, particularly for those who were film fans at that time. Still

(Continued on Page 256)

The Story Paper Collector

No. 68—Vol. 3

Priceless

THEY WROTE OF CLIFF HOUSE SCHOOL

By W. O. G. LOFTS

“CAN ANYONE tell me what has happened to the girls of Cliff House? The stories were published in *The School Friend*, and the authoress was Hilda Richards. Was this a nom-de-plume of Mr. Frank Richards, or was she perhaps a close relative?”

This extract is from a reader's letter that was printed in the English edition of *The Sunday Times* a short time ago. The following week saw a reply from Mr. Frank Richards in which he stated: “In answer to the reader's query, may I say that Bessie Bunter is very much alive, and since the war I have written a number of stories of Cliff House under my pen-name of Hilda Richards.”

This rather carefully worded

reply was of course perfectly correct, but in a way was not very fair to the writers who conceived the Cliff House tales for so many years when he, Frank Richards, had in fact only written the first six stories published in *The School Friend*.

In his Autobiography Frank Richards sums up his writings for *The School Friend* in a few lines, and prefers to keep his original written chapters on the subject unpublished. This was, I am sure, very disappointing to the many old readers of Bessie Bunter and Co. who had perhaps looked forward to reading the inside story of these famous characters, and even to discovering the reasons why he wrote only the first half dozen stories.

Frank Richards, of course, had

created the school of Cliff House many years before the first issue of *The School Friend* appeared. Marjorie Hazeldene, Clara Trevlyn, and Bessie Bunter had been featured in many of the Greyfriars stories in *The Magnet* with Harry Wharton and Co.

This article is intended to spotlight the other authors who wrote of Cliff House after those first six stories by Frank Richards, and to give them the credit due for giving so much pleasure with their delightful yarns to countless thousands of readers for so many years. But first let me explain why Mr. Richards wrote only the first six numbers.

IN 1919 Frank Richards was writing full length stories for *The Magnet* and *The Gem* each week, plus shorter tales of Jimmy Silver and Co. of Rookwood for the weekly *Boys' Friend*, a really amazing output for any writer. But such was the demand for his work by the reader, that when The Amalgamated Press decided to start a new paper for the girls' market Frank Richards was asked to write the stories. This was to be a sister paper to *The Magnet* and was called *The School Friend*. It was hoped that this new venture would soon be as popular with girls as *The Magnet* and *The Gem* were with boys.

With this extra 20,000 words

a week of Cliff House to write, The Amalgamated Press set Frank Richards an almost impossible task, and no human could possibly keep it up for long. Perhaps also H. A. Hinton, Editor of *The Magnet*, *The Gem*, and *The Boys' Friend*, who had just returned from war service, was very disturbed to find a rival for Mr. Richards' services. Whatever the real reason, the outcome was that *The School Friend*, which had been founded on the works of Frank Richards, was to be in future written by other authors and the Editor was forbidden to accept any more work from him.

The Editor of *The School Friend* was Mr. Reginald Eves, a very capable and likable man. He put his heart and soul into making a success of his paper, and firmly believed in looking after his readers and keeping faith with them. In his first editorial he made a statement which I know for a fact to be perfectly true: "I shall have the greatest pleasure in sending a prompt reply to every reader who writes to me." Long before I contemplated writing this article, a former contributor of The Amalgamated Press told me that Mr. Eves thought so much of keeping close touch with his readers that he used to take their letters home to answer at the week-

Happy Hours of Reading for Every Schoolgirl!

The
SCHOOLGIRL

NO. 558 VOL. 25.
WEEK END EDITION
APRIL 6, 1940

Supervised by
SCHOOLGIRLS OWN

EVERY SATURDAY



**CAPTAIN BESSIE
ENJOYS HERSELF!**

A delightful incident from
the superb Complete story
of Barbara Radfern & Co.
inside.

Front Page, *The Schoolgirl* Number 558, April 6, 1940

ends. Mr. Richard McCarthy, on his lonely sheep-station out in Queensland, still treasures the letters Mr. Eves sent him at a later date while Editor of *The Champion* and *The Triumph*, although this is now over thirty years ago.

With such efficiency and success it is not to be wondered at that, after fifty years of faithful service, Mr. Eves was recently elected to the company's board of directors.

THE FIRST ISSUE of *The School Friend* was dated May 17th, 1919, and the opening story related how Bessie Bunter arrived at the school. The story was aptly entitled *The Girls of Cliff House*. To fill the remainder of the paper there was a serial, *The Schoolgirl Crusoes*, written by "Julia Storm," which name hid the identity of a former Editor of *The Boys' Realm*, Gilbert Floyd, better known as "Duncan Storm" of the *Bombay Castle* stories in *The Boys' Friend*.

The second issue told how Barbara Redfern won the captaincy of the form from Marjorie Hazeldene, and the next four stories were also written by Frank Richards. Like *Greyfriars*, *Cliff House* was situated in Kent, and the many *Magnet* readers who read *The School Friend* instantly felt at home in reading of such

well known places as *Courtfield*, *Pegg*, and the *River Sark*.

When it was decided to bring another author in to write the *Cliff House* stories, a former Editor of *Cheer Boys Cheer* and *The Boy's Journal* was called to the *School Friend* office in a rush. His name was Horace Philips. Mr. Philips was a first class writer for the female mind, but for him to try to imitate Frank Richards' style was very hard indeed. His first manuscripts were so heavily "subbed" that there was more pencil than typing, for his own natural style was a cut between Ouida and Mrs. Henry Wood. If one can imagine *East Lynne* having to be "subbed" into plausible "Richards" one can get some hint of the editorial difficulties.

The Editor, perhaps realizing that he would never get a perfect copy of the style of the first stories, gave some sort of hint cautiously to his readers, in the editorial of Number 6, of the style to appear in future tales: "The first six stories of *Cliff House* girls which have appeared have all been of a humorous nature, and I'm sure that the time has now arrived for me to give a story of a slightly different type."

So the story which appeared in Number 7, entitled *Barbara Redfern's Secret*, was written by Horace Philips, still of course

under the pen-name of "Hilda Richards." This was of the real sob-stuff in which Mr. Philips revelled and which was so popular in those days. This story was a great success, and later when one of his un-"subbed" tales was published and set the sales rocketing, *The School Friend* eventually found its own large circulation. Stories were then girls' stories—not imitation boys' stories with the boys given girls' names, but stories of girls for girls.

FOR ABOUT two years Horace Philips continued writing the stories of Cliff House. Perhaps, when he created his own school, Morcove, for the new girls' paper *Schoolgirls' Own* in 1921 he decided to hand the job over to another author. These tales of Morcove School, featuring Betty Barton and Co. and written under the now famous name of "Marjorie Stanton," were to prove just as popular as the Cliff House stories. They had a run of over sixteen years and were all, I believe, written by Horace Philips, aided at times by his son Derek, who was also a girls' writer.

Reginald S. Kirkham was the next author brought in to write Cliff House, and of the man himself and his writings I know very little. He had written girls'

fiction under the names of "Joan Vincent" and "Hilary Marlow" and boys' stories under "Frank Vincent." He continued with the Cliff House stories until 1924, when he handed the school over to yet another author. R. S. Kirkham retired from writing in 1940 and set up his own business in Kent. He died a few years ago.

This new author of Cliff House yarns I shall call L. E. Ransome. This is not his real name, but a collective name to cover all his pen-names. I understand that he wishes to remain anonymous. An expert, in my opinion, on the works of Charles Hamilton, he was easily the best so far of the "Hilda Richards" writers. He had a great flair for humour and his simple but very interesting style was avidly read by the thousands of readers and must have kept the circulation very good indeed. After a run of 303 issues it was decided to start a new series of *The School Friend* and the last of the large issues was dated February 28th, 1925.

Number 1 of the new *School Friend* appeared a week later, on March 7th, and apart from its much smaller size there was another big difference. Instead of a long story of Cliff House each week, plus other features, there were several tales by different authors, all of equal length. But the Cliff House yarns were still

written by L. E. Ransome, who continued them right to the last issue of *The School Friend*, Number 229, dated July 27th, 1929.

The tales of Cliff House then passed into the new girls' paper entitled *Schoolgirl*, still written by the same author. But after a while they ceased altogether, and it seemed as if these fine tales had finished for ever in the realms of girls' fiction. Fortunately this was not to be, as in 1931 they were revived, written by yet another new author and incidentally the last of the "Hilda Richards" writers, John W. Wheway.

THE WRITINGS of John W. Wheway are so well known to old boys' fiction readers that he needs no introduction. He wrote for almost every boys' paper published by The Amalgamated Press. Mr. Wheway brought a big change into Cliff House School, bringing the characters up to date, and whereas before, that very clever artist D. M. Dodshon had illustrated the stories, a new artist was brought in to make the change more complete. T. Laidler, for that was his name, was instantly a success, and he is still illustrating girls' fiction papers today.

Mr. Wheway had a gripping style similar to that of the previous author, and an unusual

knowledge of the actual workings of the subjects he wrote about. His detailed accounts of hockey matches, swimming galas, and other matters dear to the schoolgirl heart, were very clear and perfectly understood by the reader. He wrote every story of Cliff House School from then until *Schoolgirl* was forced to close down because of the paper shortage at issue Number 564, dated May 18th, 1940.

This was the very last story of Cliff House published by The Amalgamated Press, and although the *School Friend* title was revived a few years ago, partly in picture-strip form, the girls of Cliff House have never appeared again even in that new format. Frank Richards, however, wrote a few tales of the school, as already mentioned at the beginning of this article, but not in Amalgamated Press publications.

The characters he originally created away back in the early days of *The Magnet*, and that were written about in his first tales of *The School Friend*, have certainly been modified by the other writers during the years and have become, as another writer once stated, "minor masterpieces of schoolgirl psychological observations." Mr. Richards continued to use his schoolgirl characters in the *Magnet* stories at times, but strangely enough

the schoolboys of Greyfriars never appeared in the *School Friend* and *Schoolgirl* Cliff House yarns. New schools with boys' characters were created by the above-mentioned "Hilda Richards" writers, and we had Jack Tolhurst and Co. and Jimmy Richmond and Co. as the equivalents of Harry Wharton and Co.

In conclusion, to all the "Hilda Richards" writers, may I, on behalf of the thousands of old

readers of the Cliff House stories, say thanks a lot for giving us so much pleasure through the girls of Cliff House School.

* * *

FOOTNOTE—In my article on George Richmond Samways in *The Story Paper Collector* Number 63 I stated that he had written some of the Bessie Bunter stories. This information was given to me in good faith but was not correct, as the above information is authentic. —W. O. G. LOFTS

EXCITING SOJOURN: A VISIT TO THE ROOKWOOD PRESS

By C. F. F. RICKARD

MY SIGHTS had been adjusted for Target "Transcona" ever since that stirring day when I learned from the Editor's Chat in the very last published *Magnet* (Number 1683 dated May 18th, 1940) of the proximity (as Canadian distances go!) of another enthusiastic collector of old boys' periodicals. But he was far enough away, at that, for me to take almost eighteen years to press the trigger, after writing that first letter dated March 12th,

1941, to Bill Gander; a letter which he had kept and which he showed me during my stay.

The visit I had always had in mind was not just an hour's stop between planes, but a "weal pwopah" visit (as the Hon. A. A. D'Arcy would have said) extending over a number of days. And this was what I was fortunate enough to accomplish. For the home of The Rookwood Press, the home of its now famous owner and the home of countless treasures of boys'

papers is a place to be seen and savoured, seen and savoured again.

In a matter of twenty minutes the Transcona bus took me from downtown Winnipeg, the Capital City of Manitoba, bang into the centre of Transcona. Leaving the Toronto-Dominion Bank at the corner of Regent Avenue and Bond Street, I crossed to the left past the Post Office (through which thousands of letters, manuscripts, periodicals, and books on the hobby must have come addressed to W.H.G.) to find The Transcona Book Store only a block away. And here it was I was greeted and welcomed on the bright, sunny morning of Friday, October 24th, 1958.

My room at the home of another friend in the town was ready for me as arranged. And so between the 24th and 30th of October, during which time the sun only gave way to the

rain for one day, I was privileged to see, just around the corner from the Book Store, at 202, Yale Avenue West (headquarters and home of The Rookwood Press), some grand O.B.B. sights and hear some grand O.B.B. talk; in addition to enjoying many relaxing social-cum-gastronomic meetings with Bill, his niece Mae, and her children.

The press itself, a vintage Pilot handpress which has performed to perfection for many years, is a combination of solid sturdiness and a capacity for precision printing of great beauty, to which all who have been lucky enough to receive copies of *The Story Paper Collector* through the years will glowingly testify.

WITH BILL'S permission I joined the staff of The Rookwood Press and became for a short while a com-

TOM MERRY

Loyalty—I think that is Tom Merry's most outstanding quality. Pluck of the highest—straightforwardness—kindness—firmness—all these he has in ample measure; but loyalty—"faith as fixed as any star"—is the strongest of them all.

—From the text by JOHN NIX PENTELOW in *The Gem Library* Number 518, January 12th, 1918.

(Reproduction of Tom Merry portrait printed by John Davis, Vancouver. Quotation supplied by C. F. F. Rickard, North Vancouver.)



THE ST. JIM'S GALLERY

No. 1: Tom Merry

Character Creation by Charles Hamilton

Original Drawing by Warwick Reynolds

positor working on *The Story Paper Collector*, which he founded, edits, and publishes along with his second more general amateur paper, *The Red River Rambler*.*

Reading from copy, I held a composing stick in my left hand, and with my right I picked type from the upper case (capitals) and the lower case (small letters) and set them into the stick. The set-up type was eventually transferred from the stick to a metal tray called a galley; and from the various galleys, when checked and corrected for typographical errors, a completed page ready for printing would be made up. The Rookwood Press is amply supplied† with cases and cases of type. Engrossing and fascinating occupation!

MY DELVING and page-turning amongst books and papers commenced with the *hors-d'oeuvre* of the single copies and lesser items of collection, continuing from day to day and evening to evening through to the *pieces de resistance* of bound volumes and Bill's most cherished possessions.

Among many items I looked through were *Union Jacks* and *Dreadnoughts*; *Plucks* and *Mar-*

vels; *Boys' Realms* and *Boys' Herald*s; *Populars*; and some No. 1's of various papers. Some comics, too, including an old favourite of mine, the gaily-coloured *Chuckles*, behind the pages of a copy of which I had to have a picture of Bill enjoying life. It was one of twenty-odd pictures I took of The Rookwood Press and its proprietor in various phases of action and inaction.

I saw several *Holiday Annuals*, some bound *Gems* of the small latter-day size, *Gem* Number 1000, and some Victorian items. H. A. Hinton's large format brave *School and Sport* I found, a copy of Number 1, presented to Bill by Frank Richards. There were some old *Boys' Friend* 3d. *Libraries* and some *Sexton Blake Libraries* of modern days. A complete and very rare run of *Vanity Fair* and *The Collector's Miscellany* took my fancy; and *The Collectors' Digest* had its place, too, with its mine of information on the hobby—a continually-growing monument, together with the *Collectors' Digest Annuals*, to the loves, labours, and inspirations of that other great hobby-friend of ours, Herbert Leckenby.

One or two volumes which I once proudly owned (and now wish I hadn't parted with) had found their way into Bill's collection, including a bound volume of *The Empire Library New*

*No issues since 1949.

†For the jobs demanded of it.

(Footnotes by W. H. G.)

Series. It was one of the many items I had received from the late John Medcraft, a great collector and a generous one!

The First Series of *The Greyfriars Herald* (very small format at one halfpenny) had its honoured place in the collection, and with Bill's help and his own copies I traced the most interesting transformation of a paper of which I know, viz: this halfpenny series into *The Greyfriars Herald* (New Series) with the St. Winifred's yarns, and going through changes in name and contents and finally ending as *The Boys' Herald*.

Of the prize items that I saw for the first time those I coveted more than any others, perhaps, were the two bound volumes (Numbers 1 to 51) of *Boys of the Empire*, printed by Leighton Brothers, every eye-filling illustration being in colour. Magnificent! The issues sold for three-halfpence a copy! Bill told me the publisher, Brett, could not keep it up, though. The third volume changed to monochrome throughout, with the issues selling at one penny a copy.

MY LAST RESEARCH went into Bill's first love, his wonderful collection of bound *Boys' Friends* (the "Green 'Un"),

large format. Easily my favourite of Bill's favourites, and, from what he tells me, something of a rarity for collectors to be interested in. For obvious reasons, the large format papers have always been difficult to handle, keep, and collect in fair condition, let alone mint. I fancy, too, though I may be wrong here, that *The Boys' Friend* is still Bill's top favourite; even over his truly amazing and almost complete set of *Magnets*, which are, of course, a joy to behold and handle in all their bound and unbound perfection.

But as the final thrill of all I shall always remember, for sheer beauty of book creation and the printing art, the two exquisitely leather-bound and embossed Volumes 1 and 2 of *The Story Paper Collector*. A delight for the eye and a treat for the memory. Hardly surprising, though, as all would agree, in view of where I was and knowing something of the taste and talent of the man they belong to and the man who printed them!



We asked Tex Rickard if he would write an account of his visit in *Transcona* last October. The above is it, with fewer qualifying footnotes than our natural modesty should have dictated.



COMIC PAPERS OF THE PAST

(Continued from Page 244)

running (commenced 17.1.1920). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Firefly—Companion to *Butterfly*, with which paper it was amalgamated in 1917, being another "war casualty." 111 issues (20.2.1915 to 31.3.1917). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Funny Cuts—An early paper enjoying a long life, but not to my mind one of the best. 1st series 958 issues (12.7.1890 to 10.11.1908); 2nd series 608 issues (17.11.1908 to 3.7.1920). Published by Trapps, Holmes & Co.

Funny Folks—So far as I am aware this is the real "grandfather" of comic papers and the first foundation stone upon which the juvenile comic was built. Ran for at least 848 issues, and as No. 848 is dated 21.2.1891 it must have commenced in the year 1873. Publ'd by Henderson.

Funny Wonder—The particular series to which this refers was another of the "big guns" of its period, and deservedly so. Featured Charlie Chaplin on the front page. Originally printed on pink paper but quickly changed to green. 1326 issues (26.12.1914 to 25.5.1940), with varying slight changes of title in

its later years. Published by Amalgamated Press.

Golden Comic—Originally a 2-coloured paper but finished as an all-colour publication. Not one of the best—probably because it contained nearly all serial stories and strips. In any case it had a very short life. 135 issues (23.10.1937 to 18.5.1940). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Golden Penny Comic—A well-produced paper which, to my mind, should have enjoyed a much longer life. Many of the illustrations were by Eric Parker. 276 issues (14.10.1922 to 28.1.1928). Published by Fleetway Press, Ltd., Dane Street, High Holborn.

Halfpenny Comic—A typical paper of the period, but not one that appeals to me very much. In fairness, however, I must say that in the past I have heard "old-timers" speak very highly of this paper. 467 issues (22.1.1898 to 29.18.1906). Published by Trapps, Holmes & Co.

Happy Days—A really top-class coloured paper. The puzzle to me is why such a superb production ran for such a short time. 45 issues (8.10.1938 to 12.8.1939). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Jester—Another borderline case, but who can forget such as P.C. Cuddlecook? One of my favourite papers. Until a short while

ago this was the only paper of my youth (of its kind) of which I did not possess a Christmas Double Number. You can therefore imagine my pleasure at the recent acquisition of a mint Christmas Double Number for the year 1912. 465 issues as titled *Jester* (27.1.1912 to 18.12.1920). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Jester and Wonder—An early series featuring such old favourites as the Bunsey Boys, Cholly and Gawge, Chokee Bill and Area Sneaker. 506 issues as *Jester and Wonder* (24.5.1902 to 20.1.1912). Published by Amal. Press.

Jingles—Enjoyed a good circulation and had quite a long run. One of the last of the "regular" comics to be killed off. 741 issues (13.1.1934 to 29.5.1954). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Joker—A lesser known but excellent publication. Originally black on white, but changed to green paper. 655 issues (5.11.1927 to 18.5.1940). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Jokes—On the lines of *Jester* and quite good, but for some reason did not "catch on." 22 issues (20.1.1898 to 16.6.1898). Published by Greyfriars Publishing Company.

Jolly—Another very good paper but short-lived. In their efforts to make it a success the publishers tried at least three dif-

ferent colour changes, in vain. 250 issues (19.1.1935 to 28.10.1939). Published by Amalgam'd Press.

Kinema Comic—Another of my boyhood favourites. Equally as good as its companion, *Film Fun*, if not slightly better. Early copies featuring those old film stars of happy memory are very scarce today. 651 issues (24.4.1920 to 15.10.1932). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Larks—Mainly cartoon jokes, a popular style of the period. Copies are sought today for the stories therein written by Charles Hamilton. 239 issues (7.6.1902 to 29.12.1906). Published by Trapps, Holmes & Co.

Larks—A very nice pink paper. Another last-war casualty after quite a long run. 656 issues (29.10.1927 to 18.5.1940). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Little Sparks—An excellent junior coloured comic paper. According to the publishers *A Picture Paper for Children. Run by Children*. 124 issues (1.5.1920 to 30.9.1922). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Lot-o-Fun—Many, including myself, consider this even better than its companion, *Comic Life*, although both were grand publications—especially the wonderful monster Christmas numbers about 1914. Featured the one

and only "Dreamy Daniel" on the front page for many years, only relinquishing pride of place to Harry Weldon in 1920. 1196 issues (17.3.1906 to 16.2.1929). Originally published by Henderson but taken over at a late date by Amalgamated Press.

Merry and Bright—A popular publication for many years. 1st series, printed on green paper, featured numerous Music Hall artists of the time, such as Little Tich, T. E. Dunville, Phil Ray, Will Evans, George Robey, and Harry Tate. 2nd series, printed on pale pink paper, starred Carrie, the Girl Chaplin, and Little Tich. Companion paper to *Butterfly* and *Firefly*. 1st series 337 issues (22.10.1910 to 31.3.1917); 2nd series 928 issues (7.4.1917 to 19.1.1935). Published by Amalgamated Press.

Merry Midget—A provincial publication not very well known in London, but a very good one for all that. Printed on green paper. Length of run not known but at least 17 issues (No. 17 being dated 2.1.1932). Published by Provincial Comics, Limited.

CORRECTION—The stopping-date of *Halfpenny Comic* (page 256, column 2) should read 29.12.1906.

(Continued in Number 69)

TIME WAS!

ONCE UPON A TIME an amateur magazine called *The Story Paper Collector* was printed and issued as many as five times a year without too much difficulty. But that was long ago, when the days and the weeks and the months did not fly past as swiftly as they do now. This swift flight of time, along with other things, has made it impossible to keep to regular quarterly dating of S.P.C. Hence the skipping of the July, 1958, dating. We held back from this move as long as there seemed to be a chance that it would not be necessary. It is only the third period in 18 years that this expedient has been adopted.

I Wish to Obtain . . .

—Numbers 1 to 31 of Joseph Parks' *Vanity Fair*.—James W. Martin, 1019 2nd Street, Sacramento, California, U.S.A.

—Copies of *The Boys' Friend* between #259 and #1359. List of issue-numbers required supplied on request.—Editor.

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William H. Gander, 202 Yale Ave. W.,
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