



HPB RICHARDSON, TX  
STORE #008  
*Summer 1994*  
NEWSLETTER

**HALF  
PRICE  
BOOKS**  
**RECORDS<sup>®</sup>  
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## News From the Big Guy of 008

Excitement abounds at 008

The Weiner-mobile has been sited, the aerobics room is about to open, A. is back from the Big Apple, K<sub>2</sub> is out of the slammer and B. has shed his skin.

The backroom has progressed from very scary to very ugly. M.'s parents are proud, as he was able to put his architecture degree to use.

Summer and the store are steamy. K<sub>1</sub> and D. have cut down on their long lasting, inner sanctum pow-wows as the electrical closet has no AC.

We mourn McDonald's moving (over 4 billion served to our staff) while we anticipate the President's arrival. Copy Boy is gone forever.

Sales are sorry, but boxes are full of potential.

Optimism remains, expansion looms, the ants are everywhere.

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## Statement of Principles

The HPB Richardson Newsletter is produced for the entertainment of the Richardson store staff and management. Any informational or educational byproduct of this operation is appreciated, but unintentional. Although "published" for the staff of 008 we think other stores might find our stories interesting. Suggestions for interviews or HPB stories would be welcomed, I am especial interested in collecting good stories (not gossip, unless it is a **really** good story). Since this was put together on our own time there is no guaranty of regular or even future issues, but this one has been fun.

Charles Foster Kane

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## Aldredge Book Store

Aldredge Book Store at 2909 Maple Ave buys and sells second hand and rare edition books. The store was founded in 1947 and is now owned and run by the always helpful Sam Dobro (Mr. Aldredge died in 1967). Mr. Dobro will buy books from individuals and other book dealers, but he prefers to buy from estates.

He sells to walk in customers and puts out a catalog for dealers and collectors, but much of his business comes from selling to institutions and libraries. Aldredge Book Store does not track down book titles that are not part of their stock, but Mr Dobro will recommend colleagues who specialize in finding titles.

Mr. Dobro is knowledgeable and happily offers advice about rare books, we have called him two or three times about particularly confusing issues on rare books. Although I doubt Mr. Dobro wants a flood of trivial phone calls he did say if a customer is dissatisfied with our offer and thinks their books are extremely collectable, they can call Aldredge Book Store and he will "confirm their suspicions or dash their hopes".

## Billy's Interview

June 20, 1994

Half Price Books office,  
Richardson TX  
dr David Rush  
bh Billy Hadden

Longtime Richardson employee Billy Hadden, head pricer, nostalgia and comics specialist. Interviewed by David Rush, assistant manager.

**dr:** When were you hired?

**bh:** I was hired in May of '89.

**dr:** And who hired you?

**bh:** Toni.

**dr:** Tell us the Toni interview story.

**bh:** Well, first of all I didn't get an interview for a long time because Toni was never here, and I kept running into Susan, the then asst. manager. But finally I got an interview. I had a gruelling 45 minute interview.

**dr:** So what do you talk about in a 45 minute interview?

**dr:** It was all personal stuff basically. I think it was why I made these decisions, why I wanted to work here, what interests I had in books. She just sat there and smoked. So she asked me a lot of questions, and I didn't think I was going to get the job, I didn't think she liked me. But I was looking at this big clown eraser on her pencil, and I said "nice eraser".

A little bit later I got a call from Susan saying to show up, and that I was hired. Toni told me a little later that it was because I liked the clown that she hired me, she wouldn't have hired me otherwise. But that was the one key thing that did it. And I've been here 5 YEARS.

**dr:** Things are pretty different now?

**bh:** No more bell, at the front counter. We all have sections, we

never used to have sections. We'd go to the first bin that got full and we'd shelve that.

**dr:** Did things get backed up then?

**bh:** Yeah, but things got backed up because Toni stopped pricing. And we had to have help from other stores.

**dr:** So when did you start pricing?

**bh:** Probably in '91. I got to be the pricer about 2 years after I'd been here.

**dr:** Was that before Kyle or was Toni Still there?

**bh:** Kyle was the one that made me pricer... Actually Toni did start training me, I forgot about that.

**dr:** Did she train you differently than Kyle did?

**bh:** Yeah! There was no method (with Toni), that I could see.

**dr:** So where did you work before HPB ?

**bh:** I worked at Mary Anne's Bookstore when I was real young, like 12 or something. They paid me a buck and a half an hour. But I got a lot of fringe benefits, I got a lot of comic books and stuff, he was pretty cool about that. And then I worked at a video store, here in Richardson.

**dr:** Is it still there?

**bh:** Yeah it was Video Works, it was a franchise operation that was out before Blockbusters. And then I went to school for a while. Just at Richland, I took stuff up there, and got a job here. So I had to quit school.

**dr:** You did that school thing.

**bh:** Yeah.

**dr:** You used to shop here?

**bh:** At the Lockwood store, and the one that was off of Knox Henderson.

**dr:** The McKinney Store?

**bh:** Yeah the McKinney Store. I remember whoever the cashier guy was, had a big pot belly and always had a Marlboro hanging out of his

mouth, he'd just ring up stuff and never take it out of his mouth. Just ash hanging while he talked.

**dr:** This is at McKinney?

**bh:** Yeah, Kyle knows who that is, I forget what his name was. Anyway I bought a lot of comic books there.

**dr:** Did they have them priced pretty cheap?

**bh:** Yeah, it was pretty reasonable. At the time nothing was too high.

**dr:** And you used to shop when Boots was at the Lockwood store.

**bh:** Yeah, I used to mainly go in there and buy science fiction and some comic books, and some record albums.

**dr:** How old were you then?

**bh:** Like 9 , 10 , 11. But she remembered me, when she first saw me, because I look just the same. But the funny thing was, Boots seemed to have this idea that I worked for them for free sometime, or something, which I don't remember at all. But she seemed to have this memory of me working around the Lockwood store when I was a little kid. I didn't think I was there THAT much. But she always introduced me as "Billy, I remember him from the Lochwood store".

But she had a big dog that sat behind the counter and she was there alone most of the time.

**dr:** And played rock music?

**bh:** I don't remember.

**dr:** What kind of books do you like? Personally.

**bh:** I read a lot of non-fiction, a lot of metaphysical stuff, a lot of philosophy. Different fiction authors, I like Philip K. Dick. Robert Anton Wilson is a real fun guy to read, that kind of stuff.

**dr:** Do you have a rough idea how many books you have?

**bh:** Just hardbacks? Probably 750 hardbacks.

**dr:** How about comic books?

**bh:** About 8,000.

**dr:** That's a mess of comic books. How many of those are you going to try and sell?

**bh:** Pretty much anything I can sell as long as the price is right.

**dr:** You like books in general?

**bh:** Very much so.

**dr:** Any particular reason, or you just do?

**bh:** I was brought up around books, my grandfather was a book collector. He helped me out financially when I was young, with the comic books, and I put all the money into it that I made working at Mary Anne's. So whatever that paycheck was, which wasn't that much, would all go back into my collection. That's how I got so many that ended up being worth so much, its just because I had help with it. He knew it was a good investment, and he gave me the price guide and I basically memorized it, and we went from there.

**dr:** He collected books?

**bh:** He had a whole slew of first edition Faulkners, Steinbecks, and Hemingways. Hemingway was his main collector's stuff. I think he fashioned himself after Hemingway.

**dr:** Really!

**bh:** I think he tried to. He used to order Backpacker magazine all the time and never go backpacking.

**dr:** At least you can read about it.

**dr:** What was your favorite Twilight Zone episode?

**bh:** I have to get back to you on that.

**dr:** If you were in a Twilight Zone episode and you were stranded on a deserted planet with only one dairy pak of books, what would you put in there?

**bh:** A BIG dictionary. Probably all

those things I've been wanting to get around to read, that are too time consuming, and that take too much studying. Like If I sat down and read Ulysses, Finnegans Wake, or something like that or like a history of theology that would be time consuming as hell. With a little fiction.

## Half Price Books Legends & Stories

This story involves three customers at the register heatedly discussing the nature of world conspiracies. Although we don't know their given names, their store names describe their true nature. First their was "Herbert", a regular customer who earned his label by declaring that Dune by Frank Herbert was "the most important book of our time". Then came "Shaggy", because he looked like Shaggy on Scooby Do and also "The Church Lady", who's epithet foreshadows her role.

Herbert went to the register to check out, and to proselytize his world view. While he was telling Mike about the inevitability of "The New World Order" via George Bush and his friends, Shaggy walked up to agree that George Bush was in fact associated with secret societies and their plans to control the world, but it was the Trilateral Commission that was at the top of the power pyramid. Shaggy was particularly fond of saying "I'm no expert, but..." and "I have it on good authority that...". Shaggy's viewpoint, which he had on good authority even though he was no expert, was that the Trilateral Commission wants to put in place one "World Bank" in order to control our lives.

Herbert at first agreed, but the problem was that it was the Masons

who were at the top of the conspiracy food chain. And probably in response to one of Shaggy's "I'm no expert, but", Herbert announced that he WAS an "expert" on the Masons and that, "just this morning I was on the radio answering questions about the Masons." Of course in another story, Herbert told another customer who was browsing in the science section that he "designed and built" the missiles used in Desert Storm.

Perhaps this momentarily put off Shaggy, but in any case there was a lull in the discussion, which emboldened The Church Lady, who had been furtively listening from the other side of a display fixture near religion, to pop up to announce that she too acknowledged the New World Order. Of course her point was that all of that which Herbert and Shaggy were talking about had been prophesied in the Bible and that it was Satan who was manipulating these people to further his own ends. The Masons and the Trilateral commission and the New World Order in general were the fulfillment of events foretold in the Bible.

By this time other customers needed help, and given the retailer's "Prime Directive" of non-interference, the three were left to sort out the particulars as to who really was "behind it all".

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## Half Price Books Game

The point of the game (played only during lunch hours or while at home), is to come up with an alphabetical list of author's, using their middle initials. But it has to be the way they are usually talked about, so Henry D. Thoreau would not be acceptable since he is usually referred to as Henry David Thoreau. The best answers are the ones with well known authors but whose middle initial nobody can remember. This is what we have so far.

A.A. Milne  
E.B. White / Thomas B.  
    Costain  
Arthur C. Clarke  
    J.D. Salinger / P.D.  
        James  
Robert E. Howard / e.e.  
    cummings  
    B.F. Skinner  
Frank G. Slaughter  
    T.H. White  
    V.I. Lenin  
    - J.  
Philip K. Dick  
    R.L. Stine  
    M.M. Kaye / E.M. Ciorn  
    - H.  
Edward O. Wilson  
    H.P. Lovecraft  
    - Q.  
    J.R.R. Tolkein  
    V.S. Naipal  
    J.T. Edson / D.T. Suzuki  
    - U.  
    - V.  
    - W.  
William X. Kienzle  
    - Y.  
    - Z.

## Quotes

"The strange thing is that it was that same damn bullet" - DR

"He's not clumsy, he is structurally challenged" - BH

"Look! Edward Stickerhands!" - BP

**Extractions:** from How to Succeed in Company Politics by Edward J. Hegarty . First published by McGraw-Hill in 1964.

"Select your close friends.

By surveying your competition, you have pegged certain people as comers. Select you close friends from this group. Then the Kingmakers will say 'He seems to have the right friends.' Pair off with those you select and their families... The friends you select may not be as interesting or as stimulating as some others, but they won't help you get blackballed."

If anybody has a good Half Price Books story, or an interview suggestion, or any comments ( good or bad ), please call David Rush at (214) 234-4286 or write, Half Price Books, 2100 Alamo Rd., Richardson, TX 75080. I am also looking for really old Half Price Books bookmarks.

