

# 'NICK CARTER' DIDN'T READ HIS OWN TALES

First Perused Stories in Printed Form 30 Years After Writing Them.

*By United Press*  
NEW YORK, July 4.—The creator of the original "Nick Carter" stories—those breathtaking detective yarns that thrilled millions of Americans when the dime novel was in its heyday—never read a single one of his hair-raising in printed form until thirty years after he had written them! He had no idea how many such thrillers he had written, only estimating that they ran into hundreds.

He wrote sometimes at the rate of 20,000 words—a complete novellette—in twenty-four hours, and was once under contract to produce a million words a year.

These are the amazing facts about the late John Coryell, probably the most prolific writer of all time, revealed by his son, Russell M. Coryell in the Bookman.

## Battery of Nick Carters

Coryell, who died at the age of 72, was the first but not the only "Nick Carter."

After carrying his fictitious detective through several years of incredible adventures, he turned the job over to another literary dynamo and, at a later date, so popular had the series become, that an entire battery of writers was engaged in putting the boy detective through his desperate deeds.

Coryell himself, his son discloses, was too busy to be Nick Carter in person. He had to be a dozen other fictitious people.

At times he wrote as many as six types of stories concurrently, under as many different names, writing now as a man of the world, now as a sob-choked working girl, jumping from cosmopolitan adventure to tales of the wild west, thence to Oriental mystery, and thence to heavily-sentimental feminine romance or moralistic tales.

Among his pen names were Nick Carter, Milton Quarterly, Harry Dubois Millman, Lillian R. Drayton, Bertha M. Clay, Barbara Howard, Margaret Grant, Tyman Currie and many others.

Father had always declared that the Nick Carter stories were "poor stuff" and more than thirty years passed before he read one of his own detective "thrillers," says Russell Coryell in the Bookman.

It was not, in fact, until the son, while a small boy, found a bundle of detective stories hidden in the Coryell attic at Cornwall, N. Y., that the author of Nick Carter admitted his identity to his children.

## Career of Adventure

Coryell's own early career was packed with material for the adventure tales he made famous.

At 17 he shipped to China after leaving school where he had been studying law.

His father then, in 1869, was building ships for the Chinese government and the young Coryell went through a series of adventures in the east, at one time, when he was only 20, being an American vice-consul and a magistrate of the international court. Returning to America he became a ship broker in San Francisco, then a newspaper man at Santa Barbara.

He came back east and married in New York while virtually penniless. It was then that he walked into a publisher's office and proposed—for enough money to keep his family alive—to "turn out better stories than any of your regular authors."

The publishers accepted and it was thus that the Nick Carter stories were born.

## The City in Brief

The clothing stock of Ruben's clothing store, 42 West Washington street, has been bought by the Leader store, Delaware and Washington streets. Samuel Rubens, who has been in the cloth—business for forty-three years, plans to retire.

Elmer W. Stout, president of the Fletcher American National bank, will speak on law in relation to business at the Indiana Bar Association meeting at Gary, Thursday, July 11. The association session will close Friday, July 12.

Members of the Chevrons Inc., will hold a banquet at 7:30 p. m. Friday, July 12 at the Spencer house, it was announced today by Lloyd E. Dun-can, secretary.

The annual picnic and outing of the daughters of the Nile will be held at Brookside park, July 21. Plans for the event were discussed in a session at the Claypool Wednesday night. On Aug. 7, the organization will hold its initiation and ceremonial at the Claypool.

**ARMS, LEGS PARALYZED;  
SUCCESS AS PRINTER**

Ohio Youth Overcomes Handicap; Makes Good at Business.

*By United Press*  
AMHERST, O., July 4.—Although deprived of the use of his lower limbs and the full use of his arms, Elmer A. Hoffman is the proprietor of a prosperous printing business.

During the first ten years of Hoffman's life he romped and played like any normal boy. Then came an illness which left him and invaled. He is now 25 and during the past fifteen years he has learned to overcome his physical handicap, although not without a struggle.

From his room Hoffman today conducts a thriving commercial printing enterprise, serving virtually every business in the community.

## Weds Man, 79



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