

Especially for young readers

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By BETTY DEBNAM

The Mysterious Book Case!

The Nancy Drew Mystery



Did your grandparents or parents read Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys mysteries when they were growing up?

Yes No

Nancy Drew Mystery Series

THE HIDDEN STAIRCASE

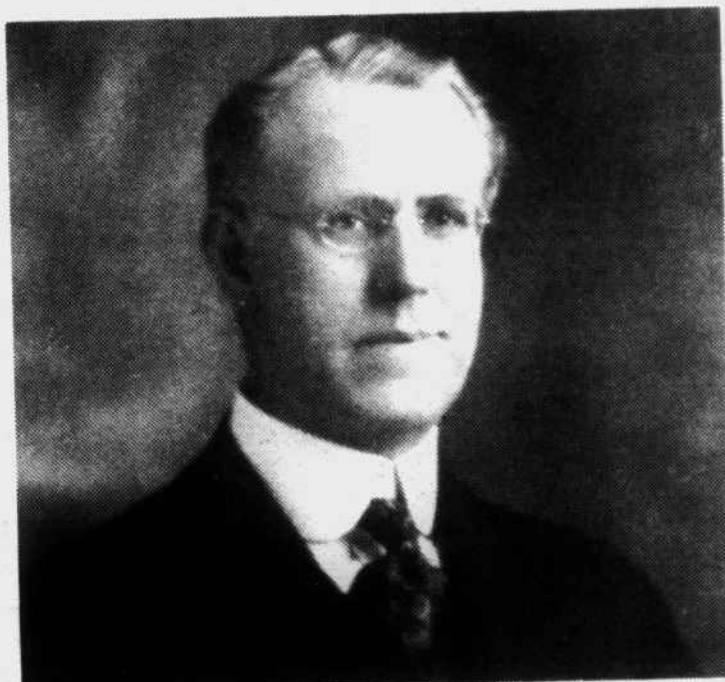


The jacket of the second Nancy Drew book. Nancy has changed some during her 47 years. She is now 18 instead of 16, so she can drive in most states.

THE HARDY BOYS THE MISSING CHUMS



The jacket of the fourth Hardy Boys book. Many of the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys books have been rewritten to keep up with the times.



Father— Edward Stratemeyer started Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, the Bobsy Twins, the Rover Boys and some 140 other series.

Who "done" it?
Who writes the Nancy Drew mystery books?
We had to investigate.
The trail led to Maplewood, New Jersey. It led to the offices of Harriet Adams. But we thought Carolyn Keene wrote the Nancy Drew books.

But Carolyn Keene IS Harriet Adams. She has been writing under that name ever since she took over the Nancy Drew series in 1930. She has been writing at least one Nancy Drew book a year ever since.

Mrs. Adams' father, Edward Stratemeyer, really invented Nancy. He wrote the first three books.

Mr. Stratemeyer has been called a "book machine."

He didn't want it to get around that one



Daughter— Harriet S. Adams carries on the family business. She is now in her 80s and still writing. She is the mother of four. She has 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

person was doing so much writing. That was why he thought up some 60 names of authors for his 1,200 books.

Both Mrs. Adams and her father used ghostwriters. Ghostwriters help an author with a book, but their name is never given out. It's a trade secret.

What Mrs. Adams does is carefully outline some books, chapter by chapter. Then a ghostwriter comes along and fills in the details.

It's the same with the Hardy Boys books, too. Mr. Stratemeyer thought up the name Frances M. Dixon. When he died, other authors took over and wrote under that name.

Mrs. Adams now has several business partners. They run a company called the Stratemeyer Syndicate. They have turned out over 1,200 books themselves.



A few of the 56 titles in the Hardy Boys series



The Nancy Drew series has 54 titles