

May 1, 1931

AOH GAZETTE

EXTRA! EXTRA!

AOH – Man on the Street Interview:

"It's a beautiful spring morning, and the folks in the city who *are* working are just on their way to it. Everyone seems pretty cheerful today, in spite of the fact that many of us are down & out. Those of us with jobs feel very fortunate. My Dad has steady employment at the leather tannery for \$15 a week, and considers himself pretty lucky. So many people have lost literally everything they had. Fred, who lived next door, lost his job, and then lost his house. He and his wife & kids are living in an old car right now. Many of the people I see here on 42nd street are on their way to the soup line to eat. I see an old friend selling apples to make a few cents, and another guy just getting up from sleeping against a building to keep off the night's chill.

There's a bunch of kids here on 42nd street



who shine shoes to get by, but who like to roll the dice when the police aren't looking. They just keep it up, day after day, & don't seem to mind too much when they get roused by Larry the cop. I must say they bring a lot of excitement to what might otherwise be a pretty dreary, although very sunny, day. I just have to laugh when I see Larry catch up with them & they pull their "innocent" routine. They get away with it a lot of the time. They've become pretty sharp about it. Larry says he get's a chuckle out it -- of course, he'd never let *them* know that.

And there's a real bright spot that makes a lot of folks want to come to 42nd street. There's this little guy. His name is Joe, and he works long hours selling newspapers to anyone that has the price. He's working to support his mom, y'know. They lost the Dad a couple of years back -- TB, I think.



The thing about this kid is, in spite of all the trouble he's seen at such a tender age, he's just about as cheerful and pleasant a lad as you could ever meet. He's always

got a warm smile and a happy hello for anyone who comes by, even if they don't want a paper -- but most of 'em do.

He's so dedicated to what he's doing, and so good at it, that he's just an inspiration. Most of the people I do construction for could sure take a lesson from Joe. Even though he's just a little kid, there's something special about him that makes you want to be around him. If you pay him a little extra, he gives you a hug that feels like it just came right out of heaven.

These days we can all use somebody to look up to, and Joe's *my* hero, that's for sure. He just makes this a good place to be. Yes sir..."

