

"NEWSIES!"

LES SIDE

START →

DAVEY

I'm no charity case. I don't even know you.

LES

His name's Jack.

JACK

(to LES)

How old are you, kid?

LES

I'm ten. Almost.

JACK

If anybody asks, you're seven. Younger sells more papes. That puss could easy sell a thousand papes a week.

(To LES)

Look sad, kid.

LES screws his face into a sad face.

JACK (CONT'D)

We're gonna make millions.

LES

This is my brother David. I'm Les.

JACK

Nice to meet ya, Davey. My two bits come off the top, then we split everything 70-30.

LES

50-50! You wouldn't try to pull a fast one on a little kid.

JACK

60-40 and that's my final offer.

LES

Deal.

JACK spits in his hand and holds it out to shake. LES copies him and they shake.

← **STOP**

"NEWSIES!"

LES SIDE

LES comes up empty handed.

START →

LES

Just sold my last paper.

DAVEY

I got one more.

JACK

Sell it or pay for it.

LES

Give it here.

LES takes the paper and sidles up to a WOMAN. HE puts the saddest look on his face.

LES (CONT'D)

Buy a pape from a poor orphan boy?

(And he coughs gently)

WOMAN

Oh, you dear thing. Of course I'll take a newspaper. Here's a dime.

JACK

Born to the breed.

LES

This is so much better than school.

DAVEY

Don't even think it. When Pop goes back to work we go back to school.

JACK

Ya got folks, huh?

LES

Doesn't everyone?

DAVEY

(Elbows his brother)

Why don't you come home with us for dinner? Our folks would be happy to have you.

LES

Mom's a great cook.

LES # 2

- 2 -

"NEWSIES!"

LES SIDE

JACK

Thanks for the invite, but I just remembered I got plans with a fella. He's probably waiting on me right now.

LES

Is that the guy you're meetin'?

← **STOP**

"NEWSIES!"

LES SIDE

START →

MEDDA

The only thing I own is the mortgage. Pleasure, gents.

DAVEY

A pleasure.

DAVEY bows galantly, but LES just stands wide eyed,
staring.

DAVEY (CONT'D)

(Hitting LES)

What's wrong with you?

LES

Are you blind? She got no clothes on!

DAVEY

That's her costume.

LES

But I can see her legs.

← STOP

"NEWSIES!"LES SIDE

START →

LES

There he is just like I said.

(to DAVEY)

So, what's the story? Can we have the theater?

DAVEY

Pipe down. I didn't ask yet.

LES

What's the hold up? I need to let my girl know we've got a date.

DAVEY

Your girl?

LES

You heard me. I've been swattin' skirts away all morning. Fame is one intoxicatiin' potion. And this one girl - Sally - she's a plum.

JACK sees KATHERINE.

JACK

Word is you wrote a great story.

KATHERINE

You look like hell.

LES

Hey, Jack. Where's that supposed to be?

DAVEY

It's Santa Fe.

KATHERINE

I've got to tell you, Jack, this "Go west, young man" routine is getting tired. Even Horace Greeley moved back to New York.

LES

Yes he did. And then he died.

JACK

Aint' reporter supposed to be non-partisan?

LES #4
-2-

"NEWSIES!"

LES SIDE

KATHERINE

Ask a reporter. After today's front page story Pulitzer's had me blacklisted from every news desk in town.

LES

(Interrupting)

Can we table the palaver and get back to business? Will Medda let us have the theater?

← **STOP**