

ON THE MOVE



NOW RE

STORY BY STAFF WRITER MIKE LATONA

That is, if you can find a few minutes in your schedule.

Things are a bit different in the 1990s than in Abraham Lincoln's time, when he was known to read books nightly by candlelight.

How much reading would Honest Abe have done if he were alive today — in the age of television, computers, video games and compact discs?

"Lots of people are into sports and other extracurricular activities where they don't have the time for reading," asserted Elizabeth Hooper, 16, a parishioner at St. Joachim's Church in Canisteo.

"I think society has suffered," said Katie Goins, 16, from St. Mary's Church in Dansville. She explained that in eras before TV and video games, "we were challenged" through reading.

"We had no choice but to think. Now, people go through life a lot more shallow," she commented. "People don't want to think that hard."

"I think most people consider reading, like, going to the library," said Charlene DiStefano, from Our Mother of Sorrows Church in

Greece. "Kids look at it as something they *have to do*."

Yet Charlene also pointed out that reading is a part of nearly all teens' everyday lives — whether they realize it or not. For example, she said, "A lot of people read the (newspaper) sports page."

Katie, on the other hand, has always been well aware of her attraction to reading. She's a longtime fan of classic American authors such as J.D. Salinger, Walt Whitman and Robert Frost.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I just went through everything," Katie said.

Charlene, 16, has progressed from reading ghost stories a few years ago to "more serious things," she said. She enjoys Sidney Sheldon books and also recently began receiving *Seventeen* magazine.

"Now I'm into things that talk about emotions, and feelings between people," Charlene said.

Elizabeth's favorite kinds of books are science fiction and mysteries, especially those by Mary Higgins Clark. "She writes really good suspense books," Elizabeth said.

Matt MacDaniels, 14, from the Catholic Community of Mount Morris and Nunda, has a diversified list of reading interests. While he enjoys horror and suspense books such as those by R.L. Stine, Matt also reads the daily newspaper and *Hot Rod* magazine.

One advantage of reading, Elizabeth pointed out, is that you can read just about anytime, anywhere.

"I bring a book on the bus, or I'll read in my room. Or in the kitchen, when people are watching TV shows

I don't like," said Elizabeth.

Charlene prefers her bedroom for quality reading time. Meanwhile, for Katie, reading is a breath of fresh air — literally.

"I like to read poetry outside, so I can say it out loud," Katie said. "It's more romantic."

Spiritual enhancement is a priority in Anne Kidera's reading choices. Anne, from St. Thomas More Church in Brighton, said she reads the Bible regularly. In addition, she relies on religious publications in formulating the morning prayer that she leads at Our Lady of Mercy High School, where she's a senior. Anne also subscribes to *YOUL*, a national Catholic magazine for teenagers.

"I use reading as a method of prayer," Anne, 18, said. "It kind of centers you."

However, according to Sandy Stevens, librarian at Aquinas Institute, most teens apparently prefer practicing their Catholic faith in manners other than reading. She explained that AQ students often request religious material from the library for class projects, but almost never for leisure reading.

"If you ask our kids to do something, such as a service project, they'll go out and do it in a minute. But to read something religiously oriented? I don't know," Stevens remarked.

Bibles are a popular sell among teens shopping at Logos Bookstore in Greece, according to Logos clerk Jaime Perticone. Yet she added that teens tend to steer clear of other Christian-related reading material sold by Logos.

"They come in mainly for the (re-



Katie Goins,

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