

## STAYING IN

# Writing the books of childhood treasures

**Prices for the old classics are zooming, perhaps because of tumultuous times.**

By **DUANE NORIYUKI**  
*Times Staff Writer*

**A**MONG boxes in forgotten corners, next to old televisions, their gray light forever dimmed, and bowling trophies, chipped and dusty, rest hidden treasures. As spring cleaning approaches, there may be some interesting twists in the tales of the Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew.

Prices for select children's classics have "skyrocketed," says Marci Crossan, spokesperson for Abebooks, the world's largest online marketplace for used, rare and out-of-print books. Single copies of rare Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries in prime condition and with original dust jackets are selling for \$1,000 to

read as children as gifts for their children. Then it tapered off and picked back up around Valentine's Day," said Crossan.

Sales of Hardy Boys books have increased 108% over the last six months, Abebooks, Crossan said. Nancy Drew sales increased 117%. During that same period, prices increased about 30%. The final book in the Tom Swift Jr. series recently was priced in the \$400 to \$500 range on eBay. The mystery is why.

According to Janice Del Negro, director of the Center for Children's Books at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, it may have to do with world events.

"We are in a state of great political and social tur-

