

Dick Hughes and Saigon's street boys

THE 'DUST OF LIFE' ARE HIS KIDS

On the streets and sidewalks of Saigon live thousands of young boys known to the Vietnamese as *bui doi*—the "dust of life." Some are orphans of the war. Others have run away from conditions at home. The government is of little help; the police like to throw them in jail. The best friend many of them have is a lanky, 28-year-old American, named Dick Hughes, a conscientious objector who came to Vietnam three years ago and was immediately caught by their problems. His house became a hostel where they could sleep nights and find food and clothing. The beginning was small, but Hughes's effort has grown to five houses now caring for 150 boys.

