

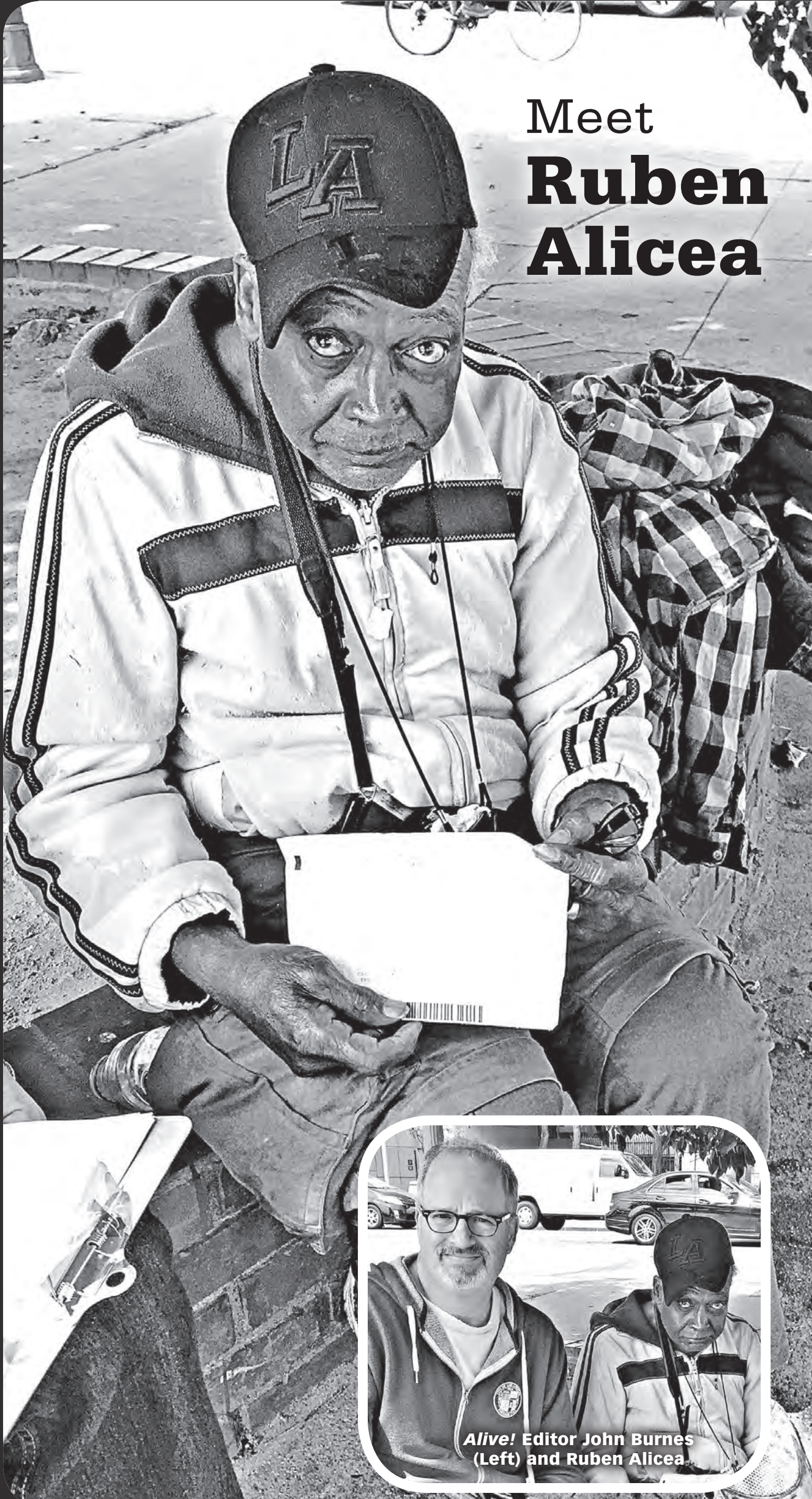
{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }

No. 92
in a series.



People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet **Ruben Alicea**

AGE: 83.

BIRTHPLACE: "St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE:

"On a bench down the street."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:

"Central Library."

FAMILY: "I have one brother."

MARRIED/SINGLE: "I was married once."

CHILDREN:

"I have two kids – a daughter, and a son who lives in Philadelphia. I talked to them about a month ago on my phone."

EDUCATION: "Tenth grade."

MILITARY: "No."

MEDICATIONS: "No."

WHEN MOVED TO L.A.: "About 20 years ago. I moved from New Jersey."

HIS STORY:

"My father was French, and my mother was Spanish. When I was six, my dad moved from St. Croix to New York, and he took me with him. When I was 26, I moved to Chicago. At 52 I left Chicago – it was too cold. I came here to California when I was 68."

RELIGION: "Catholic."

FAVORITE MOVIE:

"A Western, but I can't remember the name. It wasn't John Wayne or Gary Cooper."

FAVORITE TV SHOW:

"Haven't seen one in a good while."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Gospel, mostly."

FAVORITE FOOD:

"What they cook at parties."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Mints."

LAST FOOD EATEN:

"Eggs and bacon, in the park yesterday morning. Somebody gave it to me. I don't eat everything they give to me."

LAST JOB:

"I ran a photo studio at 58th St. and Broadway in New York for awhile, while the owner was on vacation. I worked at a hotel at 35th St. and Broadway, but a guy I hired got caught drinking, and they fired me, too. I did some construction in Central America about 20 years ago."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "I used to go to parties, sometimes on the beach."

BEST FRIENDS: "I wonder what you call 'friends'. I see them only when they need help."

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:

"My camera. I have two – one's in storage."

IF YOU WERE MAYOR:

"I would do it the way they did it when I came here – they'd put you in a house by yourself, so you could get cleaned up. But there are so many people coming to this city now, I don't know what they should do."

IN FIVE YEARS: "I don't know. I hope to have a piece of land."

WITH \$1 MILLION:

"I would buy a house, I guess."

MAKE A WISH: "I wish I had a house."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:

"If you move around, you learn a lot. You learn how to work with people."

The Club gave Ruben fresh socks, \$20 for food, and bottled water.

The interview, conducted by John Hawkins and John Burnes, took place April 13 at Third and Main Streets downtown.

Alive! Editor John Burnes (Left) and Ruben Alicea

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, and *Alive!* Editor John Burnes, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }