

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL
YEAR

Newsboy

VOL. 7 NO. 1
AUGUST 1968



Incorporated 1965, Non-profit

Monthly Newsletter of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL
5868 HEATH
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49002

World's Only Publication Devoted
To That Wonderful World
Of Horatio Alger

Founders: Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



The picture above shows Forrest Campbell (left) presenting one of our 1968 Newsboy Awards to Harold E. McCuen in his home at Mansfield, Ohio. The picture has been reduced in size and the wording on the plaque perhaps will not be legible.

It reads as follows: The Horatio Alger Society 1968 Newsboy Award is presented to HAROLD E. MCCUEN for his presentation and inspired direction of the new play, "Boy From The Bowery" by Forrest Campbell at the Mansfield Children's Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio, July 13th and 14th 1967.

The picture was provided with the compliments of McCuen, PF-096, and the expense of processing for newsletter publication was financed from private funds. There will not be a Newsboy Photo Supplement this year. This feature has never been financed by membership dues. We continue to solicit your Alger-subject photos if expense is privately financed.

EVERYONE LIKES HORATIO ALGER

Everyone who has read his books, that is. I am forced to accept the premise that there are actually more people who have never heard of Alger or read any of his books than there are people who have read his books and want to learn more about him as a person.

And this staggering majority is growing in number every day. Those who have never heard of Alger or read any of his books cannot give or influence us with an opinion regarding his character or ability to write. Yet, there are a few who reply when asked about their knowledge of Alger, "Yes, I read all of his books. He was a hack writer."

The first part of this stock reply always floors me for I still cannot honestly make that claim. Inwardly, I cannot accept such a claim from anyone who labels Alger as a hack writer. Such references are made with little respect for Alger, and not intended as a compliment.

Ask a number of people, who have some knowledge on the subject of Alger, for their opinion of Alger as a man, and of his ability to write. Assemble them all together and you have a composite image which is hardly recognizable.

Since we have no Alger biographers who knew Alger personally, except for the scant publisher's blurbs, we must draw our own conclusions from opinions. But, to read Alger is to love Alger.

GUEST EDITORIAL

.... Kenneth B. Butler

If you believe you have all the Alger titles, arise and get to work.

The possibility of numerous new titles, and a fresh new title-hunt for collectors, is in view as a result of some miniature paperbacks that Eddie Le Blanc, editor of Dime Novel Roundup and member of Horatio Alger Society, showed to me at the New Haven convention.

The widened scope stems from the fact of at least 88 boys' fiction reprint titles published in paperback form in England by the Aldine Publishing Company. The years, about 1903-1904.

In these years the Aldine firm published reprints of Alger stories, among others, apparently weekly, consisting of about 200 pages, in size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6$, with colored covers.

Interesting is the fact that 29 of the series are attributed to Alger and that many of them were given new or revised titles.

This block-buster should send the avid Alger sleuth on a maddening new hunt, if not for the entire lot, surely for the editions where the Alger title was changed.

Eddie has kindly supplied me with the complete rundown of these 88 titles, known as the Garfield Library. The ten Algers in this edition with altered titles are:

- No. 2 BILL STURDY, or the Cruise of Kidnapped Charlie. (Charlie Codman's Cruise).
- No. 5 PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE, or Harry Raymond's Resolve. (Sink or Swim).
- No. 7 TRIALS AND ADVENTURES OF HERBERT MASON, or Try and Trust. (Try and Trust).

No. 12 GEORGE CARTER'S LEGACY, or the Inventor's Son. (Herbert Carter's Legacy ??).

No. 14 Ben Stanton, the Explorer. (The Young Explorer).

No. 22 PLUCKY PAUL (Paul the Peddler).

No. 26 THE YOUNG RANCHMAN (Bob Burton).

No. 35 VAL VANE'S VICTORY (??).

No. 83 DUTIFUL DAN, the Brave Boy Detective (Dan the Detective).

No. 85 THE FORTUNES OF BEN BARCLAY, the Store Boy (The Store Boy).

THE SECRETARY REPORTS

.... Carl T. Hartmann

Every year, after election of officers, it takes a few months for the newly elected officials to get their feet on the ground and find out just what are their duties. In the past this caused delay and frustration to new members. This year is no different. We have a change in officers and with new people taking over jobs which they know very little about, we have a lag in membership communication. In order to correct this, the Bd. of Directors proposed to the members at the New Haven convention a new office which will handle all the everyday working details such as tax returns, new membership information, ordering of supplies and prospective member followup.

This new office was approved by the members present at New Haven and Max Goldberg, our new president appointed me as Executive Secretary for a period of three years. It will be my job from now on to keep you informed on membership, when dues are due and other matters relating to HAS. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to write. If you know of anyone that is interested in HAS drop me a post card with their name and address and I will see that they get a membership application. We now have 152 members. Many of you will be receiving a dues due memo with this issue of the Newsboy. (continued on page three)

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

..... Max Goldberg, President

The responsibility of a President are manifold. Like an orchester leader he must watch the players, correct sour notes, soothe the harsh ones and blend them into a harmonius melody. Letters to me, have indicated certain gripes among the members. I shall try to mitigate them. We all have gripes, but they must be constructive. I beleive that each member should be heard and pacified if possible. Therefore I ask the members to please write to me at 728 Worcester St., Natick, Mass. 01760 and they shall be heard. Far better to let off steam than suppress it and bear grudges and discontent. This is your Society and your dues support it.

On Awards. The Society gave an award to Mr. S.N. Behreman of N.Y. He not being present, it was given to V.P. Steve Press to deliver. Ralph Gardner gave me his address, so I could inform him of that honor. The letter was returned, wrong address." On July 2nd, Steve Press wrote me if I could give him Mr. Behreman's address. I wrote back, that I did not know. Not only did he not know the address, BUT, think of the time consumed in finding and delivering the plaque. Was he notified of the award? This is what I object to. We spend our money for the plaque and there seems no interest in obtaining it.

There is a Chinese proverb stating that "we value a thing accordingly to what we pay for it" If easily obtained, the value is nil. We should be more discriminating in giving awards. Just because some one writes an introduction to a book, doesn't entitle him to an award. Also, how many members read that introduction? I didn't and don't even know what book it is. Anything as expensive as an award, the members should be informed why it was given and the article published in the "Newsboy" after all it is their money. It is ironic, of the two awards (plaques), one can't be found and the other is not in the current rostra. WHY?

I beleive with Past President Jack Row,

that the Newsboy award, (Ragged Dick) should be given in U.S. saving bonds, as has been done at the N.E. Convention in New Haven. at the suggestion of Mr. Levy. Instead of plaques, Honorary Membership certificates should be given, as adopted at the DeMoines Convention, as stated in the June 1967 newsboy. It is much cheaper and can be printed with a semblence of engraving. The only plaque given should be the "Luck and Pluck award.

Sometime ago I was reading a "Fireside Dickens, A cyclopedia of the best thoughts of Dickens" It contained various characters, such as the hypocrisy of Pecksniff. the villain Fagin the sly Uriah Heep and the simple souls, like -- Barkis. Certainly there must be counterparts in Alger's stories and remarks. The gathering together would be quite an undertaking and would take time, but what a monument to Alger and what a wealth of information we would have.

Speaking of Charles Dickens, most members are not aware that one of the finest collections of Dickens lore, is owned by Mrs. Rachel Campbell of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

As to the above idea, with the help and contributions of the members.

"Barkis is willin"

THE SECRETARY REPORTS (continued)

Please be prompt in paying your dues. Remember, your dues and all donations are deductible from your income tax.

(E.N. Our secretary informs me that our supply of membership materials is nearly depleted, however, membership tiles, membership rosters, and a copy of our 1967 Newsboy Photo Supplement will be issued to new members as long as the supply lasts. If any recent new member did not receive a copy of our 1967 Newsboy Photo Supplement, ask our Secretary for a copy. A few 1966 issues are still available from your editor. Many old issues of our newsletter are still available for the price of mailing. (PF-000)

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period, \$5.

NEWSBOY recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

The editor reserves the right to reject and/or control the quality and quantity of material submitted for publication.

OFFICERS

Max Goldberg,	President
Steve Press,	Vice-President
Carl T. Hartmann,	Executive Secretary
Dan Fuller,	Treasurer
Kenneth B. Butler,	Director
Ralph D. Gardner,	Director
Forrest Campbell,	Editor

Please use membership roster for mailing address of our members and officers.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-238	Rev. Mr. Benjamin J. Ridgley TR-0	
	3111 Ritchie Road,	
	Washington, D.C. 20028	
PF-239	Mr. H. David Buttorff TR-020	
	41 Harwood Road,	
	Louisville, Kentucky 40222	
PF-240	Mr. E.D. (Mac) Mc Junkin TR-077	
	70 West Columbus Avenue,	
	Corry, Pennsylvania 16407	
PF-241	Mrs. Elizabeth Meredith TR- ?	
	19 Darwin Drive,	
	Westfield, Massachusetts 01085	
PF-242	Mr. Lee V. Minter TR-085	
	P.O. Box No. 791	
	Sanford, North Carolina 27330	
PF-243	Mrs. James (Dot) O'neill TR-030	
	4 Roger Avenue,	
	Concord, New Hampshire 03301	
PF-244	Mr. Eugene Lee TR- ?	
	1422 Clary Street,	
	Beloit, Wisconsin 53511	

PF-245 Mr. Edward Hall TR- ?
16 Old Road West,
Gravesend, Kent, England

It gives us great pleasure to announce that not only have we two new states represented, but also England! It is true that we had for a short time, members temporarily residing in Switzerland and on the African Continent, but they are now at home again in the U.S.A. Our ultimate goal is to have all 50 states represented at the same time.

INTRODUCTION OF PARTIC'LAR FRIENDS

The Rev. Mr. Ridgley comes to us by way of Ernest Sanford, PF-032. Rev. Ridgley is an Episcopal minister, and P.F. Ernest says he is much interested in Alger. The number of titles he owns was unreported, and I have not personally heard from him. (Wife's name: Jean)

David comes to us by way of Paul House. Paul, PF-099, has not missed a single convention, and reported at New Haven that David operates a publishing house, and has actually reprinted some of the Alger stories. Another friend of mine reports that the Buttorff Company has advertised in The Railroad Magazine: "Train Boy, 208 pages of good paper, 5x7½ and sells for \$1.35 post paid." I have not personally heard from David. (Wife's name: Martha)

Mac and Dorothea (his wife) heard of us through Ralph Gardner. He is retired on disability. Since becoming a member Mac proudly announces that he has acquired his first, first editions: STRONG & STEADY and CANAL BOY TO PRESIDENT. He is now studying our membership roster to see who are his new Partic'lar Friends, and hopes to meet some of them.

Betty, PF-241, heard of us through Sylvester, PF-223. She teaches art in high school, and reports that her maternal grandparents were Algers, but has never established any relationship with Horatio's family. Being a student of genealogy, she also reported that Henry Ward Beecher was her great-great uncle. And, she may have met Steve Press already!

Lee and Emma (his wife), come to us by way of Norman Peterson, PF-184. It was a case of a mutual friend passing the word from one of our members to an interested person. Lee is a postal clerk, and hopes to retire in about 4½ years. Lee has received many of his Alger books from Ed Mattson, PF-067 (now inactive). Lee is our only member in North Carolina, but is trying to interest a local friend of his in joining with us.

Dot and her husband James, heard of us through Ralph Gardner. She is a registered nurse and a college teacher. She is very proud of her Porter & Coates editions, and also collects books on and about Daniel Webster. Dot is our only member in New Hampshire. We hope she can interest someone from Vermont, then we would have the entire New England States represented.

Fugene (Gene) and his wife Betty, heard of us through Robert Johnson, PF-080, who edits and publishes the Tutter Bugle, which is a quarterly publication designed for fans of the Leo Edwards stories. Leo Edwards is a pen-name for Edward Edson Lee. Gene is his son. Gene and Betty spend much of their summer leisure time at Hi-Lee cottage near Cambridge, Wisc., which was the former home and workshop of his father. Rachel and I were invited to join them recently at Hi-Lee cottage, and spent two wonderful hours with them. It was then that we discovered Gene's interest in Alger and our Society.

Ed and his wife Emily come to us by way of Ed Levy, who writes his introduction: "Edward Hall, recent septuagenarian, was born, bred and still lives in England, for which he fought, as an aviator in World War I. His father, a mill owner, expected 'Ned' Hall to go into the family business but Ned had other ideas. He collects and deals in old deeds and autographs -- lives in the Kent country where he takes long walks and dreams of his youthful British Alger-type heroes... In the years from his discharge as British aviator, he worked for the government until 'retirement'. He's an active collector and dealer in manuscripts and deeds." Our grateful thanks to Ed Levy for this "International" member.

BOOK MART



The listings in this department (space permitting) are free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. Editor disqualified due to first notice.

Offered by Byron L. Troyer, PF-159, 620 E. 44th St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46205.

Ben's Nugget,	Winston	Fair	\$ 1.25
Bound to Rise,	P&C	Good	7.50
Hector's Inheritance,	P&C	Good	7.50
Helping Himself,	P&C	Good	20.00
H. Carter's Legacy,	Hurst	Good	2.50
Julius, Street Boy,	Donohue	Fair	1.25
Luke Walton,	NYB	Good	1.25
Making His Way,	NYB	Fair	1.25
Mark Mason's Triumph,	NYB	?	1.25
Mark, The Match Boy,	P&C	Good	7.50
Risen From The Ranks,	P&C	Good	7.50
Sink or Swim,	P&C	Good	8.00
Store Boy, The	P&C	Good	6.00
Strong & Steady,	P&C	Good	7.50
Struggling Upward,	P&C	Good	6.00
Try & Trust,	P&C	Good	7.50
Wait & Hope,	NYB	Fair	1.50
W. Sherwood's Prob'n	Hurst	Good	1.25
Young Outlaw, The	P&C	Good	10.00
Young Miner, The	P&C	Good	10.00

Offered by E.D. (Mac) McJunkin, PF-240, (see page four for address). For sale or trade. No price listed.

Adrift In New York,	World Syn.	Good	
Andy Gordon,	NYB	Fair	
Ben's Nugget,	H T Coates	Fair	
Bound to Rise,	Hurst	Fair	
Cash Boy, The	World Pub.	Good	
Do & Dare,	Goldsmith	Good	
Do & Dare,	Hurst	Good	
Hector's Inheritance,	Donohue	Good	
Hector's Inheritance,	NYB	Good	
Helping Himself,	MacLellan	Good	
Only An Irish Boy,	NYB	Good	
Paul The Peddler,	Donohue	Good	
Phil The Fiddler,	Hurst	Poor	
Ralph Raymond's Heir,	Superior	Good	
Risen From The Ranks,	Donohue	Good	
Sink or Swim,	Hurst	Good	
Sink or Swim,	NYB	Good	
Slow & Sure,	Winston	Good	
Store Boy, The	Donohue	Good	
Strong & Steady,	Winston	Good	

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

If the things that are happening in our schools weren't so tragic, they would be laughable! But they are tragic -- dangerously tragic. And it isn't just in New York City where these things are happening, it's all over the country. My sister who teaches in a semi-rural area in upstate New York tells me she has many problems which are similar to the ones I face in a city slum school. Forrest Campbell showed me a paper from Grand Rapids, Michigan where they had to close the schools (E.N. temporarily) because of "unteachable conditions". The schools were closed and a confrontation held "with the school and community officials to point up the fears, threats and discipline problems at the school".

It's happening all over. How about your community? Do you know what's happening in your schools? How much education is really going on there?

But what can you expect when the New York Times publishes a serious article (July 14, 1968 cover article) on education and a man who is the head of a department in Fordham University (one of this nation's leading universities) says: "Learning to read may be the worst thing to happen to a kid...!"

The thing is he is right already! Many children today cannot read! Most colleges in this country have remedial reading and writing courses for the freshman classes coming in. Rudolf Flesch in his book WHY JOHNNY CAN'T READ says we are the only nation in the world that teaches remedial reading in our public schools.

As a teacher this past year I abandoned the texts that were given to me for my 8th graders. They couldn't read them. One of the heads of my department at school was surprised when he learned I tried to teach with the texts (titled ENGLISH IS OUR LANGUAGE grade 8; and ADVENTURES AHEAD grade 8).

"Why," I asked, "did you give them to me then?"

His answer, "Oh, we had to give you a text book. The law says so."

Can you believe it? Want to hear something really funny? These so-called 8th grade texts are written at a 6th grade level especially for these kids! And still they can't read them! The professor in my training class last summer (I am a product of the Intensive Teacher Training Program to get new teachers for the understaffed schools) would be quite surprised at all the "good" his careful teaching of the new transitional grammar (like the new math and as useless) he gave me (& others) is doing.

What did I do about it? Well, I floundered for a while. I was hired and trained to teach 8th graders and found myself teaching 2nd and 3rd grade work. Many children in my classes do not know the English Alphabet. At last I had some ideas. I headed down to a second-hand book store and bought some old text books -- The Boys & Girls Illustrated Gift Book (1876); A One-Book Course in English (1891); Longman's Briefer Grammar (1903); Maxwell's School Grammar (1907); Champion Spelling Book (1909); and The Child and His Spelling (1914) AND I STARTED TEACHING! And they worked!

These simple spellers and grammars from so long ago that I paid about 10¢ apiece for were books that the children could work with, understand, and learn from.

What the school systems need is not all their fancy texts but a good old grammar and speller. They may be a little dry in spots but they work and, believe it or not, they get the kids to work. Kids really aren't put off when a text is a little dry. Oh sure, they complain but didn't we all? They don't expect school to be a circus. They know school's their place of work.

But if the administration doesn't take it seriously why should they? My school provides more rock 'n' roll shows for the kids than you would believe. What has that got to do with learning?

Vice President's Column (continued)

And the children know it! I've had them write about it.

O.K., I found my grammar and speller. Now I needed a reader for them so that they could put what they learned to practical use. The school didn't have anything which I considered any good. I needed something special and right. And I knew just what it was. Horatio Alger. The perfect reader. On Alger's birthday I handed everyone of my students a book by Horatio Alger. A world of reading, writing and education opened up. In later columns I'll go into the "particulars" of exactly what happened with those wonderful Alger books.

But now let me wrap up the thoughts that started this piece: my reaction to Father Culkin of Fordhams unbelievable sentence "Learning to read may be the worst thing to happen to a kid.."

One of the things(perhaps the thing) that prepared the way for Alger back in the 1860's was something few countries, if any, had ever known before: education for everyone! Universal literacy. The government of the U.S. said everybody has to have the chance to learn to read and write. And the simple fact is: When people can read -- they do!

(Of course some states at one time contained the stain on their lawbooks that made it illegal to teach black children to read & write but we're paying dearly for that moronic gesture now.)

But aside from the various blind spots such as the above everything fell into place perfectly. Reading was taught across the land. People liked it and practiced it. Reading was interesting, informative and fun. People became hungry for more and more books on more and more subjects, and the country had the native authors to fill the need.

Alger certainly was only one among many (E Pluribus Unum). But he was special. And he was the right man in

the right place at the right time.

Young people seeking entertainment and direction found it in books. And it was they who chose Alger -- nobody forced Alger on the readers. They wanted the books, liked them and sought them out.

As S.N. Behrman said in his introduction of STRIVE AND SUCCEED (the Holt Rinehart & Winston reissue of THE STORE BOY and JULIUS), "When I was a boy I read Alger as omnivorously as others did. I read them for excitement, encouragement, and fun. I took an Alger a day from the public library. I must have gobbled all those in the library by the time I was fourteen."

It wasn't Behrman's parents who made him read Alger, or the schools or anyone else. He read them, as you did, because he wanted to.

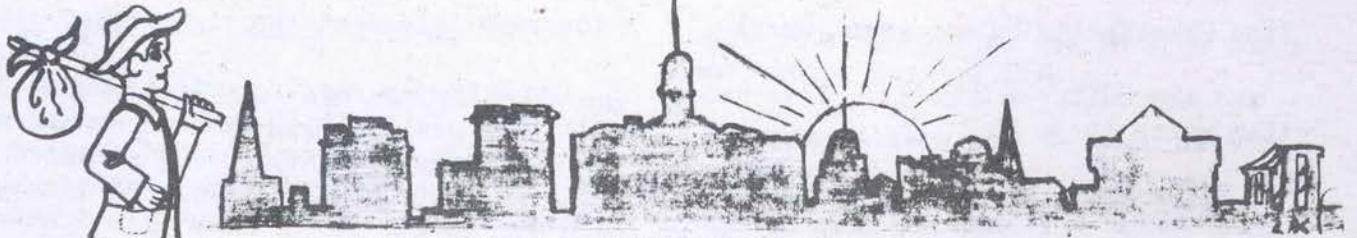
But today an educator comes along and says reading is out! Passe! And, God help us, he seems to be right! I've seen hundreds of youngsters and know there are thousands more who are functionally illiterate!

Sell Alger? Pretty soon nobody will be able to sell any books at all. Nobody will know how to read.

(Steve Press, PF-164)

OF INTEREST TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Now that your name has been introduced to our readers, you will undoubtedly be receiving catalogs from our members who are book dealers, and sample copies of publications which are edited and published by some of our members, such as: DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP, Eddie LeBlanc, PF-015; THE TUTTER BUGLE, Robert Johnson, PF-080; COLLECTORS NEWS, Ralph Anderson, PF-144; LITERARY SKETCHES, Mary Lewis Chapman, PF-179; THE BOOK WORM, Jacqueline Steele, PF-199; and W-HOLLOW HARVEST, David Brandenburg, PF-207. All are reasonably priced and enjoyed by many of our members. An Alger article written by PF-000 was published in the November 1966 issue of LITERARY SKETCHES. Free copies of this issue are reserved for our members with a two year subscription, \$2.



"THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"

The above art work designed especially to identify this department by a very talented local young lady of fifteen, Lynn Kizer.

The skyline is symbolic of that prosperity which attracted the young Alger hero to the great city. The prominent building in the center represents City Hall, and authority. The spires reveal the influence of the various churches. The rising sun reflects the dawn of a new beginning for our young hero fresh from the country who seeks nothing but independence by making his own way.

The young hero is neat and clean with all his worldly possessions enclosed in the bandana at the end of the stick, plus a few coins in his pocket. No one can honestly say that the young Alger hero developed "from rags to riches". I abhor the term when applied to the Alger stories. To my knowledge, Alger never used the expression, nevertheless this label has been attached to his success stories and we seem to be stuck with it.

In my younger days we were called "greenhorns" and "hayseeds" however, the New York street-boys, quick to recognize a strange boy in their midst, addressed him as "Johnny" or "Country". The young hero had only honesty and dependability "going for him" which remained to be proven to the over-cautious employers who needed a boy. He had the proverbial "two strikes against him" since he had no home, and did not know the city.

Although "Country" was considered to be an easy touch by the less honorable, and designing street-boys who took advantage of his generosity with no intention of returning the favor, he was such a contrast to the hundreds of street-boys with his neat appearance and honest face that

he was easily recognized by an adult who admired him and was in a position to give him assistance in some manner.

Such assistance was not always a gift of money but often in the form of helpful and useful advice, and sometimes in the form of a recommendation in lending his name as a reference to a possible employer.

I am not implying that "Country" is synonymous with honesty, for we know that there were many New York boys like "Paul, the Peddler" who was determined to earn an honest living, but the contrasting extremes were the "Fifth Avenue Swells" who would be insulted if asked to work, or the common street-boy who had no thought of tomorrow's needs.

Now that "Country" has made a friend in this new and exciting world, he begins his rise "up the ladder" with many pitfalls awaiting him. Such are the adventures of our hero in all of the Alger stories.

Broadway is a new and exciting experience to him. Many are the attractions that are tempting and appealing to him, yet he knows that he must practice thrift and economy. He looks upon all whom he encounters to be as honest and trustworthy as he himself. He learns by experience that he cannot live upon, or even near Broadway, so he seeks out a small room somewhere near the Bowery.

After a month or so of practicing rigid economy he has saved enough money to buy himself a new suit and open a small bank account. Then he writes home to his mother to tell her that he is doing well. Her reply reveals warm affection for her son, but concerned about his health, also, his step-father is dissatisfied with the "new boy" and is willing to take him back. (PF-000)