

THE YOUNG AMERICAN HERO ERA

newsboy



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Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

This scene, about 1850, looks south on Broadway at the intersection of Park Row on the extreme left. The scene was taken from the tip end of City Hall Park. On the extreme right can be seen a portion of the famous Astor House. This area was one of the popular and choice locations

for newsboys and bootblacks in the era of "that wonderful world of Horatio Alger." On the left is the famous Barnum's Museum, built in 1842 and destroyed by fire in 1865. It was located on the corner of Broadway and Ann Street.



On this site the Herald Building was erected and after it relocated farther uptown, the building was remodeled and enlarged to a modern sky scraper, which was then known as the St. Paul Building. A brief reference to Barnum's Museum is recorded in chapter two of *Slow & Sure*, the further adventures of Paul Hoffman, the street merchant.

Barnum's Museum at that time was a combination of attractions including a menagerie, side shows, and some stage productions, one of which was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, popular in 1852. With a little imagination you may be able to visualize Paul's neck-tie stand location on Broadway, in this scene, just below the Astor House, in that wonderful world of Horatio Alger.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

....By Max Goldberg, President



Max Goldberg

Jan. 13, 1969 was the 137th year of his birth and, July 18, 1969 will be the 70th of his death, but the colloquialism "A Horatio Alger Story" goes on. Even after having been thrust into the limbo of oblivion, his writings called banal, his teaching an anachronism, he rebounds like a Mexican jumping bean into the front pages of the news and it's echoes in radio and television.

What manner of man is he that should be recalled so often? He must have touched upon a fiber of human nature that his censors could not obliterate because of it's concrete merit! I salute the spirit of Horatio Alger Jr., and ask the members to bear with me in my meditation.

THE GRAND "DOCK" THEATRE ... Variety theatres are numerous in New York. Of these the principal ones are Harrigan & Hart's on Broadway opposite the New York Hotel and, Tony Pastor's on 14th Street between 3rd & 4th Avenues. These establishments draw large audiences and are very profitable. The third class theatres are situated in the Bowery. The price of admission is low and the performance is suited to the tastes of the audience. The majority of these remain open during the summer months.

Perhaps the most remarkable dramatic one in the city is the Grand Duke's Theatre or as it is better known to it's patrons, "THE GRAND DOCK THEATRE" in Water Street. It was formerly located in Baxter Street and began it's career in a very humble way, but with increasing prosperity removed to more suitable quarters in Water Street. The prices of admission are as follows: Boxes, 25¢; orchestra, 15¢; balcony, 10¢ and gallery, 5¢. It is managed and controlled by boys. It's audiences consist chiefly of bootblacks, newsboys and the juvenile denizens of the east side of the city,

ranging in age from 3 to 20 years. The company is composed of youths in their teens. The performances are of the blood & thunder order interspersed with variety acts of a startling description. The house and it's appointments are primitive and the stage and scenery equally so. The orchestra is made up of amateur musicians and is placed out of sight, back stage. The foot-lights consist of 6 kerosene lamps with glass shades. Two red plush lounges stuffed with saw-dust and in a bad state of dilapidation serve as boxes. The orchestra stalls are represented by a half dozen two-legged benches and the balcony and gallery are composed of a bewildering arrangement of step-ladders and dry-goods boxes. The manager acts as his own policeman and enforces order by punching the heads of disorderly spectators, or ejection. The performances are crude but they satisfy the audience and never fail to draw forth a storm of applause mingled with cat-calls, shrill whistles and other vocal sounds. The boys are satisfied. What more could be desired? (source: New York By Sunlight & Gaslight; James D. McCabe; 1882. Submitted and prepared by E.D. "Mac" McJunkin, PF-240)

After reading Alger's "Julius, The Street Boy" published in 1874, the parallel was found in the McCabe excerpt above, submitted by McJunkin. We regret it is published posthumously and are saddened by his passing away, December 21, 1968. He is mourned by his family and wife, Dorothea, along with members of the Alger Society who were correspondents of his. He was a good and kindly man. He was novel in many ways. His enthusiasm for our Society was foremost. He often sent tape recordings instead of letters.

In my December column, I asked if anyone knew about the 500 Dollar Legacy title by Alger. I received an answer and explanation from Milton Salls, PF-020:

"In his Alger checklist (AB, July 6-13, 1959) Dr. Morton Enslin states the following: P&C had listed as a forthcoming title, THE 500 DOLLAR LEGACY, as a fourth in the "Way To Success" series. Not only did they copyright the title but appar-

ently actually printed an issue. It was not released by them. Instead the volume appeared in the market prior to the end of 1892 with title page tipped in: "The 500 Dollar Check" U.S. Book Company, successors to John Lovell. The spine carried the name of Lovell, etc."

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Milton for his effort in helping me solve the enigma. It is such co-operation of members that make the Society interesting and the hobby a pleasure.

On January 10, I had an appointment at Brandeis University to visit the Horatio Alger exhibit. Several members of the Natick Kiwanis Club and our Society were to be there at 2 P.M. The night before, on the 6 P.M. news broadcast it was announced that the black students took over the Ford Hall building including its communication unit. The phones were disconnected and I could not make contact with Mr. Ploch to ask for details. There were rumors of stopping cars. I was compelled to cancel my appointment. It reminds me of Cicero when he said, "O Tempora, O Mores!"

The Boston Globe contains a story about a drop-out who became a playwright. His name is Ed Bullins, a negro and leader of the Panthers. He was quite arrogant with the Press and stated, "That's why I am here talking to you. Some young black reader might find out about me, for the first time, thru this story, then they might say: Hey, if that guy can do it, why can't I?" Great Caesar's ghost and Macbeth's witches! THAT is just what Alger told HIS boys.

The quest for a scarce Alger book and it's aftermath (this is in the form of a play on radio); Music: corny, old fashioned type, played in silent movie serials where the hero triumphs. Bryan, The Clue of Dauntless Dick: Fleming - We're looking for a certain book, and while we don't really know the hero's name is Dick. It is a safe bet he is dauntless because the book was written by Horatio Alger Jr. All Alger heroes are handsome, manly, diligent, honest and sure to rise from rags to riches before the story is done. Mr. Frank Millner of Norfolk, Vir-

ginia confirms this, and Mr. Millner ought to know; he has 117 Alger books in his library. He began his collection at the age of 13 and that's where our story begins. His parents were so alarmed and puzzled at the way his school marks were going down, that one evening after supper....

Mother - Frank dear, Isabel has come over to do homework with you. Frank - Who asked her to? Isabel (same age as Frank, 13 years) - I didn't want to come. Mother - Isabel is doing you a favor. Your father and I feel that you haven't learned to apply yourself to your lessons and it occurred to me that a fine student like Isabel could show you the right way better than we could (Frank grunts, mother leaves room, doors shut).

Frank (jeeringly) - What will we do first, teacher? Isabel - Study ancient history. If you want to read that book you hid when your mother and I came in--- Frank (blustering) - What book, what are you talking about? Isabel (scornfully) - Sink or Swim, (tone changes) by Horatio Alger Jr. Oh Frank! Can I borrow it when you are thru? Frank (astonished) - You? You wouldn't like it. It's not a book for girls. Isabel - But I love all Alger's books! I've read Victor Vane and Finding a Fortune and--- Frank (cuts in) - This is loads better than either of them! Listen to this! Harry, he's the hero, says, "You have no authority over me, Captain Brandon," said Harry, proudly, "You have entrapped me on board this vessel." (doors open slowly. Frank continues reading) "Don't say that again, you impudent scoundrel," the Captain growled.

Mother - So this is the way you waste your time, Frank Millner! Isabel, you're no help at all; give me that book!

Fleming - There was no time for Mr. Millner to hide the incriminating evidence. He was caught red-handed. And after that, he says:

Millner (the man) Alger books were strictly forbidden in the house and my mother confiscated the ones I already had. She didn't destroy them however, and many, many years later I found them.

(continued on page 6)

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July and is distributed free to Society members by our Executive Secretary from 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3 annually, adult membership, \$5 annually, to be presented in advance with membership application. Each member receives a membership card, membership roster, and ten issues of the Newsboy. Other incidentals are optional and available upon request, subject to prevailing prices. Convention City: Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 8th - 11th.

O F F I C E R S

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.

 CHANGES OF ADDRESS - Please correct your new 1969 membership roster accordingly.

PF-142 Mr. Dan Fuller
 1121 West Badger Road,
 Madison, Wisconsin 53713

PF-200 Mr. Daniel M. Peterson
 105 East Street, or P.O. Box
 429, West Union, Iowa 52175

PF-024 Mr. Gilbert K. Westgard, II
 2317 Oak Tree Lane,
 Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

 NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-257 Mr. Nathan R. Goldman TR-113
 276 Fifth Avenue,
 New York, New York 10001

PF-258 Mr. Jack Bales TR-043
 440 Palace Street,
 Aurora, Illinois 60506

PF-259 Mr. John M. Lohn TR-085
 709 South Lorraine Blvd.,
 Los Angeles, California 90005

PF-260 Mr. Edward T. Myers TR- ?
 Country Lane
 Collinsville, Conn. 06022

 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Nathan, and his wife Bess, are personal friends of Dr. & Mrs. Russell Dock. He is an attorney at the above address, and resides in Brooklyn.

Jack, age 17, is a high school student, and plans to attend Illinois College at Jacksonville next fall. He owns a Gardner book and learned of us through our listing on page 504. Jack is extremely interested in the Alger philosophy as well as reading the Alger stories, and has contributed an essay of his own composition on the following page. He is employed part-time at Fredrickson's Office Supplies store in Aurora, and you might say that he is a "modern" store boy. Jack is enthusiastic about our coming convention in Kalamazoo and will be present, armed with full-fledged adult membership credentials. Enlisting the aid of his grandfather in Tuscon, Arizona, he has been able to add 8 new titles to his growing collection.

We got John's name from a friend, and sent him a sample copy of our publication. His response was in the form of a request for a membership application. John is a retired letter carrier with 33 years of service out of the Minneapolis post office. He owns a Gardner book and is extremely anxious to complete his collection through his affiliation with our Society. Other hobbies are travel, photography, hiking and gardening.

Edward received a membership application from a member, who is unannounced at this writing. He is a teacher and a part-time book dealer, and his stock of Alger books vary as a result of sales.

 (E.N. Details on our coming convention will begin with the March Newsboy. This convention is designed with you in mind)

A YOUTH OF TODAY TAKES A LOOK AT HORATIO ALGER JR., AND HIS PRINCIPLES (A guest editorial written by Jack Bales, PF-258)

A lot of boys in today's affluent era have probably never read a book by Horatio Alger Jr. One reason for this is the time element involved. Alger's books were written in the 19th century and few people except genuine Alger enthusiasts would take the time to look for one of his books.

But if they read one, would they want more? I think not. The average boys of today can't identify with Horatio's heroes. Alger's heroes were ones who had to make their own living at a young age--full time employed. He would be expected to drop out of school to help his family and get a job. Now a person's chances of getting a good job without at least a high school education are practically nil. In fact, he is forced to stay in school until he is at least sixteen years old.

Horatio Alger's heroes and the students of today live in two different worlds. Today there are no horsedrawn carriages, newsboys, bootblacks, or baggage smashers. And in Horatio's day, there were no television sets, radios, or automobiles. Sometimes a modern boy might read an Alger book and recognize the principles that Horatio taught. From then on he is probably an Alger enthusiast.

But this is only for the boy whose parents have an average or higher income. What about the poorer boys, --the ones who WANT to Strive and Succeed, not the ones who stand on the street corner with Nothing to Do, complaining about how "the other guy gets all the breaks?"

I believe that these boys would read and want more books by Horatio Alger Jr., for they can identify with the heroes. They know, like all Alger's heroes know, what it is to be poor.

The poor boy, like Gilbert Greyson and Harry Vane, has to Shift for Himself, Facing the World in all its coldness.

It is up to us, the members of the Horatio Alger Society, who have joined together because of our admiration for Horatio Alger Jr. and the principles he taught, to pass this philosophy on to the youth of today.(Jack Bales, PF-258)

BOOK MART



The listing of Alger books in this department (space permitting) is free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. Editor disqualified due to first notice. First editions underlined.

Offered by William Pinkney III, PF-249, 241 Mullin Street, Watertown, N.Y. 13601.

Andy Gordon,	NYB	good	\$ 1.00
Five Hundred Dollars,	Hurst	good	3.00
Hector's Inheritance.	NYB	good	1.00
Helping Himself,	Dono	good	1.25
H. Carter's Legacy,	Loring	fair	5.00
Julius,	Winston	fair	5.00
Phil The Fiddler,	Burt	good	3.00
Slow & Sure,	P&C	good	5.00
Tom The Bootblack,	Hurst	good	2.00
Young Acrobat,	Burt	good	2.75
Young Bank Messenger,	Winston	good	5.00
<u>Young Explorer,</u>	Loring	good	18.00

Offered by Irving Poznan, PF-135, 107 Timka Drive, Ballwin, Missouri 63011

Helen Ford,	Winston	good	10.00
Luck & Pluck,	P&C	good	12.00
Tattered Tom,	Loring	fair	18.00

Offered by Willard Thompson, PF-146, 835 SW 14th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97205

Ben's Nugget,	HTC	fair	2.85
Errand Boy,	Burt		3.20
Farm Boy to President*	APC		3.50
In Search of Treasure,	Burt	poor	1.85
Mark Mason's Victory,	Burt		3.20
Mark The Match Boy,	HTC		5.00
Out For Business,	Mershon		2.50
Ragged Dick,	P&C	good	6.50
Rough & Ready,		fair	4.40
Tony The Tramp,	Hurst		1.60

*No such title known.

Convention City: Kalamazoo, Michigan, '69

RANDOM THOUGHTS - continued

By then Alger, who was already past the peak of his career when I was a child, had become an American legend. Partly from sentiment, partly from genuine interest in this amazing man who enthralled a million or more boys for half a century, I began to collect Alger's works in early editions. I now have nearly everything I want except a book that Alger wrote on collaboration with his sister, O.A. Cheney. I have been searching for it vainly for six years, but judging from some of the other things your programs have tracked down, I guess I've come to the right place at last.

Fleming - Thanks, Mr. Millner. I know our listeners will try to live up to your faith in them. Ladies and gentlemen, the book Mr. Millner wants is called "Seeking His Fortune, and other dialogues" by Horatio Alger Jr. and O.A. Cheney. It was published by the firm of A.K. Loring, Boston, Mass. Now, how much shall we offer, old prospector? Twelve dollars? Yessir, twelve dollars for one of them here books by Horatio Alger. That's gold, if you find it!

Bryan - If you own or can get hold of a copy of this book, write and give us the details. If your letter is selected by our judges as the most interesting and authentic, we'll buy the book from you for twelve dollars and present it to Mr. Millner with our compliments.

Fleming - Our address is: GOLD, IF YOU FIND IT!, CBS, New York City. Bryan - All letters become the property of this program, and the decision of the judges is final. (music)

Comment - This happened three years ago. This faded typewritten story was found among the scrap books of the late Miss Mabel Parmenter, for 25 years custodian of the South Natick Historical Society. The time must have been in 1944 that being the year Mr. Millner visited Natick. The book was found and given to Mr. Millner.

The Aftermath - Mr. Millner was often reprimanded by Alger's niece, Mrs. Anna

Alger Richardson, for spending so much time "prying into the Alger family affairs instead of doing some war or defense work" (WW II). Mr. Millner worked for the Good Will Industries, this being the only type work he could obtain due to an eye ailment. To get into her good graces, he sold the book, he sought for six years, and bought a \$25 war bond. (MG)

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

1968 was a good year for HAS. With 122 members listed in the new roster, we find ourselves with a net gain of 5 members over 1967. Our convention in New Haven was a great success; our membership participation is high; dues collections are up and we have three new members since the roster publication. This office has received many letters praising the work of our officers and our editor. One of our latest members was a direct result of the Newsboy, a sample copy sent him by our editor.

All members with 100 or more different titles are eligible for the "100 Club" and if they will let me know, I will send them an engraved plate for their plaque. We are still having trouble obtaining the walnut frames for the deluxe tiles. Those that have them due, please bear with us a few more weeks. If you have any questions concerning the operation of HAS, drop me a line and I will try to answer them. (CH) (E.N. Carl & Jean personally report that one of their boys, Stan, was very sick in December, however, the crisis was past by Christmas time, but he is still receiving therapy treatments. In spite of this concern for Stan, the December Newsboy was processed and distributed on time!)

THE 1969 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Is an annual publication and serves a very useful purpose for Society members. The information contained therein is a result of continuous corrections, additions and deletions. Because of unreported information, three addresses as listed must be corrected. See change of address section. The roster is expertly prepared and generously financed by Kenneth B. Butler.

Our thanks for your loyal support, Ken!

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Steve Press

I seem to participate in everything New York City has to offer: The teachers' strike, the fuel strike, the flu! I missed last month's column as much, I hope, as my fellow members! But I'm afraid I wasn't in shape to make the deadline.

But now all's well! And here I am again with some interesting things to report and a continuation of

my Alger report.

During Christmas I went to an exhibit of childrens' toys from our American past. One of the toys was The Game of the District Messenger Boy or Merit Rewarded. The date on the box was 1886. Any member have any information on the game? I sure would love to see its contents and rules revealed in the Newsboy.

I've purchased a couple of books of Alger interest lately -- one being a first printing of the Spiller Thorp Literary History of the United States which has some highly original Alger information: "No writer of Juveniles has been more widely read than Horatio Alger, Jr., 1834-1899. (EN please note erroneous birth date). He wrote some 70 books; then in his age he sold his name to the publishing house of Street & Smith, which issued about 60 more over his signature. It is supposed than no fewer than 20 million copies were published..." I wonder where they got their information from? The text refers the reader to Mr. Mayes for more of the same!

Then I bought a first edition of Stewart Holbrook's Age Of The Moguls. Mr. Holbrook didn't admire Alger very much but every man is entitled to his own bad taste (just like in politics); yet we must be indebted to him for one thing he said, and which I continually quote, the fact that Alger was the most "influential" author this country has had!

Recently the New York Times published a

story about Herbert Mayes and his editing of another "collection of mutilated books." The quote is directly from Mr. Mayes. But as usual no Alger information was in the article.

I wrote to Harry Gilroy of the Times and received the following answer: "The Alger book didn't come up in our talk because I was aware I wouldn't have space for that and other aspects of Mr. Mayes' career." Mr. Gilroy wrote me a nice letter but left us up the same blind alley.

And last from my readings -- another article from the New York Times. This article (Psychoanalyst Calls Myths A Clue To Reality) was about Dr. Rollo May, a popular lecturer and psychoanalyst. Mr. May is quoted as saying, "In America these myths took the form of the frontier myth and the Horatio Alger myth. But for the last 20 or 30 years neither of these has been relevant." Herbert Mayes and Rollo May have more than very similar names in common!

I had a very interesting meeting with Ralph Gardner and President Max Goldberg in November. But I'll leave it to President Max to report on what was said and I'll just follow up with a few brief comments.

Speaking of members -- at a meeting of the Modern Language Association I met our treasurer Dan Fuller and we covered a little Alger ground. Dan assured me that he's taking good care of our treasure -- but I sure did wonder about the private train he hired to bring him here from Wisconsin and those lavish dinners at Delmonicos -- I'm only kidding, Dan! We had a bowl of soup and a salad together at a little restaurant near the hotel. Dan's trying to buy my copy of Edward Stratemeyer's Shorthand Tom. Anybody have a copy for him?

I'm about 15 or 20 books short for a new Alger project but I'll start with what I have. I do want to comment on some books I received. Dave Buttorff (PF-239) sent me 18 copies of Train Boy that his company, Buttorff Publishing Company, has printed. They are very nice copies --

(continued on last page)

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

done from the original by a photo-offset process I think. A real bargain at \$1.35 and a nice addition to your library of Algers. And though it's past Christmas, it sure would make a swell gift for some young person you know. We don't need excuses to give Algers to people! It's a great gift to give -- just because you

want to give a gift. And I don't know about you, but Paul Palmer, The Train Boy, is one of my special favorite characters! Buttorff's address is P.O. Box 5211, Louisville, Kentucky 40205.

I seem to have used up all of this month's space without getting back into my Alger Report. Next month for sure. I'll start work on it right away! (SP)



"THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"

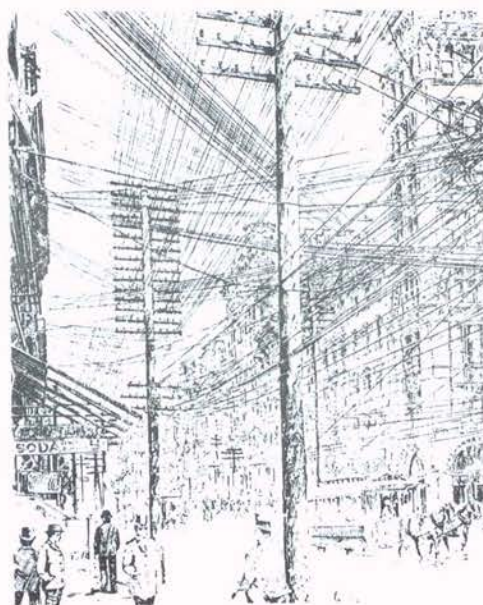
Irving Poznan, PF-135, writes, "I recently uncovered the fact that the first telephone exchange in St. Louis was established in 1878.. Put it was several years before the general public other than businesses made use of the new invention.

And that brings to mind the fact that Alger never mentions the telephone -- although he was writing well over 20 years after Bell completed his great invention! I guess it was the development of the phone that put the district messengers out of business."

Quite naturally your editor was curious to learn the history of the telephone and its effect on "that wonderful world of Horatio Alger."

I learned that the first telephone directory was issued by the "Bell System" in 1878. It listed 252 subscribers on a card designed to be hung on the wall near the telephone. There were no numbers. The subscribers consisted mostly of hotels, banking institutions, and merchants.

There were 10 hotels listed including French's Hotel, a second class hotel, on Park Row opposite City Hall Park, but the famous Astor house was not listed in this first directory! Private families were slow to take advantage of this new convenience, many of them feeling that the telegraph service with its local messengers was all they needed.



However, the popularity of this new invention grew rapidly, and as you can see in this 1884 scene, the overhead lines of the telephone, telegraph, and power circuits were becoming a nuisance and a blot on the landscape. The task of placing them underground was not completed until 1905. As far as I know, Alger never mentioned the telephone in his many stories.

Your editor, after having served you continuously for nearly seven years, announces, reluctantly, that he is terminating his editorship after completion of the June Newsboy, and looking forward to more free time during his retirement.