

THE YOUNG AMERICAN HERO ERA

# newsboy



Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL,  
5868 Heath, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49002

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



Vol. 7 No. 7

MARCH 1969

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

Eighty one years ago this month, about the time one of our newest members, Chas. Bragin, PF-262, was born, the greatest blizzard of all time (March 11-14th), struck "that wonderful world of Horatio Alger."

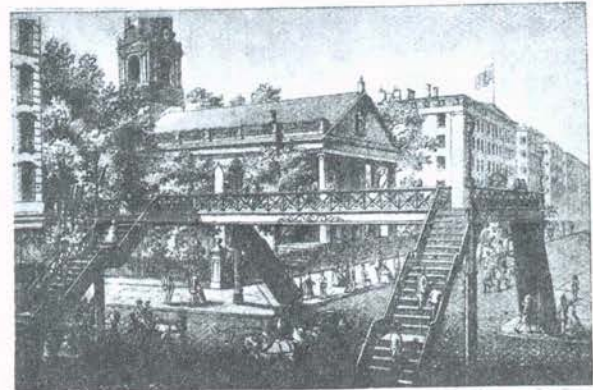


The scene above, one of many available, records the disaster, but the exact location is not known, nor is it important, however, it is presumed to be on one of the streets, rather than one of the avenues. It is reported that all communication lines were down, and all transportation was stopped.

To my knowledge, Alger never referred to the severe winter weather of which many of his characters were subjected, except that they often took refuge in a hallway, or over a steam grating, when they could not afford the luxury of the Newsboys' Lodging House.

It is my understanding, from authentic pictures I have available, that the sidewalks were cleared first by shoveling the snow into the street, creating high mounds, and the streets were cleared later, presumably by hauling it to the water front.

At that time the city had some elevated transportation lines, but no subways until after the turn of the century, so, even though the streets were buried in snow, some means of transportation was soon available.



The above picture is another scene of Loew bridge which crossed Broadway at Fulton Street, probably in the year 1868. This view is looking north on Broadway from a point just south of Fulton Street. You will notice St. Paul's Church on the opposite side of the bridge, and the famous Astor House just beyond that. Another view of this bridge was reproduced in the December 1968 issue of Newsboy.



## RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

....By Max Goldberg, President



Max Goldberg

Vice President Steve Press's remark about the "interesting meeting" with Ralph Gardner and myself in New York City in November, prompts me to state that it was both pleasant and fruitful. Ralph Gardner was a most cordial and genial host. I have asked the Executive Secretary to submit the report in the March issue of Newsboy. One of the items on the agenda was the changing of the "Ragged Dick Award" to the "Strive & Succeed

Award" by a unanimous vote.

On February 12th, 1969, I received permission from Mr. Lester W. Smith, Associate Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society to reprint part of George Salomon's article on "John Maynard," from the autumn 1964 issue of the quarterly journal, NIAGARA FRONTIER. I am sincerely thankful to him. The article is, JOHN MAYNARD OF LAKE ERIE: THE GENESIS OF A LEGEND, by George Salomon.

"Two or three generations ago the legend of John Maynard, heroic pilot of Lake Erie was widely known not only around Buffalo but all over the United States and even abroad. How he rescued the passengers and crew of a burning steamship at the cost of his own life was told in both verse and prose, and recited in uncounted parlors and lecture halls. Today he is almost forgotten in this country; but, as we shall see, his renown lives on overseas in a foreign tongue.

Whether this hero of song and story was a real or mythical personage does not seem to have been investigated until long after his fame had waned. Frederick J. Shepard apparently was the first to suggest in 1927 that the legend of John Maynard might have been derived from the conflagration of the steamship Erie of Silver Creek, N.Y., on August 9, 1841, in which a wheelman named Luther Fuller was burned to death at his post.

However, all accounts to date are full of rumors, guesswork and loose ends. ...they do not explain how the various renderings of the story came into being, nor do they account for such intriguing details as the renaming from Fuller to Maynard.

About four years after the disaster, the Buffalo Commercial-Advertiser printed an anonymous short story which was plainly inspired by the tragedy, but wishfully replaced what was, with what have been. Here the hero is called not Luther Fuller but John Maynard, and his exploit has taken on the form as we know it; he saves every life on board but his own. (The complete text follows, but, it is too long to print here, as it is three pages of material).

An editorial note preceding the story in the Advertiser betrays no familiarity with folk tales or legendary heroes.... All he says is this: The Helmsman of Lake Erie. The story under this head in today's paper will recall to the recollection of many readers the heroic self-sacrificing devotion of McBride, the Helmsman of the Erie who, during the burning of that boat, remained at his post until nearly consumed by the flames and when further effort was unavailing.

The Helmsman of Lake Erie appears to have been quickly forgotten, but not until it had been noticed and the survival of the Maynard legend assured by a once famous man, John Bartholomew Gough, who, in his time was America's leading apostle of temperance.... He turned the story into a brief prose narration or recitation entitled, The Pilot, a thrilling incident; unfortunately, he nowhere tells us when or for what occasion.

Gough's Pilot must have been in print by 1866, for in that year it fell into the hands of Horatio Alger, Jr., then on the threshold of his career as a producer of Rags-to-Riches stories. Alger recast his find in ballad form, creating what came to be America's favorite rendering of the legend. Many years later, the author himself, described the genesis of the poem. In the summer of 1866, he had heard The Pilot read during a chil-



dren's services at the Five Points Mission in New York and, upon inquiring about the origin of the story, had been referred to a weekly religious paper of recent date in the reading room of the Young Men's Christian Association. There he learned that it had been used by John B. Gough in one of his popular lectures, and that evening he found himself inspired, despite oppressive summer heat, to turn the prose piece into verse. He sent the stanzas to a juvenile magazine published in Boston, received a fee of \$3. and thought that would be the end of it; but to his great surprise the poem soon began to be widely reprinted in recitation books.

Alger added that he knew nothing about his hero beyond what was to be found in the ballad. He believed Maynard to have been a real person, but, who was he, where was he born, and where he performed the heroic act which has made his name so widely known, I am afraid will never be ascertained.

The poem was published in January 1868 in the issue of Student and Schoolmate, a children's magazine in which Alger's first full length work Ragged Dick, had just appeared. In this authentic edition, the ballad reads: John Maynard, A Ballad of Lake Erie.

In the Student and Schoolmate printing a footnote names the source of Alger's inspiration: The incident upon which this ballad is based occurred some years since, and has been used by Mr. Gough as a powerful and effective illustration in one of his lectures. A wood engraving shows a youthful John Maynard at the wheel, for Alger, unlike his predecessors, does not describe the hero as an old man. Other details too, have been discarded.

Maynard is no longer explicitly characterized as honest and intelligent; the starting point and the destination of the voyage remain unidentified; the lack of boats and the presence of inflammable materials are not mentioned, nor is the captain's speaking trumpet; and the passengers' anxious inquiries about the distance and sailing time to shore no longer

appear in the dialogue. On the other hand, Alger adds some touches of his own. He gives the ship a new name, Ocean Queen, and sets the number of passengers at 300. Not knowing Maynard's antecedents (where he was born... I am afraid will never be ascertained), the Massachusetts-born Alger arbitrarily makes him an Easterner. When the fire is reported, the captain goes below deck to investigate and after their rescue the passengers thank God, which they had neglected to do in Gough's rendering.

In style and structure, Alger's version is a good deal more sophisticated than its model. A prediction of disaster sets the mood. Maynard does not make his appearance until the panic reaches a climax. In Gough's narrative, smoke envelopes Maynard even when the captain first orders him to steer shore-ward; in Alger's, he evidently is not hidden from sight until later, and a dialogue is added at the point when the captain can no longer see him.

To the modern reader the ballad may seem conventional and wooden, but the contemporary public thought otherwise. For 20 years, says one (Mayes) of Alger's biographers, it was one of the most popular pieces at exercises held by schools and societies... Without it no oratorical contest was complete. Alger included the piece, now entitled simply John Maynard, in a slim volume of verse he published in 1875, but by this time the editors of anthology had already begun to reprint it.

The anthologists did not do well by Alger. Some of the reprints do not name him as author; and all or most of those published before the turn of the century present a mangled rendering in which 12 lines are deleted, leaving four others hanging as an odd half stanza. This conspicuously disfigured text seems to have originated in Osgood's book, where it appears side by side with Gough's Pilot. The deleted passage contains the dialogue between Maynard and the captain which Alger added to the story line borrowed from Gough. Osgood may well have cut it to make the ballad conform to the companion prose piece.

(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-251 Mr. John T. Toot (effective 114 Henrietta Blvd., 4-1-1969) Amsterdam, New York 12010

\*\*\*\*\*  
NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-261 Mr. Benjamin Tighe TR-000 1755 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts 01331

PF-262 Mr. Charles Bragin TR-000 1525 West 12 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11204

\*\*\*\*\*  
INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ben is a personal friend of Ed Levy, but learned of our Society through Max Goldberg, in a telephone conversation.

The name of Charles Bragin is familiar

to many of us. His name is in #5 position on the Dime Novel membership list. He proudly admits being 81 years old, and is without a doubt our oldest member in point of age. There is no question but what he owns many choice Alger items, however, they were not reported. Charles must have known about our Society through our members, such as his personal friend, Louis Dreyer, PF-255, but it was probably due to the invitation of Carl Hartmann, our Secretary, that prompted his decision. Charles writes: "When I was a boy, 70 and more years ago, the New York Public Library banned Alger books - claiming they gave boys a distorted view of life - and so were immoral. Times surely have changed, as we view the scores of pornographic books on open shelves here, available to children." Welcome aboard, Charles!  
\*\*\*\*\*

B O O K M A R T



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 Ken Butler, 1325 Burlington Road, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

- Fame & Fortune, Whitman fair \$ 2.00
- Harry Vane, Donohue fair 4.00

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

- Digging For Gold, P&C excl \$20.00
- Luck & Pluck, HTC good 6.00
- Luck & Pluck, AKL fair 12.00
- Sink or Swim, HTC good 6.00
- Strive & Succeed, HTC good 6.00
- Strong & Steady, HTC good 6.00
- Young Bank Messenger, HTC fair 10.00
- Young Explorer, HTC good 6.00
- Young Miner HTC good 6.00

Offered by Ernest P. Sanford, PF-032 9724 Admiralty Dr., Silver Spring, Md.

- Falling in With Fortune, G&D good \$10.00
- Frank's Campaign, Loring fair 15.00
- (E.N. Sanford has other items, and Irene Gurman solicits your want lists)



## THE KALAMAZOO OCCASION (July 8-11th)

Our convention registration fee will be \$1 per member, \$1 for spouse, and \$1 for each additional adult guest, in advance. Please send your registration fee, plus a six-cent postage stamp to Forrest Campbell, Convention Chairman, and he will send you your motel reservation cards.

The only additional fee to be collected upon your arrival will be the banquet tickets which will cost you \$3.75 plus sales tax and tips (19%), or a total of \$4.47, for a Roast Round of Beef Banquet Dinner. The banquet will be held in the meeting room of our headquarters motel, which is located on the second floor level. The motel restaurant dining room is in the same building on the ground level. The restaurant opens at 6:30 A.M.

We have a guarantee that 35 rooms will be held for us through June 15th, beyond that date, without a room reservation, we have no guarantee. Rooms for single occupancy range from \$11 to \$12 and rooms for double occupancy are \$15 \$16 and \$17.

Our headquarters will not be a corridor type motel as we enjoyed in Milwaukee and Des Moines. All rooms have only outside entrances. There are no elevators. For this reason, please state your preference on your reservation card, upper, or lower level. There are parking spaces in front of each lower level room entrance, but remember, our meeting room is on the second, or upper level.

The motel is located in mid-town on the south side in a quiet residential area, however, it is next to our local Sears store. Metropolitan Kalamazoo is located northeast of the I-94 and U.S. 131 interchange, and not far from their business loops. Detailed instructions will be released in the June issue of Newsboy. Bus and rail depots are downtown, some 10 to 14 blocks away from the motel. The airport is some three miles southeast.

Kalamazoo has numerous restaurants, none are in the immediate vicinity of the motel, except the motel restaurant which is highly recommended. Some are downtown, but most are in the suburban area.

Automobile transportation is essential in visiting the outlying restaurants and book stores within a radius of 20 miles, however, one recommended used-book store is downtown, and another is within walking distance of the motel headquarters.

There will be a special convention issue of Newsboy, financed partly from registration fees. This special issue will be distributed only among those who attend, and upon arrival. It will contain our convention program agenda, a list of recommended restaurants and book stores, and a map showing how to reach them.

A special feature will be an Alger Forum on Tuesday and Wednesday evening, which will be open to the public. A question and answer period will encourage the public to attend.

There will be no public or group sales of books. Room displays and sales will be encouraged. Max Friedman, PF-001, is now currently in charge of local publicity, including the Press, Radio and TV broadcasts, and will arrange for our official welcome by City or Chamber of Commerce dignitaries. Miss Vera Sutfin PF-202, will be in charge of registrations after your arrival. Carl Hartmann will be in charge of credentials, and issue you a handy plastic transparent container for your membership card, to be displayed in your shirt, or breast pocket of your jacket. Guests and spouse will be issued special cards to be inserted. Les Langlois will be in charge of games and contests. Blanche (Mrs.) Max Friedman, assisted by Mrs. PF-000, is planning a Wednesday afternoon (inside) tea, or (outside) picnic for the ladies while the men are out book hunting.

The ladies affair, as well as the official credential card holders will be partly financed from the registration fee. We will also have an official Society banner to be displayed in our meeting room, personally financed by the PF-000s and the PF-001s. The PF-000s will have a room, privately financed, to be used only during the day, and for registration purposes.



## RANDOM THOUGHTS - continued

That later anthologists did not restore the full text would seem to be due to no deeper reason than carelessness.

This article will be continued in next month's issue. It is sometimes difficult to abstract a 14 page article and still maintain the gist of it. However, the essence is there and much information can be obtained from it. It has copious footnotes. (E.N. The poem, John Maynard, is included in Gilbert K. Westgard's, PF-024, ALGER STREET, The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr., published by J.S. Canner & Co., Boston, 1964)

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Semi-annual Board of Directors meeting held November 26th, 1968, in New York City. Present: President Max Goldberg, Vice President Steve Press and Director Ralph Gardner. The following items were discussed and carried: 1. Changed the name of the "Ragged Dick" Award to "Strive and Succeed" and the recipient to receive a \$100 savings bond instead of cash. 2. The whole convention proceedings to be printed in the "Newsboy" so that members who could not attend will know what is happening. Other items discussed, but held over for membership vote at the annual event: 1. Honorary Memberships. 2. Luck and Pluck Award for members only. ....Carl T. Hartmann

(E.N. Thus is recorded and duly reported the legislated demise of the Ragged Dick Award, conceived by your co-founder in a desire to re-establish the benevolent act of "Our Hero" to aid a struggling boy as recorded in the concluding chapter of "Mark, The Match Boy." "Then," said Richard (Ragged Dick), "I will keep it as a charity fund, and whenever I have an opportunity of helping along a boy who is struggling upward as I once had to struggle. I will do it." The recipient, a worthy struggling boy, needs ready cash to pay off the mortgage and save the old home, or some such dire need. He is not quite ready to salt his money away. The "STRIVE & SUCCEED" Award is more than a mere change of name. Would a rose by any other name be the same?

The attached rider control introduces an entirely new idea. The "Ragged Dick" Award was conceived in Kalamazoo, and personally financed for the first two years. The irony is that its replacement is also designed to be born here. Please, let it be born in Timbuktoo, or someother convention city, but not in Kalamazoo!)

\*\*\*\*\*  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN ERROR (in Ralph D. Gardner's book, HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, Wayside Press, 1964)

Recently, Herbert L. Risteen, PF-104, purchased 110 Alger books from an undisclosed source, and for an undisclosed amount. Among them were several first editions. One of them was a Loring edition of "Charlie Codman's Cruise." In checking out the points in Gardner's book to identify first editions, Herb discovered the misspelled word "subtile" is found on page 144 instead of page 114 as recorded in Gardner's book. Herb reported the error to Gardner, and Gardner authorized the correction to be acknowledged in the Newsboy.

I have noted that my Winston edition of this title was evidently reprinted from the Loring (first edition) plates, since all of the points can be found as recorded in Gardner's book.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
RAGS TO RICHES: The Aurand Harris, PF-204, musical adaption of the Alger stories, Ragged Dick, and Mark, The Match Boy

Don Shinner, PF-169, recently reported that this play was being produced by the Omaha Junior Theatre the week of Feb. 10-16th. William Murrell, PF-127, reports this play is scheduled to open at the Dallas Theatre Center, March 12th. Bill hopes to have a display, as well as information on our Society available in the lobby of the theatre during that week.

OTHER ALGER ARTICLES by, and reported by our members: Detlefsen, PF-155, featured an Alger article in his RFD News January 14th edition, on the occasion of Alger's birthday. Ken Butler reports an article in the November, 1968 edition of The Christian Herald. It pertains to one of Alger's publishers, A.K. Loring.



HORATIO ALGER, (for that was his name)

Any of my readers who consider themselves to be avid readers of the Alger stories will recognize the above quotation, "for that was his name" or any of its numerous variations.

The quotation in one of its various forms is likely to appear early in the first chapter, if referring to the hero of the story, or elsewhere, if a new character is introduced.

It seems to be a favorite style of Alger's to inject action first, and introduce later. I have often noted the quotation in its various forms, while reading for pleasure, until it began to become familiar to me, however, until now have I done anything about it in the way of research. In examining a few of my 131 titles which are arranged in alphabetical order, I find this variation in ADVENTURES OF A TELEGRAPH BOY, "Paul Parton, for this was his name" in chapter 1, page 6, S&S edition. In the title, A BOY'S FORTUNE, this variation appears, "Ben Baker, for that is the name—" in chapter 1, page 3, Winston edition.

It could be that since the title doesn't suggest the name of the hero, Alger takes this means to introduce him. At any rate, no title I have examined so far which also introduces the hero, has in the contents of the story, the quotation variation mentioned above, but other characters mentioned later in this manner may be an exception.

It so happens that the two heroes mentioned in the above titles, are aliterative names, a literary style and practice dear to the heart of Alger, however, he was not consistent, or prejudiced in this respect, for what about the titles Ben Logan, Chester Rand, and Harry Vane? Just to name a few of the familiar titles.

If you have an uncommon name, like mine, have you ever wondered if you might run across your own name in the many Alger stories. I have, but never did find it used. I did not expect to find it as the name of one of the heroes, but was more hopeful when reading about the bullies

and the villians. And to my knowledge, Horatio never used his own name in any way.

Once, a well known local lady inquired of me if I knew of any Alger story in which her husband's name was used. She seemed to recall one. I knew of none at that time, but did discover it later on in the story of Victor Vane. Reluctantly, I reported that I had found the reference, but the name was that of the bully in the story. The lady immediately lost all interest. I don't blame her.

In a Stratemeyer story, The Young Auctioneer, or sometimes referred to as Young Auctioneers, I ran across the name of Bound Brook, New Jersey, which is the present residence of one of our members.

Not having the honor, privilege or prestige of ever finding my name, or my town, mentioned in the Alger stories, or anything I had ever read in the juvenile fiction field, I used my influence in getting my name, and my town used in my own Alger-type story, The Young Postmaster.

At any rate, it makes your reading pleasure more interesting to run across something unusual, or something unexpected. And when you do, make a note of it, for someday we may have a research bureau to catalog such information.

Perhaps nothing new on the life of Alger will ever be revealed, at least, for free, for those who are planning to publish a book are reluctant to share the results of their personal research, and the opinions of critics are usually based upon unauthenticated fact, or downright fiction, sometimes even hearsay.

But there is a world of wealth in information available to you about his style of writing just in reading his stories which you already have in your own collection. Select your own subject for research, for example, the setting, the time of which he wrote, the cost of living, mode of transportation, etc., and suddenly you will find that you have an entirely new interest in Alger.(PF-000)



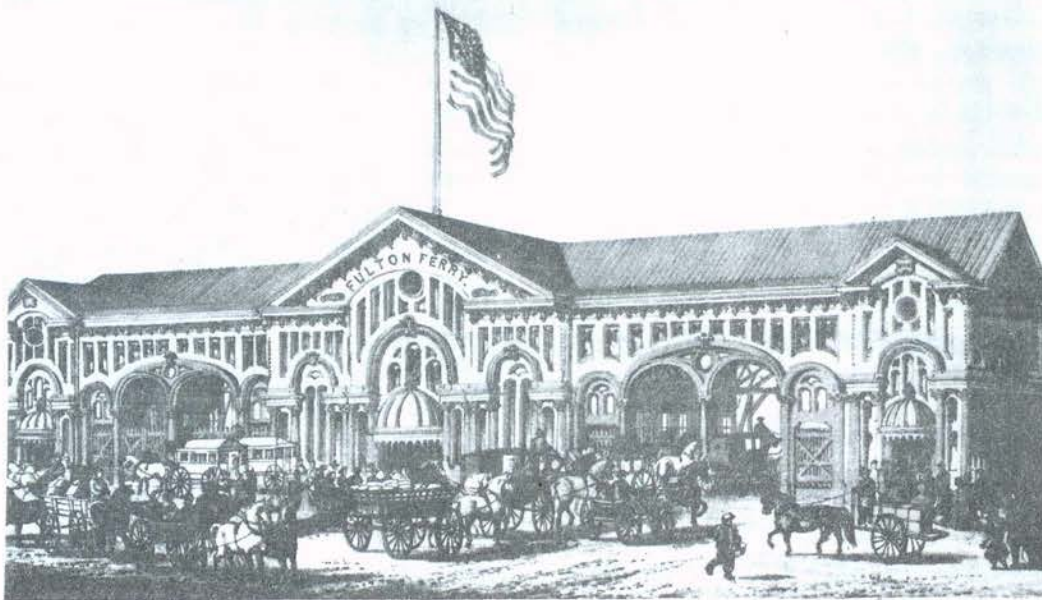


### "THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"

Pictured here is the Fulton Ferry Terminal Building on the New York City shore of East River. The ferry, of course, was named after the famous Robert Fulton, the inventor of the steamboat. This view of the terminal was taken at the height of its popularity in the 1860's. The Brooklyn Ferry from this terminal carried passengers from Fulton Street, New York, to the Fulton Street Terminal Building in Brooklyn. Although there were numerous ferry routes from the city, the Fulton

The New York City bridge terminal was on Park Row near City Hall, and the Brooklyn terminal was near the intersection of Fulton and Prospect Street.

But while the ferries were operating, many an Alger character rode these two ferries on a chilly night, huddled in a warm corner of the cabin for just a few pennies. Of course it was against the rules, but the officer in charge of the ferry felt sorry for them and let them



Ferry and South Ferry with its terminal near Battery Park, were the two popular passenger routes to Brooklyn, until the Brooklyn (sometimes called East River) Bridge was opened in 1883.

The bridge route was just a few blocks north of the Fulton Ferry route, with its terminals far inland from the shore line.

ride. Many a "Baggage Smasher" such as "Ben" the luggage boy, made his livelihood by stationing himself at the exits of such terminals as the Fulton, South, and Cortland Ferries looking for a bundle-laden lady or gentleman who might be willing to pay for his assistance. It was often hard work, but it was honest work, and no capital needed.