

Newsboy



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Vol. 10, No. 3
October, 1971



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

ROAD TO SUCCESS

Ken Butler has just advised us that Ralph Gardner's new Alger bibliography, ROAD TO SUCCESS is ready for publication.

Wayside Press has worked out a special low price for HAS members. A special order blank is enclosed with this issue.

Ralph reports that the new bibliography is a must for every member as it is filled with new information collected since his last book came out seven years ago. ROAD TO SUCCESS is completely updated, with many, many additional facts, additional listings of poems and short stories, latest reports on the prices Algers have brought at auction or have been cataloged for.

Needless to say, this will be a limited edition. So we want to give our members first crack before it is offered to the general public (who'll be paying a much higher price.) Judging from past experience with HORATIO ALGER: or, THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, members may wish to consider purchasing extra copies (to give as gifts - Christmas is coming). We all recall the demand for the last book after it went out of print and the very high prices now paid for a copy. As a matter of fact that is one of the reasons Ken & Ralph decided upon issuing this new book.

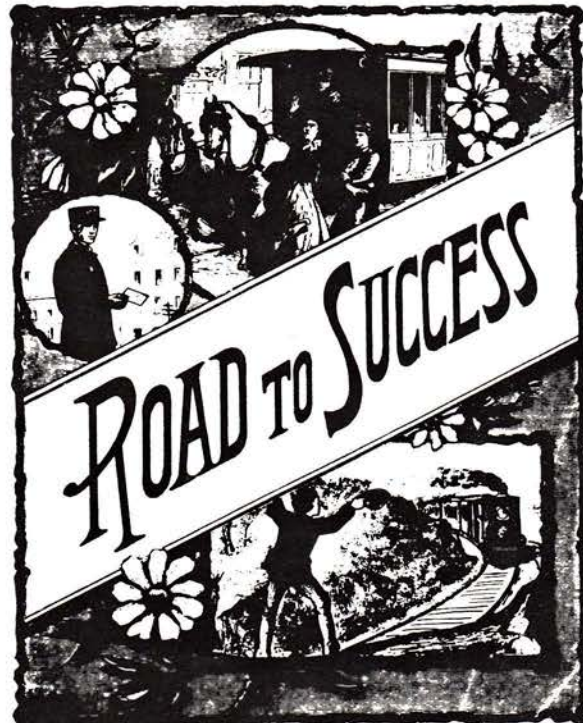
ORDER YOURS NOW !!

THE BOY'S HOME WEEKLY

Below is a list of the Alger titles included in a run of THE BOY'S HOME WEEKLY which PF-177, Carl Person purchased years ago. Since acquiring them, he has intended to send an inquiry via the NEWSBOY to Alger members for information on this series, since he had been unable to find any reference to it in any of his source material.

Carl would like to know if he has the complete run; there is nothing in the last one to indicate if others would be forthcoming. Incidentally, the issue dates all fall on Wednesday, and the price was five cents each. (does any one know their current market value) All of Carl's are in good condition and highly prized by him.

1. Driven From Home	5/17/11
2. Jack's Ward	5/24/11
3. Store Boy	5/31/11
4. Sam's Chance	6/ 7/11
5. Grit, The Young Boatman	6/14/11
6. Shifting For Himself	6/21/11
7. Facing The World	6/28/11
8. Brave & Bold	7/ 5/11
9. Tom, The Bootblack	7/12/11
10. Do and Dare	7/19/11
11. Cash Boy	7/26/11
12. Hector's Inheritance	8/ 2/11
13. Young Adventurer	8/ 9/11
14. Young Salesman	8/16/11
15. Tony, The Tramp	8/23/11



By RALPH D. GARDNER

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY of the works of HORATIO ALGER

165 pages packed with information about HORATIO ALGER, ROAD TO SUCCESS is 5-1/2 x 8-1/2".

16. Adrift In New York	8/30/11
17. Paul, The Peddler	9/ 6/11
18. Phil, The Fiddler	9/13/11
19. Slow and Sure	9/20/11
20. Julius, The Street Boy	9/27/11
21. In A New World	10/ 4/11
22. Bound To Rise	10/11/11
23. Risen From The Ranks	10/18/11
24. Herbert Carter's Legacy	10/24/11
25. OPTIC - Boat Club	11/ 1/11
26. Struggling Upward	11/ 8/11
27. OPTIC - All Aboard	11/15/11
28. Luke Walton	11/22/11
29. OPTIC - Now or Never	11/29/11
30. The Tin Box	12/ 6/11
31. OPTIC - Try Again	12/13/11
32. Wait and Hope	12/20/11
33. MARRYAT - Masterman Ready	12/27/11
34. Andy Gordon	1/ 3/12
35. OPTIC - In School and Out	1/10/12
36. Joe's Luck	1/17/12

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century quided Alger's undaunted heroes-lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in Americans.

OFFICERS

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

Please use membership roster for mailing address of our officers.

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"PHIL THE FIDDLER" is among a list of paintings in a new book of Norman Rockwell illustrations published by Time-Life Books. It is indicated as (unpublished). I don't know what it's from. I know he never illustrated any Alger stories. Perhaps it was for an intended publication or maybe it will still appear in a reprint of Horatio's story of Phil.

Ralph Gardner

BOOK CHATTER

Hardly a day goes by that we don't receive a request for price information on Alger's books. Most of these we refer to HORATIO ALGER OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA by Ralph Gardner. Now with the publication of two new guides our task is simplified. The HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY TITLE AND PRICE LIST, 1971, available from Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, Michigan

48910; and ROAD TO SUCCESS: The Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger by Ralph Gardner, 1971, for \$6.00, available from the Wayside Press, 1501 Washington St., Mendota, Ill. 61342, allow us to price just about any Alger. But, we are not in the book pricing business, so if you have a question please refer to the above books.

It has been brought to our attention that some trades between HAS members have been unsatisfactory. There is no excuse for our members not to deal fairly with each other. We should be the experts and with the material available to us mistakes should be few and far between. When you offer a book for sale or trade be sure you state price, condition, and publisher. Order both of the above price guides now...know what your collection is worth... know what you should pay for a book... know what you should sell one for.

RALPH GARDNER

Ralph Gardner, author of "Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era, was born in New York City where he still lives with his wife Nellie and a quartet of sons, namely; Ralph, Jr., John, Peter and James.

A charter member of our society, Ralph is perhaps the only possessor of every first edition Alger Book, dating back to a boyhood visit to New England where a chance visit to an old house and barn in the country was the storehouse of a number of Algers. As he relates in his fine book, these first books cost him all of five cents each but since that time he has paid hundreds of times that sum for some of his Firsts.

He is also a collector of First Edition juveniles as well as any 19th Century first editions. He is an avid stamp and coin collector.

A graduate of New York University and Colorado State College, Ralph is a member of the Cowles Overseas Press Club, Frankfurt Press Club, Manuscript Society and the Bibliographical Society of America.

He is an executive in the advertising profession but is ever alert to respond to talks on his Alger and book collections to interested groups.

Recently he addressed students at the University of Wyoming on

Horatio Alger and attended the annual meeting of our group in Sioux Falls where it was our pleasure to renew our relationship. He is too modest to mention another fascinating hobby, for he is a most accomplished cartoonist, his crayons and drawing materials are ever within reach. Who knows but one day an original Gardner may well be worth more than an Alger First.

His Latest work is ROAD TO SUCCESS: The Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger. This new bibliography is a must for every member as it is filled with new information collected since his last book which came out 7 years ago.

Frank Eisenberg

HISTORICAL MEANDERINGS

By Jack Bales, PF-258

The Society scrapbook on Horatio Alger now has over 150 pages filled, and contains material from 1961-1971. Though my intention at first was to have two volumes-one on the Society and one on Alger-I quickly abandoned this as an unnecessary idea. One Book is all that is needed, and besides, if a newspaper clipping discusses the Horatio Alger Society, it undoubtedly also talks about Alger.

Besides containing clippings and photographs on Algeriana, I have taken the liberty of typing certain quotations on white sheets of paper, and inserting them wherever appropriate below specific articles and photographs. For example, the first page has a picture of Forrest Campbell's Alger display at the Kalamazoo Library. Below it is this remark by Longfellow, the white piece of paper on which it is typed providing a marked contrast to the gray page of the scrapbook: "Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, / And, departing, leave behind us / Footprints on the sands of time."

The next page has a photograph of some of Jack Row's Alger books. Following it is this magnificent observation from The Poet and His Book. Stanza Six. "Stranger, pause and look; / From the dust of ages / Lift this little book, / Turn the tattered pages, Read me, do not let me die! / Search the fading letters, finding / Steadfast in the broken binding / All that once was I."

One partic'lar article that I found in Forrest Campbell's enormous collection of Alger memorabilia discredited Horatio Alger, Ralph Gardner, and the Latter's Book on Alger. What could be more

Con't on page 4

GRAND'THER BALDWIN'S CLOCK

(An Alger type short story in four parts written in the Alger style by Forrest Campbell, and suggested by Alger's poem, GRAND'THER BALDWIN'S THANKSGIVING, which was written about a century ago) The story opened with Ben Baldwin, a great-grandson, making plans with his widowed mother to dispose of, by auction, their home and its contents except for the mysterious clock, a silent ornamental heirloom which they hope to keep in the family out of respect for Grand'ther Baldwin. Cyrus Miller, a disgruntled relative by marriage to cousin Bertha Baldwin, already a wealthy man, and owner of the only mill in the village, has called in advance of the sale, seeking to acquire by fair means or foul the coveted Grand'ther Baldwin clock.

Part Two

Cyrus, after convincing himself that there was nothing else of obvious value in the Baldwin home except for the clock, paused in the center of the family parlor nervously pulling his lower lip in deep thought and trying not to appear too interested in any one item, especially the clock. By the art of polite small talk he had been able to progress up to this point without committing himself as to the real purpose of his visit. Cyrus fidgeted by shifting his cane from one hand to the other which already held his prized silk tile hat, and with his free hand he examined his watch which was meant to imply that he had seen quite enough, and that he had no interest in any of the items which would be offered for sale, and that to stay longer would be a waste of his precious time.

"Won't you sit down for a spell before you go, cousin Cyrus?" invited Mrs. Baldwin.

Cyrus, restless with the uncertainty of knowing just how to proceed, was relieved by the invitation, and with his roving eyes he selected a chair which he believed in keeping with his dignity, then sat on the very edge, standing his cane on the floor between his bony knees, and gripping its handle and his hat in his hands, however, he was still undecided just how to proceed.

"Well," began Mrs. Baldwin, "how is cousin Bertha these days? I declare, I haven't seen her for ages."

"Oh, she's fair to middlin' I guess," was his automatic reply from a force of habit, then added, "yes, I'd say that's about it. She's so busy with her s'ciety work 'n all y'know," he added, stiffly.

"And cousin Melvin?" added Mrs. Baldwin, "Ben says he passed him on the street recently."

"Fit as a fiddle, I guess, and busy with his school work," replied Cyrus, then added, "and social functions as usual." His replies were designed to stress the social difference between the two families and to discourage any attempt to establish a close relationship.

"Well," continued Cyrus, "er, Widow Baldwin," then nervously clearing his throat, "I suppose you are anxiously awaiting the report of my expert opinion regarding the value of your home and its contents."

"Yes, of course, cousin Cyrus," replied Mrs. Baldwin, courteously, "Ben and I would be pleased to hear your opinion, however, we've both agreed to take what the house and its contents will bring at an auction sale."

"Well, everyone knows," began Cyrus, rolling his eyes upward, followed by a quick smile designed to register his disgust with such a plan, then added, "that nothing will bring anywhere near its value at a forced sale." Cyrus believed that this statement would bring dismay to the widow and prepare her for the offer he was about to make.

"You may be right, cousin Cyrus, but Ben says ---"

"What does he know?" was the unexpected and irritated reply of Cyrus, cutting short the widow's remarks without an apology. "Do you not value my expert opinion? After I have taken the time from my busy schedule to advise you professionally. Do you compare it with that of a child's knowledge?"

"I'm sorry, cousin Cyrus," replied the widow, with color rising in her face, "but I value my son's opinions very much; however, we both owe you the courtesy to be heard; so please continue."

"Well, I was about to make you a very generous offer for the entire lot, so that you might dispense with the need of a sale---and the bother and worry connected with it." he added, trying to glean the effect of his words on them as he proceeded. "Now, let's see," again pausing for the best possible approach which would be to his advantage, and watching them cautiously, "assuming that there are claims and a possible mortgage on your property which you may know nothing about, I will guarantee you the handsome sum of one thousand dollars--" he paused and watched them closely, "---for the house--" again he paused for telltale evidence of rejection in their faces; seeing none he continued, "---and of course, its contents, ---including the clock." he added finally, that there be no mistake in his intentions.

Cyrus was disappointed that he could detect no trace of approval or rejection in the facial expression of the widow. It irked him for he was unsure just how to proceed with his offer. He noted that Ben was becoming restless and appeared to be about ready to speak.

"Drat that boy!" thought Cyrus, trying to conceal his irritation, "Hasn't he learned that children are to be seen and not heard?"

The widow reached out and placed her hand on Ben's arm as a signal to remain

silent. Seeing this, Cyrus looked relieved, and assumed that his offer was being seriously considered, and added quickly:

"Of course, I'm prepared to pay you a little something at once to bind our agreement," and Cyrus went through the motion of reaching for his wallet while stealing a quick glance in their direction with his sharp piercing eyes to determine the effect his words had upon them. The result was not encouraging, for Ben seemed restless again.

Ben, unable to remain silent any longer, stepped out of his mother's reach, and with a polite but firm voice, he replied:

"Thank you for your offer, cousin Cyrus, but we could not accept your proposal for such a small consideration."

Cyrus was obliged to recognize the fact that Ben was addressing him, and that his offer was being refused. He quickly decided to salvage what he could in an attempt to revise his offer.

"Ahem, yes, my child," then continued, revealing some irritation, "now will you please permit me to rephrase my offer to assist your mother?" He waited momentarily, then continued, "Now, Widow Baldwin, let me revise my offer, I will pay you five hundred dollars spot cash for the entire contents of this house, and let you sell the house for what you can get for it at the auction sale."

"I'm sure your offer would be a generous one," replied Mrs. Baldwin, "however, under the circumstances, I must refuse."

Cyrus was becoming desperate. He cared nothing for the house or its contents, but he did want to become owner of the clock. "Then, Widow Baldwin---I'm sure that you are desperately in need of assistance, so I will volunteer to loan you the same amount spot cash on my choice of your household contents and have the drayman get them out of your way yet today. I can store them at my home until you are prepared to repay the money."

"If you are thinking of the clock, cousin Cyrus, I must inform you that it is not for sale, nor do we intend to dispose of it in any manner," the widow replied.

Cyrus looked the picture of defeat. The one thing in particular he wanted, and coveted, was eluding his grasp. Desperately, he hastened to reply, "I don't understand you, Widow Baldwin, I've been told the clock cannot be made to operate, so, how can you afford to keep such a useless item when you are so desperately in need of help. Is your decision final, Widow?"

"It is, cousin Cyrus," she replied.

"Then heaven help you, for I cannot!"
(to be continued)

May 12, 13 & 14, 1971
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

HORATIO'S HEROES

Since this writer is fond of writing, and has received much pleasure and inspiration in reading the numerous Alger stories, the reader should be able to understand his continued interest which has developed into a serious research program of the Alger style. The Alger research has uncovered more than the researcher had originally planned, and to include additional items half way through a project means an extension into a second reading and possibly more.

However, for the present we will dwell only on the character of Horatio's heroes. It is my conviction that Horatio was not the first to create a juvenile age hero, but I am convinced that it was Horatio who made the juvenile hero popular with the young American readers of his day. While I have not researched the stories of other juvenile writers, such as Oliver Optic, or William T. Adams, for that was his real name, I am of the opinion that the attention of the reader was focused upon his poverty, and the reader out of sympathy and pity for the hero or heroine, wished them well. His heroes were often the underdogs and in a typical story they would suffer abuse, mistreatment, and punished without reason, and so Optic's young readers were programmed to accept nothing less than a quick rise to wealth, or as the critics would say, 'from rags to riches'.

In my opinion the 'rags to riches' tag which is often attached to the Alger stories is not complimentary to the typical Alger hero, but derogatory and is undeserved. It implies that there is no difference between the Alger hero and any other hero story. It implies that when you have read one hero story you have read them all. It implies that any poor boy, without principle, will qualify for riches. Ah, there is the difference. The Alger hero had certain principles. If he had none when the typical story opens, he was encouraged to adopt some and put them into practice.

A typical Alger story opens with a poor boy, sometimes without parents, and homeless, and at the mercy of a guardian or a relative who shows no sympathy or parental love, and which represents the bottom rung of the ladder to success. No young person can long endure such treatment, and it should be understandable that they should harbor a desire to seek more compatible relations. The typical Alger hero had at least one principle. He was usually willing to work. He had a sincere desire to shift for himself or to make his own way. But the typical Alger hero is not without some fault, though at times it may be difficult for the reader to discover. In the opening chapter of the story *Rough & Ready*, Horatio has this to say on the subject:

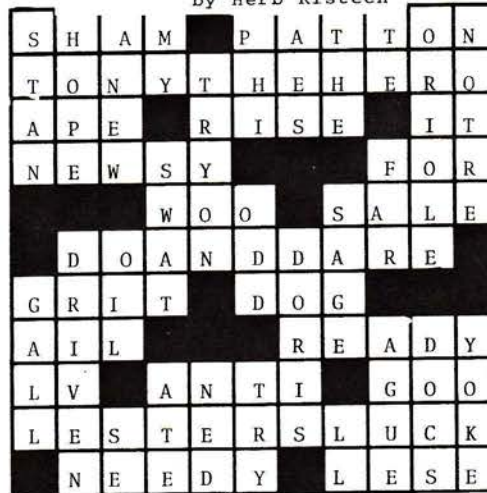
"---one reason why I do not introduce any model boys into my stories is that I do not find them in real life. I know a good many of various degrees of goodness; but most of them have more failings than one, --failings which are

natural to boys, springing oftentimes more from thoughtlessness than from actual perverseness---

Horatio did not want to discourage or exclude any boy reader from believing that he did not stand a chance to succeed. He is saying that no boy is perfect, and that even-though some young reader might believe himself to be below average, Horatio is assuring him that there is a chance for him. It should make a young boy feel assured in learning that he is not alone in committing certain errors and a close, warm relationship is bound to be established between the author and the reader.

I believe it was Horatio's goal for the young reader to see a little bit of himself in the hero of each story. I also believe that Horatio was putting a little bit of himself into the characters, but not necessarily always the hero of the story. I believe that Horatio drew from many of his own personal experiences when he was a boy of similar age. I believe that he understood, full-well, the privations of poverty, being a minister's son with two brothers and two sisters, and was required to shoulder certain responsibilities to supplement a modest income. I believe that Horatio was a normal boy when at home, and perhaps guilty at times of the "thoughtlessness which he refers to above. (to be continued. Copyright 1971 PF-000)

All about Alger
by Herb Risteen



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS....

PF-330 Robert J. Burroughs
221 George Street
North Syracuse, N.Y 13212
(Ann) T-78

Robert is an accordion teacher, entertainer and book scout. He is interested in first editions but enjoys reading Alger as do his two oldest sons. Other hobbies are: Checkers, Golf and collecting National Geographics.

PF-331 Ralph R. Keeny
214 E. 13th. St.
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
(Roberta A.) T-30

Con't from page 2

apt than Disraeli's comment, "Critics are the men who have failed in literature and art."

But my favorite quotation lies below a small picture of Alger Society members at Horatio's grave site in South Natick. There is no text present that is with the photo, and I feel that this brings the words closer to the reader when he reads, "I want men to remember, / When gray Death sets me free, / I was a man who had many friends, / And many friends had me."

Even though the scrapbook has been brought up to date, all material is still welcome, even that from past years. There is a "Compiler's Note" at the beginning of the volume, in which I dedicate the scrapbook to three people who have tremendously helped the Horatio Alger Society. These men are Kenneth Butler, Forrest Campbell, and Carl Hartmann.

Oh, yes, there is one more quotation that I should mention. Below the words "Compiler's Note" on my dedication page, I have Whitman's words from *So Long* that well illustrate the feelings we all have toward Horatio Alger. "Camerado, this is no book. / who touches this, touches a man."

Ralph is a construction worker and with hunting, fishing, wood-working and collecting boy's books keeps himself very busy. Ralph feels "I think the world was in just a little better shape, when most young boys were reading Algers, and trying to live up to what they were reading. Now if they live up to what they read, things are a bit of a mess."

PF-332 Barbara Chatfield
Box 71
Clayville, R.I. 02815
(Arthur)

Mrs. Chatfield is the youngest daughter of PF-264, G. Clarke. She is a trained nurse and will help her Dad with the Junior Alger movement.

Barbara has six children, a boy and five girls. Her first achievement Alger-wise was to have Horatio Alger's books placed on the approved reading list at the University of Rhode Island and on the juvenile shelves at the Warwick, R.I. Public Library. Barbara is active in PTA work.

We are happy to welcome our new members. We hope you will all become active and will enjoy your membership