

# newsboy



GUEST EDITOR

Jack Bales

440 Palace Street

Aurora, Illinois 60506

(See pg 10 & 11)

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



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

Below is a scene that Horatio Alger must have seen many times — slum children playing baseball in the streets of New York City. Ralph Gardner, who sent me the picture, wrote that it shows a Manhattan scene during the latter half of the nineteenth century, right in "That

Harlem River on the North, which actually separates Manhattan from the mainland. Manhattan is the area which history says was purchased from the Indians for \$24. As far as I know, Alger has never referred to the entire area as Manhattan, but in Alger's day the section of land was



Wonderful World of Horatio Alger." As I don't know too much about Manhattan and its relation to New York, I asked Forrest Campbell to supply me with a few details. He wrote: "The word refers to the island of Manhattan which is bounded by the Hudson (or North) River, East River, and the

confined to lower NYC. This included Central Park, which Horatio often mentioned, and Brooklyn, of which he only occasionally referred. Today, Manhattan and its outlying areas are known as boroughs, with names such as the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island."

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

PF-357 Robert L. Jacob TR-000  
420 Diamond Hill Road  
Warwick, R. I. 02886

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

O F F I C E R S

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| LEO (BOB) BENNETT | PRESIDENT   |
| JACK BALES        | V-PRESIDENT |
| DAN FULLER        | TREASURER   |
| CARL T. HARTMANN  | SECRETARY   |
| KENNETH B. BUTLER | DIRECTOR    |
| RALPH D. GARDNER  | DIRECTOR    |
| FORREST CAMPBELL  | DIRECTOR    |
| JUDSON S. BERRY   | DIRECTOR    |

Robert originally lived in Mendota, Illinois and learned of the Society through an article in the Mendota newspaper concerning Ken Butler and his involvement in HAS. Robert is a sales representative in Warwick and wishes to collect Algers so that his son can read them.

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NOTES FROM RALPH  
by Ralph Gardner

With Doris and Ken Butler and Jack Bales I drove from Mt. Pleasant to Chicago, where, as always, I enjoyed a few hours of Algering.

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 is \$5.00.

Many of the bookshops I knew only a couple of years ago are gone. Some have been replaced by new skyscrapers or parking lots. Others now feature "adult material." But some still remain, and in these I was offered a smattering of Donohues and N. Y. Book Company editions at two dollars to four dollars each.

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.

You may be interested to know that the Acme Book Store, 414 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, has a first' of ABRAHAM LINCOLN THE BACKWOODS BOY in fine condition. He's asking twenty-five dollars for it — a very fair price.

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

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-313 Judith Lemon  
27 Vaughn Court  
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724

I spent an interesting afternoon at the Newberry Library. However, the only Algers they have are CANAL BOY TO PRESIDENT (first edition), JACK'S WARD (Donohue), and NOTHING TO EAT, which lists Horatio as "attributed author." Of course he had nothing to do (no pun intended) with this title.

Please correct your 1972 membership roster accordingly.

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NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-356 Rev. Paul John Rich TR-000  
Unitarian Church  
East Bridgewater, Mass. 02333

Happily, they had Gilbert Westgard's ALGER STREET and my HORATIO ALGER OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA. Under the "Ralph Gardner" card in the file catalog in the Newberry Library, I saw the birth date listed as being in 1625. No wonder I've been feeling old lately.

Paul is a Unitarian Minister in East Bridgewater and is interested in Alger from a religious point of view.

Some years ago I acquired from a lady who inherited from a man who was Horatio's friend (sounds complicated) some books once belonging to Horatio Alger Sr. They have Alger Senior's signature in each volume, along with a notation "from J. P. Sheafe, Jr." I've long wondered who Sheafe was, and at the Newberry Library, my curiosity was at last satisfied. Under the card listing for Horatio Alger Sr., was this item: "Addresses delivered by Reverend Joseph Pease Sheafe Jr. (died 1917) and Reverend Horatio Alger at the Semi-Centennial celebration of the dedication of the First Unitarian Church, South Natick, November 20, 1878. Ryder and Morse, Printers, 1879. 41 pages."

Inasmuch as the card indicates that Sheafe died 39 years later, he probably was a fairly young minister in 1878. Horatio Jr., of course, had written a special hymn for that celebration.

Do any of our HAS members have any more information on Sheafe?

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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 Jack Schorr, PF-342, 853 So. Lemon St., Anaheim, Calif. 92805

Ben's Nugget,	Win.	Good	\$2.00
Brave & Bold,	World	Good	1.00
F. Hunter's Peril,	Win.	Good	2.00
Jed, Poorhouse Boy,	Win.	Good	2.00
Rufus & Rose,	Win. better ed.	Vg	5.00
T. Temple's Career,	Burt del.	G	5.00
Young Explorer,	HTC	Good	4.00
"Argosy" (Bound)			
Volume XX, April, 1895 - Sept., '95			
Andy Grant's Pluck,		Vg	20.00
"Golden Days" (Bound)			
November 21, 1896 - February 6, 1897			
Making His Way,		Good	20.00

Offered by Bob Burroughs, PF-330, 221 George St., North Syracuse, New York 13212. C/W/O - Returnable

"A Fancy of Hers," (Frank A. Munsey & Company, 1892) one of Alger's few novel-length stories never to appear in book form, was a twelve-chapter adult effort which was published complete in the March, 1892 issue of Munsey's Magazine. This bound volume of Munsey's Magazine contains the October, 1891 through March, 1892 issues. \$45.00

Offered by Bob Bennett, PF-265, 1220 N. Fairfield Drive, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858.

Adrift in N. Y.,	Hurst	Good	\$3.50
A. Grant's Pluck,	Hurst	Good	3.50
Bob Burton,	Hurst	Vg	4.00
Bound to Rise,	P&C	Vg	12.00
The Cash Boy,	Dono.	G	1.50
Chester Rand,			
(no title page)	Burt	Vg	2.00
Do and Dare,	Hurst	Good	3.50
Driven from Home,	Dono.	Good	1.50
Errand Boy, Burt Deluxe		Vg	12.00
Frank's Campaign,	Hurst	Vg	3.50
Hector's Inher.,	Hurst	Good	3.50
Hector's Inher.,	Hurst	Good	3.00
Helping Himself,	Hurst	Vg	4.00
H. Carter's Legacy, Burt		Vg	4.00
H. Carter's Legacy, Burt		F-G	2.50
Jack's Ward,	Hurst	F-G	2.50
Joe's Luck, Burt Deluxe		Vg	12.00
Joe's Luck,	Burt	Good	3.00
Julius, Street Boy, Mersh.		Good	3.50
Making His Way,	Whit.	F-G	1.00
Only an Irish Boy, Burt		Vg	4.00
P. Prescott's C., Burt		Vg	4.00
Paul the Peddler,	P&C	Vg	12.00
Phil the Fiddler,	Hurst	Vg	4.00
Ragged Dick,	JCW	Good	4.00
<u>R. Raymond's Heir,</u>	Lupton	F-G	10.00
<u>Risen fr. Ranks,</u>	Loring	Vg	25.00
Risen fr. Ranks,	JCW	Good	4.00
Rough and Ready,	Loring	Good	12.50
Shifting for Himself,			
Hurst-dust jacket		Vg	6.00
Sink or Swim,	Burt	Vg	4.00
The Store Boy,	Burt	Good	3.50
Strive & Succeed,	Hurst	Vg	4.00
Strong & Steady,	Hurst	F-G	2.50
Struggling Upward,	JCW	Vg	5.00
Telegraph Boy,	McLough	Good	2.50

Tony the Hero, Burt Del.	Vg	\$12.00
Tony the Hero, Burt Del.	Vg	11.50
Walter Sherwood's Probation, Dono. Deluxe	Vg	2.50
Young Acrobat, Hurst	Vg	4.00
Young Adventurer, Hurst	Vg	4.00
Young Outlaw, Hurst	Vg	4.00

Offered by Dan Fuller, PF-142, 133  
N. Lincoln, Kent Ohio 44240.

Adv. of a Telegraph Boy, No cover, else good Fed.		\$3.00
Digging for Gold, Win.Lib.	Good	6.50
Driven From Home, Mersh.		
Less than fair, all there		4.00
Facing the World, Burt		
Good, spine wear		3.00
Helen Ford, P&C	Vg	12.50
In a New World, Hurst	Good	3.00
Julius, Street Boy, Hurst	Good	2.50
Nelson the Newsboy, C. Peck		
Less than fair, faded cover		6.00
Rupert's Ambition, Winston Library	Good	9.00
Shifting for Him., JCW	Vg	\$4.00
The Store Boy, Hurst	Good	3.25
Struggling Upward, JCW	Good	3.75
Tattered Tom, P&C	Fair	6.50
Wren Winter's Triumph, Donohue, (blue)	Good	10.00
Wren Winter's Triumph, Donohue, (green)	Good	10.00
Y. Bank Messenger, JCW	Good	10.00
Young Book Agent, G&D	Good	10.50
Young Explorer, JCW	Fair	3.00
Young Salesman, Dono.	Good	1.75
Young Outlaw, Hurst	Good	3.00

I also have a first edition (Carleton) of The Western Boy. If you are interested, please write and maybe we can work something out. 10% off on all orders of two or more.

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY



### SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Carl T. Hartmann

Pictured below is the Horatio Alger Society Tile. We now have a supply on hand and it may be ordered from your Secretary. The tile measures six by six inches. It is white ceramic, with "HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY" and a figure of our Newsboy at the lower right in red. The remainder of the figures and copy are in royal blue. A deluxe frame for your tile is also available upon which you may mount a name plate, and if a member of the "100 Club," your "100 Club" plate. Prices are as follows:

Tile	\$2.00
Frame	\$3.50
Name plate	\$1.00
"100 Club" plate	free

All charges are postpaid and are nominal, as a service to members.

As reported in a past issue of Newsboy, Media Books has issued three new Alger books: In a New World, Strive and Succeed, and Risen from the Ranks.

Media books has been kind enough to offer to the members of the HAS a special offer. You may purchase a set (3 books) for \$12.00, handling and postage included. This compares with the \$4.50 plus 50¢ handling and postage for individual books, which means a savings of \$3.00. Your Secretary has a set of these books, and he feels that it makes a nice addition to his Alger Library.

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John Lohn, PF-259, of 3008 Highcrest Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, had a nice visit on July 20 with Leo Frank Moore, PF-137, and his attractive wife of Huntington Beach, California. They were accompanied by relatives, had been visiting in Minnesota, and were enroute to Iowa

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to visit their old home town, relatives and friends. Mr. Moore has a wonderful collection of Algers, and many other boys' books. You can guess what the main topic of conversation was — Horatio Alger.

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#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Bob Bennett

#### How to Build Your Collection

Many times I have been asked how I have built my collection and how I have found some of the rarer titles. I'll describe some of the methods I use and maybe it will be helpful to others who wish to improve their own collections.

**BOOK DEALERS** - Make a readable "want list" and mail it to several book dealers, particularly those who are known to be Alger conscious. It is helpful if you can visit the dealer personally and let him know that you are sincere in your wants. Answer all quotes you receive, or you won't receive additional quotes. Do not assume that anyone dealing in books is an authority on the subject and read their descriptions carefully before you buy. Occasionally this method will net you a real treasure. My Seeking His Fortune came from a book dealer for a very nominal sum.

**ANTIQUe SHOPS** - Often an Alger title can be found in an antique shop and usually can be purchased at a reasonable price. Most antique dealers do not hold an interest in books and few have even heard of Alger. Algers find their way into these establishments as the result of the owner having purchased an entire estate. Always ask for Algers and you will be surprised at what gets dragged out of the back room.

**THRIFT SHOPS** - SALVATION ARMY & GOODWILL INDUSTRIES STORES - If you happen upon one of these shops just after a new shipment has arrived, you can occasionally turn up an Alger. Generally the shelved books in these stores are pretty well picked over,

but books from this source can be purchased at low prices.

**BOOK SALES** - The American Association of University Women, The Friends of the Library, several churches and many other organizations use book sales as a means to raise money. This can be a good source of books as many are "fresh out of the attic" and donated by patrons. These sales are frequented by other collectors, so you must arrive early if you expect to find anything worthwhile.

**FLEA MARKETS** - Once in awhile you can turn up an Alger at a flea market and generally for little outlay of cash. My first edition of Dean Dunham was picked up at a local flea market.

**AUCTIONS** - If you have the patience to wait out the selling of numerous other goods and have the time to spend, occasionally an auction will pay off and net you an Alger or two. The usual procedure is to buy a box of books which you have inspected beforehand and you know contains an Alger. In your bidding you should consider that you are bidding for that one Alger with the rest of the books tossed in.

**MAIL AUCTIONS** - There are a few book dealers that specialize in mail auctions. However, you must subscribe to their catalogues to know what is available, and then wait a couple of months after you bid to allow all bids to be received. Sometimes a reasonable bid will bring an Alger your way. My first of Adrift in the City was purchased at a reasonable price through a book auction.

**ADVERTISING** - Want ads placed in specialty publications can bring results but also may be a costly method of adding titles. I would recommend this method only to the advanced collector.

**SEARCH SERVICES** - This method permits someone else to advertise for you. It can be worthwhile if your

"book scout" doesn't attempt to make too great a profit on his "finds." Again this method is desirable only for the advanced collector.

OTHER BOOK COLLECTORS - This can be a useful source even though the collector may not be interested in Alger. I have exchanged "want lists" with other collectors and have gained a title or two this way. If you can provide the person with something he wants, he will be eager to keep an eye out for some of the things you are looking for.

TIPS - If you make it known that you collect Algers, often a friend will inform you of a cache of Algers stashed away in someone's attic. I picked up five mint first editions by driving 25 miles on a "tip."

HAS MEMBERS - Probably the best source for additional titles once you get past the fifty mark is by corresponding with other HAS members. Most of our members have their own type of Alger collecting specialty and most are continually seeking to improve their holdings. When they do improve, this frees up an Alger to be passed along to another member. Don't always expect the member to "just give you the title," as they likely have used one of the above methods in obtaining the book and may have considerable investment in it. Make your "wants" known to other members and you will find many that will be eager to help you.

Any of the above methods can produce results and I have utilize each as a means of building my own collection. You do have to get out and search, if you expect results. Happy hunting!

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Doris and I have just returned from a journey through Canada (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick), Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont on a combination antique hunting - book hunting venture. The trip netted me my 148th title (The \$500 Check) and my 74th

first edition (Rough and Ready) as well as the last James O. Curwood title I lacked and twelve new Optic titles. We concentrated our effort in Maine and didn't miss many antique shops or book dealers between the northern New Brunswick border and Portland. I think the trip will also net us two or three new members.

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I would like to announce the following committee appointments for the coming year:

Luck & Pluck Award Committee - To determine the person who has served the Society in an outstanding manner during the past year. Carl Hartmann, Chairman; Dave Kanarr; Paul Fisher.

Newsboy Award Committee - To determine the person, not necessarily a member, who has done the most to enhance Alger's image. Ralph Gardner, Chairman; George Greiff; Maurice Royer.

Nominating Committee - To examine, submit, and nominate candidates for the offices of the Society. Ken Butler, Chairman; Les Poste; Robert Hunt.

Strive & Succeed Award Committee - To nominate a boy who conforms to the standards described by Horatio Alger and who is a typical Alger Hero. Convention Chairman Paul House and non-members of the Society to be appointed by him.

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VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jack Bales

Recently while thumbing through some back copies of the NEWSBOY, I discovered that the Vol. I, No. 1 issue of our newsletter was ten years old this last month. Much has happened in our Society since 1962, or for that matter, since 1961, when HAS was founded. Under the wise leadership of Ken Butler the Society slowly developed, until now we have members in forty states. We hold successful conventions every year,

and although they are now a regular part of the Society, they were probably never even thought about eleven years ago on that Thanksgiving Day in Kalamazoo. Even the NEWSBOY itself has changed — from a two paged sheet to an eight paged tabloid.

However, although a lot has occurred in the history of the Horatio Alger Society, some things still remain the same. Just as they probably did years ago, outsiders today might ask, "Why have a Society devoted to this man?" Going back to July, 1962, Forrest Campbell wrote a few sentences that have significance even today.

"My childhood was rich with Alger. Our school books, which were few, were handed down from an older brother along with his Alger books. We literally held a textbook in one hand and an Alger in the other. We learned the three R's and how a boy could succeed in New York, both at the same time. But there comes a time in the life of every boy when he must choose between his treasures at home and the treasures which lie ahead in some distant place. I didn't see any further need for my Alger books and they were left behind; Weren't yours? However, absence makes the heart grow fonder, especially after forty years when I once more seek the treasures of my youth, those Alger books! This is what makes me interested in Alger. I am now a postal employee; I carry the U. S. Mail. My family is raised; I have three grandchildren. "Who was Alger?" they ask, when admiring my library. Will their grandchildren ask the same question? It is up to us to preserve the memories as well as to check the thoughtless destruction of our dwindling stock of Alger books for our heirs. . . . During the time in which I have been interested in collecting books by Horatio Alger, I have found that he, who attempts to keep his hobby a secret, will lead a lonely life. I myself, in the past, felt I dared not reveal my hobby until I had my library com-

pleted. Then I met another collector of Alger who was willing to share his interests and duplicate books with me and with others. This person being Kenneth B. Butler of Mendota, Illinois. Since then, through association with other collectors, I have made many friends and my own library has grown accordingly. I have had the pleasure of encouraging others to share my interests and limited knowledge of our hobby. I want you to share with us your experiences and comments. . . ."

See what I mean? Those lines could have been written just this year, for again they ask the question, "Who was Alger?" that we so often hear today, and which we so continually have to answer. From 1962 - 1972. For how many more decades will we hear it?

But . . . with all that Horatio Alger did for America, does the American public recognize him for his accomplishments? Hardly! They even refuse to picture him on a postage stamp, an honor that has been granted to people much less worthy than he.

Therefore, for that reason we must still strive to continually "preserve the memories" contained in a single Alger book, and "check the thoughtless destruction of our dwindling stock of Alger books for our heirs." And finally, yes, just as in 1962 we do need a Horatio Alger Society, for it is only too true that "he, who attempts to keep his hobby a secret, will lead a lonely life."

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In order to insure its success, 1973 Convention Chairman Paul House has already started planning for next year's HAS Convention. As already announced, it will be held from May 11-13, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Paul writes that the Convention will take place in the Ramada Inn on Highway 100. Rates are as follows: \$13.00 for 1, \$18.00 for 2, with \$3.00 per extra person.

## THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER

The year of 1872 was an eventful one in New York City, and for Horatio Alger too, for he was successful in having three more books completed; Phil The Fiddler; Strive & Succeed; and Slow & Sure. It was a good year for the newsboys too, for big news stories were breaking almost every day; but perhaps the main event for everyone was that it was another presidential election year.

Around City Hall Park, that wonderful world of Horatio Alger's, the skyline was changing. Even in the park itself, changes were taking place. The railin's that used to enclose the park were long gone. Some say that in its day it served a useful purpose other than being ornamental, since in the early days it prevented the city dweller's herd of goats from grazing on the lush ground cover. The new post office building was under construction in the park opposite the entrance of City Hall. Barnums Museum which had been located across from the park for so many years had recently burned out and was now located in another part of the city. The Astor House, to the right of the park, was in its prime, but the Brooklynites still used the Fulton Ferry, for the bridge was yet to come about a decade later.

The statue of Benjamin Franklin looked down on the newsboys and bootblacks plying their trades in Printing House Square. The one cent postal card made its debut on the national scene and was a boon to the city's poor and penniless families. Stanley finds Dr. Livingstone in the African Jungle, and Niblo's theatre is destroyed by fire. Beyond the boundaries of his wonderful world, in Boston, near his home a major fire resulted in 75 million dollars of damage. In the world of fashion and society, women young and old were either hiding their flabby waistlines or concealing their youthful beauty to the best advantage behind bustles and the floor-length hem-lines of hoop skirts.

Jim Fisk, Jr., one of the city's prominent business tycoons, and also known as prince of the Erie Railroad, and an associate of Jay Gould, and Boss Tweed, was shot and killed. Details about Jim Fisk, Jr., will

be of interest to you since his father was a common rural horse and wagon peddler so often described in the Alger tales.

James Gordon Bennett, founder of the New York Herald, and major competitor of Horace Greeley's New York Tribune, died on the first day of June. And Horace Greeley, himself, the man New Yorkers associated with the "white hat" was in the news, even in the papers of his staunch competitors, for he was being considered as a presidential candidate. All these stories helped to sell papers for the newsboys, otherwise New York might have been a dull place that summer for all the major political conventions were being held outside the city.

On the political front President Grant is seeking reelection on the regular Republican Ticket, however, a group identified as the Liberal Republican Party assembled in Cincinnati and nominated Horace Greeley on the sixth ballot. The regular Republican party assembled in Philadelphia nominate President Grant by acclamation. The National Democratic Party assembled in convention in the city of Baltimore adopt the Liberal Republicans platform and candidate, Horace Greeley. On election day, as history records, Grant was reelected for another four year term of office, and Greeley was defeated and only a few days before, his wife had died. The strain of it all sent him to a sanitarium where he died on Nov. 29th at the age of 61 years. (See also Jack Bales article on Horace Greeley in Newsboy, beginning in December 1970)

Edwin Forrest, popular tragedian of the New York stage died in December leaving his faithful fans in the capable hands of Joe Jefferson, currently popular for his role as Rip Van Winkle, and a favorite of Horatio, perhaps due to his alliterative name, and his determination to succeed. Joe, nearly Horatio's age, was raised in Mobile, by his widowed mother but went on to fame and fortune via his famous father's footsteps. According to Hal McCuen, PF-096, Joe, in his role as Rip Van Winkle, played at the opening of the old Opera House in Mansfield, Ohio. He is buried near his favorite Cape Cod retreat in Sandwich on the Cape. (C) Forrest Campbell, 1972