

newsboy



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



Guest Editor:
Carl T. Hartmann
4907 Allison Dr.
Lansing, Mi. 48910

Vol. 11, No. 5
December, 1972

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY WILL BE PUBLISHED BY DOUBLEDAY IN FEBRUARY

FIRST EDITION OF 1889 ALGER SERIAL TO FEATURE FOREWARD BY RALPH GARDNER



"IS THIS YOUR POCKET BOOK?" ASKED FRANK.

Eighty three years after its serialization in Munsey's Argosy, "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" -- which has never before been issued in book form -- will be published by Doubleday & Company, of New York. First announcement of this important publishing event is now released as an exclusive to NEWSBOY readers. *Con't on page #3*

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 guided Alger's undaunted heroes, lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

OFFICERS

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

The NEWSBOY is the official organ of THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY and is published monthly except January & July and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$5.00.

NEWSBOY recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, or THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, published by the Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on Alger.

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



Welcome to New PF'S

PF-364 Dr. W. Lamar Fly
1252 Tilton Prk Drive
Rochelle, Ill. 61068
T-77 (Melba)

Dr. Fly is President of Community College and is interested in Flying, bridge and books.

PF-365 Deane Banta
254 Greenfield Ave.
San Mateo, Ca. 94403
T-90 (Thelma)

In addition to his interest in Alger, Deane refinishes antique furniture.

PF-366 William H. Moore
139 Stricker Road
Charleston, W.Va. 25314
T-14 (Doris Helen)

William is a salesman in Charleston and loves to fish and travel.

We are happy to welcome our new members and hope they will profit by being with us.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Forrest Campbell
P.O. Box 1672
Anderson, South Carolina 29621

H.A.S. THE BOOK MART



OFFERED BY: Chester N. Kennedy PF-323
81 Pinnacle Rd.
Plainville, Conn. 06062

Cash with order:			
From Farm to Fortune	G & D	G	\$10.00
Dan the Newsboy	VG	Burt	\$10.00
Helen Ford	E	Winston	\$ 3.00

Notes From Dave

Since last year I've added several new titles including "A FANCY OF HERS". I now have 118 Alger titles. I've also added a copy of Sheldon's Fifth reader which has the poem "John Maynard" with illustration by Anonymous therein. So '72 has been a good year. I now have all four biographies MAYES, GRUBER, TEBBEL AND GARDNER (2 - Hardcover and Paperback).

I was very pleasantly gratified to see a very familiar picture of our favorite author in TIME Magazine (Nov. 13, 1972). Although I must say I wasn't prepared for the mental picture I received from the words in the text. (p.61, 2nd column) "There suddenly stands Jonathan Livingston Seagull, an Horatio Alger in feathers." Now I know I'll have to read "J.L. Seagull" but I'm going to wait for the less expensive paperback edition.

And speaking of money I don't wonder at how few of the early Alger books are around today. *Con't on page 4.*

SILAS SNOBDEN'S - CON'T FROM PAGE 1

With the current widespread interest in Horatio Alger, a first edition of 6,500 copies will be issued on Friday, February 3, 1973. The books will be available in stores from coast-to-coast on or before that date. The attractive hard-cover clothbound volume will have 220 or more pages, decorated with thirty-two engravings that include every illustration from the original serialization, plus an Alger portrait. The price of the book will be \$5.95.

The adventures of Frank Manton, the young hero of "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," began in *The Argosy* dated November 30, 1889, continuing through thirteen parts, concluding February 22, 1890. From the earliest chapters Frank, who helps support his widowed mother, faces a variety of exciting experiences on the streets of New York. He has some close calls and a number of satisfying triumphs.

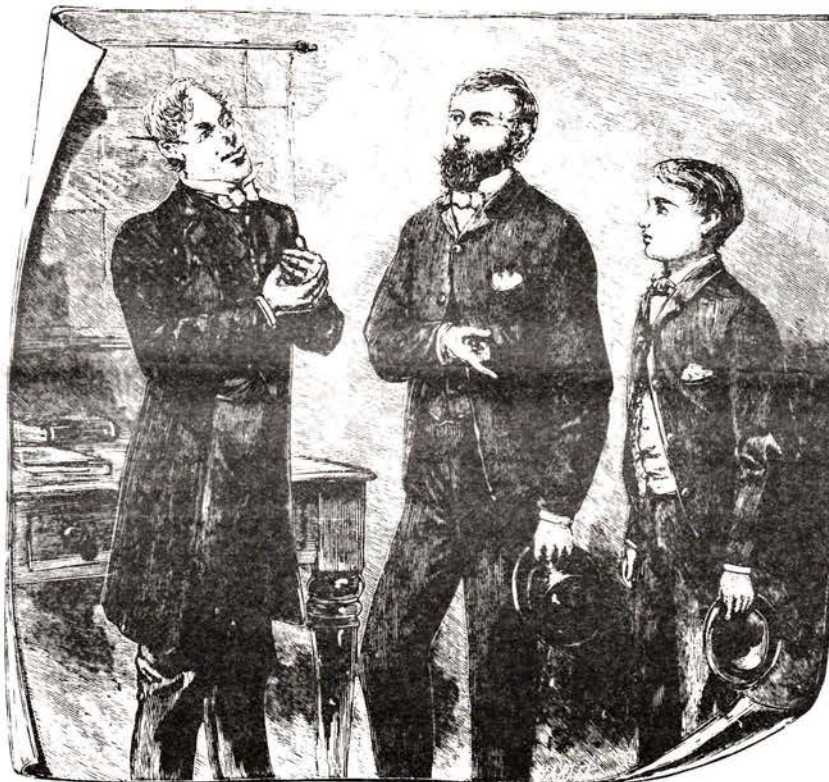
Although *The Argosy* serialization carried the pseudonym, Arthur Lee Putnam (to avoid confusion with two other Alger stories that ran concurrently), Horatio Alger, Jr., will now be properly credited as the author. The title page also carries the byline of Ralph D. Gardner, who wrote the book's foreword. He traces the story's background and also introduces Horatio Alger to the many

readers who will now meet America's all-time best-selling author for the first time.

The entire project was originated and supervised by Doubleday Editor, Bill Henderson, who is also a member of The Horatio Alger Society.

All members are asked to help assure Silas's success by urging their local bookshops to order and prominently exhibit "Silas Snobden's Office Boy." Individual members can reap publicity and extra benefits by lending a selection of Alger's from their personal collections to enhance these displays. In appreciation, booksellers will generally allow a card bearing the collector's name and address to be included in the setting. Members who displayed their Alger's in this manner report that such promotions result in book offers, acquisitions and, occasionally, newspaper stories and radio and TV appearances.

As a special courtesy to H.A.S. members — and to assure their receiving as many first edition copies as each will require — orders (enclosing check for number of copies desired) can be sent directly to Bill Henderson, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10017. These orders will be shipped in advance of the publication date.



"SO! THE BOY CONFESSES!" SAID CHAPIN, TRIUMPHANTLY.

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM *SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY*

NOTES FROM DAVE CON'T FROM PAGE 2

The better editions sold for \$1.25 which was roughly equivalent to a day's wages then. So there weren't many of the better editions (and thus better equipped to stand the ravages of time; and time and time again reading) printed and sold as who could afford them? Except for special occasions such as Christmas, birthdays and graduations, awards etc.

It wasn't till Donahue, Street and Smith and New York Book and there like started printing Algers in Cheap editions that he started selling in the millions. And the very fact that these books were cheaply made and widely read and reread many time over is why so few have survived in good condition to be in a proud collector's bookcase today.

What all this rambling is leading up to (and I'm sure you've been wondering) is that we've no reason to complain about the prices we pay for Alger's books today. Compare what you'd pay for an Alger 1st. edition today, say \$30.00 to \$40.00.... Why, a good Alger book still only costs a day's wages! It can be bought for special occasions; birthdays, graduations, awards and Christmas! Isn't there someone you'd like to give a very special gift to this Christmas?

(Ed's note: Dave suggested in his last letter that each month the NEWSBOY publish a detailed report on one of Alger's books. Then another letter from Dave with the following: "Well, I quit talking about it and writing' about it and went ahead and did one." So - starting on page 5 of this issue we have our first "Book report" on Alger. If any members feel qualified to do another drop Dave a line and let him know which book you would like to do. This will save us repetition.)

D.K. Kanarr PF-314
1032 14th. St.
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

~~~~~  
A phone call from Past President Judson Berry and PF Al Sukut wishing all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Sioux Falls, S.D. The staff of NEWSBOY and the HAS Officers also wish to extend the same greeting. We hope your stocking will be filled with 1st. edition Algers and the New Year be filled with "FINDS".

## NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Past President Max Goldberg has just returned home from the hospital after an automobile accident. At present he is recuperating. The car was a total wreck and he is very lucky to be alive.

~~~~~  
Gilbert Westgard needs some help from our members in completing his collection of Alger short stories. He is need of someone who can go to the New York City Public Library Annex to look through their issues of the New York Sun for the year 1859. Supposedly there are at least five stories by Alger in that year. The short stories which are said to appear in the New York Sun in 1859 are as follows: The Discarded Son; or, The Cousin's plot, The Secret Drawer, The Coopers Ward, The Gypsy Nurse, and Madeleine the Temptress. "Did these stories appear under Alger's own name, or possibly under a pseudonym?" If you have time to do this vital research please contact Gilbert:

Gilbert K. Westgard II
2310 Statz, Apartment E
North Las Vegas, Nev. 89030

~~~~~  
Ed Levy has for years been building a DETECTIVES collection from Dime Novels thru Doyle. In the early 1880's the Dime Novels publishers switched from publishing events which took place in the west and California to detectives as heros: from Deadwood Dick to Nick Carter and Old Sleuth. A. Conan Doyle introduced Sherlock Holmes in short stories which appeared in London's STRAND mag. in the 1890's. Ed's collection is XIXth. century and is complete. Ed would like to know if any of our members have a choice of donee's and if so send him their name. He would like to donate the entire collection to an institution. So if you have any ideas drop a line to:

Ed Levy  
Pleasant Hill Road  
Woodbridge, Conn. 06525

~~~~~  
In this issue we will start printing a few of Algers short stories from the New Your Weekly contributed by Dale E. Thomas.

~~~~~  
If you have any news for this column please send it on. If you have any new finds about Alger let us know. Keep you NEWSBOY up to date with all the latest information. We are interested in you and would like to hear how your collections are growing. Ed.

— BEN BRUCE —

(As read by PF-314)

"BEN BRUCE" was first published serially in ARGOSY in 1892-93 under the Alger pseudonym of Arthur Lee Putnam. It was first published in hard covers by A. L. Burt in 1901 under the author's real name. The full title as it appears in the Burt edition is "BEN BRUCE. SCENES IN THE LIFE OF A BOWERY NEWSBOY."

BEN (for Benjamin) is described as being fifteen years old and having "a bright, intelligent face and a fearless look." He is further depicted as having a "...steadfast look..." and further on in the story (page 45) as having a "sturdy frame and bright honest face." Ben's father is dead and his mother has remarried a rich farmer, Mr. Jacob Winter of Wrayburn, New Hampshire. Ben has no affection for his miserly stepfather who is "...rather an undersized man, with a rugged, weather-beaten face. He had seen but fifty years, though his wrinkles and bowed shoulders indicated ten more."

The following conversation between Ben and the villainous Mr. Winter occurs early on in the story:  
Excerpt (page 3)

"Wuss and wuss!" ejaculated Jacob. "I didn't know you was such a bad boy. You'll come to the gallows some day, see if you 'on't!"

"Look here, Mr. Winter; you call yourself a Christian, don't you?"

"Of course I do. I've been a member of the church for nine and thirty years."

"And you believe in the Bible, don't you?"

"I won't answer your impudent question."

"Yet," continued Ben, "you blame me for feeding the hungry."

"You fed 'em with my provisions," snarled Jacob.

"Well, I'll make it up to you. I'll go without my supper."

"You've a mighty independent way of talkin', Benjamin Bruce, you that I feed and clothe."

"I do work enough to pay for my keeping, Mr. Winter. Besides, you forget that you have got my mother's money, which if she hadn't married you would have been part mine."

Jacob Winter winced. It was true that Mrs. Bruce had brought him two thousand dollars, which he had coolly deposited to his own account in a savings bank.

"That ain't any of your business," he said. "Now go out and feed the cows, and mind you don't throw away any of my substance agin on beggars."

(End of excerpt)

Ben and one of his friends, Albert Graham, twice save Mr. Winter from being robbed of \$500 by a thief named Tom Tidd. The first time Ben knocked Tom out with a garden spade. He discouraged the next attempt by shooting Mr. Tidd in the face with buckshot. After learning that Mr. Winter intends to reward Ben by (1) giving him

a quarter, (2) refusing to let him enter highschool and (3) apprenticing him off to a shoemaker with \$50 a year to go into Mr. Winter's greedy pockets, Ben opts for more agreeable climes. With \$2 from his mother and a \$5 loan from Albert, Ben runs away from home; his destination, New York City.

On the way, Ben saves Paul Wentworth, a rich man's 10 year old son from a mad dog. Our hero is rewarded with a new suit and a silver watch. Before Ben gets to New York, Tom Tidd crosses his path again. Earlier Alger described the thief thusly; "He was a man of about thirty, with a coarse sensual look and blotched skin, the result, doubtless, of intemperate habits." So it isn't any wonder that Ben recognizes Tom when they meet on the steamer to New York, especially with Ben's buckshot marking his face. This time Ben saves a Mr. Grant Griswold's \$500 watch and Mr. Griswold saves Ben from a dunking or worse at the hands of Mr. Tidd. Mr. Griswold rewards Ben with temporary employment for which he receives plush room and board and \$10 cash.

Ben takes a small room in New York at \$2 per week. His money soon gives out and he is reduced to handing out bills of fair for a restaurant thereby earning 25¢ a day plus meals. Alger's wont for including Arithmetic lessons in his stories is revealed on pages 126 and 127 as Ben decides to become a newsboy: (Excerpt)

One afternoon, as he bought a paper of a newsboy, he asked, "How does selling papers pay?"

Tommy Hooper, the boy addressed, answered, "I make about seventy-five cents a day, but I have to hustle."

Seventy-five cents a day! That would be four dollars and a half a week, or deducting two dollars for rent he would have two dollars and a half for his work, and he felt that on that sum he could live as well as he did now, since he knew of a place where he could buy a ticket good for three dollars' worth of meals for two dollars and a half.

(End of excerpt)

Ben and Tommy exchange jobs by agreement. Our hero succeeds so well as a newsboy that two other newsboys attempt to run him off his corner. Ben bests the both of them, dealing one a bloody nose and the other a black eye and putting each of them on their backs. One of Ben's customers, a Mr. John Wilkins, turns out to be an author of a play that is to open soon and there is an opening for someone to play a newsboy in it. He has seen Ben defeat his fellow newsboys and rewards him by buying the rest of his papers and getting him the part in the play. Ben is so good in his four week stint on the boards that he is paid \$25 a week instead of the proffered \$15. But the show closes and he has to return to

Con't on page 6

From page #5

selling newspapers for a livelihood. Then Ben deposits his savings from the acting job in a bank only to have his passbook stolen by a fellow boarder, George Grayson. But Mr. Grayson is apprehended at the bank while in the process of making a second withdrawal from Ben's account.

Now comes the most curious part of the story. A Mrs. Harcourt buys up all of Ben's stock of papers and proffers him the job of impersonating her son, Edwin, promising him that he will be well paid and that he will be "aiding the cause of justice." Ben goes along with her to visit Mr. Henry Anderson, her uncle and Mr. Stormleigh, a banker all the time playing his new role as Edwin Harcourt. Here we learn, but Ben doesn't, that Mrs. Harcourt's scheme is to defraud Mr. Basil Wentworth (evidently no relation to Paul Wentworth and thus an Alger red herring?) and Frank Mordaunt's mother out of a \$5,000 yearly income each. Ben gets an allowance of \$15 a week and gets expensive clothing and all that goes with the chore of impersonating a rich boy. But this leads to a remarkable coincidence to say the least. Ben gives over some of the money to Frank Mordaunt, a fellow newsboy, to help him with his family's rent little knowing that the money involved (\$6) is rightfully Frank's. Here is the scene as described by Alger in the book: (Excerpt, page 204)

By way of answer Ben drew from his pocket a five-dollar bill and handed it to Frank.

"But, Ben, can you spare this?"

"Yes, easily. The lady who adopted me gave me ten dollars yesterday, and says I shall have a weekly allowance of fifteen dollars just for spending money. All my bills will be paid separately."

"It will be a godsend to us, Ben. How kind you are!"

"I ought to be, as I have been so favored myself. I hope you will see better days before long."

"It may be so. My mother may some day inherit a large sum, in case a cousin of mine dies. I would rather he would live, but a small part of what we would then have would make us happy now."

(End of excerpt)

The irony here is just too precious because of course the cousin Frank mentions whose death will make him wealthy is Edwin Harcourt whose enviable role in life has been taken over by our unknowing hero.

But back to the story. Mrs. Harcourt's scheme can be ruined if she is confronted by the other heir, Basil Wentworth. Hearing that he is on his way to New York, she bundles up Ben and baggage and embarks for Europe. Aboard ship, our imposter rooms with a young lord, the son of the Earl of Bently. Ben wins over the whole aristocratic Bentley family and gets an invite to their pal-

atial mansion in England. From England the Harcourts go to France where Ben takes French lessons the better to impersonate Edwin who was proficient in that language. They then go to Switzerland because Basil Wentworth was on their trail. Here, Ben wins the admiration of yet another possible benefactor, General Obed Flint. It is Flint who advises him when Mrs. Harcourt up and dies leaving a letter revealing the fraud she had perpetuated. Basil is sent for and everything turns out well at the conclusion of the narrative. Ben inherits Mrs. Harcourt's \$40,000 fortune from which he is to give Mr. Basil Wentworth and Frank Mordaunt's mother \$5,000 each as their rightful inheritance earnings since the death of the real Edwin Harcourt over a year previous to his mother's death. But they decline this payment so Ben gets the full \$40,000. The Mordaunt family, with their newly found wealth, take their landlord down a peg or two when he was on the point of evicting them, always a favorite Alger scene.

MEANWHILE, Mr. Winter has made some bad investments as the result of being hoodwinked by his nephew, Ezra, who is in the process of swindling him. Once again Ben saves his step-father from being robbed, getting back \$2,500 for him. Mr. Winter conveniently dies and Mrs. Winter gets back her \$2,000. Ben has gone back to New York, where he not only helped his boyhood chum, Albert, obtain employment, but he, too, "after a year spent in study accepted a position in a large commercial house in which he may some time own an interest." "... So the future looks bright for him."

The End.

Appended hereto are the names of all the characters in the story, followed for the most part by the page number whereon they first appeared and/or were named in the A. L. Burt edition of Ben Bruce.

#### Characters in Ben Bruce listed chronologically

| Name               | Page No. | Description                               |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|
| Jacob Winter       | 1        | The hero's step-father and/or the villain |
| Ben Bruce          | 1        | The hero of our story                     |
| Mrs. Winter        | 4        | Our hero's mother                         |
| Albert Graham      | 6,15     | Ben's Boyhood chum                        |
| Mr. Foster         | 9        | Wrayburn factory superintendent           |
| Silas Flack        | 44       | shoemaker                                 |
| Mr. Cole           | 56       | A lawyer (only mentioned)                 |
| Adelbert Bruce     | 58       | Ben's cousin                              |
| Paul Wentworth     | 60       | 10 year old saved by Ben from mad dog     |
| Franklin Wentworth | 63       | Paul's father, "a rich man"               |
| Mrs. Wentworth     | 69       | Paul's mother (gives Ben silver watch)    |
| Tom Tidd           | 22,76    | "An ill-looking" robber thrice            |

Con't on page #7

From page #7

## Ben Bruce Characters continued

| Name                                        | Page No. | Description                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Ben Tidd                                    | 22,76    | thrice foiled by Ben                            |
| Grant Griswold                              | 79,82    | Wealthy traveler                                |
| Mrs. Robinson                               | 86,87    | Ben's landlady                                  |
| Sylvanus Snodgrass                          | 89       | Dime Novel author teaches Ben about pawnshops   |
| Gloriana Podd                               | 93       | Poetess                                         |
| Cornelius Clyde                             | 98       | Poet                                            |
| Jonathan Smith                              | 105      | Church Janitor (in Wrayburn)                    |
| Mr. Simpson                                 | 121      | Pawnbroker                                      |
| Tommy Hooper                                | 127      | Newsboy                                         |
| Patsy Blake                                 | 129      | Newsboy                                         |
| Mike Farley                                 | 129      | Newsboy                                         |
| John Wilkins                                | 136,138  | Author of dramas for the stage                  |
| Mrs. Wilkins                                | 141      | John Wilkins' mother                            |
| Dick Flanagan                               | 151      | An acquaintance of Patsy and Mike               |
| Mr. Thorton                                 | 152      | Actor with leading role in Mr. Wilkins' epic    |
| George Grayson                              | 165,166  | Sneak-thief who steals Ben's bank savings       |
| Mrs. Maria Harcourt                         | 177,181  | To whom our hero owes his good fortune          |
| Henry Anderson                              | 183,184  | Maria's uncle                                   |
| Mr. Stormleigh                              | 190      | A New York banker                               |
| Frank Mordaunt                              | 202      | Son of the rightful heir, a poor newsboy        |
| Basil Wentworth                             | 212      | Henry Anderson's nephew                         |
| Cvriil Augustus Bentley                     | 216,217  | An English Lord, shipboard companion of Ben's   |
| Earl of Bentley                             | 217,220  | Cyril's father                                  |
| Countess of Bentley                         | 217,220  | Cyril's mother                                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Vincent                        | 221      | New York merchant and his wife, ocean voyagers  |
| Mrs. Mordaunt                               | 223      | Frank's mother and Henry Anderson's niece       |
| Alvin Mordaunt                              | 223      | Frank's younger brother                         |
| Professor Fromont                           | 238      | Professor of French (tutors Ben)                |
| Ezra Winter                                 | 253      | Jacob Winter's nephew, a swindler               |
| Gen. Obed Flint                             | 255      | A wealthy admirer of Ben's and a true friend    |
| Herman Brooks                               | 290      | Fair weather friend of Frank Mordaunt           |
| Mr. Barlow                                  | 297      | Crony of Ezra Winter's                          |
| John Bentham                                | 301      | Lawyer engaged by Ben to retrieve Jacob's money |
| <b>Fictitious placemames in "Ben Bruce"</b> |          |                                                 |
| Wrayburn, New Hampshire                     | 47,198   | 50 miles from Boston                            |
| Grafton                                     | 55       |                                                 |
| Fall River                                  | 74       |                                                 |

I still have some Alger bottles for sale. The price is \$12.00 post paid. If you would like one send your check to Carl Hartmann. Returnable for full refund if not satisfied.

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jack Bales

One facet of Horatio Alger's stories that has always intrigued me is the content matter and language that is in his books. For example, after a person has read many Algers, he can easily recognize the author's style of writing and can quickly tell that a Stratemeyer Alger is definitely not one that was written by Horatio. I remember that while reading *Ben Logan's Triumph* I came across countless instances where Stratemeyer would use some descriptive words or phrases that Alger never used. One that I can recall told of a tired boy who, as Stratemeyer said, was "fagged out." Now although I realize that this is a minute thing to talk about, I'm pretty sure that Alger never used this expression.

Something that I also like is Alger's frequent use of quotations. I remember in *Chester Rand* where someone said something similar to, "As the writing book said, 'Slander loves a shining mark.'" Or, in *Strong and Steady* there was the poem about "Paddle Your Own Canoe." Also, in *Hector's Inheritance*, Hector and his father both used Pindar's phrase, "Boldness is the beginning of victory."

However, has anyone ever thought of how Alger came by these comments? In what Greek work did Pindar use the above phrase? Was there really a song about paddling one's canoe?

I solved a problem similar to this just a few weeks ago. While reading Alexander Pope's *Essay on Man* in an English course, I was startled to read these two lines: "Honour and shame from no Condition rise; / Act well your part, there all the honour lies." I didn't know at first where I had heard these lines before, but then I remembered that in *Andy Gordon* the professor of the school — a Dr. Euclid was his name I believe — was arguing with the father of the story's snob. The boy's father said that Andy's social position was far below that of his son's. To which Dr. Euclid quoted Pope's above observations. (These two lines were in Epistle IV of Pope's *Essay on Man*, lines 193-194).

This really interests me. I had often wondered if these were Pope's lines, and now I'd like to know just how well acquainted Alger was with his writing, since it seems that he is able to quote from the eighteenth century author so easily.

Maybe these are somewhat trite observations, but this aspect of Alger's books fascinates me. Someday I'd like to know the sources of all his quotations, but until then, if any of you know of any more, I'd be interested in hearing them.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Bob Bennett

I received a couple of "want lists" recently that contained numerous "ghost titles" and recall making the same mistakes when I first caught the "Alger fever". Most of these non-existent titles appeared in book ads and were either printing errors or proposed titles that were never used. An example is the American Catalogue, 1905-07 edition, listing of "Fairy in the Wold" which simply was a printing error that should have read "Facing the World".

This prompts me to tell you about my latest project of compiling a listing of all Alger titles by publisher and edition and to attempt to arrive at an order of publication. This, or course, is no small task and one that I expect will keep me occupied for some time before I can feel assured that I have a somewhat complete listing.

I have checked numerous library sources, bibliographical listings and book advertisements. I have examined, literally thousands of Alger books and have exchanged information with many other collectors and have made several pages of notes on books offered me or advertised in sale lists.

Dating reprint editions is an extremely difficult task as very few carry a publication date or dated title page. The New York Book Company editions are dated but you then have the job of determining the earliest date of publication. The American Catalogue lists dates of publication for some A. L. Burt and Hurst editions, but for the vast majority of reprints you can only obtain a guideline as to the period of time the title first appeared. Most listings of this nature are not definitive as they do not necessarily refer to the earliest printing.

One method I use in arriving at approximate dates, is by comparing presentation dates that appear on the end papers of many Algers. If, an inscription read "To Johnny from Grandmother Jones, Christmas, 1905", it is logical to assume that the book was in print by December of that year. Further, if that particular book contains book ads, it is also logical to assume that all titles listed were in print by that time.

Another method I use, is to compare advertisements that appear in periodicals in successive issues. Occasionally, a new title is added to the listing, making it reasonable to conclude that it was probably first published in that particular month and year. Sometimes, ads will give more precise information such as "available in March, 1905".

I am certain that it is almost impossible to arrive at exact publication dates for many Alger editions. However, I hope that a comprehensive listing of all titles by publisher and edition will be helpful to the collector.

I plan to publish some of my findings in coming issues of "The Newsboy" and at this time I will be asking our readers for help in identifying and dating certain editions.

May all of you enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## — NOTES FROM RALPH —

For the past several years members of our Horatio Alger Society have, from time to time, been trying to persuade the postal authorities that a United States postage stamp honoring Horatio Alger, Jr., was long-overdue. So far we haven't been successful. Maybe we haven't tried hard enough. What can we do to achieve this recognition of America's all-time bestselling author? What can we do to get a commemorative stamp issued for one of the most influential and beloved writers our country has produced?

The opportunity for such remembrance has been ripe since 1940, when — with the issuance of the Famous American Series — five authors (Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott and Samuel Clemens) and five poets (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, James Russell Lowell, Walt Whitman and James W. Riley) were pictured on postage stamps of various denominations.

During the years that followed, similar celebration was given to William Allen White, Joel Chandler Harris, Edgar Allen Poe, Noah Webster, Horace Greeley, Sidney Lanier, Henry David Thoreau, Ernie Pyle, Eugene O'Neill O'Neill, Edgar Lee Masters and others.

In 1964 and 1965 respectively, the talents of William Shakespeare and Dante Alighieri were commemorated, although they hadn't even the remotest connection with American literature!

There is no question in my mind but that Alger, with his simple, happy tales of striving and succeeding and of rising from the ranks to the top rung of the ladder of success, should have been among the first to receive this national appreciation and recognition.

What will we do about it? I suggest that —once again — we all call this oversight to the attention of our elected Senators and Representatives and, of course, to the proper authorities of our Postal Service. Knowing that stamps are often issued to commemorate a milestone of some sort (though this appears to be rather loosely interpreted), we can advise that 1974 will mark the 75th anniversary of Alger's death in 1899. Let's ALL do what we can to get a Horatio Alger commemorative postage stamp issued in 1974!



The following story was contributed by Dale Thomas and is the first of a series to be published in the NEWSBOY. It appeared in the NEW YORK WEEKLY -- Vol. 37, No. 15 - February 20, 1882.

### THE BOY SUBSTITUTE;

or

The Young Wisconsin Volunteer in 1861.

BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.

"Squire Madison has been drafted, Hugh," said Mrs. Ellis, coming into her humble home, with a little excitement in her manner. "There is a piece of news for you!"

"I have a piece of news for you, mother," said Hugh, soberly.

"What is it, Hugh?"

"The factory is closed, and I am thrown out of employment."

Mrs. Ellis turned pale, for Hugh, her seventeen-year-old son, was the main support of herself and his younger brother and sister.

"For how long?" she asked, faintly.

"I don't know. The war has broken up the business, and some say it will not reopen for a year."

"That is indeed bad news," said Mrs. Ellis, in a troubled voice.

"We were getting along so comfortably," said Hugh, "with my wages."

"My poor boy! You have had us all to carry on your shoulders."

"And it made me happy to do it, mother," said Hugh, earnestly. "I like to work, but now my work is taken away from me."

"There will be some opening for you, my son," said Mrs. Ellis, recovering her cheerfulness with an effort.

"God will not let us starve."

"It may be so, mother, but the prospect isn't very bright."

"Is Squire Madison going to the war?" asked Henry, a twelve-year-old boy, Hugh's younger brother.

"No, he cannot leave his property. He will no doubt hire a substitute."

Hugh looked up suddenly, and his eye brightened, as his mother added:

"No doubt he will pay liberally for one."

"Perhaps that is the way that was to be opened to me," he said to himself, but he did not mention the plan that had come into his head, for he feared his mother would object.

Hugh was a tall, manly looking boy, who appeared older than his years. His heart had been fired by the patriotic appeals which had been made from the pulpit and

the rostrum, and he had secretly longed to enter the service as a soldier. Two things had prevented thus far. He knew that he was under age, and he knew also that his mother and younger brother and sister were dependent upon him for support. His duty seemed to lie at home. Now, however, all was changed. He had lost his employment, and the military service seemed to open to him a chance of fresh earnings.

"I will go round after supper and see Squire Madison," he silently resolved, and straightway his brow cleared, and he became more cheerful.

"I am glad to see you Hugh," said Squire Madison, cordially. "Are you well at home?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you getting on comfortably?" asked the kind-hearted squire.

"We have been, sir, but now the factory has shut down, and I am thrown out of employment."

"That is bad. I am sorry to hear it. I must consider whether I can find some employment for you."

"That is what I have come to see you about, Squire Madison," said Hugh, coming to the point.

"Is there anything in particular you have thought of, Hugh?"

"Yes, sir."

"What is it?"

"I hear you have been drafted, Squire Madison."

"Yes, that is true."

"But you don't mean to go?"

"I can't well leave my large business interests. I think I can be more useful at home."

"Do you mean to hire a substitute?" asked Hugh, eagerly.

"Yes, I suppose I shall."

"Will you accept me?"

"You!" exclaimed the squire, in surprise. "How old are you?"

"Seventeen."

"You are only a boy."

"But I look older than I am, and I am strong and well."

"What is your object in making this request, Hugh?"

"I have two, sir. I should like to fight for my country. I have several friends who are already in the service. Besides, sir, with the money you give me and my pay, I can make mother comfortable, and that is more than I can do by staying at home without employment."

"You are an excellent son, Hugh," said Squire Madison, warmly, "but I don't like to have you risk

## THE BOY SUBSTITUTE - Con't from page 9

your life for me."

"It isn't for you, sir, but for my country and my mother."

"But if anything should happen to you, I should feel that I were in a manner responsible for your death."

"God will take care of me, sir."

"I think He will, Hugh. Tell me, does your mother know of your plan?"

"No, sir, not yet."

"It will be a sad blow to her."

"I will undertake to reconcile her to that, if you will give me the chance."

"Then, Hugh, I will tell you what I will do. In place of giving you a sum of money outright, I will agree to pay your mother forty dollars a month during the period of your absence."

"That is much more than I expected. You could hire a substitute for much less."

"That is quite true; but I want to help you in your noble purpose."

"Thank you, sir," said Hugh, his face radiant. "I shall go cheerfully, knowing that those I love are made comfortable."

"One thing more," added the squire, "If anything happens to you, and I pray that God will spare you from wounds and death, you may rest assured that your mother will continue to find a friend in me."

Again Hugh thanked the squire warmly, and left the house with an elastic step, and a heart full of hope and confidence.

Hugh found it hard to reconcile his mother to the step he was about to take.

"You will risk your life for our comfort," she said, sorrowfully. "I cannot accept the sacrifice."

"Mother, that's not all. My country calls me, and I obey the call."

"She does not call boys."

"I am no longer a boy, since God has placed upon me the responsibilities of a man."

"I fear I shall never see you again, if I let you go."

"Don't be downhearted, mother. The great majority of the soldiers will come back, and I feel that I shall be in the lucky number."

Mrs. Ellis was cheered in spite of herself by the confident words of her son, and finally yielded her consent.

Hugh presented himself for acceptance as a substitute, and in spite of his youth, his well-knit muscular form carried the day. After a brief delay, he marched with

his regiment, and great loneliness came upon the little cottage he had called home. But he wrote, often and regularly, letters in which he made light of privations and toils, and his mother was comforted in a measure. All care and anxiety as to ways and means were removed, for punctually on the first day of every month Squire Madison called, and left forty dollars, never failing to make kindly inquiries after his young substitute. Besides, Hugh sent home the greater part of his monthly pay. This money and a part of her income from the squire, Mrs. Ellis, who was an economical woman and a good manager, deposited in a savings bank.

"When Hugh comes home," she said to herself, "he must take a good long rest, and with the money that I save for him he will feel able to do it."

A year later the papers contained an account of a great battle, in which a young soldier, named Hugh Ellis, had specially distinguished himself. In recognition of his gallantry he had been promoted to the post of first-lieutenant, with, of course, a corresponding increase of pay.

"Mrs. Ellis," said the squire, on his next call, "I am proud of my young substitute. He is doing great credit to all of us, as well as himself. It is hard to think of a boy of eighteen as first-lieutenant, isn't it now?"

"Hugh was always true and faithful in whatever he undertook," said the mother, proudly. "If he only comes home safe, I shall be the happiest woman in the world."

"He will come home, never fear," said the squire, cheerfully.

But nothing is so uncertain as the life of a soldier at the front. He carries his life in his hand and is liable at any time to lose it. A dark day came for Mrs. Ellis, when in the daily paper which, despite her economy, she regularly took, she read the account of the battle of Antietam. In the list of "missing, and probably dead," occurred the name of Lieutenant Hugh Ellis, of the Seventh Wisconsin Regiment.

The paper fell from her nerveless hands, and she sank into a swoon, from which she recovered, only to suffer such anguish as a mother can feel for the loss of her first-born, her staff and her support.

"Don't be too sure that Hugh is dead," said Squire Madison. "He may be a prisoner, or sick in some hospital." She shook her head despondently.

"I shall never see him again on earth," she said sadly. Squire Madison continued to pay the monthly stipend he had agreed upon.

"At least," he said, "the poor mother shall not have

## THE BOY SUBSTITUTE- Con't from page 10

anxiety about the means of support while I can prevent it."

So time passed, and nothing was heard of Hugh. Mrs. Ellis had recovered from the first blow so far as to feel that it was her duty to live for her younger children, but her face wore an expression of deep sadness. A day came that tested her fortitude to the utmost.

It was Hugh's birthday.

The poor woman, with pale face and saddened mien, was sitting at the table, mending some garments belonging to one of her younger children, when there was a knock at the door and on its being opened, Squire Madison entered. There was a partly suppressed excitement in his manner which Mrs. Ellis did not notice.

"This is poor Hugh's birthday, Squire Madison," she said, sadly.

"Indeed! That is very remarkable," said the squire.

"Remarkable!" repeated Mrs. Ellis, with mild wonder.

"Yes—that I should call on this day of all others." he answered, with brief hesitation.

"Poor Hugh!" sighed the widow.

"You know, my dear madam, I have never given him up," said the squire. "We have no certainty of his death."

"And I have no hope of his being alive. If he were, I should never cease to thank God."

"Well," said the squire briskly, "if I were a betting man, I would wager something that you would see him again alive."

"What do you mean, Squire Madison?" exclaimed the mother, startled.

He stepped to the front door, and called:

"Hugh!"

Directly there stepped in the boy substitute, a little pale, considerably older-looking than when he left home eighteen months before, but in the full enjoyment of life.

"I wasn't dead after all, mother," he said smiling.

When the first joy had a little subsided, Hugh told his story. He lay on the battle-field among the dead, when a kindly confederate officer, detecting signs of life gave him a cup of water, and had him removed to the hospital. He was long in recovering, but at length his strong constitution carried him through, and he was exchanged.

"You won't go back, Hugh?" pleaded his mother.

"No, mother; I have done my part. Now I will stay at home and take care of you."

Squire Madison exerted himself to procure a posi-

tion for his young substitute, and succeeded. Hugh became in time a prosperous man, and his mother still lives, happy in a son of whom she has reason to feel proud.

(Next week I shall furnish a historical fact of "The Boy Substitute." — H. A., Jr.)

## AWARD FOR HAS MEMBER

by George Clarke

*Each year the Fine Arts and Humanities Commission honors six people who have added to the cultural life of the State.*

I am pleased to announce that this year PF-276, F.M. O'Brien of Portland, Maine's senior antiquarian book dealer and eminent authority on the state's history and member of the Horatio Alger Society was among those chosen.

O'Brien lives in an early 19th. century brick house on High street with his wife, Con, a large number of cats and about a dozen roomies filled with thousands of books. His home is also his shop. Or perhaps it might be better put, his shop is also his home.

O'Brien has been dealing in books for over 40 years.

Congratulations F.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

PF-274, Carl Thieme reports he picked up a fine copy of THE ROLLING STONE for a nominal fee. So keep looking the finds are out there.

\*\*\*\*\*

PF-310, Ted Kaphengst and his wife Uba purchased the Hillcrest Manor Hotel in Palm Springs, Ca. We wish you luck with your new venture Ted. Hope we can get to California and see you.

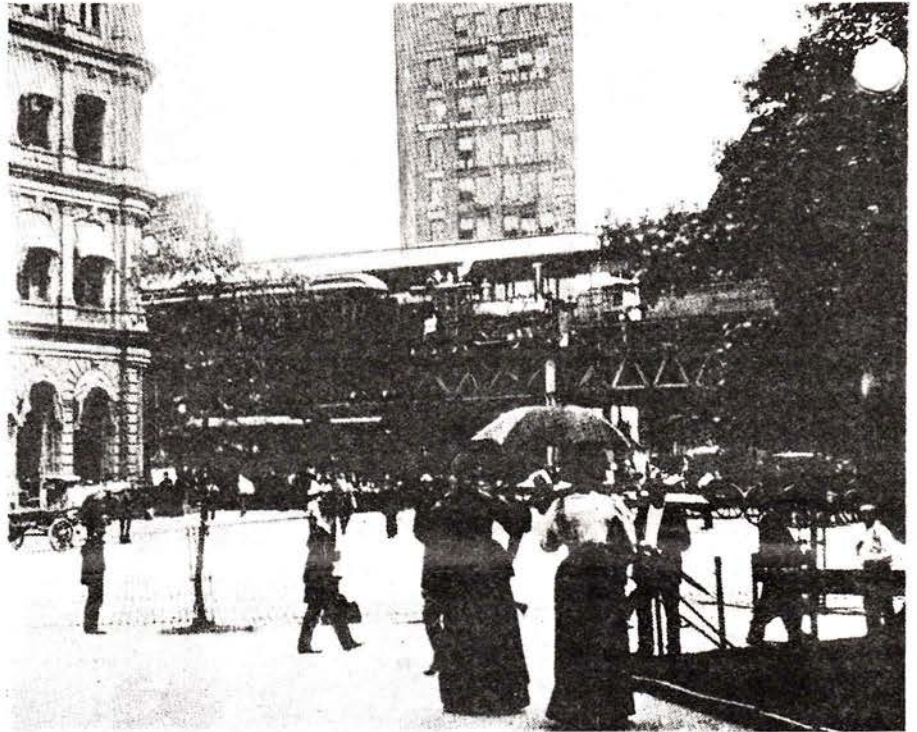
PF-156, Bette (Besse) Robinson has changed her name and address. Bess was married on the seventeenth of June, 1972 to David Bougue at Oconomowoc in a Garden ceremony. Bess met David at a church supper. Bess sent us some pictures of her new home and we are sure that as Alger would say "they lived happily ever after."

Bess Robinson Bogue  
925 West Pleasant St.  
Portage, Wisconsin, 53901

Season's  
Greetings



### A CHOO-CHOO CHUGGED ALONG ON THIRD AVE. "EL"



When Little Old New York was younger: this photo shows the building that housed the Flower plant in 1888, and portrays a nostalgic vista east of City Hall as it appeared in the era of horse drawn drays and carriages.



#### ALGER ITEMS FOR SALE

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| ALGER TILE               | \$2.00 |
| Frame                    | \$3.50 |
| Namr Plate               | \$1.00 |
| "100" Club plate         | Free   |
| Alger Price List         | \$2.00 |
| "Dan The Newsboy Picture | \$5.00 |

Send check to: Carl T.  
Hartmann, 4907 Allison Dr.  
Lansing, Mi. 48910 - Please  
make checks payable to Horatio  
Alger Society.

