

Newsboy



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



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February & March
1973

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



D&C Photo by Roger Smith

Dr. Leslie Poste, left, Ralph Gardner check copy of 'Silas Snobden's Office Boy.'

Livingston County Leader

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1973

LEGAL

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Horatio Alger, Jr. (1834-1899), most widely read author of stories for boys in all of American literature, established the Alger Hero as part of our tradition; and

WHEREAS, Alger indoctrinated generations in the philosophy of Strive & Succeed, with a lasting effect upon the American character; and

WHEREAS, as the most popular American author of all time, up to 400 million copies of his books were sold; and

WHEREAS, February 2nd marks the first appearance in book form of Alger's "Silas Snobden's Office Boy"; and

WHEREAS, this publishing event is being observed at the State University of New York College of Arts & Science at Geneseo by both exhibits and by the appearance of Ralph D. Gardner, author of the definitive biography and bibliography of Horatio Alger, as a speaker at the School of Library & Information Science; be it therefore

PROCLAIMED, That February 2nd is Horatio Alger Day.

The Village of Geneseo Board of Trustees
January 22, 1973

PROCLAMATION

G32t1

Horatio Alger Buffs Revive their Hero

Con't page 4

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.

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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.



GEORGE CLARKE RECUPERATING

A few weeks ago PF George C. Clarke had two toes removed from his left foot. Then on Jan. 24th. another operation was performed removing half of his foot. He came thru fine some pain, but he is an excellent patient, in good spirits and looks forward to getting home to continue his many interests and projects.

We know George will be up and around in no time at all. George our prayers and good wishes go out to you. All you friends in the HAS are rooting for you.

H.A.S. THE BOOK MART



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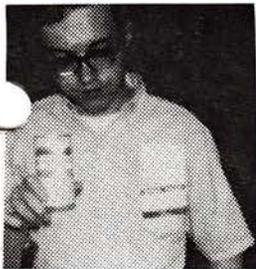
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Cash with order please.

Fame & Fortune	Loring	VG	\$12.50
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Rough and Ready	Loring	VG	\$12.50
Rufus and Rose	Loring	VG	\$12.50

The above are not firsts but all have Gold Title and Tom illustration on spine. Some corners slightly rubbed.



By Jack Bales

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Is the Protestant Work Ethic Undergoing a Change?

Time Magazine had a "Time Essay" in the October 30, 1972 issue entitled, "Is the Work Ethic Going Out of Style." Basically the article traced the history of the Protestant Work Ethic, starting with John Calvin's ideology and ending up with the present time.

Although there was the title page of *Ragged Dick* pictured and a reference to Horatio Alger, Jr. was made, my purpose is not to talk about Alger's views and his Great American Dream. We are all familiar with his beliefs concerning the subject. However, IS the Protestant Work Ethic as Horatio Alger saw it becoming a thing of the past?

Although I do not think that it is becoming extinct, I do believe that the Work Ethic has changed considerably over the last hundred years. The idea in Alger's books was that yes, it *is* necessary to work hard, but too often I

think the Alger heroes notions of success were spelled \$\$\$ucce\$\$\$. For like it or not, we might as well face it — *Ragged Dick*, Tom the Bootblack, and all the rest equated happiness in terms of dollars and cents. However, let me hastily say that they did seek fame and fortune through necessity and were motivated not through ideas of selfish gain but through a deep and sincere commitment to their families. It was for *them* that they Strived and Succeeded, and the youths were rarely concerned about themselves. But still, although they sought only to bring solace to their families, the almighty dollar was always uppermost in their minds.

Times have changed since Alger wrote his stories, and although many adults think that the "younger generation" is ruining this country and that they want to sponge off their parents all their lives, to me this is pure utter nonsense. Quoting *Time*: "Despite signs to the contrary, young people retain a strong commitment to work. A survey of college students conducted by the Daniel Yankelovich organization showed that 79% believe that commitment to a career is essential, 75% believe that collecting welfare is immoral for a person who can work, and only 30% would welcome less emphasis in the U. S. on hard work."

Today, people believe that happiness in a job comes before its salary. However, this is not to say that the young people are scorning the "older generation's ideas of mater-

ialism." *That* is just so much bunk. The concept of living off the fruits of love is pretty euphoric and suitable to Thomas More's ideals set forth in his *Utopia*, but it just doesn't work out that way in the real world. We *need* money, we *need* to work. However, speaking for myself, I would much rather work in a job where I was truly happy making \$10,000 a year than earning \$30,000 a year in a job I intensely disliked. Yes, the Work Ethic IS changing.

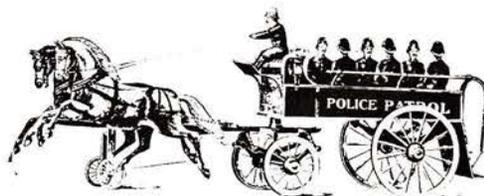
Now, although I have finished stating my point, I think I had better reiterate my position regarding Alger's ideas again, as I'm pretty sure that some of you may disagree with me. Basically, it is not at all as cynical as it may sound.

All right, when you think of Alger's definition of his Great American Dream, what do you think? The answer — that anybody, through hard work and perseverance, can attain success. NOW, however, what do you think of when you mention Alger's term "success?" Does "happiness" enter your mind? *No*, money does, because although Alger's heroes have ended up being pretty well contented, they did not approach life with this thought in mind. They believe that their foremost objective was to help their family as a breadwinner, and if happiness came along, so much the better. But even though everybody got their just rewards in the end, the Alger Heroes always started out with bigger salaries than any of their peers.

And finally, did you ever notice that the rich man in the Alger books was invariably the bad person? He had the money that the Alger Hero needed. Hence, he was bad. Goodness was synonymous with the poor boy, while the rich young snob was always represented as being bad.

Thus, as it is plainly evident, the Protestant Work Ethic has changed. Though Alger's ideas were suitable for his time, we are in a different era now, with correspondingly different ideals. And although the means of Alger's Great American Dream are basically the same, the ends have undergone quite a significant change since the nineteenth century.

(NOTE: I realize that I may have stirred up quite a controversy here. Therefore, I solicit ALL comments regarding my statements. I am anxious to hear what other people think about this.)



ROCHESTER, N. Y., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1973

By BOB BICKEL

GENESEO — There was a kind of Horatio Alger explosion Friday, and Geneseo was at the center of it.

In New York City, Doubleday and Co. announced the publication of the first Alger novel in more than 60 years, an event duly noted in an illustrated story in the New York Times and on the Associated Press wire.

The first edition of 6,500 copies of "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" has already been sold out.

Originally published under a pseudonym as a serial in Argosy Magazine in 1889, the book carries a long foreword by Ralph D. Garner, who was the guest of honor at the Geneseo Alger Festival.

At the invitation of Dr. Leslie Poste, member of the Geneseo State College School of Library and Information Science faculty, Gardner spoke about Alger Friday morning in a colloquium series sponsored by the school.

A former New York Times correspondent and now an advertising man, Gardner is considered by many as the world's foremost Alger expert.

He is author of a biography of the writer, and owner of the largest Alger collection.

Mayor George Scondras made a surprise appearance at the colloquium to present Gardner with a certificate making him an honorary citizen of Geneseo. The Village Board had previously designated Feb. 2 as "Horatio Alger Day" in the village.

Some of Dr. Poste's collection of "Algers," including his rare first edition of "Ragged Dick" — the book which catapulted Alger to fame — are prominently displayed at the college.

The effect of all this was to bring Alger alive, for one day at least, although Gardner and Dr. Poste and the other 200 members of the 12-year-old Horatio Alger Society would dearly love to have Feb. 2 mark a permanent resurrection.

The real life Alger was a small (5 feet, 100 pounds) bachelor. He was an honor student at Harvard, a minister for a short time, a teacher, an editor, and a newspaper correspondent. He tutored the Late Sen. Herbert Lehmann for a time, and helped prepare Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo for entrance into Columbia University. He was born in 1832, died in 1899.

From the Regional
1/24/73

He is described by Gardner as a kindly, somewhat timid man.

By chance or fate, Alger invented a character which embodied perfectly some of the prevailing mores of his day. It made him the most widely-read, widely published author in American history. And it made him famous.

More than 70 publishers turned out a reliably estimated 400 million Algers.

His invention was a boy, invincibly, incorrigibly virtuous.

Honesty was not a quality of the Alger heroes. It was mania with them.

Wrapped in layers of virtue, the hero was proof against all villains and catastrophes; he was snug and if the truth be told, a little smug.

Here he is, earning \$4 a week and hitting the boss for a raise: The boss objects, "I only received \$3. I should have felt rich with four."

"Perhaps you did not have a mother to help support," replies our hero.

Here he is, in the new novel, fencing with a villain who is discovered "leaning against the building, a young man of 28, with rakish air, whose mottled face and complexion of an unhealthy red

indicated intemperate habits."

Says our hero, "I am sorry, Mr. Carter, but duty required me to do as I did."

"Duty," sneered Carter. "What an awfully good boy you are."

"Thank you," returned Frank with a smile. "I am afraid I don't deserve the compliment." We know, and Alger knew, and Frank knew that if he didn't deserve the compliment, nobody did.

The Alger style is unmistakable. One of his heroes had "a winning smile that attracted all who saw it, but his face could assume a different expression, if need be." That last "if need be," is pure Alger.

Here is Frank's mother, explaining why she married somebody who is just getting out of Sing-Sing and about to make life miserable for everyone:

"I married him for a home, knowing little about him. He represented himself as a man of means, in the real estate business, and I knew nothing of his intemperate habits. That he had any connection with housebreakers I was entirely ignorant, and the discovery was a great shock to me."

Stilted, yes. But some find it has an odd kind of charm, too.

S. N. Behrman, a playwright of sophisticated comedies, found reading Algers like "taking a shower in sheer innocence."

Gardner greeted his audience Friday with, "A very happy Horatio Alger Day to you all," and said he was pleased to present them with "a very happy subject, because my particular friend Horatio Alger is all fun."

Whether Horatio Alger day, as Garner hopes, also opened "a bold new chapter in American folklore," time will tell.



Horatio Alger Day Set

GENESEO — February 2 will be Horatio Alger Jr. Day in the Village of Geneseo, officially proclaimed as such by the village board.

There are some good reasons why the village trustees should have chosen to honor an author who has been dead for 74 years, several of them having to do with Alger's place in American letters and social history.

The proclamation notes that he is "the most popular American author of all time." More than 400 million copies of his books have been sold.

Also, he "established the Alger hero as part of our tradition," and "indoctrinated generations in the philosophy of 'strive and succeed,' with a lasting effect on the American character."

But beyond the general, there are some specific reasons for the proclamation, which

is only the first of several actions leading up to a kind of one-day Alger explosion.

Around the end of the month, Dr. Leslie Poste of the School of Library and Information Science at Geneseo State College, will place on exhibit some of the choice items from his large Alger collection.

And on Feb. 2 itself, two things will happen — Doubleday and Co. will publish a "new" Alger story, "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," which appeared previously only as a 13-part magazine serial in Alger's lifetime; and Ralph D. Gardner, the world's leading Alger expert and collector, will appear at the college to help celebrate the publication of the novel, and Horatio Alger Jr. Day.

Gardner is the author of the definitive Alger biography and wrote a long preface to the new book.

Gardner Talk Today



HORATIO ALGER, JR.—Supplement to No. 316 of THE ARGOSY.

"HORATIO ALGER, or whom it's all about" will be the subject of Ralph D. Gardner (with pipe) owner of the world's largest collection of Alger's books and stories, at 10 a.m. on Feb. 2 in the School Library, Geneseo College. Gardner, former correspondent for the New York Times heads his own advertising agency. Alger's works are displayed by Col. Leslie Poste and Mayor Scondras proclaims it official. (Alger reproduced from an old print - had more luck with stores than he did with marriage - 3 unhappy ones.)

THE LIVINGSTON REPUBLICAN, GENESEO, N.Y.

— THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 1973

HORATIO ALGER DAY IN GENESEO

"Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era" will be the subject of Ralph D. Gardner, owner of the world's largest collection of Alger's books and stories, at 10 a.m. on February 2 in the School of Library and Information Science Library, State University College of Arts and Science.

Mr. Gardner, first of this semester's speakers in the colloquium series given by the library school, was for 14 years a correspondent for the New York Times and now heads his own advertising agency in New York City.

The Village of Geneseo has issued a proclamation declaring February 2 to be Horatio Alger Day.

Beginning January 31, the Milne Library and the library school library at the College will have displays of Alger's

"Horatio Alger -- The American Hero Era," will be the topic of Ralph D. Gardner, owner of the world's largest collection of Alger's books and stories, in a talk at 10 a.m. on February 2 in the School of Library and Information Science Library.

Mr. Gardner, first of this semester's speakers in the colloquium series given by the library school, was for 14 years a correspondent for the New York Times and now heads his own advertising agency in New York City.

Beginning January 31, the Milne Library and the School of Library & Information Science Library will have displays of Alger's works from the collection of Dr. Leslie Poste.

The date of Mr. Gardner's appearance, February 2, is the date of publication by Doubleday & Company of Horatio Alger's "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" --



Author Ralph D. Gardner

never before issued in book form. The title had been published during 1889-90 as thirteen weekly installments in Frank Munsey's Argosy Magazine.

All are invited most cordially to hear Mr. Gardner.

The Village of Geneseo has issued an official proclamation that February 2nd is Horatio Alger Day.



Ralph D. Gardner

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Proclaimed, that February 2nd is Horatio Alger Day.

'Poste has the largest Alger collection outside New York City, and he hasn't read them all.'

"No one in his right mind would go into the book business!" said Dr. Leslie I. Poste, professor of library and information science at the State University College at Geneseo, as he admitted he's been a book collector for 40 years and "technically a dealer since last May."

(The technicality is that he had never until then advertised in *Bookman's Weekly*, the professional publication that goes to about 6,000 book dealers and collectors.)

As a man who has distinguished himself as a professional librarian, library consultant and educator, Poste's entry in "Who's Who in America" lists a string of honors and prestigious positions.

Immediately after World War II, Poste was the only man in Europe who was both a professional librarian and a U.S. Army officer. He was responsible for the restoration of more than 3 million valuable books and artifacts to the hundreds of European libraries and archives that had been looted by the Nazis.

He met his wife, Virginia, on a blind date in Heidleberg, Germany, in 1946. She was a United Nations child welfare specialist. "Keeper of homeless books marries keeper of homeless children," is the way Poste recalls the subsequent wedding.

Poste is 54, but when he talks about books — and especially when he talks about his Horatio Alger collection — he radiates the enthusiasm of a boy who has captured the biggest bullfrog in the pond.

Poste has laboriously acquired "the largest Alger collection outside of New York City, "but not necessarily the best."

So far, he has 400 copies of 115 different Alger titles. "Only 83 more titles to go," he commented cheerfully as he hefted a stack of books with the loving grace he has acquired over the years since he first went to work in the Detroit Public Library at age 13.

Alger published about three novels a year between "Bertha's Christmas Vision" in 1856 and "Robert Coverdale's Struggle or, On the Wave of Success" in 1910.

"A specialist, if he ever acquires everything, must switch," Poste said. And when he possesses all the titles, he will concentrate on getting the first editions of each title.

Why does Poste collect Alger books? It started by "accident," he said, when



Dr. Leslie I. Poste hefts stack of Horatio Alger books.

he sorted his first "five or six Algers out of a motley collection of books."

"Some people are satisfied to borrow a book from the library, read it and return it. Obviously, I'm not."

So far he hasn't read all of his Alger books, he admitted. "I don't have the time to read each and every title, to look at it in terms of literary effort."

Early in 1971, Poste was sorting through books that had been sent to him in response to an advertisement. "I reached into a box and pulled out what in effect is a plum."

The plum was a first edition copy of "Ragged Dick or, Street Life in New York with the Boot-Blacks" published in 1869.

"That's the one that made Alger popular, famous, and the one for which he's best remembered," Poste said. "There are only 12 known copies — fewer than the existing copies of the Gutenberg Bible, although the Bible is more sought-after. To a bibliophile, this is an exciting discovery."

One of the other 11 copies of the book was sold at auction for \$210 recently. "But this I will never dispose of," Poste exulted as he caressed the book's cover. "You might say it's a trophy of the chase."

Dr. Poste, who lives at 4222 Lakeville Road (Rte. 20A) in Geneseo, buys and sells books by mail order. He does not operate a bookstore. Serious book collectors may make an appointment to see books he has on hand.

Upstate

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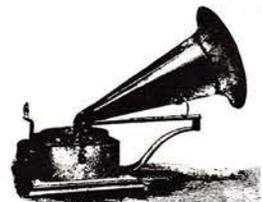
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Sunday

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2/UPSTATE/Sunday, Jan. 28, 1973



DEAN DUNHAM

As read by Dave Kanarr (PF314)

"Dean Dunham of The Waterford Mystery" was first published as a serial in 1888 by Golden Argosy. Page numbers used in this report refer to the Berkeley Series edition published by the American Publishers Corporation.

The hero of our story is Dean Dunham. Dean is sixteen years old and is "a broad-shouldered, strongly built boy, with a frank, open countenance and red cheeks." Dean lives with his Aunt Sarah and Uncle Adin Dunham in the small village of Waterford some fifty miles from the city of New York. Uncle Adin is a poor, part-time carpenter and farmer.

The major villain of our story is "Squire" Renwick Bates. Squire Bates poses as a respectable country lawyer. His "face had a singularly disagreeable expression, especially when he smiled, for then he showed his long white teeth, which, as Mrs. Dunham expressed it, were like the fangs of a wild beast." (page 16) The squire holds the mortgage on the Dunham domicile in the amount of \$800.

Through the sale of some inherited property, heretofore considered of little value, Uncle Adin has come into the small fortune of a \$1,000. Squire Bates, disguised as a tramp, robs him of the money; but is recognized in the process because of his "long tusk-like teeth." "Why, it's Squire Bates!" says Mr. Dunham and loses consciousness. (Page 41 excerpt) "Confusion!" muttered the tramp. "Why did I open my mouth?" (End excerpt) But Squire Bates need not have worried because nobody will believe Uncle Adin's story, including his own wife who thinks his "mind is un-hinged" when he tells her who robbed him. Dean finds some corroborative evidence that Mr. Bates really is the thief but due to the squire's respectable reputation in Waterford, our hero decides to wait until he can secure more substantial proof of the villain's guilt.

The squire has a wife and son, both of whom are ignorant of the knowledge that their bread-winner is a professional thief. Brandon Bates, the son (who is also cursed with tusk-like teeth), quickly proves that he is one of the "baddies" in the story by putting on airs. To further display his despicableness, Brandon plays a dirty trick on Tommy Boyle, a ten year old friend of Dean's. Our hero rescues the lad, thus incurring the wrath of Brandon against Dean for spoiling his fun.

Squire Bates is the "Captain"¹ of a den of thieves. He took the risk of robbing Adin Dunham right in his own backyard out of sheer greed. But now, worried that Dean may suspect him, he hatches a scheme to get our hero in trouble and thus out of the way. Therefore Alger intro-

duces villain number two; Mr. Peter Kirby, a prominent member of the squire's gang. (Page 83 excerpt) "... a man with very dark hair and a sallow complexion. He was of medium size, and had a cast in one eye which gave a sinister expression to his face." (end excerpt) Villain number one, Bates, persuades villain number two, Kirby, to "hire" our hero as his personal secretary, take him on a long journey far from Waterford, then get him in such terrible trouble that he would be ashamed to return home. The innocent hero is hired and Kirby attempts to carry out his boss's bidding with some success. Mr. Alger, in the telling of how it all came to pass, includes visits to New York, Boston and Chicago. And tells how Dean discovers that his employer is a thief when he eavesdrops on his conversation with a confederate; and tells how our hero finds written proof that further incriminates Renwick Bates when he finds a letter carelessly dropped by Peter Kirby;

Mr. Alger also includes the following Arithmetic lesson (page 137):

"Four dollars and a quarter per share. How much would that be on two hundred shares?"

"Eight hundred and fifty dollars."

"Correct! I see you are quick at figures. Now, even if I sell at eighteen, and I am certain to get that, I should make a very tidy profit. Let me see, it would foot up thirty-six hundred dollars - a profit of twenty-seven hundred, allowing the extra fifty for broker's commission."

And on page 117 is found this description of the plot of a play seen by our hero while in New York:

"The play continued, and ended at last to the satisfaction of Dean, who saw all the bad characters visited with retribution, while oppressed innocence and virtue attained happiness and peace."

Perhaps it is Mr. Alger's capsule formula for his stories?

Dean is finally discharged by Kirby on a trumped up charge of stealing his employer's pocketbook and he finds himself stranded out West, some twelve hundred miles from home, with only sixty-seven cents in his pockets. But almost immediately good fortune smiles on our hero when he meets an actor named Cecil Montgomery. It is then revealed that Dean is a talented harmonica player, a fact that has been a well kept secret from the reader til now, and the two put together an act that packs in the country folk from one village to the next. This enterprise pays very well but ends all too soon when Mr. Montgomery must return home.

Our hero gets one more engagement for which he is paid \$5 and incidentally gets a chance to reveal his prowess on the baseball diamond. He also encounters the villainous Mr. Kirby again and is instrumental in foiling his attempt at burglarizing the home of Dr. Sidney Thorp who rewards

con't on page 8

our hero with a small gold watch and chain. Here Mr. Alger introduces the name Henry Thorp, Dr. Thorp's nephew, who is mining out in Colorado, and your reader says to himself, "aha! We shall see this Henry Thorp later on in the story and he will do our hero a good turn . . ." But such is not the case, for as we shall see, Alger doesn't need any such obvious tie-in to get our hero on the road to wealth. No more is heard about Henry Thorp, so why Alger ever put in his name at all will always remain a mystery to your reader, unless, just perhaps, he had just such an intention as surmised and then forgot all about it, thus then having to invent the two free-handed miners whom we shall soon meet.

Dean just can't seem to keep away from Mr. Kirby and once again falls into his clutches. Kirby and Dan, another one of the gang, kidnap Dean and make him a prisoner in their underground hide-out. Dean finds a treasure chest full of the robber band's stolen money: however he evidently doesn't gain from this discovery as the treasure's disposition is not mentioned throughout the remainder of the story. The reason I mention the chest at all is that it plays an instrumental part in one of those amazing coincidences that recur so often in Alger's stories. When Dean finds the chest, it is locked. Our hero just happens to have a loose key in his pocket and by "extraordinary chance" (page 218) his one and only key fits the lock! Dean bribes his negro guard, Pompey, giving him his harmonica in order to obtain his freedom.

Perhaps because Dean doesn't receive any material benefits from his discovery of the robbers' loot, or possibly because Mr. Alger forgot about Dr. Thorp's mining nephew, Henry; our hero is reduced to accepting a magnificent gift for having done no more than being at the right place at the right time. While lost in the woods he meets two very generous miners; Ben Rawson and Ebenezer Jones. Each one gives him one of their claims and they make him a partner. As one "free-handed" miner puts it, he wants to "share and share alike." Alger explains it thusly; "The wild, free life of the West had opened their hearts and made them generous." (Page 230, 231) Before settling down to the back-breaking work of mining though, there is yet another encounter with the crafty Kirby. (I hope you are keeping track because I've lost count . . .) Kirby and Dan just happen along; they didn't even know that Dean had escaped; and they attempt to make him their captive again, but our hero's newly found partners dissuade them and the villains leave discomfited.

After six months of mining for gold, the partners settle up and Dean finds that he is now worth \$3,000 including \$2,000 he got for the sale of his two gift claims, which same \$2,000 he invests in Denver real estate.

Meanwhile, back at the old homestead, Squire Bates is threatened to foreclose the mortgage and the folks are worried.

And back in Denver, Mr. Peter Kirby, makes his final appearance in our story. This time he attempts to rob Dean and Mr. Rawson and is not only foiled once again, but captured by our friends. It is interesting to note that like any good lieutenant, Kirby emulates his Captain even in his speech (excerpt page 259):

"Confusion!" muttered the thief . . . dropping his booty . . . (end excerpt). In trade for his release, Kirby gives Dean a sworn statement that Bates stole Mr. Dunham's \$1,000.

This book is one of the rarer Algers in that the final chapter is not entitled "Conclusion." Instead, it is called "The Clouds Roll By" (Page 167). First, Dean shares some of his new wealth with an old acquaintance, Guy Gladstone who has met with ill-fortune. Then our hero returned to Waterford via New York, where he bought a cheap suit so as not to give away the fact of his altered financial circumstances prematurely; for that would spoil all the fun when he confounds the dastardly villain and his spoiled son by returning (Behold!) rich! In Waterford, our hero confronts Squire Bates when he comes to foreclose the mortgage. With the proof of the squire's guilt, Dean forces him to pay up the mortgage himself with the stolen money and to give him the 200 left over.

Inexplicably, Dean doesn't let his uncle in on the fact that he has proof of Bates' guilt, but he does give him the \$200 balance of his stolen fortune. Dean doesn't tell his aunt either, but then maybe he didn't know she thought her husband's mind was "un-hinged" because he thought the good squire stole his money. But he does give his aunt \$500. Nor does Dean, for some reason known only to himself, expose Bates' true character to his fellow villagers or to the law. It is possible he does not want the reputation of being a squealer, but this is only supposition. It is all academic in any event, because Squire Bates ends up incarcerated in a "Western prison" as our favorite author ties up the loose ends.

Dean returned to Denver where he sold off his real estate, doubling his money on the investment. Alger tells us that our hero "entered business" there, but just what business that may have been is a mystery. However, we may rest assured that Dean succeeded in whatever endeavor he undertook.

Finally there is this encounter as told on page 275 (excerpt):

" . . . Dean, while leaving the Denver postoffice, was accosted by a shabbily dressed young man who asked for assistance.

Con't on page 9

"Are you not Brandon Bates?" asked Dean after a brief glance.

Brandon was about to hurry away, but Dean detained him. "Don't go," he said. "I am glad to help you," and he placed two gold eagles in the hands of the astonished Brandon.

"Come to me again if you are in need," said Dean in a friendly manner.

"Thank you! I didn't expect this from you," said Brandon. "I thought you would triumph over me."

"If I did I should show myself unworthy of the good fortune that has come to me. I wish you good luck."

That was the last Dean has seen of Brandon. Let us hope that he will deserve good luck, and attain it. (End excerpt)

Perhaps this last sentence explains all of Alger's heroes' uncanny good luck; they deserve it.

-the end-

DEAN DUNHAM – List of Characters
In order of appearance

NAME	Page No.	Description, Relationship, etc.
Sarah Dunham	5	Dean Dunham's aunt
Adin Dunham	5	Dean Dunham's uncle, a carpenter
Uncle Dan	6	Adin Dunham's uncle (deceased)
Mr. Gould	7,10	Neighbor to the Dunhams; owns horse named "Captain"
Dean Dunham	7	Our Hero
Renwick Bates	8,16	The "squire" of Waterford; the "Captain" of a robber band; the principal villain
Brandon Bates	8	The Squire's snobbish son
Mrs. Bates	15	The Squire's wife
Tommy Boyle	20	Ten year old rescued by our hero
Mr. Pray	28	The village constable
Thomas Marks	32	Real estate agent
Mrs. Gould	43	Neighbor Gould's wife
Sam Bunting	68	Half-wit; "goodnatured butt of the village"
John Roberts	81	A shoemaker; prospective employer of our hero
Peter Kirby	83,84	A villain who gets agound; one of the "Captain's" thieves
Guy Gladstone	101-103	Young friend of our hero (met on way to New York)
Mr. Pringle	113	Another of the "Captain's" gang
Dan	120	Young book salesman
Mr. Johnson	124	Steamer passenger
Mr. Margrave	124	One of Kirby's victims (watch stolen)
Mr. Lynx	126,127	Detective
Cecil Montgomery	147,148	An actor; friend – in need
Samuel Gunnison	166,167	A chance employer of our hero
Gus Gunnison	169	Who finds our hero is proficient at baseball (Sam Gunnison's son)
Dr. Sidney Thorp	172	A wealthy gentleman; bestows gold watch as reward
Henry Thorp	187	Nephew to Dr. Thorp (An Alger Red Herring?)
Dan	192,196	Western member of the "Captain's" robber band (Dan's mother is "introduced" on page 188 but is not named)

Pompey	212,222	Our hero's "sable custodian"; another gang member
Ben Rawson	225,226	A "free-handed" miner; our hero's chief benefactor
Ebenezer Jones	225,226	Ben Rawson's mining partner

Place names found in "Dean Dunham"

Rockmount	6	10 miles from Waterford; boasts a bank
Waterford	10	Village 50 miles from New York; our hero's home town
Oakford	114	Alger error; should be Waterford
Clifton, Iowa	139	"A small town"
Granville	147	Western Village where our hero made his debut as musician; 1,200 miles from Waterford
Cameron	163	A town 20 miles from Granville
Carterville	164,167	A small town in Missouri
Gilpin County	238	Location of Dean's mining claims (in Colorado?)

"Captain" is not only Mr. Bates' title as used by his robber band but also the name of the horse that was pulling the wagon carrying Uncle Adin when he was robbed.

From the Feb. 3, 1973 issue of THE DETROIT FREE PRESS.

Alger Writes Again

"Frank Manton," 16, is a lowly and impoverished office boy who lives with his mother in a miserable New York tenement. He is courageous, modest, ambitious and completely honest.

Given such virtues, Frank manages to foil a robbery, return a lost wallet to its owner and rescue the kidnaped child of a banker. He gets a \$10,000 reward and a promising job at the bank.

Horatio Alger story? Yes. In fact, it actually was written by Horatio Alger at least 84 years ago but was never published in book form.

The book, "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," is being released Friday by Doubleday & Co. Inc. in a publishing coup that will give American readers the first new Alger book to be released since 1910.

Alger, a New England-born clergyman's son whose rags-to-riches stories made him one of the widest read American authors, first wrote "Silas Snobden" for serialization in Argosy magazine of 1889 to 1890.

In 1891 book rights for the manuscript were sold to United States Book Co., one of more than five dozen publishers who handled Alger's prolific output. The company went bankrupt the same year and the manuscript, never used except as a serial, slipped into obscurity and eventually became part of the public domain.

Its revival is the result of collaboration between Doubleday editor Bill Henderson and Ralph Gardner, a former New York times reporter and Alger scholar who owns the largest Known collection of Alger books and stories.

* * * * *

If you know of someone that might be interested in HAS send their name and address to me and I will see that they get a copy of NEWSBOY and an application blank.

Carl Hartmann

New York Newsboys

F. M. Lupton's, Leisure Hour Library, Vol. III, No. 238,
April 13, 1889. No author given.

from bob bennett

The newsboys of New York are the strangest part of our population. They are like little rats or foxes. Their origin is easy to get at; they are the children of love, of paupers, of vagabonds, and of squalid tenement districts. Thousands either have no homes or else don't go to them, but live in lodgings, newsboys' homes, and in wagons, garrets, cellars, and the general poke holes of the city. The bootblacks are their brothers and chums, and live in the same way. They all smoke - either stumps, picked up, or cigarettes at two for a cent. Their stoves are the gratings over boilers under the streets; their dissipation is attendance of the galleries of the cheapest variety shows; their best fun is found in fighting.

"They are wild beasts", said the clerk in a publication office of a newspaper the other day. "They are devoid of affection and gratitude. They swear at you if you speak kindly to them, run away from you if you offer them advice, jeer at you if you are well dressed and pass a group of them. If we take pity on them and invite them into the press room in cold weather, they break the windows, hack the wood-work, and even go so far as to take stone or weights and break the heaviest iron work. While they wait in the office to buy papers they dig trenches in the counters with the steel pens and break the holders in two. One day one of the clerks gave one of these boys a good derby hat that he had tired of. Another clerk asked the boy why he did not say 'Thank you.' 'A-a-a-h,' the boy replied, 'go chuck your mother overboard.' 'What are you going to do with the hat?' the clerk asked. 'Sell it in Baxter Street for fifteen cents,' he replied, 'and play cruso wid the money.'"

**YOUR SECOND CHANCE TO ORDER
ALGER BIBLIOGRAPHY AT
SPECIAL LOW PRICE**

Ken Butler's Wayside Press offers members of the Horatio Alger Society a second (and perhaps last) chance to buy copies of "Road to Success; The Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger" - Ralph Gardner's 1972 Newsboy Award-winning book - at the special members only price of \$6.00 per copy, postpaid. The 160 page, illustrated paperback volume regularly sells for \$9.50.

This offer is made especially for new members who joined since the book was published last year, and also for others who want additional copies for personal use, gifts, swapping or resale.

As this limited edition is currently a steady seller, we wish to remind Partic'lar Friends that, once out of print, it will become a high-priced collectors item. Anyone who today trying to obtain Ralph's earlier Wayside book, "Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era," knows what prices they must now pay for it (it's been catalogued and sold at as high as \$38.00 and \$42.00 for a used copy).

"Road to Success", which describes Alger's first editions as well as listing short stories, poems, etc., gives all updated cash values. It is a must for all collectors, librarians and booksellers.

Payment for the number of copies desired should be sent directly to: Ken Butler, Wayside Press, 1501 Washington Road, Mendota, Illinois, 61342.

BOOK REVIEW

By Ralph D. Gardner

In a recent article I wrote "the American idea of success wasn't invented by Horatio Alger. It probably arrived with the first settlers and was later publicized by Benjamin Franklin . . ."

A new book, written by a scholar with outstanding credentials, now provides us with a marvelous account of just how much these men contributed, along with in-depth views of most of our nation's famed and some not-so-well-known expositors of the strive-and-succeed and risen-from-the-ranks credo.

The book is "The American Idea of Success," a big, 563 page volume published by McGraw-Hill for \$10.00. The author, Richard M. Huber, is a writer and educator who is Dean of the School of General Studies at Hunter College, New York. His section of Alger, alone, is worth the price!

Dean Huber presents a careful evaluation of Alger, his works and of a number of writings on Alger. Of the Mayes effort - which, for years has confused and mis-directed Alger researchers - Huber comments: "He based important parts of the biography on Alger's private diary, which would have been revealing, except it was Mayes, not Alger, who wrote Alger's diary."

Fortunately, Richard Huber has dug for his facts, not only on Alger, but also for chapters on Cotton Mather, William Holmes McGuffey (of Eclectic Readers fame), Henry Ward Beecher, Timothy Shay Arthur, William M. Thayer, Russell Conwell, P. T. Barnum, Elbert Hubbard, Bruce Barton, Dale Carnegie and dozens more.

The author describes the modus operandi of these high priests of the success formula, along with a fine set of his own conclusions.

This is a book Horatio, himself, would have enjoyed! It's a winner that belongs on every Alger collector's shelf.

Some of the Alger Reprints

By Jack, R. Schorr (PF-342)

Being a "Johnny come lately" as an Alger collector with hardly a first edition to his name, but with numerous reprints in fine condition, I thought I would write about some of the common reprints. Some of these are very attractive books and are an asset to any shelf. I like the series by John C. Winston Co. with the colored plates, and bound in light colored bindings with a boy on the spine, all uniform. I was fortunate to find a gang of these all in fine condition which look great in a long row on the shelf. These were well bound, quality paper and linen boards.

Hurst reprints differ greatly as to quality of binding and paper. So many have the poorer quality paper which yellows rapidly and becomes brittle, although the bindings are attractive. These usually are embossed boards. Then Hurst published some with ribbed covers, and better quality paper, snow white and heavy. These are quite a heavy book in comparison with other Hurst editions.

One in particular is "Adrift in New York", published by Hurst. A grey binding, gold lettering with a boy in black trousers and red sweater sitting tailor-fashion, reading a book in an oval of gold on the cover. I was surprised

the quality of gold used, because it is still very bright and sharp. Inscription in front shows it may have been printed in 1911 per presentation. Another Hurst & Co. is one with their common illustration on the cover, of a lad sitting on a fence with a dog sleeping at his feet, with the city skyline in the background. This book is cloth on boards, pink with sharp gold on the spine, black lettering, entitled "Bound to Rise". I mention this book or edition because it weighs almost twice as much as another copy with the same title, by Hurst. Of course the paper is very good quality and that makes a difference.

The Mershon Company did a nice job with their reprints, using quality paper and linen cloth bindings. John C. Winston Co. published a group of Alger's with illustrated oval on the cover, with one colored frontispiece.

Then Winston put out a cheaper edition with a messenger boy with letters in his hand on a red cover and a boy with a knap sack over his right shoulder on the spine. The paper used was poor and yellowed readily and early after publication.

For those of you who have some of the navy blue bindings by Hurst with gold lettering and the covers are a little dull, I have found that by taking a small amount of vaseline and rubbing it in on the entire cover and spine with a piece of soft cloth, like toweling, it restores the binding bright again. This I have done to several, only those with dark bindings, not on the light ones, with good results.

While I am on the subject of care of books, I would like to caution the sealing of books in plastic bags. The temperature changes in a room can and does cause moisture to be trapped inside plastic bags and you will find after some months of use that the glue on the spine becomes loosened. This is where the entire book is encased. I do use baggies, but always leave the bottom open to prevent this and I don't use them where the books are large, thus making a snug fit. I only use baggies that do not fit snug. You can buy books covers, single sheets of acetone which cover the spine and sides and folds inside to hold a regular book jacket for \$.10 a piece if bought in quantities. These are far superior to baggies and no chance of trapped moisture.

There are many of the nicer reprints like Winston Library Editions with original plates, Coates, Penn Publishing Co., etc., which I did not cover in this article. I covered a little about the common reprints which every boy at the turn of the century was familiar with.

Maybe my fortunes will change and I will write an article on Lorings, first hand, who knows?

The following clipping was sent to us by VP Jack Bales. It is from the Nov. 21, 1972 issue of the Northern Iowan, the paper of the University of Northern Iowa. Aurand Harris won the Newsboy Award for this play.

"Rags To Riches"

"Rags to Riches," a young People's Play by Aurand Harris, will be presented in the UNI Auditorium on Friday, December 8, and Saturday, December 9.

The play is a musical melodrama which takes place in New York in the 1860's. It portrays the experiences of **Ragged Dick**, a poor shoeshine boy, his friend **Mark the Matchboy**, and **Mother Watson**, Mark's guardian. Ragged Dick meets a banker who decides to help him become successful. The banker enlists Dick's aid in finding his lost nephew for a large reward.

There will be lots of action for young people so bring a young friend. Performances will be held in the Main Auditorium Friday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, December 9 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for 60 cents each. Group rates are available: call 273-6306 for information.

CAST LIST

RAGS TO RICHES

Policeman: **Terry Vik**
 Ragged Dick: **Jay Stoutner**
 Mickey Maguire: **Tom Keegan**
 Mark the Matchboy: **Bob Shifflet**
 Mr. Greyson: **John Zickefoose**
 Mrs. Flanagan: **Jane Ryan**
 Mother Watson: **Sara Moser**
 Roswell: **Tom Reifschneider**
 Ida Greyson: **Virginia Railsback**
 Rich Man: **Gregory Naughton**
 Rich Lady: **Ellen Redding**

Rich Little Girl: **Sal Gordon**
 Carolers: **Carol LeBeau, Laurie Price, Gregory Naughton**
 Dancers: **Jeff Kint, Janeen Schlotfelt**
 Lamplighter: **Jeff Kint**
 Firemen: **Pauline Drobney, Jeff Kint, Janeen Schlotfelt**
 Pianist: **Robbin Hahn**
 Directed by **Sharon Williams**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Bob Bennett



Congratulations are in order for PF-238, Bill Henderson for his efforts in getting "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" published in book form. I am particularly pleased to note the widespread publicity this important publishing event has received. My local radio station called me and requested an interview regarding the occasion and several area newspapers carried the story. Yes, Horatio is alive and well and living in America.

Accolades should also go to PF-334, Les Poste, for his promotion of this important event and particularly for getting his home locale of Geneseo, New York, to proclaim the day of publication as "Horatio Alger Day". PF-053, Ralph Gardner, recognized Alger authority and biographer added prestige to the occasion by delivering a lecture at Geneseo State College.

I finished last year with a bang - fell on the ice on December 29 and broke an ankle. I hope to be back among the walking by the time you read this. This has slowed my Alger hunting somewhat but the mails have been generous and I've managed to add a few items.

I have obtained a full run of "The Boy's Home Weekly" and can report that the series contains 33 Alger stories. The remaining seven stories include five by Oliver Optic and one each by G.A. Henty and Cap't Frederic Marryat. Those of you who are collecting all title variations will be interested to know that number five of this series is one of the few sources of the complete title, "Grit, or, The Young Boatman of Pine Point". Each number is a complete story in itself. The first one, "Driven From Home", was issued on May 17, 1911 and originally sold for 5¢.

Another interesting item I have recently acquired is a paperback published by Donohue. I have long wondered whether or not the Donohue paperbacks actually existed as I had never seen one. I can now report that they do in fact, exist and that there are fifty titles numbered consecutively from 1-50.

Following are listed those titles of which I am aware of only one form of publication. Readers who know of additional

publishers or formats are encouraged to notify me. I hope to make this type of information available each month in my column. Titles must appear on the cover of the book or at the beginning of a serialization exactly as listed. The list does not include those 25 titles that appeared only in serial form, nor does it include those titles that were published only in the Garfield editions.

1. Abraham Lincoln, The Backwoods Boy - John R. Anderson & Henry S. Allen, 1883 (No. 2 of "The Boyhood and Manhood Series of Illustrious Americans".
2. Ben Barclay's Courage - Street & Smith, Brave and Bold Series, No. 105, Dec. 24, 1904.
3. The Disagreeable Woman - G. W. Dillingham, 1895 (by Julian Starr)
4. Finding a Fortune - Penn, 1904
5. Forging Ahead - Penn, 1903
6. Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving -- Loring, 1875
7. Making His Mark - Penn, 1901
8. Mark Mason - Hurst (1907)
9. Mark Mason's Trials and Triumphs - Donohue (1911)
10. Mark Mason's Triumph - New York Book Co. 1909
11. Nothing to Do - James French & Co., 1857
12. The Nugget Finders - John F. Shaw (1894)
13. The Young Boatman - Penn, 1892

Doubtful titles for which no publisher is known are: "The District Telegraph Boy"; "\$500"; and "The Young Boatman of Pine Point". Does anybody have anything on these?

Next month, I will include any new information uncovered and will list those titles appearing in two different forms of publication.

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Ralph Gardner reports that "Silas is on its way toward selling out before publication day and will probably go into a second edition before that date. (Feb. 3)

**CONVENTION**  
**MAY 11, 12, 13**