

# newsboy



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

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

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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

# CONVENTION MAY 11, 12, 13 RECORD TURNOUT EXPECTED

## AT

# INDIANAPOLIS

*Broad Ripple  
Village*

*"500"*

**BOOK  
SALES**

**TOURS**

Dear Partic'lar Friend:

The Annual Convention of the Horatio Alger Society will be held at the Ramada Inn, 3525 North Shadeland Ave. (Highway 100), Indianapolis, Indiana on May 11, 12, & 13, 1973.

Every effort is being put forth to make the 1973 Convention the largest and best meeting possible. Arrangements have been made to provide a program and entertainment that will make the gathering most pleasant and enjoyable to all attending.

It is hoped that you may be able to attend the Convention and enjoy the fellowship of a large number of your partic'lar friends in the Horatio Alger Society.

Hoping to see you at the Convention, I am,

Cordially,

Paul L. House PF-99  
Convention Chairman

# SWAPING

## 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
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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.



#### REPORT ON PF GEORGE CLARKE

George has been operated on and they found it necessary to remove the left leg below the knee. He has come thru beautifully and understand with an artificial limb he should be able to get along real well.

At 85 George is an inspiration to everyone and the nurses remark that he is "really something".

His present address is:  
Cranston General Hospital  
1763 Broad St.  
Cranston, R. I.

Keep the mail coming to him as he sure looks forward to it all.

Doris Clarke Howland (daughter)

By Gary V. Lemon (PF-313)  
Captain, USA

In the February issue of Newsboy, our society's Vice President wrote a brief essay on "work ethic". I believe that Mr. Bales implies that Horatio Alger was a believer in the "Protestant work ethic" and that this ethic equated happiness and money. Developing this idea further, Mr. Bales states that the motivation of all Alger heroes was the almighty dollar and that happiness to an Alger hero meant being wealthy.

Today's youth, the author believes, puts job satisfaction before money and therefore they differ from the Protestant ethic and Alger's heroes.

The notion that Horatio Alger was the spokesman for the idea that money equals success and that anyone who works enough can achieve success, i.e. wealth, is not new. It is however, a false notion. The Alger heroes never were the ones who worshipped money. As a matter of fact, it was often the villain, a rich nasty uncle, the village squire, the tramp on the road, or the wicked step-mother, to whom the dollar was an end in itself. It is a constantly recurring theme in Alger stories that obtaining money for its own sake is evil.

On the converse, did Alger write about rich men who were good; who were content and fulfilled? Hardly an Alger hero exists who does not owe a debt of gratitude to some kindly rich person who had faith in his ability helped him along the way. It is obvious then that I did not believe that a rich man was a bad man.

Can you draw any conclusion then about what importance Alger placed on money? We have already seen that money could be used for good or for evil, at least that is the way Alger writes about it. But is it the end for which we should strive? The answer Alger gives is NO. Alger villains, not the heroes, are invariably the characters who seek happiness through money.

Money does have a special place, however, in Alger's writings. I believe he used money to show character in his boys' books. How often is money used as a test of character in an Alger situation? How you use and accumulate wealth is much more important than the mere possession of money.

Before concluding I have one additional point to make. I concede that Alger did believe that anyone can achieve success provided he works hard for it. But this success has to be defined. Alger heroes, you must keep in mind, were unusually lucky; they were often stronger physically than their contemporaries; many times they revealed high academic achievement. In short, they were the raw material out of which the titans of the business world arose. What pinnacle of success did Alger have in mind for those other boys who were slow of mind, weak physically, extremely unlucky? Did he believe that these boys could also be titans of business through luck and pluck? I do not think he did. Alger, I believe, thought that success for these lads was at a lower level in society. Perhaps some

## H.A.S. THE BOOK MART



The following are available from:

Edwin M. Gross  
529 Carolina Street  
Charleston, W.Va. 25311

All the following are \$2.00 ea. PP

Driven from Home	Don.
Grit the Young Boatman	Don.
Paul Prescott's Charge	Burt
Andy Gordon	Don.
Young Acrobat	Don.
Risen from the Ranks	Hurst
Try and Trust	Burt
Joe's Luck	Don.
Julius the Street Boy	Don.
Facing the World	Hurst
Brave & Bold	N.Y.B.
Harry Vane	N.Y.B.
Young Adventurer	N.Y.B.
Adrift in New York	Goldsmith
Bob Burton	World Syn.
Ralph Raymond's Heir	Don.
The Store Boy	Hurst
The Cash Boy	Hurst

\*\*\*\*\*

Chet Kennedy  
81 Pinnacle Rd.  
Plainville, Conn. 06062

Joe the Hotel Boy G & D \$12.50 PP

\*\*\*\*\*

Dick Seddon  
4 Edgewater Place  
Winchester, Mass. 01890

Adrift in New York	Don.	F.	2.50
Andy Gordon	Don.	F.	2.50
Andy Gordon	Burt	E.	4.00
Andy Gordon	N.Y.B.	G.	3.00
Andy Grants Pluck	Sup.	F.	2.00
Bob Burton	N.Y.B.	G.	3.00
Bound to Rise	Goldsmith	G	3.00
Brave & Bold	World	G	3.00
Brave & Bold	Gold.	G	3.00
Do & Dare	World	F	1.00
Facing the World	Gold.	G	3.00
Facing the World	N.Y.B.	G	2.00
Harry Vane	Don.	F-G	2.50
Hectors Inheritance	Don.	G	2.50
Herbert Carters Legacy	Hurst	P	2.00
Herbert Carters Legacy	N.Y.B.	G	3.00

Jacks Ward	N.Y.B	G	3.00
Joes Luck	Hurst	G	4.00
Making His Way	Gold	G	3.00
Only an Irish Boy	Don	G	4.00
Only an Irish Boy	Hurst	G	4.00
Paul the Peddler	N.Y.B.	G	3.00
Phil the Fiddler	N.Y.B.	P	1.00
Ralph Raymonds Heir	Hurst	G	4.00
Sink or Swim	Sup.	F	2.00
Sink or Swim	Burt	P	1.00
Slow and Sure	Don.	G	3.00
Strive and Succeed	N.Y.B	F-G	2.00
Strong & Steady	Don.	F	3.00
The Telegraph Boy	N.Y.B.	G	3.00
Tom the Bootblack	Trade	G	4.00
Tony the Hero	Burt	F	4.00
Try and Trust	N.Y.B.	F-G	2.00
The Young Adventurer	Don.	F	1.00
The Young Adventurer	N.Y.B.	F-G	2.00
The Young Acrobat	Hurst	G	5.00
The Young Outlaw	N.Y.B	G	2.00
The Young Salesman	Hurst	F	3.00

All post paid and returnable.

\*\*\*\*\*

Carl G. Person  
% Carl's Book Store  
945 Broadway  
Tacoma, Wa. 98403

The Boy's Home Weekly - 5/17/11 thru 1/17/12  
30 complete Alger novels, four by Oliver Optic  
and one by Capt. Marryat. Complete list of  
titles and dates in Newsboy, Oct. 1971, or  
you may write for copy. Good to very Good  
condition. \$175.00 PPD. Insured, returnable.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dan Fuller  
520 Hance Ave.  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Adrift in New York	Hurst	F	2.00
Driven from Home	Mershon	F	3.25
Facing the World	Burt	G	2.50
In a New world	Hurst	G	2.75
Jack's Ward	Winston	G	3.25
Julius the Street Boy	Hurst	G	2.50
Shifting for Himself	Winston	Exc.	4.00
The Store Boy	Hurst	G	2.75
THE WESTERN BOY	Carleton	F	99.00

The following are all paperbacks (Street and  
Smith Alger Series). As such, there are tears  
in the covers in some cases, some back covers  
off, some front covers loose or missing. All  
these are noted.

Adrift in the City	Cover loose, No BC	2.00
Andy Gordon	no cover	1.00

Con't on page 4

Con't from page #3

DAN FULLER CON't

Ben Bruce	Good	7.00
Ben Logan's Triumph	Good Tear on C.	7.50
Bob Burton	No C or BC	1.00
Facing the World	Fair Tears on C.	2.50
Falling in with Fortune	no C or BC.	4.50
From Farm Boy to Senator	C loose G	6.00
From Farm to Fortune	Good Plus	8.00
Joe the Hotel Boy	Good plus	8.00
Lost at Sea	No C or BC	4.50
Randy of the River	Good Tear on sp. no BC	6.50
Tom Brace	Very good	8.00
Tom Temple's Career	Fair tear on C no BC	6.50
Tony the Tramp	cover gone, BC loose	2.00
The Train Boy	no cover	1.50
Wait and Hope	No cover	1.50
The Young Book Agent	Good tear on C	7.00
Young Captain Jack	No cover	5.00
The Young Musician	No back cover	7.00

Or the whole group of paperbacks for \$65.00.

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Gary Lemon - Con't from page #2

would be school teachers, some blacksmiths, others farmers. All successful in their own way but not all titans of industry and business, and not all rich. Were they happy? Yes, I believe they were.

Since these other non-hero Alger characters could achieve happiness without wealth, at the same time that the heroes achieved happiness as well as riches, what was Alger's measure or definition of success? I believe that it was his intention to lead boys to self-fulfillment by motivating them to do the best they possibly could, all the while living up to the golden rule and the commandments of the Bible. In this way, any boy could achieve happiness by setting realistic goals for his life and then accomplishing them in a Christian manner.

What I am saying in essence is that Alger also believed that happiness was more important than money. This is the same philosophy that Mr. Bales correctly attributes to today's young people. I must conclude therefore, that Alger was not an apologist for the Protestant work ethic. More realistically, he should probably be seen as an exponent of an American work ethic, which was forged out of the pioneering spirit of early settlers in America and refined as the years progress. This American work ethic still exists. It is very much alive today and one of its basic tenets is that happiness is not a dollar; rather it is self-fulfillment. Alger isn't so out of date after all.

NOTES FROM RALPH



Shortly after my December column appeared in this space—that's the one in which I urged all Partic'lar Friends to badger their Senators and Representatives to get moving on the issuance of a Horatio Alger commemorative stamp—I picked up some very interesting information on that subject. It was in the form of a letter to the editor in one of my favorite publications, Antiquarian Bookman, written by Herman Herst, Jr., who has long been known as an outstanding authority on everything concerning philately. Mr. Herst, who has had experience in this line, wrote the following (which, I believe, can also be of use to us in our Alger stamp project):

"New stamps are selected by the Postal Service, ostensibly on recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Board to the Postmaster General, U. S. Postal Service, Washington. They meet once a month, sift out the suggestions (they get perhaps 10,000 a year) and recommend. . . Actually, their recommendations mean little. Stamps are ordered according to their political clout. A Republican Administration will put out a Taft. . . Then the Demos come in and put out one for Al Smith. . . On these the orders come from high up on the committee—and they accede. Occasionally their own suggestions are followed, not often.

"Almost any senator can get a stamp issued, assuming the purpose is worthy, if he makes enough deals with other senators, offering his yes on a pork barrel project for a year on the stamp. . .

"The stamp should be timely, the 30th anniversary or the 100th of something or other. . . So, find a date at least two years hence that you want to commemorate. Tie it up with a certain state in area and get the Senator or Congressman, preferably the former, interested. Ask him to prepare a 'memorial', which is a recommendation to the Citizens Advisory Committee. Then get your readers to write not only the Committee but their own Senators and Congressmen. . . but the P. O. will need two years advance warning to kick it around.

"It is odd that the USA which has honored the child industry and a Cincinnati gymnastic group has neglected books."

As indicated, Mr. Herst's letter was in reference to issuing a stamp honoring books—an endeavor in which he certainly has our wholehearted support.

I'd like to thank all PFs who wrote me encouraging letters on this project. I do hope they will also contact those listed above by Mr. Herst. I was particularly intrigued with a letter from Dave Kanarr, who says: "I've been thinking along the lines of something big and very, as befits our favorite author. The powers that be (con-

Con't on page #5

Notes from Ralph Con't from page #4

gress, the P. O., etc.) might be more inclined to carry out a randiose theme than a run-of-the-mill portrait format. I would propose a block of four, one with Alger's portrait and the other three engravings from his books. . . " A great idea. Now, let's all get moving on this.

\* \* \* \* \*

All who have attended our recent conventions know that one of the fun highlights is the AQ for AEs (Alger Quotient for Alger Experts) Contest. In addition to fun we also have many prize-winners (ask anyone who's been there). I'm now starting to prepare the contest for our May gathering at Indianapolis. It'll be called the "Indy 500 (Dollar Check) Contest" (get it?), and I'd like to ask you all to send me a contest question or two (or more) to include in our game. It can be anything related to any of Horatio Alger's stories. It shouldn't be too easy, but one that anyone who has read these stories will know something about. So send your questions today, to Ralph Gardner, 135 Central Park West, NY, NY, 10023. The more and better questions we have, the more fun we'll have and the more prizes will be won. We also urge you to make every effort to join us at Indianapolis in May to participate in the contest and all the other wonderful events that Convention Chairman Paul House is arranging.

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With "Silas Snobden's Office Boy" now in bookstores (a second edition has just come off the presses), next month's Newsboy will feature a bibliographical listing for "Silas". It will follow the same format as all titles listed in "Road to Success; The Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger". It will be printed to lay it right into its proper place in "Road to Success" so your Alger bibliography will be completely up to date. Incidentally, if you don't already have your copy of "Road to Success", or if you'll want additional copies, order now from Wayside Press. They're going fast.

## Welcome to New PF'S

PF-363 Paul W. Jagger  
1892 17th. St. S.W.  
Akron, Ohio 44313  
T-80 (Evelyn)

Paul is retired and has many fond memories of Alger. He is also interested in Civil War relics.

PF-367 Arlene Canaday  
5880 Easton Court  
Hanover Park, Ill. 60103  
(Ralph) T-55

Arlene is an Editor and besides Alger is interested in painting, needlework and collecting victoriana.

PF-368 Gary Scharnhorst  
1706 E. First St. Apt. B-23  
Anderson, Ind. 46012  
T-18 (Sandra)

Gary is a student and teacher. His interest in Alger is literary and historical influence. He also collects coins.

PF-369 Donald F. Elder  
98 Marlboro St. Apt. #2  
Chelsea, Mass. 02150  
(M. Frances) T-100

Don runs a collectors items photo business and besides Alger is interested in Old time movies, books, posters, etc.

PF-370 Wilma Edgar  
St. Charles, Iowa 50240

PF-371 Dick Higgins  
P.O. Box 26  
W. Glover, Vt. 05875  
T-32

Dick is a publisher and writer and is interested in wild foods, turkish and mongolian studies.

PF-372 Dr. Robert L. Anstey  
11 Brookdale Rd.  
Natick, Mass. 01760  
(Erma) T-63

Dr. Anstey is a professor of Geography and would like to assist in correcting records of Alger in Brewster, Mass.

PF-373 Victor E. Wangner  
22 Harold Place  
Clifton, N.J. 07013  
(Lorraine) T- 30

Victor is interested in Books, Golf and politics.

PF 374 Robert W. Fertig  
132 Roslyn St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14619  
(Bobbie) T-100+

Besides collecting Alger Robert is interested in old records - Jazz and Blues of the 20's and 30's.

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## TOM TRACY

or

## The Trials of a New York Newsboy

As read by Dave Kanarr (PF-314)

"Tom Tracy" was first published by Golden Argosy in 1887 under the Alger pseudonym Arthur Lee Putnam. The excerpts in this report are taken from the Street & Smith paperback, Alger Series No. 31. The hero of this epic is Tom Tracy, a New York newsboy. Tom is the most handsome Alger hero that I can recall; "A well made boy, with dark brown hair, frank attractive face and an expression of manliness and self-reliance." On page 100 is found this quote from a male acquaintance, "There isn't a handsomer boy in the room." And on the next page there is this quote from the opposite sex; "Who was that handsome boy...?" Tom lives with his widowed step-mother and his younger half-brother, Bertie. Our hero's earnings as a newsboy provide the major portion of the family's living expenses. Mrs. Tracy sews vests at home to supplement his income. Tom also picks up extra money doing odd jobs and we find, as the story unfolds, this is where the real money is to be made.

There are two villains of major concern to our hero and they shall be introduced forthwith. Mr. Dudley Weeks is Tom's uncle and is pictured as "a spare man of five feet nine or ten, with a thin, sallow face that would look even thinner but for a pair of black side whiskers. His eyes are brown, and his glance is keen and crafty. They look cold and unsympathetic, and in so far do not belie his character." Uncle Dudley is co-inheritor with Mrs. Tracy of an estate left by Tom's paternal grandfather. This estate was for the most part worthless but now Dudley has found that one piece of property held jointly by him and his sister-in-law is worth at least \$50,000 due to vast coal deposits discovered there. For her share of the property, the wily Mr. Weeks has offered Mrs. Tracy all of a hundred dollars. Tom smells a rat and the offer is refused. Luckily, Uncle Dudley carelessly drops a torn portion of a letter from which Tom deduces that the property is worth much, much more.

The second villain of the tale is Mr. Tim Griffith. He runs the gamut, starting out as a purse-snatcher and ending up as a poolroom hustler.

Tom first foils Tim in a purse snatching for which effort our hero is rewarded with five dollars. By way of revenge, "Slippery Tim" attempts to frame Tom for the theft of a watch but Tom triumphs once again and gets another dollar for any inconvenience he suffered.

The young snob of the story is Gerald Weeks, Tom's cousin. Gerald does his best to keep this relationship a secret from his friends since he is the son of a wealthy merchant (Dudley) and Tom is a lowly newsboy. Gerald will doubtless come to a bad end as he smokes, drinks and gambles in pool halls.

As for Tom, early on he proves that he is not only handsome, but he can also handle himself very well when it comes to the manly art of self-defense. Tom takes the vests his step-mother has sewed to the shop for payment. The owner is in a foul mood and after an argument over how little he is willing to pay, he orders his clerking nephew to

eject Tom from the premises. Our hero, when attacked, lays the clerk flat out on his back. A lawyer, Mr. Sheldon, has taken all of these events in and he not only gets the proper payment for the vests but gets his step-mother better wages for her sewing at a custom tailor's shop.

In the rescue episode of the story, Tom saves the young daughter of Mr. Martini, who rewards him with free dancing lessons at his academy and a new suit in which to attend, so that he won't be embarrassed. As chance would have it, Tom's cousin also attends these lessons and Alger gives Gerald every opportunity thus afforded to prove just how snobbish one person can be if he really puts his heart and soul in it. Also, it is at these lessons that we learn that our hero is very attractive to the opposite sex, much to cousin Gerald's dismay.

Tom comes by his gold watch in rather an odd, though honest way. Out of sympathy, he carries the heavy luggage of a shabbily dressed man promising he won't charge for the favor. It turns out the man makes a habit out of dressing poorly and is really quite well to do. And he makes a present of a gold watch to Tom! So here we have another well-dressed newsboy with an expensive watch. (See Ben Bruce.)

Tom meets another eccentric (a hermit) and this one is also wealthy. His name is Stephen Conrad, alias Noah Outbank(!), and he confides in Tom that he embezzled a large sum from a small town bank in Pennsylvania some years back and that now he would like to make restitution. He hires Tom as sort of a go-between for \$100 less expenses incurred. Our newsboy takes some time off from hawking papers and journeys to Clinton, Penn., where the burgled bank is. And guess who our hero encounters there? That is correct. It is none other than his old nemesis, Tim Griffith. But now he calls himself Lord Harry Vernon of England and has great expectations of marrying the banker's wealthy, aging sister, "an ungathered rose." Tom first clears the way for his client's safe return to Clinton and then exposes Lord Harry, recovering \$500 in bonds for the spinster sister in the process. Our hero goes unrewarded for this latter effort, thus neatly balancing the earlier acquisition of the gold watch for a minor service.

Back in New York, Tom foils Slippery Tim one last time and earns Gerald's lasting gratitude, saving the latter's watch and giving him \$5 in the bargain. In fact, Gerald comes to the conclusion that our hero is a tip-top fellow, which we, of course, knew all along.

Tom, by good fortune, overheard a conversation by Mr. Weeks' former agent in the coal deal, and has hired him along with his lawyer friend, Mr. Sheldon, to persuade his Uncle to pay Mrs. Tracy a fair price for her share of the inherited property. In this they succeed so that now the Tracy family fortunes are increased by \$50,000 (less a 5% fee) and Tom is promised an opening in Mr. Sheldon's law offices.

Excerpt Page 207: (from "Conclusion" chapter)

"Tom entered a school of high reputation, and quickly distinguished himself, his natural abilities being great. He has a pleasant circle of friends, made in part at Professor Martini's dancing school."

Con't on page #7

## Tom Tracy con't from page #6

(Excerpt Page 208):

"Tom, in his prosperity, has not forgotten his early friends and associates, and more than one newsboy has been made comfortable by a timely gift of money or clothing. Prosperity has not hardened Tom's heart and he is always ready to help those of his old friends who stand in need."

-the end-

### TOM TRACY – List of Characters In order of appearance (approximately)

(In the Street &amp; Smith Edition the story commences on page 5)

NAME	Page No.	Description, Relationship, etc.
Tom Tracy	5	Our Hero, a 16 year old newsboy
John Rockwell	5,7	Wealthy philanthropist; pays Tom \$1 for three papers
Jimmy O'Hara	6	Newsboy
Herbert (Bertie)	7	Tom's younger half-brother
Tom Cavanaugh	8	Young flower peddler
Mrs. Tracy	10	Tom's step-mother, a "wider" woman seamstress
Fanny Marks	11	Youngster who lives in same boarding house as the Tracy's
Penelope Marks	11	Sister to Fanny Marks
Gerald Weeks	13	Tom Tracy's cousin, "a young snob"
Fred Garnet	14	An error, should be Sam, see pages 28, 29, 55
Dudley Weeks	14	Tom Tracy's uncle; the villain
Tim Griffith	22,24,33	A petty thief, but a major character
Reuben Cutler	25,31	Victim of pickpocket "Slippery Tim"
Tony Burke	35	One of Tom Tracy's street companions
Mrs. Bridget Roach	33,36	Bad news carrier; "presided over an apple stand"
Gusset	42	A skinflint tailor shop proprietor
Ernest Gusset	43	Store clerk, nephew to Jacob Gusset
Mrs. Tillie Weeks	53	Dudley Weeks' second wife
Mrs. Vanderveer	55	Member of "the old aristocracy"
Guy Vanderveer	55	Rich man's son
Mr. Duncan	57	Uncle Dudley's agent
Mr. Deane	62	Custom tailor
Jack Conwell	62	A sailor whose ship came in (See pages 111, 113)
Mrs. Conwell	63	A seamstress
Mr. Madison	48,63	Name Alger uses first for lawyer who aids Tom in Gusset's shop and then renames Sheldon; see page 186
Clarence Gray	68,71	Wealthy youth
Mr. Robbins	72,73	A jeweler
Fred Wilmot	72,74	Mr. Robbins' nephew
Jimmy Boyle	75	Friend of Tom Tracy
Cora Martini	76,79	Child rescued from drowning by our hero
Prof. Carlo Martini	76,79	Principal of Dancing Academy; Cora's father
Gilbert	80	Chance acquaintance of Tom Tracy
Mickey	90	A "juvenile persecutor"
Noah Outbank	90,148	Alias of a hermit bank embezzler; see page 156
Bertha Vanderveer	101	Aristocratic young lady who finds our hero handsome
Blanche Gray	103	A young lady attracted to Tom Tracy; a dancing partner
Thomas Willoughby	108	Wealthy eccentric; gives Tom gold watch
Sing Quong	111	A Chinese laundryman whom Tom saves from a beating
Jack	111,113	A drunken sailor bent on beating up a Chinaman; see page 62
Sh Fundy	120	Mrs. Tillie Weeks' father, a carpenter, so unwelcome
Morgan	135	Land speculator
Stephen Conrad	156	Alias Noah Outbank, a reformed embezzler
John Fitch	161,162	Business man of Clinton, Pennsylvania
Lord Harry Vernon	162	An alias of Tim Griffith

Thornton Ross	162	Savings bank president in Clinton, Pa.
Clarissa Ross	162	Wealthy spinster; sister to Mr Thornton Ross
Bridget	167	Servant girl in Ross household
Lady Lily Hargrave	170	Lord Vernon's fictitious sister
Francis Sheldon	48,186,201	Our hero's legal adviser
Gerald Trevor	190	Alias of Tim Griffith; "an English gentleman" foiled for fourth time by our hero, Tom Tracy

Fictitious place name: Clinton, Penna. (page 155)

Please correct the following addresses in your roster.

Steve Press  
 Davida La.  
 Poughquaq, N.Y. 12570  
 914-724-3347

Ralph R. Keeney  
 214 E. 13th. St.  
 The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Irene Gurman - Apt. 49  
 540 Sherman Dr.  
 Royal Oak, Mi. 48067

Gary V. Lemon  
 27 Vaughn Court  
 Eatontown, N.J. 07724

## LATEST PRICES...

Walter McIntosh reports the results of a recent book auction conducted by Plandome Book Auctions of Glen Head, N.Y. On March 8th. Ralph D. Gardner's 'Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era I', first edition in dust jacket, almost mint went for \$27.50.

Frank Gruber's 'Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Biography & Bibliography, etc/' 1961 limited edition of 750 copies, very good copy, went for \$17.00.

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## WHAT TO WATCH FOR.....

The May issue of the Newsboy which will be published after the Convention, will contain many articles of interest.

HAVE YOU EVER-??, by Jack Schorr

WHO WAS TATTERED TOM? by Gilbert K. Westgard II

THE BOY GUIDE OF RICH MOUNTAIN, BY Horatio Alger Jr.

THE ORIGIN OF THE PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC by VP Jack Bales.

and many, many more. Pay your dues now so you won't miss a single issue.

HORATIO ALGER AND HIS MAGIC PEN  
by Forrest Campbell

There was a certain magic that flowed from Horatio's pen which cast a spell over millions of his readers similar to the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. According to the legend the Pied Piper was called to rid the city of its rats which had infested the area; but not receiving his pay he lured away the children with his magic music and his vari-colored clothing.

Unlike the Pied Piper, Horatio did not wear bright colored clothing. He was much more conservative; after all, he was a preacher's kid, and he himself was a member of the cloth.

It was more or less proven after a two year stay in Brewster that his "cloth" was not cut out to minister from the pulpit, for he did not seem to have the required appeal with his attempt to deliver the spoken word, nor did he have the golden voice of an orator.

And so he gave it up for an earlier preference to write; little realizing the magic influence of his pen once he hit upon the subject dear to the hearts of millions of Americans.

Contrary to some of his critics, Horatio didn't claim to be a literary genius, but he discovered that in telling it like it really was, telling of the experiences of the street boys, and the general conditions in the City of New York, he was gaining the interest of many new readers.

His critics in later years have said, "He had one story and told it 100 times," while other readers refusing to be charmed by his style have said, "When you've read one story you've read them all." And still others, who, with logic in defense, are quick to defend him by saying, "Who but a fool would change the formula after having achieved success?"

What is this magic formula that charmed the millions of his readers? Telling it like it was, of course is perhaps the main ingredient. Telling the truth about a situation in a manner that the reader is agreeable with the subject matter. Telling it so that the reader often sees himself portrayed as the hero of a story and that

he recognizes other acquaintances portrayed as the bully or the town squire. He often introduced the name of a person's friend in a complimentary manner.

Horatio utilized both methods in creating his characters and weaving his stories on a firm foundation with dialog and description, both vitally necessary to an interesting and informative narrative; one without the other soon becomes boring or tiresome.

It appears that Horatio would write dialog furiously for a while, having the inspiration of an interesting event, then would suddenly change over to descriptive writing in order to make an assessment on the progress of his story.

In these descriptive portions he often injected interesting historical facts to add credence to his story. Many of these descriptions were about his beloved New York City, but understandably, in describing smaller villages, for obvious reasons, the names were changed perhaps to avoid embarrassment, however, in some stories it is also obvious that he is referring to, and describing his own home town of Natick, Massachusetts.

Being a teacher, with a sincere desire to instruct his readers, he injected personal observations into his descriptive writings which helps the reader to understand and compare the human nature of that era with the present. These personal observations are numerous and can only be appreciated by accumulation through tiresome research.

It has been said that "a fellow simply can't live without influencing others--- either for good or bad," but I cannot understand how it could be both, for some say he was a bad influence, while others say he was definitely a good influence.

In summing up, despite some young admirers, the magic of Horatio's pen is waning. Perhaps we are fortunate that it has lasted as long as it has. At any rate it served its purpose in his day, and the youth of today will identify with, and serve a new pied piper with the same honorable goal in mind. It need not be a magic flute, or pen, but any personage who will stop and listen with an attentive ear. (Copyright 1973 Forrest Campbell, PF-000)