

newsboy



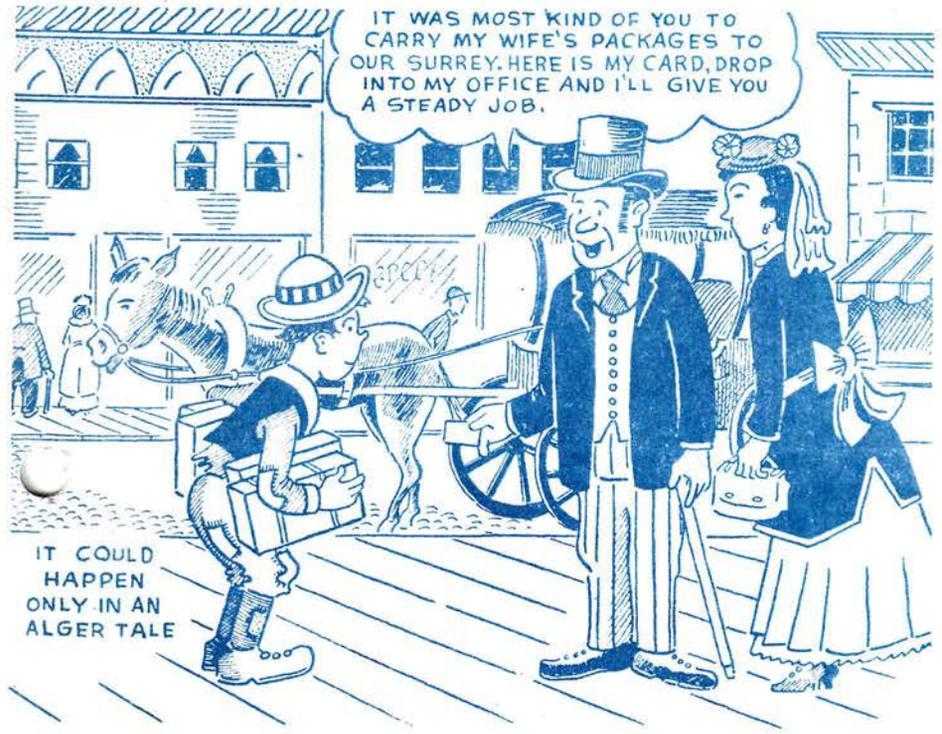
Monthly Newsletter of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY. The World's Only Publication Devoted to That Wonderful World of Horatio Alger.



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

Vol. 11, No. 9
May, 1973

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



IT COULD HAPPEN ONLY IN AN ALGER TALE



Dick Binetsch

A few generations ago Horatio Alger books were eagerly persued by millions of boys who, inspired by the stories, vowed to emulate the dauntless heroes during their own lives. Today those books are collectors' items, the deeds of the indigent and heroic lads hidden from the eyes of modern youth which are glued, instead, to programs on the television set.

Alger's stories portrayed the struggles of poverty stricken boys and the conquest of numerous obstacles on their way to success and fortune. Virtue and ambition were the themes of these stories and not one of the heroes cheated on his income tax or went bowling three times a week. The author, of course, wrote these tales in the days when hardly a soul paid an income tax and his heroes, as a result, could save much of the money they earned. They couldn't help but accumulate a bank account if they found any kind of a job at all.

None of the characters attended college, to the best of my knowledge, but pulled themselves to the top by their boot straps — if they were able to afford boots. In fact some of them were so imppecunious they wore tattered rags until some generous benefactor, noticing their shabby apparel, bought them a suit of clothes. Usually, after his metamorphosis, they looked so dashing and handsome that the kind patron gave them a job at fifty cents a day.

As you probably have surmised by now Alger's stories all had the same plot — poor boy makes good. His characters had to make it the hard way. With grit and determination not one of them ever failed. This is what inspired us young readers, many years ago, and imbued us with the aspiration to make a success of our lives. Today we measure that success by the amount of our take home pay.

Horatio Alger was born on January 13, 1834. His childhood, apparently, was not as impoverished as those he so ably wrote about later in life since in 1852 he was graduated from Harvard. Soon afterward he became interested in the struggles of self supporting boys which moved him to write more than 50 books concerning such individuals. 'Tattered Tom', 'Ragged Dick' and 'Luck and Pluck' were some of his most popular works. One can tell, from at least two of these titles, that none of his heroes graduated from Harvard unless they worked their way through by shining shoes.

Alger had a remarkable talent for pulling at the heart strings of his readers, who found themselves longing to give the poor boy some help or buy his penniless mother a loaf of bread. He could also arouse indignation against the villians of the stories who were fortunate they didn't have to meet any of the young readers on a dark street at night.

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

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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.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

PF-375 Craig Hayward
1200 Ridervale Rd.
Towson, Md. 21204
T-18

19 year old Craig is interested in reading and collecting Algers books and short stories.

PF-376 Gerald B. Friedland
6 Elyse Rd.
Monsey, N.Y. 10952
(Elaine) T-65

Gerald is an attorney and has been collecting Algers for 28 years.

PF-377 John Silbersack
11 Cornwells Beach Rd.
Sands Point, Long Island, N.Y. 110
T-22

John is a student and is interested in the Historical Significance of Alger.

PF-378 Robert E. Walters
961 McClain Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(Lucy G) T-62

Robert also collects Edgar Rice Burroughs books and has almost a complete collection. He enjoys reading Alger.

PF-379 Meredith C. Carter
RR #1
Cutler, In. 46920
(Lecna) T-17

Meredith is a dealer in books and antiques and heard about us at an antique show in Lafayette, Ind.

PF-380 Carroll G. Holt
15 Park Ave.
Foxboro, Mass. 02035
T-84

Carroll is a teacher and loves to travel

PF-381 William L. Leitner
7 Regina Place
Yonkers, N.Y. 10703
T-16

Bill has collected Algers for some time and is interested in all phases of collecting.

PF-382 Norman Smith
1374 Ashford Ave. 3B
Santurce, Puerto Rico, 0097

Norman is an "old Alger aficionado" having as a boy avidly read all the Algers available. He is our first member from Puerto Rico.

We welcome all our new members and hope they will enjoy the association.

PLEASE CHANGE THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES IN YOUR ROSTER.

Walter H. McIntosh
P.O. Box 385
Georgetown, Mass 01830

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by bob bennett

Last month, I listed those titles that were published by only one publisher. Dick Seddon, PF-324, was kind enough to advise me that he has a DeWolfe, Fiske and Co. edition of "Abraham Lincoln, The Backwoods Boy," so this title should now be included with the following items which appeared in two different forms of publication.

1. The Adventures of a New York Telegraph Boy
 - A. Street & Smith - Medal Library, No. 53 (March 17, 1900) by Arthur Lee Putnam.
 - B. Street & Smith - Alger Series, No. 30
2. Bertha's Christmas Vision; An Autumn Sheaf
 - A. Brown, Bazin and Co., 1856
 - B. Hurst - June 13, 1908
3. Both Sides of the Continent; or Mark Stanton
 - A. Street & Smith - Medal Library, No. 78 (September 8, 1900)
 - B. Street & Smith - Alger Series, No. 20
4. Harry Vane
 - A. New York Book Co., 1909
 - B. M. A. Donohue
5. Jacob Marlowe's Secret
 - A. A. L. Burt
 - B. Superior - The Alger Series, No. 12 (Also in hardcover)
6. The Merchant's Crime
 - A. W. S. Trigg, Leisure Hour Library, Vol. III, No. 201, July 28, 1888
 - B. B. M. Lupton - Lupton's Famous Fiction by the World's Greatest Authors, April, 1897
7. A Rolling Stone; or, The Adventures of a Wanderer
 - A. Serialized in The Argosy, Vol. 17, No. 586 to Vol. 18, No. 3, February 24 to June, 1894 (by Arthur Lee Putnam)
 - B. Thompson & Thomas, 1902

8. Seeking His Fortune, and Other Dialogues
 - A. A. K. Loring, 1875
 - B. Ward and Drummond, 1882
9. Silas Snobden's Office Boy
 - A. Serialized in Argosy, Nos. 365-377, November 30, 1889 to February 22, 1890 (by Arthur Lee Putnam)
 - B. Doubleday & Co., 1973
10. Striving for Fortune; or, Walter Griffith's Trials and Successes
 - A. Street & Smith, Medal Library, No. 138 (November 23, 1901)
 - B. Street & Smith, Alger Series, No. 46
11. Timothy Crump's Ward; or, The New Year's Loan, and What Came of It
 - A. A. K. Loring, 1866 (anonymous)
 - B. A. K. Loring, 1866 - Railway Companion Series (anonymous)
12. Trials and Triumphs of Mark Mason
 - A. Street & Smith, Medal Library, No. 346 (February 24, 1906)
 - B. Street & Smith, Alger Series, No. 46
13. Wait and Win; The Story of Jack Drummond's Pluck
 - A. Serialized in the Boston Weekly Globe, August 11 to September 8, 1885
 - B. A. L. Burt, 1908
14. The World Before Him
 - A. Penn., 1902
 - B. Odyssey Press, 1966
15. Wren Winter's Triumph
 - A. Thompson & Thomas, 1902
 - B. M. A. Donohoe
16. The Young Bank Messenger
 - A. Henry T. Coates, 1898
 - B. John C. Winston Co.

Readers are encouraged to advise me of any of the above titles they possess in a format other than those listed.

TO THE EDITOR:

I think a few words of explanation are in order regarding the unfortunate mixup whereby members of the Horatio Alger Society sent orders to Doubleday & Co., for copies of "Silas Snobden's Office Boy", but some did not receive the expected first editions.

Primarily, I wish to make clear that Bill Henderson who edited and produced the book, was completely unaware of this situation. He fully expected that all would proceed in accordance with the special consideration offer printed in Newsboy a few months ago. Bill is headquartered in New York; the books are mailed from one of a number of out-of-town circulation depots. It was I who initiated this plan to give HAS members this headstart. Bill merely tried his best to implement it. There is blame to be assigned, but to me, not Bill.

Not that I expect it will assuage the feelings of those who have not as yet received first editions, but they should know (as we now know) how this happened: Orders are computerized for shipment in the order in which they are received by Doubleday. When the HAS offer was made I didn't know this, nor did I anticipate two things: 1. The unexpectedly high interest in the book, 2. That book dealers ordered from semi-annual catalogs that they received months earlier (thereby getting their orders in the works before many HAS members could have done), and they also read the favorable reviews appearing in book trade journals long in advance of publication.

What is now being done (as much as may still be possible) to make good this unfortunate condition? Bill Henderson, though it really is not his responsibility to do so, has been and is still making every effort (at his own expense, on his own time) to locate as many "Silas" first editions as may still be available. As of this writing he has located eighteen copies. These have been sent out to HAS members in the sequence in which their orders were received. Some of you have doubtless already received your copy. As others are located, they will be promptly mailed. In order to get a copy to as many HAS members as possible, only one first edition is being sent to a purchaser, even though he may have ordered more than a single copy. In this way, it is hoped that the present situation may be improved and some ruffled feathers will be smoothed.

I'd like to say that both Bill and I understand the irritation of those who were disappointed. We all thought we were getting our orders in plenty of time, but we were wrong. I'm in the same boat as all others, having put in a order for quite a few first editions, but receiving the second edition. There is nothing I can add to make the situation sound better, except that I really hope all members will be understanding and patient. And especially, they should understand that Bill tried his best, in the spirit of giving HAS members a headstart, but it just didn't work out as we all hoped. I hope all who have been inconvenienced will appreciate his effort, rather than take unnecessary offense for something that was my idea, not his, and that he did his best to arrange. And, as I said, because of his deep feeling of interest in both the Horatio Alger Society and the book he so beautifully produced, he is still doing everything possible to get the right copies to those who ordered them. Please be patient and understanding.

Your Partic'lar Friend,

Ralph Gardner

P.S. Bill just phoned to advise that he has arranged for all members who did not receive first editions to get a full refund for any copies they can't use.

* * * * *

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Origin of the Protestant Work Ethic
By Jack Bales

I have received a number of inquiries regarding my last column as to what exactly is the Protestant Work Ethic and how it originated. Therefore, with the aid of Richard Huber's excellent work, The American Idea of Success, I will give a short history of this all important concept which made up so great a part of Horatio Alger's books.

Briefly, the reason that it is called the Protestant Work Ethic is because this concept of hard work being the key to good living was brought over to the United States colonies by the Puritans in the early 1600's. These people of a self-reliant nature worshipped a Jonathan Edwards "fire and brimstone"

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The Origin of Protestant Work Ethic Con't from
Page # 4

God, and believed that one of the ways to serve Him was through hard and just employment. For example, William Penn once said in referring to this Puritanism that "Diligence is a Virtue useful and laudable among men: It is a discreet and understanding Application of one's Self to Business: and it avoids the Extremes of Idleness and Drudgery."

In the eighteenth century the main proponent of this belief was Benjamin Franklin, who unlike Penn, Cotton Mather, and the other colonists, did not rely so much on God in his ideas relating to sound practices of daily living. In order to achieve success, Franklin advised one to follow two cardinal virtues - industry and frugality. Later, eleven more were added in his Autobiography: Temperance, silence, order, resolution, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquillity, chastity and humility.

Franklin had an enormous influence in inspiring America's young men. His Autobiography can be equated with Alger's books in terms of firing the ambitions of boys (Remember in Bound to Rise how Harry Walton wanted to pattern his life after Franklin's)? As Huber said, "He represented the hope of rising in the world, the thrill of identification with the saga of rags to riches, the pride in a country where getting ahead was based on individual effort. Through the image of Benjamin Franklin, all America, by reason of hard work and diligence, not only stood before Kings, but dined with one of them."

In the early 1800's, the United States had the McGuffey Readers which glorified these same ideals of hard work and industry. However, at this time, people were looking at God in a different light than did the Puritans. Now, although God was an all-powerful Being, they regarded Him as being kind and gentle -- the exact opposite of how He was viewed 200 hundred years before.

The history of the Protestant Work Ethic can go on and on. However, since it is roughly now the time when Alger's books began being published, this is as good a time to stop as any. If anyone is interested in a more detailed study, I recommend that he read The American Ide of Success, for it minutely traces every aspect of the Work Ethic from its origin to the present day.

"HAVE YOU EVER - "?
by Jack Schorr

Have you ever come across an Alger in nice condition on a dealer's shelf and you weren't sure if you had it or not? Of course your list is home because you didn't plan to stop anywhere, but out of the corner of your eye you noticed the Plaza Book Store as you drove by and after finding a place to park you go in. There on the shelf is a rather nice copy of "Ben, The Luggage Boy." The trouble is the price is too much, but you argue with yourself, "If I don't have it, I'd better get it." The illustration is hauntingly familiar, that disturbs you. Anyway, you get it and when you get home you find you have "Ben, The Luggage Boy" and its much better than the one you bought. Well, that's one duplicate you won't come out ahead on.

I know you have been on vacation and have spent more than you should and more than your wife knows, and you are so proud to have passed up those three nice copies on the store's shelf because you have them. After you get home from your trip you remember the three and look yours over. Somehow yours don't seem as bright or clean. Yours are good, but not that good. You go through your notes from your trip, find the name and address of the store and write for them. Sometimes you get a reply saying they no longer have them, or you get a package with the three books and a bill for them plus postage and insurance.

And, of course, you have answered an ad that describes some Alger as being in "Jim Dandy shape." That description by itself should warn you that you are dealing with a person not knowledgeable about books, but you send for them anyway. When you get them they are poor to fair condition, so you have to wrap them up and mail them back and try to get a refund. I picked up a nice Burt copyright edition of an Alger with gold so bright on the spine it looked like it had just left the bindery. It was about fine. After I got it home and was going through it I saw to my dismay that pages 116 to 142 had been duplicated and I had two sets of pages 116 to 142. It made me sick, such a nice copy too.

Another time I found a very good to fine edition of "Young Explorer" in a Porter and Coates edition. I knew mine was damaged as to its cover, so I was glad to get it. But when I got it home I found it contained not only

"HAVE YOU EVER --"? Con't from Page # 6

"Young Explorer" but 45 pages of "Ben's Nugget" in the last part of the book.

You have been on vacation and gone through a town that had an interesting book store you have heard about only to find the store was closed. Hours 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and it's only 10:00 a.m. Your wife's patience is at its end after yesterday, when you visited six book stores in Milwaukee and left her sitting in the car. So you had better pass this one up. You look in the window; it looks like they might have an Alger or two. You can see what appears to be a section of old juveniles through the window in the back. If you can get your wife out of the car you might let the air out of the tire -- why can't these book stores have regular hours. Oh well. We have all had similar experiences. As you reluctantly leave you think and wonder what you would have found.

As I look over my shelves I think of all the thrills, struggles and surprises I had in obtaining them. If you are a true collector, there never is a dull moment.

* * * * *

WHO WAS TATTERED TOM?

by Gilbert K. Westgard, II

In 1871 Horatio Alger, Jr. wrote "Tattered Tom; or The Story of a Street Arab." From the construction of the story, and the numerous errors that appear, it is the opinion of this writer that Alger originally wrote it as a smaller story, and then at a later time added additional material to bulk it out.

Tom, actually a girl, is a New York street-sweeper who begs pennies from those who pass by. She is, to quote one of her friends, "smart as a steel trap." In 1861, at the age of twelve, she runs away from the drunken woman she has been both living with and supporting for the past six years. Making the acquaintance of a sea captain, Albert Barnes, she is taken to live with his sister, Mrs. Martha Merton, who keeps a boardinghouse on Sixteenth St., near Sixth Ave. After being unjustly blamed for a theft at the boardinghouse, she leaves. By this time the reader is aware of the existence of a plot to keep our heroine away from her widowed mother in Philadelphia. The old woman with whom she had lived was a hired agent of her uncle, who wished to inherit his late brother's money which

otherwise would go to Tom. Mrs. Walsh, the old woman, known in the story as "granny" (always with a lower case "g"), again gains control over Tom, and decides to take her to Chicago on the train. Within a few hours Tom is free again, and begins her return to New York, where she is quite unexpectedly, and most accidentally reunited with her real mother, who has come there in hopes of finding her lost child. In the end, justice triumphs, and the charge of theft against her is proven false. Evil is punished when granny falls asleep with a lighted pipe in her mouth and perishes in the resulting fire.

In the course of the story Tom is referred to both as Jane, 23 times, and as Jenny 23 times. A complete list of these references by chapter, page and line will be given later. The reader, after finishing this story may well ask himself, "just who is Tattered Tom? Is she Jane, or is she Jenny?"

Three times Tom refers to herself as Jane, and once as Jenny. The first reference to either name occurs on page 46, line 11, where she says, "I think granny called me Jane once." Being asked by Mrs. Merton, "What is your real name?" She responds on page 100, line 14, "I think it's Jenny." The other two direct statements by Tom are, "My right name is Jane." (page 255, line 11), and "Jane is my real name." (page 269, line 16).

Once we are given a hearsay quotation of Tom's by Captain Barnes, "She said her name used to be Jenny, ..." (page 97, line 1).

Mrs. Walsh has a couple of statements relating to Tom's real name. On being asked by a policeman, "What is the child's name?", her answer is given in the following line: "Jane," answered the old woman, who was at first on the point of saying "Tom". (page 224, line 13). In the same conversation, she says to the policeman, "Mrs. Molloy, that lives on the next floor, told me she saw Tom, I mean Jane, come in about three o'clock, when I was out to work." (page 226, line 23).

Tom's mother, who really should be in a position to know the facts, refers to her daughter's name twice. Speaking to her lawyer about the provisions of her late husband's will, as they were interpreted in probate she states, "...it was decreed that the income derived from the property should be paid to him, (her brother-in-law), this

WHO WAS TATTERED TOM? Con't from Page # 6

ment to cease only in case of Jenny's restoration." Later, when Tom is restored to her mother, she asks, "Are you my mother?", and is told, "Yes, Jenny, your own mother..." These two quotations from Mrs. Lindsay are to be found on page 234, line 16, and on page 270, line 14.

In the concluding chapter of the book, speaking of the events following Tom's restoration to her mother, Alger states, "Having no further occasion to remain in New York, Mrs. Lindsay took the train for Philadelphia the next day, where Tom, whom we must now call Jane Lindsay, found herself in an elegant home, surrounded by all that wealth could supply. Her mother lost no time in supplying her with teachers, that the defects of her education might be remedied. These were great, as we know, but Jane -- I had nearly said Tom -- was quick, and her ambition was excited, so that the progress which she made was indeed remarkable. At the end of the year she was as far advanced as most girls of her age." (last chapter, paragraph 2).

All of the references to Tom as Jenny, with the exception of only five, occur in Chapters 10, 11 and 12. These chapters have no direct bearing on the development of the plot, and so appear to have been added at a later time by Alger to add bulk to the story.

The first reference to Tom's real name being Jane, plus those references in the final chapter add up to twelve in number. Also, the remaining eleven references appear to be in the chapters which have more to do with the development of the plot, and would therefore have been written first.

Thus, in the alpha and the omega, Tattered Tom is in reality Jane (not Jenny) Lindsay.

References to both names in the following list are given by chapter, page and line as follows: 4. 46:11, meaning that in the fourth chapter, page 46, line 11 maybe found one of the two names of our heroine. These numbers refer to editions printed from the original A. K. Loring stereotypes. In these editions the story begins on page 9, and ends on page 282.

References to Jane: 4. 46:11 16. 171:17
173:20 17. 177:15 186:10 187:2,4 21. 224:13
226:23 24. 255:11,12 25. 269:16 26. 273:

11,16 274:13 277:6,12 279:15 280:11,22 281:
1,7,10.

References to Jenny: 9. 97:1 10. 100:
14,16,16 102:7 103:7,19 104:6 105:2,16,
22 108:3 11. 112:6,9 118:1 12. 124:21
126:3,16 128:20 16. 170:11 22. 234:16
25. 270:4 26. 276:17.

Dick Binetsch - con't from page #1

In some of his stories Alger's heroes began their careers as mediocre employees in a banking institution. These boys were always of such high calibre that the stacks of money never tempted them. In fact they were so honest that if they found a penny lying on the office floor they would turn it over to a bank official. In the end they usually married the bank president's daughter and all the concern's money eventually came under their jurisdiction anyway.

All in all his novels were wholesome, entertaining and motivating. Boys never hid these books under their bed mattress so their parents wouldn't catch them reading the stories. Actually they could have read them out loud at the dinner table and no one would have objected.

Alas! Horatio Alger is long gone, he died in 1899, but the heroes of his stories live on. True, the volumes may be gathering dust on collectors' shelves but the memories of many happy hours of reading cannot be erased from the minds of those of us who were fortunate enough to enjoy them. However, we erstwhile readers should be grateful that Alger lived in the nineteenth century.

For if he were alive today he would, no doubt, be writing insipid scenarios for the movies and tv!

The State Journal-Register, Springfield, Sunday, Feb. 11, 1973

NOTES ON MEMBERS:

VP Jack Bales has been accepted by the University of Illinois Graduate School in Library Science. Congradulations Jack.

Jack will also edit the next two issues of NEWSBOY, so if you have any items for publication please forward them to him.

George is now at the Cedar Crest Nursing Home and appreciates you cards and letters.

George C. Clarke
125 Scituate Ave.
Cranston, R.I. 02920

....AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER
by Forrest Campbell

"Once upon a time," was a familiar introduction to many fairy tales of French and German origin in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Two such tales were entitled "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Beauty and the Beast." At the end of the latter tale we also find the familiar expression, "and they lived happily ever after." Many of these tales had similar endings, at least it was implied that there was always a happy ending.

The plots of the numerous Alger stories are said to be identical by his critics; at least they are similar. So be it; but did they always stress a happy ending? A feeling of security for our hero and his loved ones? Or a combination of both? Not once did Alger make use of the old fairy tale ending; but it was implied. Perhaps a typical ending of all Alger stories may be found in the story of "A Boy's Fortune," which reads as follows:

"And now, with all of our characters satisfactorily disposed of, the good rewarded, and the bad punished, we bid the reader farewell and ring down the curtain."

The key to this conclusion is the fact that the good have been rewarded, and that the bad have been punished. The typical Alger story is one where the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer --until our hero came along. After a couple of encounters with the rich and mean old squire he always retreated in defeat until, like in a checker game, he planned his next move; and then with the aid of a friendly philanthropist he returned to reverse the situation, and the squire's plans are foiled. Does this situation make for a happy ending according to the Alger formula?

Can happiness be defined with one meaning to the satisfaction of all people? Happiness can mean many things to many people. It can mean relationship with other people; it can mean robust health; it can mean financial security or wealth;

or it can mean the achievement of a long-sought-for goal; it can mean social status, the ability to influence; the ability to boast. Someone has said that happiness is a moving target. A goal which we never really meet, especially in these days of inflation.

Did the Alger heroes covet financial security in order that they might return home to boast and put on airs as he was often accused of doing? No, except for the incidents recorded in the stories of Jed, chapter 30; and Lester's Luck, chapter 38; The Store Boy, chapter 38; Joe's Luck, chapter 43; and the story of Tony, chapter 34; all of which they may be excused.

Generally, I think happiness to the Alger hero meant the ability to return good for evil. In many of the happy endings the hero did not permit the defeated squire to go away empty handed, but often assigned him, or the wicked step-mother an annual allowance as in the story of Driven From Home, or an outright philanthropic grant as in the story of Making His Mark.

Heratie was said to be a philanthropist in his private life, and his numerous stories are well seasoned with such acts of kindness, and no story is complete without them, from the simplest act of treating a hungry beetblack friend to a warm breakfast to buying a complete new outfit for a partic'lar friend as in the story of Ragged Dick, chapter 18. I believe that when Heratie, through his numerous heroes, could be of service to a friend he was enjoying his finest hour.

Perhaps his philosophy on the art of philanthropy is best illustrated in the concluding chapter of Mark, The Match Boy, when Richard Hunter (Ragged Dick) accepts a most generous gift on certain conditions:

"Then," said Richard, "I will keep it as a charity fund, and whenever I have an opportunity of helping along a boy who is struggling upward as I once had to struggle, I will do it."

And the reply was, "A noble resolution, Mr. Hunter! You have found out the best use of money."
(copyright Forrest Campbell, 1973 PF-000)

THE BOY GUIDE OF RICH MOUNTAIN

A Story of West Virginia by Horatio
Alger, Jr.

From the New York Weekly, Vol 37, No. 16, Feb.
27, 1882

Contributed by Dale Thomas

On the summit of Rich Mountain, in West Virginia, in the early days of the war, stood a plain farm-house, occupied by a Union man named Hart. A few acres of rich, dark soil surrounded the house, and from there the farmer and his family obtained a comfortable living. Indeed, the mountain receives its name from the very unusual richness of the soil.

Over the top of the mountain winds the Parkersburg and Staunton Pike, affording the regular route for travelers.

It was at a point commanding the ascending road, and in the immediate neighborhood of the Hart farm, that Gen. Garnett, at the head of a Confederate force, had with rare sagacity posted himself. He knew that General McClellan, in command of a body of five thousand Union soldiers, would, without doubt, attempt the sage of the mountain by this very road, and in that case no earthly power could save him from destruction. Fighting behind strong intrenchments, Gen. Garnett would pour death and destruction into the Federal ranks, as ninety years before the American force, on Bunker Hill, had nearly annihilated the British troops. It will be remembered that they were compelled to vacate their position only when their ammunition gave out.

As I have said Farmer Hart was a Union man. Those who dwell on mountains have generally been lovers of liberty, and devoted patriots, and Hart was not an exception.

He watched Gen. Garnett's progress in erecting fortifications with anxiety and alarm, for he understood very well his purpose, and the danger that menaced General McClellan.

"Joe," said he, in a low voice, to his only son, a stout boy of sixteen, "do you see those breastworks?"

"Yes, father."

"Do you know what they mean?"

"I think I can guess."

"They mean destruction and defeat to General McClellan."

"But he may not attempt to cross the mountain."

"He must. This is on his regular route. You can see what a terrible reception he will have."

"Have you heard that he is coming, father?" asked Joe.

"Yes: I was part way down the mountain yesterday and I heard it from a trustworthy source.

"Can't we do anything, father?" asked Joe, who was a Union boy.

"That is what I am coming to, my boy. General McClellan must be warned not to march up the hill."

"How can he come, then?"

"By the other side."

"But there is no road there."

"That is true: but there are few trees, and the ascent, though rough, is not impracticable. The laurel is thick on the side of the mountain, and so matted that a man can walk on the tops."

"I know it, father. I have come up that way myself."

"Very well. Then you can give the general directions how to come."

"I father!" exclaimed Joe, in astonishment.

"Certainly. It would never do for me to seek the Federal camp. As a man, I should be suspected and my life would pay forfeit. You are a boy, and no particular notice will be taken of you. Now, Joe, are you brave enough to seek out the Union camp, and give the general warning of what awaits him?"

"Yes, father," answered Joe, his honest face wearing a look of resolute determination.

"Mind, I don't command you to do this, but, Joe, you have it in your power in all probability to save the Union force from destruction."

THE BOY GUIDE OF RICH MOUNTAIN Con't from Page
9

"I'll do it, father," said Joe, firmly. "Now give me my directions."

"Don't start till night. You will attract less attention. You must have some errand to avert suspicion. What shall it be?"

"I tell you what, father. I'll say that one of our cows has strayed away, and I am in search of her."

"That will do. Now lad, you will need all your pluck, and to have all your wits about you. Remember how much depends upon you."

"Don't fear for me, father," said the young hero. "I am glad I can do something for my country."

"Well spoken my boy! If you have succeed, I shall be proud of you."

* * * * *

About eleven o'clock, Joe, having prepared himself for a night journey by sleeping from seven o'clock till half-past ten, left the farm house with a whip in his hand, and a careless, indifferent air.

His way led through the Confederate lines.

"Where are you bound, boy?" was asked more than once.

"One of father's cows has gone astray," he answered, readily. "Confound the beast! I wish she'd stay at home, and not take me out of my warm bed."

"All right! I hope you'll find her."

"Thank you."

Joe spoke so naturally that no suspicion was excited. Once or twice he was asked his name, but on answering Joe Hart, son of Farmer Hart, he was allowed to pass.

It was not long before Joe was beyond the lines. After that there was no danger of interruption. The field was clear, and it was only a matter of pluck and endurance.

Joe traveled all night and part of the next day, stopping occasionally to rest. In the afternoon, when quite exhausted, he was overjoyed

to catch sight of the advance guard of McClellan's army.

"Halt, there, boy! Who are you, and what is your errand?"

"I want to see General McClellan," answered Joe.

"What for?"

"To give him some information."

"Are you not a spy?"

"No," answered Joe, indignantly. "I am a good Union man."

The officer smiled.

"You are rather young for a man," he said.

"I can do a man's work," said Joe, stoutly.

"What is this information you want to give the general?"

"The Confederates are plotting to capture him and his army. I want to put him on his guard."

There was a little consultation, and it was decided to conduct Joe under guard to the general's quarters.

"Who is this boy?" asked General McClellan, as Joe entered his tent.

"He says there is a Confederate plot to destroy our forces, and he wants to put you on your guard."

"What is your name?" asked the general, rather suspiciously.

"Joe Hart."

"Who sent you to me?"

"My father."

"Where does your father live?"

"On the top of yonder mountain."

"Rich Mountain?"

"Yes, general."

THE BOY GUIDE OF RICH MOUNTAIN con't from Page
10

"It is the mountain we are to cross."

"You must not cross it -- that is, you must not go by the road."

"Why not?"

"Because General Garnett has intrenched himself there, and will open fire upon you as you march up the hill."

General McClellan turned to one of his staff.

"Is this boy speaking the truth, or is he an emissary of the enemy?" he said.

"The boy looks honest and trustworthy," said the officer.

"Appearances may be deceitful."

"Tell the truth, my boy," said the general, turning to Joe.

"I am telling the truth, general," said Joe, earnestly.

"But," said Gen. McClellan, "It is possible that you are a spy. If you are, and we discover it, you will be shot as a spy."

"I am willing to be shot if what I say is not true," answered Joe.

"Depend upon it, general, this boy may be relied upon," said the staff officer before appealed to.

"Thank you, sir," said Joe, gratefully.

"I am disposed to agree with you," said McClellan. "Now my boy, since we cannot go up the mountain by the road, how are we to go up?"

"I will tell you," answered Joe, eagerly. "There is a way up the OTHER side of the mountain. You leave the turnpike just at the foot, and go round the base to where the laurel is."

"Is there a road there?"

"No, sir, and it is very steep, but I have been here, and you can do the same."

"Are the trees thick?"

"No: there are but few trees."

"Have any fallen across the path, so as to make an obstruction?"

"None."

"What more can you tell us?"

"The laurel is very thick on the side of the mountain, and so matted together that a man can walk on the tops."

"A man walk on the tops! That is incredible."

"I have done it," returned Joe.

"Do you think my army can go up the mountain over the tops of the laurel?"

"No, sir. A single man could do it, but not an army."

"But, my boy, I have a great many men, and horses, and cannon, to take up, and how do you think we can get over that laurel?"

"The trees are small, so small that you can cut them down, without making any noise, with hatchets and knives: and they will not know on the top of the mountain what you are doing, or when you are coming."

Joe's words were so evidently sincere, and he appeared so intelligent, that no further doubt was expressed.

"We shall want a guide," said the general. "Can you serve in that capacity?"

"Yes, general."

"Then I will change my plan. I intended to march by the road: I will follow your route instead. You shall ride beside me, and point out the way."

"When do you mean to march, general?" asked Joe.

"To-night."

"Then may I lie down somewhere, and get a little sleep? I have been on my feet since eleven last night."

THE BOY GUIDE OF RICH MOUNTAIN con't from Page

11

"Certainly, my boy. You shall sleep on my own bed. It is not a very soft one, but you will fare as well as I."

"Thank you, general."

The new plan was at once made known to the leading officers, and an hour was fixed for the start.

When the hour came, the army set out on its march. At midnight they reached the base of the mountain. In course of time they reached the laurel trees described by Joe. By the fitful light of the stars, with knives and hatchets, the soldiers set to work clearing away the obstructing trees. Some hours were thus spent, but by daybreak the way lay clear before them. Then commenced the steep ascent. All the horses were left at the foot of the mountain from necessity. The cannon were carried up painfully and with difficulty by hand, and left within a short distance of the top, in such a situation that they could readily be moved forward when the time for attack came.

Meanwhile General Garnett and his officers had not a suspicion of what was being done by the enemy whom they confidently expected to entrap until the Yankee cannon began to boom and they found themselves attacked from above and nearly in their rear. Astonishment and dismay prevailed: and they were able to make but a feeble resistance. Then came a panic, and they fled precipitately down the mountain hard pressed by the victorious Union troops. The flight continued as far as Chest River, where the brave General Garnett was killed. Thus was destruction averted from McClellan's force, and a brilliant victory secured by the pluck and prowess of a boy.

Joe received the hearty thanks of the Federal commander, and a substantial gift besides, and his name is honorably enrolled among the boy heroes of the war.

The reader may be assured that this story is strictly true. The writer is indebted for the facts, and, in part, for the words used by the characters by Frank Moore's "Anecdotes, Poetry and Focidents of the War."

"Tom Brace; Who He Was and How He Fared"

As read by PF - 314

"Tom Brace" was written under Alger's pseudonym Arthur Lee Putnam and was first published in Argosy in 1889 as a serial. The page numbers referred to in this report are from a bound volume of that periodical.

Our hero is Tom Brace, described by Alger as "a slender boy of fifteen, who might have been plain but for a pair of dark, luminous eyes that lighted up his olive brown face." Further on in the story we are told that "Tom was naturally refined, with a love of books, a strong imagination, and a taste for drawing. He was fastidiously neat, and had all the instincts of a young gentleman."

Tom lives with Jack Marden, an intemperate sailor in a "ship-house" by the sea in the village of Bargeville, Maine. Jack claims to be Tom's uncle, but Tom finds him "repulsive" and believes himself of finer stock. There is a mystery here; who is Tom and where does Jack, who hasn't worked in years, get the money he spends to supply their needs? Just as Jack is about to flog Tom for some imagined grievance, a man shows up at the "ship-house" to see Jack about his "nephew." His name is Barker and seems that he and Jack are in on some sort of conspiracy against the best interests of our hero. Barker takes charge of Tom and the two start on a journey, their first stop being Boston.

In that historic city Tom, left on his own to see the sights, is given a ride in a balloon, which, by misadventure, crash lands in an orchard. He and his fellow passengers are invited to dinner by the wealthy owner of the estate, Mr. Greyson, and the reader soon ascertains that the old gentleman is Tom's grandfather. Though, of course, neither Tom nor Mr. Greyson find that such is the case just yet. Even Mr. Alger acknowledges that their chance meeting is almost beyond belief as he has Barker say, "... a most remarkable coincidence that has carried the boy Tom to his grandfather's threshold? It is ahead of any incident in fiction that has fallen under my notice." (page 484) Taking Mr. Barker at his word, I think we can safely assume that he had never read any of Alger's works of fiction.

It is here that Mr. Alger introduces the rascally Rollstone, Mr. Greyson's nephew.

"Tom Brace; Who He Was and How He Fared"
Con't from page #12

Alger evidently had some minor difficulty in finding a first name for our villain, for when Mr. Greyson's nephew's name first appears it is Rodney (you must admit Rodney Rollstone has a certain Zing! to it, perhaps too much so, for a villain) but thereafter he is called Guy. While Tom was off riding to a fall in a balloon Mr. Barker was meeting with Mr. Rollstone. It is here that we learn Mr. Rollstone has hired Jack Marden and Mr. Barker to keep our hero from learning his true identity and sharing in Mr. Greyson's wealth. An interesting side light here is that newspaper coverage in those bygone days was at least as good as our radio coverage today. For Mr. Barker gets almost a running account of Tom's balloon escapade in the Boston Herald the very day it all occurred. This was all published in the regular edition and two extras. (Just shows the kind of service that is given when a business has some competition.)

Mr. Rollstone has Barker enroll Tom in a boarding school to get him out of the way. Tom doesn't much like anything about the school because the food is hardly fit to eat and the beds must be shared. Moreover the proprietor-professor, Job Johnson is more of a plantation overseer than an instructor. The students are forced to spend the major portion of their time farming. Aiding the "professor" in his fraudulent enterprise is Joe Grigson, an older student who is the boarding school bully. In a later chapter Alger has one of his characters depict Johnson, while gazing upon him for the first time, thusly: "cunning, cruel and unscrupulous." Enough said.

On his first day at the school Tom knocks the school bully to the ground for beating a smaller boy. That same night he thwarts the bully's attempt at thievery while the intended victim was asleep. In the morning he runs away from the place rather than be horse-whipped by Johnson. Johnson and Grigson come to grief in a drainage ditch, having fallen in while chasing our hero. Johnson changes his clothes and makes another effort to get Tom back, but he is outwitted by a farm boy.

Tom goes to New York, his fare paid by a benevolent gentleman. No sooner does he arrive in the great city than does good fortune smile upon him once again. A case of mistaken identity enables him to meet the wealthy Mrs. Ashleigh. She hires him to be her coachman after our Tom is mistaken for her niece's son, Tom. The latter, Tom Mordaunt, also provides our Tom

with some good clothes (it seems to be an Alger dictum that his heroes must be well-dressed as soon as circumstances will allow ...) as he had only what he wore when he escaped from the boarding school.

Tom's new job takes him to Claremont, an hour's ride from New York. There he is happy as his duties are light and he has time to study; besides he is treated as one of the family and not as a servant. He eats at the same table with Mrs. Ashleigh and the gentle lady provides him with a silver watch and chain. Our hero foils another attempt at theft, this one by Jerry Mack, the young man he replaced as coachman. It should be stated here that Jerry had lost his place because of intemperance.

We discover that another remarkable coincidence has been forced upon us when Rollstone turns up in Claremont to visit Mrs. Ashleigh. For it is revealed to the unsuspecting reader that Mrs. Ashleigh is Sidney Greyson's brother! Mr. Rollstone says of the chances of Tom ending up living with his relatives in this manner as "scarcely one chance in a hundred -- not even that ..."

Rollstone calls on Mr. Barker for assistance in getting Tom back into their clutches but Mrs. Ashleigh intervenes in Tom's behalf. But our villain doesn't give up easily. He hires Jerry and one of his cronies to kidnap Tom. Our hero is captured and held prisoner in a negro squatter's shack; the negro being hired by Jerry as jailer. Tom is rescued by a chance passerby who, by coincidence, has been looking for Tom. He is a lawyer who has been hired by Mr. Greyson to find the lad who crash-landed in a balloon in his orchard. So Tom and the lawyer head for the great city once again.

In New York, "Uncle" Jack has returned from a short voyage and spent what money he had on rum. He goes to Barker for some cash, but Barker turns him down. Thus it is that Jack is ready to make a pact with the other side when Tom happens to meet him in a restaurant. Tom persuades his "Uncle" Jack to betray his former employers, Barker and Rollstone, and help him to be restored "to his rightful position as the grandson of Mr. Sidney Greyson."

In the final chapter, entitled "Conclusion", Mr. Alger ties up the loose ends. Mr. Greyson welcomes his long lost grandson and makes him his heir. Mrs. Ashleigh will probably remember Tom or Lionel Livingston (his real name) as we should now call him, in her will, too. Guy

"Tom Brace; Who He Was and How He Fared"
Con't from page #13

Rollstone retires to Europe in disgrace on an allowance of \$2,000 a year from his uncle. This is presumably paid to keep the rascal out of the country. Job Johnson loses all of his students and the Johnson Institute is no more. "Joe Grigson is forced to work for a living" (surely there is a moral here.) Jerry Mack ends up in jail. And Jack Marden has turned over a new leaf and leads a strictly temperate life on an allowance from Mr. Greyson. (Could perhaps this be the long sought solution to our crime problem; buy 'em off?)

In conclusion, a quote or two from Alger's concluding chapter:

(Excepts from Page 849)

"Tom is now at Harvard College, a good student and a promising young man."

"There is no fear that Tom will be spoiled by his prosperity. He promises to grow up into an upright and honorable man, with a heart and a purse always open to those less fortunate than himself."

THE END

Characters in "Tom Brace"

Jack Marden - Page 389 -
A common sailor, pretends to be hero's uncle

Tom Brace - Pages 389, 390 -
Our Hero

F. Snagsby - Page 391 -
Grocer of Bargeville

Mrs. Salter - Page 392 -
Minister in Bargeville

Bob* - Page 392 -
Youthful acquaintance of Our Hero

Annie* - Page 392 -
Youthful acquaintance of Our Hero

Mr. Barker - Page 393 -
A major villain, a lawyer

Abner Tuttle - Pages 395, 396
A country bumpkin in the big city

Mr. Jones - Page 396
A mad, elderly doomsayer

Professor Leon - Page 396 -
A French aeronaut (balloonist)

Zebbedee H. Tuttle* - Page 397 -
Abner's father, a selectman

Sam - Page 431 -
An "affrighted darky" servant to Mr. Greyson

Sidney Greyson - Page 432 -
Turns out to be our Hero's wealthy grandfather

Rodney Rollstone - Pages 433, 434 -
Mr. Greyson's nephew, THE VILLAIN, author later changes the first name to Guy (page 692)

Tom Collins* - Page 433 -
Fictitious character

Marie Nichols - Pages 433, 434 -
An old servant in Greyson household

Mr. Clarkson* - Page 435
A Boston lawyer

Job Johnson - Pages 486, 487, 531 -
Proprietor of a boarding school, a major villain

Dick Spingler - Page 487 -
Student at Johnson's boarding school

Tim Tyler - Page 531 -
Student at boarding school

Joe Grigson - Page 533 -
Boarding school bully

Biggs ("Little Biggs") - Page 533 -
Victim of bully at boarding school

Sam Mullins - Page 533 -
Our Hero's "bedfellow" at boarding school

Hoyt* - Page 535 -
Student at boarding school

Mrs. Job Johnson - Page 562 -
The cook at boarding school

Fred Brandes - Page 627 -
A farmboy

John - Pages 628, 629 -
A coachman

Con't on Page # 15

CHARACTERS IN " TOM BRACE" Con't from Page # 14

- Laura Ashleigh - Pages 629, 630 -
Turns out to be another wealthy relative to the hero, benefactress and employer of Our Hero
- Mary Mordaunt - Pages 629 -
Wealthy niece of Mrs. Ashleigh
- Tom Mordaunt - Pages 629, 630 -
Mrs. Mordaunt's son, our hero's friend who supplies him with a good suite and accessories
- Jerry Mack - Pages 659, 660 -
"impertinent" ex-coachman, youthful villain
- Adam Furman - Page 659 -
Mrs. Ashleigh's gardner
- Jane Hobbs - Page 662 -
Maid in Mrs. Ashleigh's household
- Mr. Plane - Page 690 -
A carpenter (!)
- Tim Sloan - Page 690 -
Crony of Jerry Mack's, a young thief
- Guy Rollstone - Page 692 -
Name most used for Rodney Rollstone (Alger error)
- Julius - Page 747 -
A negro squatter, Our Hero's hired jailer
- Mr. Archer - Pages 792, 793 -
A lawyer who rescues our Hero
- Lionel Livingston - Page 825 -
The true name of Our Hero

* Never actually make an appearance in the story

Minor Place Names found in "Tom Brace"

- Bargeville - Page 391 -
Seacoast village near Portland, Maine; Hero's home
- Somerville - Page 396 -
Home of insane asylum
- Woodstock - Page 397 -
Town in New Hampshire

- Newton - Page 431 -
Town which boasts of the Greyson Estate
- Fall River - Page 485 -
Town near New York
- Cranberry Hollow - Page 486 -
Village in Connecticut
- Sag Harbor - Page 626 -
Village on Long Island
- Claremont - Page 659 -
Town near New York



HAS Treasurer Dan Fuller with his collection of Algers on exhibit at Kent State University Library. Dan also reports changes for the Roster - number of titles 146 and his wifes name is Kit. Welcome to HAS kit.

From Capper's Weekly: In case you find any mistakes in this magazine, please remember they were put there for a purpose. We try to get something into this paper for everybody, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

-Wall Street Journal

Ralph Gardner's Luck; or, the Previously Unpublished Novel by Horatio Alger, Jr.

By JAMES SMART

Of The Bulletin Staff

Mr. Doubleday, the publisher, was fashionably dressed, and had the air of one who lives in the city. He had an affable manner, and there was no tone of condescension as he addressed the visitor lately ushered into his well-appointed office.

"Now, then, young man," he inquired pleasantly, "what is it that you wish to communicate?"

"Something which I believe will be of advantage to us both," replied Ralph Gardner courteously. "I have in my possession a work by Horatio Alger, Jr., the successful author, which has never before been published in book form. I believe that we could publish this work, sell it for a modest sum, invest the proceeds at six percent, and profit most creditably from the income."

"What a capital idea!" ejaculated Mr. Doubleday. "You are a trump, Ralph Gardner!"

That may not be exactly the way it happened.

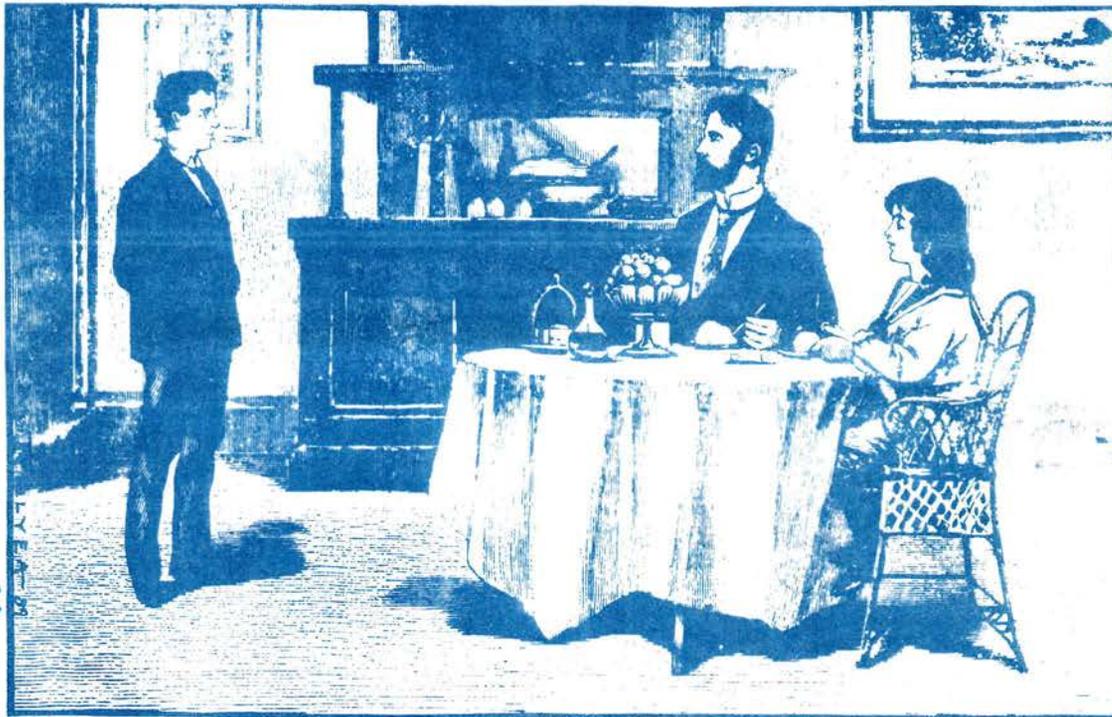
But it's true that today, for the first time since 1910, a new novel by Horatio Alger is being published.

The title is "Silas Snobden's Office Boy." Doubleday & Co. is publishing it at \$5.95, — about 18 times the price of a new Alger novel 63 years ago.

The man behind the publication of the long-lost Alger book is Ralph D. Gardner, a New York advertising executive and former newspaperman. Gardner owns the nation's most complete collection of Horatio Alger works and manuscripts.

Was Magazine Serial

"Silas Snobden's Office



IN AN ORIGINAL 1889 illustration from the new Horatio Alger book, "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," Frank Manton, 16, the hero, arrives for his new job. He is to care for young Rob, son of banker Allen Palmer.

Boy" was originally serialized in Munsey's Argosy magazine from Nov. 30, 1889, to Feb. 22, 1890. But, unlike most Alger stories, it was never issued in book form, until today.

"Alger was America's all-time best-selling author," Gardner said in a telephone interview. "From 250 million to 400 million of his books were sold. He had not less than 70 different publishers."

Alger wrote 108 novels about boys who rose from rags to riches by their own efforts, often struggling against class distinction and drunken step-fathers.

Alger also published some poetry and short stories, and 11 novels were ghost-written in his name after his death.

Alger Collector

Gardner has copies of all the material.

"I started collecting Alger when I was 13 years old," he said. "I was up in Maine. When people had old junk, they would throw it in the barn and put out a sign saying it was for sale."

In a barn sale, Gardner bought his first 13 Algers, for five cents a piece.

He has continued buying them for 37 years, paying sev-

eral hundred dollars for some rare copies.

"Even the Library of Congress doesn't have a collection like mine," he said.

2 Books About Alger

Gardner has written two books about Alger: A biography, "Horatio Alger: or, the American Hero Era," and a bibliography, "The Road to Success; the Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger."

The most rare Alger book, Gardner said, is "Timothy Crump's Ward," now worth about \$1,000. There are only three known copies. The New York Public Library has one. Gardner has another, and the

third is also privately owned.

A copy of "Ragged Dick," Alger's eighth book and the one that made him a best-selling author, recently sold at auction for \$210, Gardner said.

Most of Alger's books were serialized in magazines first, and then issued as books.

13 Installments, 25 Years

The book published today appeared in 13 installments. The U.S. Book Co. announced in 1891 that it would be published as part of its "Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romance" series, and deposited a printed title page with the Library of Congress. But the book was never published.

It took Gardner 25 years to assemble the 13 issues of Argosy in which the serial appeared.

"This is one of the items the advanced Alger collector searches for," Gardner said.

"Within the past dozen years or so, several reprints of Alger titles have come out," Gardner said. "I guess it's part of this nostalgia kick Publishers are always asking me for Alger material."

So Gardner offered Doubleday the previously unpublished book. The new volume includes original illustrations from the Argosy serial.

The Evening Bulletin
FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PEOPLE...

THE IDEAS... THE VIEWS AND

OPINIONS MAKING TODAY'S NEWS