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# newsboy



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



*Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler*

# THIS 1973 CONVENTION ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO

# KEN BUTLER



# PF-006

## 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, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly except January and July and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$5.00.

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

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

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DEDICATION OF 1973  
CONVENTION ISSUE OF NEWSBOY

This 1973 Convention issue of NEWSBOY is dedicated to Ken Butler in honor of his many long years of service and devotion to the Horatio Alger Society. Not only did Ken co-found the Society in 1961, but he sponsored its first convention, initiated the Society's organization and inauguration, and has printed for HAS material such as membership cards and various editions of the Membership Roster. Also, Ken ably guided the Society during its formative years, and even now unselfishly gives of his time and energies

toward HAS activities. For example, he has attended practically all conventions, he has freely given his advice on all business matters, and he has published both of Ralph Gardner's books on Horatio Alger, thereby giving Alger collectors everywhere two notable works on this famous author. For all these reasons, and more, I am proud to dedicate this issue of NEWSBOY to—Kenneth B. Butler.  
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LOOKING UP FROM THE "ALGER FOXHOLE"  
AT RAMADA INNS AND OUTS  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 11, 12, 13, 1973

by Irene Gurman, PF-OA1

Our hosts, Paul and Ida House, PF-099, deserve our collective blessings for their many niceties extended the entire three days of the Convention, so's to remember Indianapolis most kindly. Paul had oiled the machinery so there was room at the Inn for everyone. My personal thanks to Bob Bennett and Carl Hartmann for their courtesy in driving me; and to Carl's son John, pinch-hitting on registration.

On our arrival 'twas good to see one familiar face waiting in the lobby, Ralph Gardner awaiting the Board members and officers to prepare for the itinerary of the proceedings on Thursday night. On Friday the members descended like the "swallows of Capistrano," and after long correspondence and intervening conventions, the atmosphere took on the joyous air of old-shirt-tail-relations week; we wished you could all have gathered there.

Sorely missed was Max and Ida Goldberg — Past President — who recently has been in poor health owing to an auto accident, and we

June-July

returned our regrets for that. His greetings, as well as the Founder's, Forrest Campbell's, were announced, "trusting it would be a great success."

Though Jack Row and I have disposed of our entire collections, the fever of seeing a good Alger remains, and the fine friends and correspondents we've made over the years will not soon be forgotten. We both took pictures so as to share some of the moments, both indoors and out, with you who couldn't be there.

Friday night was one to remember indeed — Paul House had set up a most remarkable smorgasbord at Fort Harrison, reminiscent of the Pony Rider or coach-and-six days complete with Gatling Gun Club Jug Band for dancing (even if we couldn't kick very high anymore). The food was delicious and of great variety, one could see diets flung out the windows when a ravenous troop descended on it, it was soon gone as if some giant flock of locusts had sniffed it out. A new member, PF-360, William McCord was sure he'd come to the wrong place. He thought the U. S. Cavalry still occupied Fort Harrison for they almost trod him under in pursuit of food and drink. It wasn't until this writer allayed his fears, saying he had come to the right place and wouldn't have to flee back to New York. (We might all take note here, it's hardly a way to receive new initiates, by running them over, and asking questions later)!

Those charming "health enthusiasts" PF-093, Les and Bertie Langlois are always amiable company in any gathering and a delight. They chauffeured as many as would fit into their car and traipsed us about to various affairs, antique and book markets. Saturday Mrs. House led the parade to a picturesque village of a "world apart" from maddening city crowds going nowhere fast — to

Penn-Dutch gingerbread houses with wrought iron and spoke-and-spindle decor, of which there were fifty, all suited to antiques, books, cheeses, and a myriad of old collectibles to suit everyone's mousing. Having travelled thru thirty-nine tornado touch-downs according to the weather reports later, the days were sunny and interfered not in the least in outdoor pursuits. The village streets, no doubt, had long ago accommodated horse and buggy travel, too narrow for cars to pass except by a coarse hair. One could park and meander to an existing railroad where a "real" train still ran; the depot called "Whistle Stop," now newly painted, housed cheeses and other products from the world over; a pair of cabooses converted to artists' studios on the rail-siding. Sad that we can no longer travel by rail and see the countryside; "you can't get there from here, you gotta start someplace" is commonly heard and known as Progress.

At sundown it was back to the Inn and the last supper, to lick the platter clean. Officers were elected, and a contest to test our very wits for answers on Alger and his characters. And an interesting talk by PF-328 William Henderson of Doubleday on '28 Alger's mentor and first biographer, Herbert Mayes. (Perhaps our guest speaker at Akron, Ohio, where Dan Fuller offered to host the Society in 1974)? So plan and look forward to that.

All day Saturday was an Alger book sale - trade - buy affair at the Inn. Pictures by Jack Row will bear it out in this issue. Carl Thieme had "one of those rare, only seven or eight printed" first editions of Loring's RAGGED DICK which he cherished after several "hot lick" offers to buy, he could understandably retain it in his own collection. (Carl's books are so "mint" one begins to suspect he prints them in

his basement, the ink scarcely dry, and a good variety of authors as well).

One of the highlights was SILAS SNOB-DEN'S OFFICE BOY, having gone into printings beyond the first edition, which both Ralph Gardner and publisher's representative William Henderson gladly autographed, quadrupling our appreciation as Convention Days happily remembered as hosted by Paul and Ida House from the banks of the Wabash. Also, the ROAD TO SUCCESS supplement to an earlier bibliography of Alger was autographed.

Sunday came much too quickly, and the work-a-day world or vacation schedules faced us all, dispersing the members, likening it to an anthill beat with a stick. Some last minute pictures under the "Horatio Alger Society" Inn sign and it was now all a prologue to relive and peruse in the pages of the June-July NEWSBOY.

(New Editor - Jack Bales. We know he will lighten the burdens of Carl Hartmann more than somewhat, who does such a good job in limited time, along with his many other chores unknown, for our benefit). Many members neglect to write in their views, though they have often proposed an "Airing Column," whether "pro" or "con;" so write Jack Bales, confession is good for the soul, as it were. I have many boys' books, variety of authors and subjects, stamp will bring a list. My new address is (please add to Roster): Irene Gurman, 540 Sherman Drive #49, Royal Oak, Mich. 48067.  
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#### ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK

A Report by Capt. Gary V. Lemon

First published as a serial by Argosy in 1895, ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK was issued in book form by Henry T. Coates in the year 1902. This report is prepared from a later John C. Winston and Company reprint that was published prior to December, 1913.

Trouble strikes our hero, Andy Grant, while he is attending Penhurst

Academy where he is the star pupil. Mr. Sterling Grant, Andy's father, held a six thousand-dollar bond on the bank cashier in the nearby town of Benton, and when the cashier disappeared with \$20,000, Mr. Grant was required to forfeit the six thousand dollars to the bank. To raise the money, Mr. Grant mortgaged his farm to Squire Philemon Carter. Andy knows that his school days are at an end and says, "In place of going to College, I must see how I can help Father bear this burden." (p. 9)

Squire Carter, a "tall; florid faced man, with an air of consequence based upon his knowledge that he was the richest man in town," (p. 15) is the villain of the story. The reader soon discovers that the Squire's sole interest is to make as much money as possible by hook or by crook, even at the expense of his neighbors. "Business is Business" (p. 325) was the Squire's watchword.

Equally detestable to the reader is Conrad, Squire Carter's son. "Indeed, there was no boy in Arden so thoroughly disliked as Conrad." (p. 26) Alger loses no time in making hero Andy Grant look good at Conrad's expense by having Andy soundly defeat Conrad in a rowing race, winning the ten dollar prize. Each attempt by Conrad to turn the tide against Andy reverses on him and ends up to his disadvantage. On one occasion Conrad employs a tramp, who earlier had attempted to rob Andy, to destroy Andy's new boat by burning and chopping it up with a hatchet. Unknown to Conrad, Andy has moved his boat and the tramp mistakenly destroys Conrad's own boat.

As a result of winning the above mentioned rowing contest, Andy meets the race's sponsor, a Mr. Walter Gale, who is a rich young

man staying in Arden for medical recuperation. Andy so impresses Mr. Gale that he is hired as a personal companion and tutor at a salary of six dollars a week. Soon after, Mr. Gale gives Andy the boat that caused Conrad's jealousy and aforementioned disaster.

Mr. Gale is required at his uncle's sick bed and leaves Arden. Andy is allowed to accompany him as far as New York City to see him off on his journey. In the city, Walter Gale introduces Andy to Mr. Flint, a prominent jeweler who just happens to need a new boy to help him. Naturally, our Hero lands the position, and what is more amazing, he is not forced to look for a cheap boarding house like so many of Alger's young adventurers, because Mr. Gale makes this arrangement out of friendship and because he had an understanding with Mr. Flint that Andy would return to his employ as soon as Mr. Gale returns.

Villain Number Two, a rascally head clerk named Mr. Simon Rich, works at Flint's Jewelry Store and is described by Alger as ". . . a man with reddish hair who might at a guess be thirty-five years of age." (p. 147) Mr. Flint had discharged Mr. Rich's nephew and replaced him with Andy which made Andy an enemy in the mind of head clerk Rich. Soon Mr. Flint is called away from New York City to visit his dying brother in Denver, Colorado, leaving the store in charge of Simon Rich. Mr. Rich, in turn, loses no time in hatching up a plot with his nephew, John Crandall, to get rid of Andy. They arrange to have John Crandall pawn a gold watch and place the pawn ticket in Andy's vest. When the watch is declared missing, Andy volunteers to be searched, only to be shocked to find the pawn ticket in his own vest. Andy is discharged and John Crandall is installed in his place.

turning adversity to good advantage; thus, Andy is soon better off than ever. First, he quickly discovers that Crandall was the person who actually pawned the watch, and he locates a witness who saw Crandall enter the loan shop. Andy awaits Mr. Flint's return to apprise him of the situation.

In the meantime, Andy is invited to dinner at the home of Mrs. Mason, a wealthy customer of Mr. Flint's who was impressed by Andy's frank and pleasant manner when he delivered a purchase to her residence. Indeed, on that occasion, she invited him to lunch, and dinner that evening.

Arriving for the dinner promptly at seven, Andy meets Roy, the son of Mrs. Mason, and her brother, Mr. John Crawford, a New York realtor. During dinner Andy relates the story of his discharge from Flint's and his discovery about how he was framed. At evening's end, Andy so impresses Mr. Crawford that he is offered a position at five dollars a week in the Realty firm. Andy accepts. Mrs. Mason, who desires a tutor for Roy, is surprised to find that Andy was a Latin scholar, and also hires him to work evenings at the same salary. So Andy, who was just discharged from a five dollar a week position, now holds two positions and makes ten dollars weekly.

Mr. Crawford's advice to Andy is, "If you become interested in the business and if you show an aptitude for it, there will be a chance to rise. It depends on that. If you only work for the money, you won't rise." (p. 189) Andy immediately sets to work to learn all he can about his new enterprise.

With things so well set up for Andy, Alger begins to wrap things up by methodically collapsing the world

Horatio Alger has a neat way of always

on the villains while pushing our hero up the ladder of success. The first villains to fall are Simon Rich and nephew John Crandall. John discovers quite by accident that Andy has a new position, and out of pure spite tries to injure Andy further. He calls on Mrs. Mason and tells her of Andy's discharge for dishonesty, being unaware that Mrs. Mason knew more than he ever suspected. Crandall is a very upset lad when Andy is called and reveals that he has the proof of what actually happened to the gold watch.

Mr. Flint returns to New York, and quite by accident Andy meets him at the station. Soon Mr. Flint knows the situation and hears both sides of the story. The next day Mr. Flint discharges both Simon Rich and his scheming nephew, allowing Rich to remain to the end of the month.

"Never were two conspirators more quickly punished. Simon Rich repented bitterly yielding to temptation to injure Andy Grant. His malice had recoiled upon himself." (p. 215)

Squire Carter gets his comeuppance in doses, but nonetheless he is a turned out villain in the end. Andy, quite by accident, discovers a relative of Squire Carter's in New York City, a Mrs. Carter, who had a small child and who was a widow of the Squire's brother. This family was destitute and Andy becomes their friend in time of need. First Andy gives them financial assistance and later gets Mrs. Carter a position as "typewriter" for a New York lawyer, a Mr. Gardner. "Andy felt a warm glow in his heart at the thought of the happiness he had been instrumental in bringing to the poor family. He had learned the great lesson that some never learn, that there is nothing so satisfactory as helping others. We should have a much better world if that was generally understood." (pp. 237-238)

Squire Carter had been the executor

of his late brother's estate and the Widow Carter was positive that the villain had kept the majority of the estate for himself. Her new position as typewriter to a lawyer set the stage for rectification of this despicable deed.

As the villains go steadily towards defeat, Andy is becoming more proficient at his job. He spends time reading books on architecture, practical building, real estate and law in order to improve himself. Mr. Crawford is pleased with Andy and "took pains to push him forward, and gave him practical information about real estate." (p. 206)

By way of a fortunate series of coincidences and through initiative on Andy's part, he borrows money from Mr. Crawford to buy land in Tacoma, Washington, the western terminal of the Northern Pacific Railroad which was nearing completion. He also shows his prowess as a real estate salesman by selling an eight thousand dollar house at a one percent commission netting Andy eighty dollars, and the increased respect of Mr. Crawford.

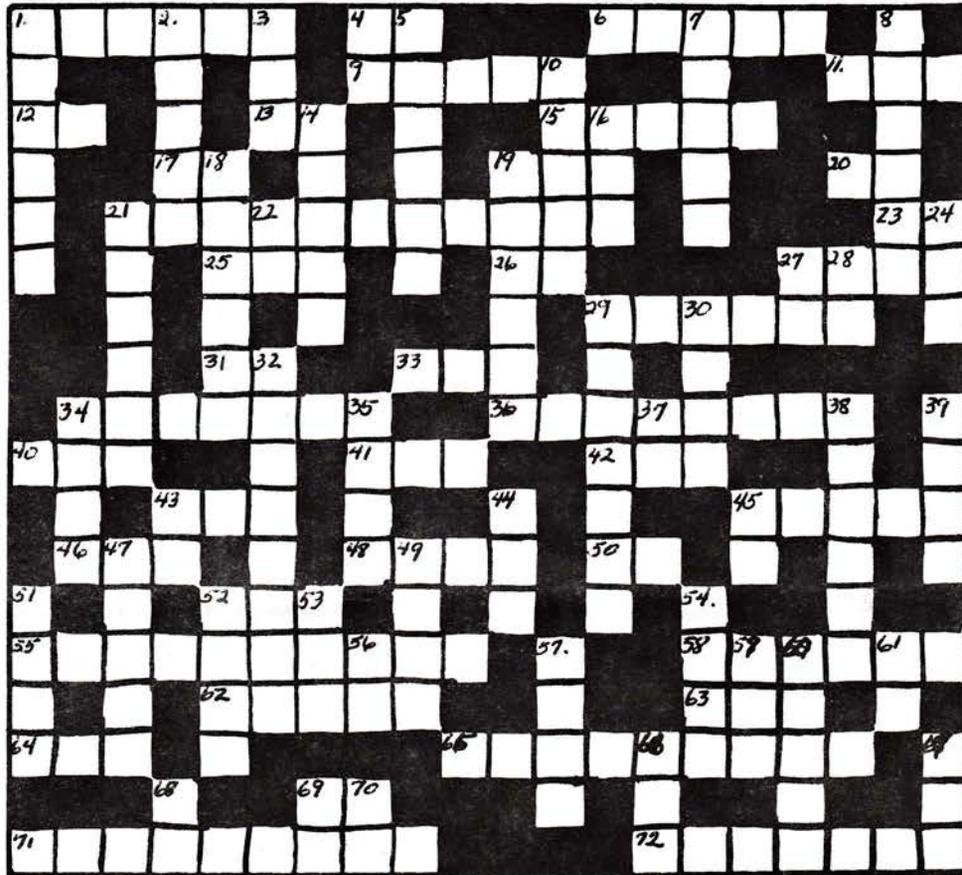
This commission money comes at an opportune time, for back in Andy's hometown of Arden, his father has found it impossible to pay this quarter's interest on the mortgage. Squire Carter is on hand to take possession of Mr. Grant's cattle, and at son Conrad's insistence, Andy's boat. Andy pays the interest. A disappointed Squire leaves the house, but looks ahead six months when the interest would again be due. (To be concluded next month).

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Captain Gary and Judith Lemon, whom I got to meet at this year's Convention, are two very enthusiastic members. In a recent letter, Judith writes, ". . . I find that unlike my husband, I do

not have a flair for the written word. But, because I enjoy the NEWSBOY and feel that members should contribute, I have followed another one of my interests and made the attached crossword puzzle."

(Ed. note: The solution to this puzzle will appear in the next issue of NEWSBOY, and in the September issue, Mrs. Lemon's puzzle of BERNARD BROOK'S ADVENTURE will be printed).

SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY



ACROSS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Silas Snobden's villainous nephew.<br/>                 4. Initials of 34 across.<br/>                 6. 24 down seems to have a preoccupation with this subject.<br/>                 9. Police officer who was 'bound to have' our hero guilty.<br/>                 11. Chapter XXIII - "A _____ Detective."<br/>                 12. Initials of Alger alias used on this serial.<br/>                 13. Initials of the actor who helped save "Suzie."<br/>                 15. 35 down lives in the Newsboy _____, as did many of Alger's boys.<br/>                 17. Extra Sensory Perception - . S. -<br/>                 19. Relationship of Robert to Allen</p> | <p>Palmer.<br/>                 20. Initials of 72 across.<br/>                 21. Our hero.<br/>                 23. Initials of PF-051.<br/>                 25. Arthur _____ Putnam.<br/>                 26. After B.C.<br/>                 27. Opposite of villain.<br/>                 29. Occupation of 18 down.<br/>                 31. Initials of PF-032.<br/>                 33. Boy's hat.<br/>                 34. Hero's stepfather.<br/>                 36. Book by 5 down, "History of the _____."<br/>                 40. Slang for boy, not liked by our hero.<br/>                 (continued on page 10)</p> |
|--|---|

# Alger Buffs To Convene This Weekend

The ninth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society will be held Friday through Sunday at the Ramada Inn, 3725 North Shadeland Avenue.

A 7 p.m. buffet and entertainment at the Civilian Recreation Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison will kick off the convention.

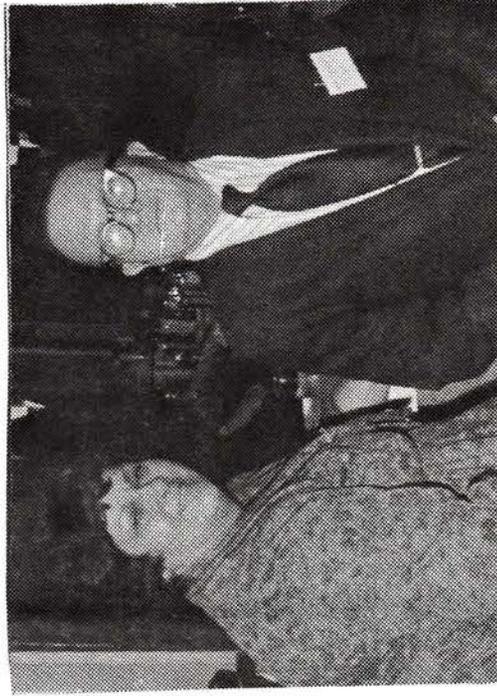
A tour of Broad Ripple Village as well as visits to book stores and antique shops is planned for Saturday morning.

The annual meeting of the society will be at 2 p.m. Saturday. That evening there will be an autograph party for Ralph D. Gardner of New York City, a nationally-known Alger biographer and authority.

Further information concerning the convention and reservations may be obtained from convention chairman, Paul L. House, 4837 North Richardt Avenue, 547-0566.



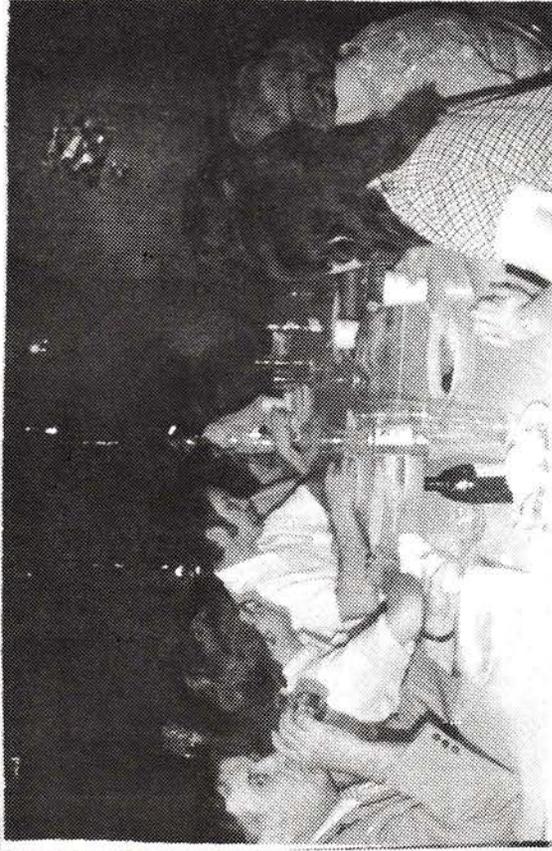
In front of the Ramada Inn marquee Sunday morning are (l. to r.) Paul House, Les and Bertie Langlois, Jack Bales (behind Mrs. Langlois), Les Poste, Ralph Gardner, Virginia Poste, Judson Berry, Ken Butler and Carl Hartmann.



Paul and Ida House at Fort Harrison in Indianapolis. Paul has missed only one HAS Convention in his years as a Society member.



At Fort Benjamin Harrison for Friday night's dinner are Irene Gurman, Blanche Lloyd, Helen Thieme and Benjamin Harrison.



This shows some of the many HAS members who were at Fort Benjamin Harrison Friday night, enjoying the buffet dinner organized by 1973 Convention Chairman Paul House.



Gary Scharnhorst talking with Carl Hartmann during Saturday's book selling session.



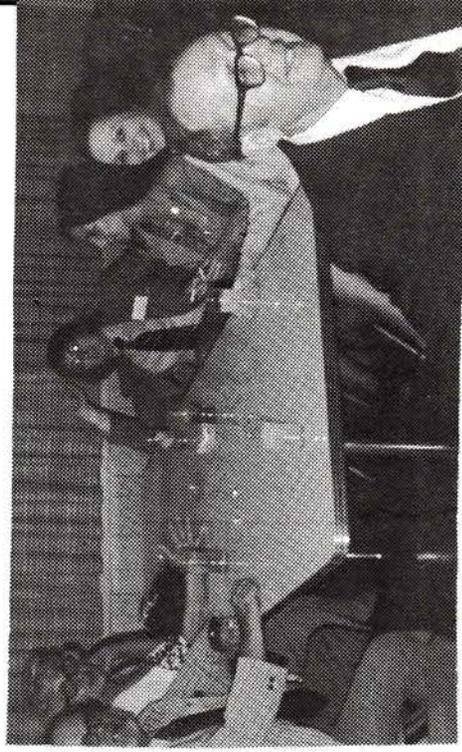
Nancy Henderson sits before a stack of SILAS's while Irene Gurman looks over a copy of ROAD TO SUCCESS.



During the awards ceremony at Saturday night's banquet, Ralph Gardner presents the 1973 NEWS-BOY award to Bill Henderson.



Executive Secretary and Guest Editor Carl Hartmann presents the 1973 LUCK AND PLUCK award to Jack Bales during Saturday night's award ceremony.



Conversing during Friday night's buffet dinner are Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas, Dan and Kit Fuller, Beth Row and Irv Poznan.

1973 HAS Convention  
May 11, 12, 13, 1973  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
-Chairman-  
Paul House

Pictures by  
Jack Row

41. 24 down is called an "\_\_\_\_\_ Fashioned Boy" by his father.  
 42. 38 down gets paid \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Dollar to get paper for the captive boy.  
 43. Our hero saved himself and his food from street ruffians by throwing two of these.  
 45. 34 down was so lowly, he attempted to steal his wife's only \_\_\_\_\_ to sell.  
 46. Young boy.  
 48. The Quaker who helped Frank Sheehan used this word often.  
 50. For example.  
 52. A buffalo is a \_ \_ \_ O N.  
 55. Sister of 1 down. \_ \_ \_ O N.  
 58. Kidnappers tried to take "Suzie" to this town.  
 62. Scotchman, James Duncan, was a rental \_\_\_\_\_.  
 63. Slang for girl.  
 64. \_\_\_\_\_ Ralph Moulton, the Englishman.  
 65. Publisher of this book.  
 69. Initials of 35 down.  
 71. After becoming the writer's assistant, our hero jokes about becoming "A Boy \_\_\_\_\_."  
 72. Seth Hasting's job.

DOWN

1. Gideon \_\_\_\_\_ schemed to get our hero fired.  
 2. Nephew of 1 down who replaced our hero at Snobden and Downs.  
 3. Noisy dispute.  
 4. Same as 4 across.  
 5. Samuel \_\_\_\_\_, writer and historian.  
 7. Our favorite author.  
 8. A boy's "best friend."  
 10. Red stain on ten dollar bill found on Luke Gerrish.  
 14. Silas Snobden fires Frank for "playing \_\_\_\_\_."  
 16. Abbreviation for 'The Nutmeg State.' C \_\_\_\_\_.  
 18. Our hero's employer and benefactor.  
 19. Benton T. was discharged for stealing and selling these.  
 21. Favorite saying of stage villains who are frustrated. "\_\_\_\_\_ again."
22. A direction.  
 24. The sickly son of 18 down.  
 27. Not she.  
 28. Same as 23 across.  
 29. Title of 64 across.  
 30. Good or sweet.  
 32. Gerrish's "home" for the past five years.  
 34. 24 down was kidnapped and disguised as one.  
 35. The "boy detective."  
 37. Article.  
 38. Girl who helps Frank find Robert, \_\_\_\_\_ Jane.  
 39. Bookkeeper for Silas Snobden who hires 35 down to follow Benton.  
 43. Editor.  
 44. Slang for 32 down.  
 45. Initials of 5 down.  
 47. Name of Library used for research.  
 49. Stop!  
 51. Mimics.  
 52. Transportation used by kidnappers.  
 53. Look.  
 54. Violent anger.  
 56. Letters flanking "M."  
 57. Salary first earned as Silas Snobden's Office Boy, \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars.  
 59. A "young nob."  
 60. First job of 35 down was a boot \_\_\_\_\_.  
 61. Abbreviation for story's location city.  
 66. Slang for escape.  
 67. \_\_\_\_\_ Thousand Dollars, gift from benefactor.  
 68. Initials of 2 down.  
 69. 7th note on musical scale.  
 70. Initials of author.

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## NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-383 J. Boyd Mullan TR-027  
 47 So. Fitzhugh St.  
 Rochester, New York 14614

J. Boyd is an attorney in Rochester, and he learned of the Society by way of an article in the newspaper about Leslie Poste and his Alger collection. Included among Mr.

June-July

Mullan's books are five Hurst miniatures, and when not reading Algers, he likes to fish.

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Carl T. Hartmann



Now that the INDY INCIDENT is past it's time for us to look forward to a new year of growth for the HAS. Enclosed with this issue is a post-card which we encourage you to give to a friend. Upon receipt of the card I will send a sample copy of NEWSBOY and an application blank. If you would like more cards to pass out just drop me a line.

Also enclosed is a supplement to ROAD TO SUCCESS; THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WORKS OF HORATIO ALGER JR. by RALPH GARDNER. This is an HAS exclusive, printed and distributed by HAS for its members. If you have more than one copy of ROAD TO SUCCESS you may send a stamped self-addressed envelope for more copies of the supplement to me. If you do not have a copy of ROAD TO SUCCESS send your order with \$6.00 to WAYSIDE PRESS, Book Dept., 1501 Washington Street, Medota, Ill. 61342.

HAS has acquired copies of the second printing of SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY. These copies have been autographed by Ralph Gardner and will be sent postpaid. Price \$5.95. Send your order direct to me.

Do to increased printing and postage costs, larger NEWSBOYS and in order to increase the services to our members, it has been suggested that we raise our dues. This would not be done until the 1974 convention and before the board acts we would like your thoughts. So if you have any ideas please let us know.

Also remember that the HAS is a non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible. Please send donations to our new Treasurer, Dale Thomas.

For .50¢ and a stamped self-addressed envelope you may purchase the 1971 official HAS Alger price list. Send your order direct to me. My address is: Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, Mi. 48910.

### 1973 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS Record Turnout at Indy

by Jack Bales

Forty four people including twenty-eight HAS members were the guests of Paul and Ida House at the 1973 Convention of the Horatio Alger Society, held in Indianapolis, Indiana from May 11-13. This large turnout at Indy exceeded all eight previous conventions, making this meeting a landmark in this respect. Those in attendance included John and Rohima Walter, Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas, Carl and Helen Thieme, Amos Smith, Gary and Sandra Scharnhorst, Terry and Marilyn Saurer, Jack and Beth Row, Irv and Thelma Poznan, Les and Virginia Poste, William J. McCord, Paul and Ruth Miller, Blanche Lloyd, Gary and Judith Lemon, Les and Bertie Langlois, Bill and Nancy Henderson, Carl Hartmann, Norman Hanson, Eugene and Wynone Hafner and their daughter, Irene Gurman, Evelyn Grebel, Ralph Gardner, Dan and Kit Fuller, Ken Butler, Ralph and Mary Brandt, Judson Berry, Bob Bennett, Keith Barnes and Jack Bales.

Registration took place Friday, May 11 at the Ramada Inn in Indianapolis, and it continued throughout Saturday as more people arrived for the annual meeting. For dinner Friday night we were the guests of the Convention hosts, Paul and Ida House, at the Civilian Club at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. Everybody there thought the buffet dinner was tremendous, and afterwards we were entertained by the Murat Gatling Gun Club Jug Band. After the dinner, everyone returned to the Motel, where they either talked amongst themselves, or else began early bargaining for the many Alger books that were for sale.

Early Saturday morning began the

Alger Book Sale, and when members were not trying to improve their collections or attempting to sell some of their excess books, they were clustered in small groups talking on practically any subject imaginable. Conversations that I came across included Dan and Kit Fuller reminiscing with Carl Hartmann about various magic acts and magicians they've seen (both Dan and Carl are amateur magicians), Irene Gurman talking about her collection of books on Custer, Bill McCord and his collection of train books, Ralph Brandt and his newspaper business and Norman Hanson and his collection of all types of juvenile books. In response to a number of inquiries, Gary Scharnhorst, one of our newer members, talked of a thesis that he wrote about Alger, the bibliography of which will be in the next issue of NEWSBOY for all to use who wish to read up some more on Horatio. Also, due to recent articles in the NEWSBOY pertaining to Alger and his Work Ethic, I had several opportunities to discuss various aspects of this topic with quite a few of our members.

Doubleday editor Bill Henderson had brought a number of copies of SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY with him, and Ralph Gardner autographed these, as well as copies of his book, ROAD TO SUCCESS. Amos Smith, who with his wife Priscilla, edits THE HOOSIER VOICE OF FELLOWSHIP, a small magazine published in the interest of Unitarian Universalist churches, had copies of the April 25, 1973 issue, which had an article on Alger on the front page. Also, Dan Fuller had microfilm copies of the first page of THE DISAGREEABLE WOMAN, a copy of which is in the Horatio Alger Society Scrapbook Volume II. Both volumes of the Scrapbook were on display at the Convention, to the interest of all present.

This weekend in Indianapolis was also the weekend of the Indy 500

time trials, and some members attended this event, and others went to Broad Ripple Village with its many antique shops.

Saturday evening was the highlight of the whole Convention, with our annual banquet and awards ceremony. This year, Bill Henderson was the unanimous choice for the coveted NEWSBOY award, for not only did Bill initiate the Nautilus publishing of PHIL THE FIDDLER and STRUGGLING UPWARD, but he spearheaded the Doubleday printing of

### *Alger Society To Hear Editor*

Bill Henderson, associate editor of Doubleday and Company, will be the banquet speaker May 12, at the ninth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society in the Ramada Inn, 3725 North Shadeland Avenue.

The three-day convention will begin May 11 with a buffet dinner and entertainment in the Civilian Recreation Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison.

A tour of Broad Ripple Village and visits to bookstores and antique shops is planned

for early that Saturday.

An autograph party for Ralph D. Gardner of New York City, a Horatio Alger biographer, will be held later that day at the Ramada Inn, prior to the banquet.

Members of the society meet annually "to further the philosophy of the late author Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of strive and succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes."

SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY. Next Bill intends to have published CAST UPON THE BREAKERS, another Alger title that never appeared in book form. Without a doubt Bill has done more to further the image of Horatio Alger than any other person in the Society and deserves this award several times over. Our most sincere congratulations, Bill!

The LUCK AND PLUCK award this year was given to me, Jack Bales, and I thank you all very much. I hope to continue to serve the Society in the best manner and fashion that I can, and with your support I know that I will be able to do so.

Also at the banquet, Jack Row was given the title of "Official

Horatio Alger Society photographer," due to his unending service in taking pictures for NEWSBOY readers. Jack and his Minox have become as familiar at conventions as Ralph Gardner and his Alger contests.

And speaking of Ralph's contests, Ralph had another, his third annual one, for those at the banquet. This one, entitled the "Indy 500 (Dollar Check) Contest," sparked the usual friendly rivalry between contestants. Evelyn Grebel and Dan Fuller, yearly high winners, again took two of the top scores in the contest. (Anyone who desires a copy of it can obtain one by writing to me). Ink pens were given by Ralph to all members present.

Also at the Convention, it was announced that the Mayor of Indianapolis declared Saturday, May 12, Horatio Alger Day in Indianapolis. A framed certificate proclaiming this was given to Paul House at the banquet. Later, all members were given ink pens with "Horatio Alger Society" printed on them, courtesy of Paul and Ida.

One of the highlights of the evening was the reading of several letters that Bill Henderson received from Herbert R. Mayes, author of the renowned 1928 classic book, ALGER, A BIOGRAPHY WITHOUT A HERO. In the letters, Mayes humorously acknowledged that his book was a hoax, right from the very beginning, and that he anticipated that everybody would view it as such. When it turned out that people regarded the book as fact, no one was more surprised than he was.

The evening's planned events concluded with Ralph Gardner moderating an Alger question and answer period, in which members could ask Ralph any questions they had pertaining to Horatio and his works and life.

Sunday morning saw the end of the Convention with breakfast in the

Ramada Inn's Stony's English Hearth. Afterwards, people headed for home, all awaiting next year's event.

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MINUTES OF THE 9th ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Horatio Alger Society, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 11-12-13, 1973.

After the minutes of the previous convention were read, the report of the Membership was given. As of May, 1973, we have 176 members and nine library members, an increase since last May when we had 168 members. However, this increase is significant as it should be noted that since the January Roster we have had eleven drops, PF's 271, 281, 303, 304, 306, 319, 332, 336, 338, 340 and 343, but have picked up thirteen new members, PF's 370 through 382. Our Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann, reports that the Society still has for sale HAS patches, tiles, frames and "100 Club" plates (free) and membership cards (free).

Dan Fuller read the Treasurer's report. In income we have a balance forwarded from May 10, 1972 of \$193.23. This plus cash from dues, sales of back issues of NEWSBOY, patches, tiles, frames, Dan the Newsboy pictures, price lists, and cash from convention registration fees amounted to \$1588.23. Subtracted from this was the total amount of the expenditures that the Society incurred, \$1422.92, which included costs due to printing of the NEWSBOY, bank charges and money due the state of Illinois. Therefore, we are in the black 165.31, which is our balance on hand as of May 11, 1973.

Also discussed at the meeting was the idea of a new title list. This one would be an alphabetical list of all title variations, and after

each reprint title it would state what title that it is a reprint of. The list would be numbered consecutively in order of publication date, from 1856 (BERTHA'S CHRISTMAS VISION) to 1973 (SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY).

The nominating committee read its selection of officers. President, Bob Bennett; Vice-President, Jack Bales; Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann; Treasurer, Dale Thomas; Directors Ralph Gardner; Les Poste; Evelyn Grebel; Judson Berry. Also, a motion was made to provide for the more orderly succession of officers. The current officers, President, Vice-President and Treasurer will serve for one year (starting with the 1973 term). Beginning with 1974-75, those officers will be elected for a two year term. The Executive Secretary will be appointed by the Board of Directors for a term of three years (expiring in 1976). The Directors will be elected each year for a three year staggered term, effective in this year's election. Therefore, Ralph Gardner will serve for three years, Les Poste for two years and Evelyn Grebel for one year. Also, the Directors will include the immediate past President (Judson Berry), who will serve for a term of two years.

The setting for the 1974 Convention was discussed. Next year Dan Fuller and Dale Thomas will co-chair the 10th annual meeting, with its location being in New Philadelphia. New business being brought up, it was announced that the HAS title lists are now fifty cents instead of one dollar.

With that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Bales  
Convention Secretary

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July 7, 1973 will be Les and Bertie Langlois' 50th wedding anniversary. The Society's most sincere best wishes and congratulations are given the Langlois's, and we hope that in 1998 we can print news of their diamond anniversary!!!

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#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Bob Bennett



The 1973 Horatio Alger Society Convention was a smashing success with several new members attending their first event. It doesn't seem possible that each convention can get better year after year, but it is certainly true. Our most sincere thanks are due Paul and Ida House for their superb arrangements and serving as convention hosts.

Les Langlois (PF-093) and Carl Hartmann (PF-102) attended their ninth consecutive convention, while Paul House (PF-099) made it eight conventions and Ken Butler (PF-006); Ralph Gardner (PF-053); and Jack Row (PF-051); seven each.

I will briefly mention a couple of business items of interest to the

membership. The first is the formation of a Super 100 Club, for those members who have reached 100 first editions. Tentative plans call for the issuance of a check list to indicate titles with verification to be attested by another member. At this writing, there are 119 possible first editions (first hard-cover editions of those titles first issued in paperback or serializations do not count), so it will be a cut more difficult to achieve than the regular 100 Club, which means 100 different titles in any form.

A second item is the issuance of a

## **Bennett reelected to post**

Robert Bennett, 1220 N. Fairfield, president of the Horatio Alger Society, has been re-elected to that post at the group's annual meeting last weekend in Indianapolis, Ind. This is his second term as head of the society.

The Horatio Alger Society has as its purpose promoting interest and knowledge of the eminent American author, Horatio Alger Jr. Members are from 36 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Alger is regarded as one of America's most popular authors of books for boys. It is estimated that more than 400 million copies of his books were sold in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

His name, which has become synonymous for the self-made man, wrote stories with the recurring theme of the poor boy who, through honesty, perseverance, and hard work, rises from poverty to wealth and fame.

Bennett's personal Alger collection is considered one of the world's largest, numbering 172 titles and 85 first editions. Included is the only known collection of Garfield Library editions outside the British museum. The Garfield Library, published in London from 1887-1896, contains 37 Alger titles. Among Bennett's first editions is Alger's first book, "Bertha's Christmas Vision," (1856); his most famous book, "Ragged Dick" (1856) and the extremely rare, "Seeking His Fortune," (1875).

Alger wrote 122 original stories, and with reprint variations, there are 200 possible titles. The author died in 1899.

new title list. Along with the list will be a rating system whereby members can not only rate their collections, but determine which particular publisher is the most desirable to hold for each title. The ultimate aim of the rating device is to identify the top collections and to locate and determine the number of copies of the rarer titles.

The 1974 Convention has been scheduled

for New Philadelphia, Ohio, and again will fall on the 2nd weekend in May. I sincerely hope that all of you will start making plans now to be in attendance.

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The above picture shows PF-314, Dave Kanarr pointing out his Garfield Library edition of UNCLE JACOB'S SECRET. Dave has two first edition copies of SILAS SNOBDEN'S OFFICE BOY which he will sell to the first two people who send him checks for \$5.95. Also, Ralph Gardner reports that Kroch's and Brentano's, 29 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, Illinois, still has a number of firsts of SILAS for sale.

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COMING NEXT MONTH!!!

Ralph Gardner reports on the Sotheby Parke Bernet auction of Algers and other juvenile books, held on Tuesday, June 5, 1973. Also, Part I of an article on Alger that Bill Henderson wrote for PUBLISHERS WEEKLY will be printed, and an excellent article by Jack R. Schorr entitled, "My Partic'lar Friend," will appear in the August issue of NEWSBOY.

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE ----  
by Forrest Campbell

There's no place like home. There was usually a mortgage upon it, in the Alger style, with the principal debt often unpaid but the interest payments were somehow, always met since the Alger hero and his mother were always reluctant to lose them. Although taken out of context, Alger had this to say about a similar situation: "we get so attached to our precarious but independent mode of life, that we feel discontented in any other." And this seems to apply especially after having established a home for a period of years. Too often the bleak alternative meant a trip over the hill to the poorhouse.

These homes were important enough to the author that he described them in great detail, perhaps recalling his own childhood in North Chelsea, and especially Marlborough, when he was about the age of the numerous heroes he wrote about; and perhaps the best description is found in the story of SINK OR SWIM.

Often referred to as cottages, they were usually located on the edge of a small village. Square in design and usually of one story, however, our hero sometimes made use of the attic space above for his sleeping quarters. To gain admission there was an angular staircase which terminated just under the peak of the roof. As I recall from my own youth these staircases were narrow, curved and steep and it was impossible to move any furniture through these passageways. The contents of such quarters usually consisted of a small cot with a straw tick for a mattress and on some occasions a feather bed.

Just outside the back door was the wood pile where our hero spent many hours before and after school. Also close to the house was the small garden plot complete with a scare-crow where our hero gave his assistance to supplement the family income.

But perhaps the focal point of the entire home was the table where the family gathered at mealtime. It was located in the kitchen since the parlor was reserved for very special occasions. One side of the square table was pushed up against the wall. On this wall hung a calendar and a motto. The words of the motto read: GOD BLESS OUR HOME. The calendar was a fancy one supplied by a local merchant. The customers had a choice of

several scenes. This one was a winter scene, complete with glittering tinsel. At the base of the calendar was a handy pocket which was designed for the storage of letters, but too often it became a catch-all for small items.

An oil lamp was used as a centerpiece since this table was the base of operations early and late. In addition to the usual items left upon the table at all times were numerous items which were more convenient here than anywhere else. Perhaps of most importance was a small edition of the bible; copies of two monthly journals, the Modern Woodman, and the Royal Neighbor. And perhaps a handsomely bound volume won by our hero for the best presented declamation at the close of the school year. Also included was a mending basket of sewing which was hastily laid down when a boiling pot on the cook stove demanded attention. Small tools and utensils also found temporary quarters at this spot instead of being properly put away. A candle or two for use in illuminating the way to the bedrooms after darkness fell.

On the kitchen door facing was a series of markings which recorded the growth of our hero over the past few years.

On a warm summer evening at twilight our hero and his mother would sit just outside the door and enjoy the fireflies flitting about. Across the meadow was a flickering light which registered the distance to the nearest neighbor. But most of all the mother enjoyed the companionship of her son and she dreaded the day when he would want to go out into the world to seek his fortune.

There were many pleasant memories in this house to cherish, and she also dreaded the time when the squire would demand his mortgage payment. The squire kept a watchful eye and an attentive ear on the widow's ability to pay, and on reports of the widow's misfortunes. At such times he would graciously make an offer to buy the property at a ridiculously low price, always claiming that the property would not bring much at a forced sale. But miraculously Providence always provided a way for the widow and her son to meet each payment as they became due, and their modest home, be it ever so humble, and so full of memories, would be saved for the present time. (copyright - 1973)