

Newsboy



EDITOR

Jack Bales
305 E. Leo St.
Apt. A
Eureka, Ill. 61530

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



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



The nineteenth century New York scene above is one which every Alger reader should recognize - oyster stews being enjoyed by all classes of people.

Alger Heroes and the eating of oyster stews were so common in Horatio's books that Ralph D. Gardner in his Horatio Alger or, the American Hero Era even mentioned it. Quoting from page 191:

"In the afternoon, the papers were carefully wrapped in a sturdy bundle and carried to the post office. Then, his story dispatched, Horatio Alger breathed deeply of the chill November air and walked briskly toward Sixth Avenue where - just as Ragged Dick would have done - he entered a restaurant and ordered a large, steaming bowl of oyster stew." (Print courtesy of Ralph D. Gardner).

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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Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly and is distributed free to our members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00.

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.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited by the editor.

* * *
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-074 John Sullivan
1000 East Center St.
Ottawa, Ill. 61350

PF-362 Marilyn Miller Saurer
235 W. Larwill St.
Wooster, Ohio 44691

PF-395 Irving P. Leif
205 Hampton Court
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

PF-258 Jack Bales
305 E. Leo St. - Apt. A
Eureka, Ill. 61530

Your editor is pleased to announce

that he has recently been appointed to the faculty of Eureka College as Assistant Librarian of the college library.

* * *
NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-453 Mark Preston
Box 507 Some Sound
Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

Mark is a fifteen year old student who owns twenty-five Algers, which he collects for the enjoyable reading that they offer. He learned of the HAS through a gentleman he met at a flea market who is a member. Mark also collects Joseph C. Lincoln's, Tom Swift's, G. A. Henty's and Don Sturdy's, and is active in sports.

PF-454 Richard Bowerman
2180 Ambleside Dr.
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Richard, a Ph.D. candidate, owns 117 Algers. He is an instructor at the Facility of Educational Development at the Eastern Campus of Cuyanoga Community College, and his dissertation is on Horatio Alger, Jr. HAS member Paul Miller told him of the Society, and the following books are needed to complete his study: Frank and Fearless, Mark Stanton, A New York Boy, Rupert's Ambition and Tom Tracy.

PF-455 Robert E. Sawyer
204 Mill St.
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Ralph Gardner told Robert of the Horatio Alger Society. He is now retired (a former Sears employee) and he wishes to collect as many Algers as he can. He wrote that he recently came upon a stack of Harper's New Monthly Magazines at a flea market. He bought two that were supposed to contain an Alger short story in each, only to return home and find that all but the last page of one story was removed. Robert's other hobbies include wood working, especially antique refinishing and furniture repairing.

PF-456 W. Howard Hemry
Box 286

Cody, Wyoming 82414

Besides Alger, Mr. Henry also collects coins and Belleek Parian China. Sixty-eight titles are in his collection.

PF-457 Masaaki Kishi
4-12 Wadamachi
Wakamatsuku
Kitakyushu-shi 808
Japan

Mr. Kishi is the gentleman from Japan who brought us the knowledge of the Japanese edition of Struggling Upward. He has authored a few papers on Alger and he lectures on him in Japan. One paper, entitled "Great Gatsby or, the Career of an Unsuccessful Alger Hero," will be published in next month's Newsboy.

Since Mr. Kishi's visit to Lansing, Michigan, HAS Secretary Carl Hartmann has been corresponding with other Alger fans in Japan. Yuji Nakata, Konan Women's College, 6-2-23 Mari Marikita-cho Higashinada-Ku, Kobe, Japan, has written that the translator of Struggling Upward, Professor Motoji Karita, Chairman of the English Department, Sophia University in Tokyo, gave a lecture on Alger in October at Konan College entitled, "On Horatio Alger Myth." Carl is hoping to obtain a copy of this lecture.

L-13 Periodicals Assistant
Dallas Public Library
1954 Commerce St.
Dallas, Texas 75201

The Dallas Public Library is interested in obtaining good examples of Alger for its historical literature collection.

* * *
B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price.

Offered by Dick Seddon, 8 Edgewater

Place, Winchester, Massachusetts 01890.

Fame and Fortune	Loring	F	\$20.00
Rough and Ready	Loring	F	25.00
Rufus and Rose	Loring	G	25.00
(rebound like new, original spine)			
Risen from the Ranks	Loring	G	25.00
Ragged Dick	Loring	G	50.00
(spine faded but legible)			
Sink or Swim	Loring	G	30.00
Tony the Hero	Burt	G	10.00
(Burt Deluxe edition)			
The Train Boy	Burt	F	6.00
(Burt Home Series)			
Joe the Hotel Boy	G&D	F	12.00
From Canal Boy to President	Anderson	G	17.50

All Loring's are well worn. Returnable if not satisfied for any reason.

Offered by Jerry Friedland, 6 Elyise Rd., Monsey, N. Y. 10952.

Joe the Hotel Boy	C&L	G	\$12.50
Dean Dunham	McKay	G	12.50

Returnable if not satisfied for any reason.

Offered by Ralph Keeney, 214 E. 13th St., The Dalles, Oregon 97058 Tel.: (503) 296-9682.

Ralph would like to trade the following first editions, or early editions, for reprints of equally good condition, plus cash difference.

First Hardback Editions:

Digging for Gold	P&C	G	\$25.00
(dated 1892)			
Joe's Luck	Burt	G	15.00
(dated 1887)			
The Errand Boy	Burt	P	5.00
(dated 1888)			
In Search of Treasure	Burt	Vg	35.00
(dated 1907)			
Tom Thatcher's Fortune	Burt	F	10.00
(dated 1888)			
Dan the Newsboy	Burt	Vg	10.00
(dated 1893)			
Tom Turner's Legacy	Burt	Vg	15.00
(dated 1902)			
Tattered Tom	Loring	G	45.00

(dated 1871)				
The Young Musician	Penn	Vg	\$42.00	
(dated 1906, Library edition)				
Forging Ahead	Penn	G	40.00	
(dated 1903, Library edition)				
Frank Fowler, the Cash Boy				
(dated 1887)	Burt	Vg	15.00	
Frank Fowler, the Cash Boy				
(dated 1887)	Burt	Vg	15.00	
Ben's Nugget	P&C	Vg	22.50	
(dated 1882)				
Nelson the Newsboy	Mershon	Vg	27.50	
(dated 1901)				
Tom Temple's Career	Burt	Vg	15.00	
(dated 1888)				
From Farm to Fortune	Stitt	P	10.00	
Early Editions:				
From Canal Boy to President				
(dated 1881)	Anderson	Vg	20.00	
A Rolling Stone	T&T	Vg	15.00	
(dated 1902)				
Finding a Fortune	Penn	Vg	15.00	
(dated 1904)				
Randy of the River	Chatterton-Peck			
(dated 1906)	Vg	Vg	15.00	
Ned Newton		G	12.50	
(Street & Smith paperback, Medal Library No. 118)				

Also offering for sale the following titles:

The Young Acrobat	Donohue	G	2.00
Julius the Street Boy	Donohue	G	2.00
The Erie Train Boy	Donohue	G	2.00
The Erie Train Boy	Hurst	G	2.00
The Cash Boy	Hurst	Vg	3.00
Bound to Rise	Hurst	Vg	3.00
Bob Burton (no pub. or date)			1.00
Jed the Poorhouse Boy	Donohue	G	1.00
The Young Adventurer	Hurst	F	1.50
Frank's Campaign	Hurst	G	2.00
Frank's Campaign	Winston	G	2.00
Adrift in New York	Consol.	G	2.00
Joe's Luck	Hurst	G	2.00
Try and Trust	Donohue	G	2.00
Do and Dare	Federal	G	1.50
Brave and Bold	Hurst	G	2.00
Bound to Rise	Donohue	G	2.00
Paul the Peddler	Winston	G	2.00

* * *

A BOY'S FORTUNE

OR, THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF BEN BAKER
by Horatio Alger, Jr., as read by PF-314

A Boy's Fortune was first published as a serial in the New York Weekly in 1889. The page numbers used in this report refer to the edition printed by the John C. Winston Company.

As our story begins, our hero is asleep on a bench in a New York City park. His name is Ben Baker and he is sixteen years old. I cannot supply you with a description of him as the author was somehow neglectful in that aspect. Ben has his bundle at his side and has just arrived in the great city to seek his fortune. A friendly member of New York's finest awakens and directs him to a neighboring restaurant. There he meets a friendly reporter who provides him with a place to sleep until he can find a means of earning a livelihood. Ben tells his new friend that he is fatherless but that his rich uncle, Mr. Nicholas Walton, sends his mother (Mrs. Baker) twenty-five dollars a month.

In a flashback Alger tells us how Mr. Walton caused the death of Dr. Baker, our hero's father, five years ago, and how he then stole \$100,000 in negotiable securities from the body of his victim. The once poor country doctor had just received the inherited fortune that day and had informed only his brother-in-law Nicholas of that fact. Add to this that Dr. Baker died of a heart attack and we can perceive why, that up to the time of Ben's arrival in New York, Walton has been able to keep his dastardly deed a secret. So we must assume that the twenty-five dollars a month Walton sends to his sister, Mrs. Baker, is merely conscience money and thus does not show any magnanimity on his part. Later on in the story (page 120), Alger has our villain admit to himself that he has murdered his brother-in-law, just in case there might be some doubt in the reader's mind on this point of the plot.

But back to the story. Ben asks his rich uncle for a place in his store but is refused. On this occasion we meet Ben's cousin, Clarence Plantagenet Walton, a "haughty and arrogant young coxcomb." He is disgusted to learn that

our country dressed hero is related to him. Suffice it to say that Alger has Clarence Plantagenet play the familiar role of the young wealthy snob to perfection throughout the rest of our story. I may as well state here that our hero gets through the whole story without knocking anyone down, though he does throw one punch that lands him in the police station. He is freed as wrongly accused.

Ben finds himself with a reduced capital of \$1.27 and no income. But he does have a worthy motto: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" However, our hero secures a place without any effort on his part. He is hired right off the street to impersonate one Philip Grafton by Richard Grafton, Philip's uncle. The job pays fifty dollars a month plus board and fine clothes (Philip's). So though Ben is suspicious he nevertheless accepts the proffered position of private secretary to Mr. Grafton and to answer to the name of Philip Grafton, thus becoming the beneficiary of "the gifts of fortune." Now that our hero is expensively dressed, Alger lets us know he is "strikingly handsome," although that is the sole description provided unless you want to count the fact that Walton allows as how Ben would be "good-looking" if he were well dressed.

The plot thins in Chapter X, entitled "At the Office of Mr. Codicil." Of course Mr. Codicil is a lawyer. Alger seems to have had a great deal of fun in naming his characters, and some of the names he bestowed aided his young readers to remember their bearers' occupations. But I digress. Herewith is an excerpt from the afore mentioned chapter. Mr. Grafton is speaking to our hero. He has just received a substantial check from Mr. Codicil after passing off Ben as his ward, Philip.

(Excerpt page 87-89)

"By the way," he said, "I must guard you against saying too much about me or my affairs talked about."

'I will remember, sir.'

'You need not mention that I have desired you to bear a different name from your own.'

'I will not mention it, sir, if you object.'

'With me it is a matter of sentiment,' said Mr. Grafton in a low voice. 'I had a dear son named Philip. He died, and left me alone in the world. You resemble him. It is pleasant to me to call some one by his name, yet I cannot bear to excite the curiosity of a cold, unsympathizing world, and be forced to make to them an explanation which will harrow up my feelings and recall to me my bitter loss.'

'I quite understand you, Mr. Grafton,' said Ben, with quiet sympathy. 'Though I would prefer to be called by my own name, I am glad if I can help make up to you for your loss.'

'Enough, my boy! I felt that I had judged you aright. Now go where you please. Only try to be back at the hotel at one o'clock.'

As Ben walked away Richard Grafton said to himself, in a tone of self-congratulation:

'I might have sought far and wide without finding a boy that would suit my purpose as well as this one. Codicil, as shrewd as he thinks himself, was quite taken in. I confess I looked forward to the interview with dread. Had I allowed the boy to be closely questioned all would have come out, and I would have lost the handsome income which I receive as his guardian. While the real Philip Grafton sleeps in his foreign grave, his substitute will answer my purpose, and insure me ease and comfort.'

(End excerpt)

In the very next chapter we learn that Ben's impersonation of Philip Grafton is depriving the young Beaufort family of their grandfather John Portland's fortune that Philip was heir to. Alger introduces said family, thus beginning to interweave a second story that could well be entitled, "A Girl's Fortune or, The Romance of a Rose" —indeed the latter title is the title of one of the subsequent chapters. The Beauforts are

living in poverty dependent upon the pitiful sums earned by the eldest, Rose, a seamstress, and the youngest, Harry, a cash boy. Rounding out the family is Addie, the weak sister.

Let me say here that Alger has already introduced to you readers the character of Miss Jane Wilmot. Our hero was of service to her and she was ready and willing to show her gratitude. However, as we have seen, Ben had no need of her assistance. Therefore, Miss Wilmot, a wealthy fortyish spinster, is available to help Rose Beaufort. In this excerpt, not only do we get an Alger arithmetic lesson, we also learn why the Beauforts were left out of Grandpa Portland's will. Rose is speaking to Miss Wilmot:

(Excerpt pages 153-154)

"My little brother Harry earns two dollars a week as a cash boy."

"That is not much help."

"It is nearly as much as I earn myself. There is not much to be earned at making vests at thirty-five cents each."

"Thirty-five!" repeated Miss Wilmot, indignantly. "Who pays you such a wretched price?"

"Walton & Co."

"No wonder they prosper, if they pay so little for having their work done. How many vests can you make in a week?"

"One vest a day is about as much as I can make, but I have made seven in a week."

"And you consider that a good week's work?" asked Miss Wilmot.

"Yes, but I cannot average that."

"That makes—let me see—two dollars and forty-five cents. You don't mean to say, child, that your united incomes amount to only four dollars and forty-five cents?"

"It generally amounts to less, for I cannot average seven vests a week."

"Well, well, what are we coming to?" ejaculated Miss Wilmot, pityingly.

"You don't look, child, as if you had always been so miserably poor."

"I have not. My grandfather was rich, but he took offense at mother's marriage to father and he left all his property

to my cousin."

"The old wretch! Excuse me, child, I forgot that he was your grandfather. So you were wholly left out of the will?"

"If my cousin should die, the whole property would come to us."

(End excerpt)

Miss Wilmot loans Rose ten dollars on her mother's wedding ring. Then she accompanies Rose to her tenement room. It is here that we are treated to the "landlady threatens to evict her tenants for non-payment of rent scene." Miss Wilmot pays the rent and offers the Beauforts better quarters which they accept. With the wealthy spinster's assistance the two girls start earning their livelihood by tutoring the offspring of the wealthy in music and art. The Beauforts are quite as happy as if their grandfather had included them in his will. Rose even meets a young gallant, Mr. Randall. He came to the rescue when she was being annoyed by the unwanted attentions of an aged would-be suitor. It is apparent that romance is in store for our Rose and that our hero won't supply it.

But what of our hero? And his new employer? Major Grafton, as he chooses to call himself, decided it wasn't prudent to stay in America where his fraud might be discovered. Therefore, he bundled up Ben and baggage and embarked for Europe. Ben's duties as private secretary are nil and he devotes a lot of his time to learning the French language. Then one day he chances to overhear two ladies gossiping about Major Grafton. From their conversation he learns all about our villain's scheme to defraud the Beaufort children of their rightful inheritance. When Ben confronts Grafton with the truth the major has our hero locked up as a lunatic. But he soon escapes by bribing an attendant and starts out for Paris. A tramp makes an effort to steal Ben's gold watch and chain (Alger has in this instance neglected to tell how our hero happened to have such a watch). The tramp suggests that Ben should go to Lyons nearby and seek the aid of a

wealthy American staying there. The advice is taken and the man turns out to be Filippo Novarro, the Cuban gentleman who delivered the \$100,000 in securities to Ben's father. Ben tells him his story and Novarro realizes that Walton must have stolen the \$100,000. He promises to aid our hero in recovering the fortune and will act as his guardian.

Meanwhile, back in New York, Rose's romance is continuing apace but that same success results in the loss of all the Beaufort sisters' pupils and thus their income. But Ben and Novarro arrive in the nick of time. They have decided to delay their attack on Walton and help the Beauforts first. So they go to see Mr. Codicil and tell him all about Grafton's criminal activities. Rose has also come to see the lawyer and thus learns she has come into a fortune.

When Major Grafton discovers that he has been found out he employs a favorite expletive for villains, thus pleasing all of Alger's aficionados within reading distance.

(Excerpt pages 310-311)

". . . one day Major Grafton, who had now returned to Geneva, was dumfounded by receiving the following telegram from Mr. Codicil:

'Your scheme is revealed, and your guardianship at an end. No further drafts of yours will be honored.

M. Codicil.'

'Confusion! What does this mean?'

ejaculated Major Grafton. 'That wretched boy. . .'

(End Excerpt)

The "Conclusion" chapter makes revengefully good reading for the most part. Rose is married to Mr. Randall, the other Beauforts are also happily living in luxury and their enemies envy their good fortune. Mr. Novarro finds the stock broker who bought the stolen securities from Walton and thus has sufficient evidence to force the villain to give over the \$100,000 plus interest to our hero and his mother. However, Walton is not found out for the murder of Ben's father and we must trust that he will be punished at some future date. Ben is "now a young lawyer, and has commenced the practice of his profession under flattering auspices" (he studied at Harvard). Clarence Plantagenet will come to no good end nor will Major Grafton, though the latter was not punished for his crimes either. In conclusion then, this final excerpt is offered from the last page of A Boy's Fortune:

(Excerpt page 325)

". . . Filippo Novarro has established himself as a permanent resident of the United States, and spends much of his time with Ben and his mother.

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

(End excerpt)

Fictitious place names used in A Boy's Fortune

<u>Place</u>	<u>Page number(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sunderland	20, 59	Our hero's home town, 40-50 miles from New York
Long Branch	111	A resort or spa?

Chronological Listing of Characters (A Boy's Fortune)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Ben Baker	1, 3	Our Hero

Oliver Hitchcock*	3	Restaurant owner
Hugh Manton	4, 9	Reporter
Nicholas Walton	9, 10	The villain, our hero's wealthy uncle
Mr. Blodgett*	14	Manton's fellow lodger
Mrs. Baker	16, 28	Our hero's mother, Nicholas Walton's sister
Theodosia Granville	19	Mrs. Walton's maiden name
Emiline Walton*	19, 20	The Waltons' daughter, haughty and arrogant
Clarence Plantagenet Walton	19, 20	The Waltons' son, "a young coxcomb"
Dr. James Baker	20	Our hero's father, makes flashback appearance
Alice Baker	30, 123	Our hero's ten year old sister
Percy Van Dyke	39	Wealthy young member of aristocracy
Mr. Talbot	47	Clothing store proprietor
Jane Wilmet	49, 115, 116	Wealthy spinster
Mike Rafferty	50	Freckle-faced young rowdy
Tommy Burke	55	Friend of Mike Rafferty
Officer Flynn	51, 56	A policeman, NOT one of N. Y.'s finest
Mr. Woodbury	55, 57	Storekeeper from Sunderland
Richard Grafton	59, 65, 100	A major villain, employer of our hero
Philip Grafton*	59, 61	Major Grafton's deceased nephew
Nathan Codicil	81, 82	A prominent lawyer
John Portland*	83	Wealthy grandfather (deceased) of Philip Grafton & Beaufort children
Rose Beaufort	90	Beautiful seamstress (19 years old)
Adeline (Addie) Beaufort	90	Rose's "weak" sister (17 years old)
Harry Beaufort	90, 97	Rose's brother, a cash boy (13 years old)
Filippo Novarro	130, 133	Wealthy Cuban gentleman
James Bolton	136, 137	Curious ocean voyager
Mrs. Flanagan	143, 144	A "carse, selfish" landlady
Hugh Parkinson	148, 181	An elderly "dude"
Mike*	169	Kin(?) to Mrs. Flanagan
Mrs. Lucy Tilton	173, 175, 284	Wealthy, worldly lady
Mrs. Green	178	A wealthy lady
Mr. Daniells	184	Clothing store clerk
Clinton Randall	190	Gallant rescuer of Rose
Tudor	195	Friend of Mr. Randall's
Clara	203, 206	A loquacious lady
M. Bourdon	216	Operator of a Swiss lunatic asylum
Francois	223	Lunatic asylum attendant
"Napoleon Bonaparte"	232, 233	Inmate in Swiss lunatic asylum
Jean Gault	238, 239	A European lad
Marie*	238	Francois' little daughter
Tr. John Baker	270	An Alger error; should be James
Arethusa Jayne	282, 283	A jealous woman, niece to Mrs. Tilton
John Goldsmith*	320	A Wall Street broker

*Character does not take an active part in the story

PAST NOT REALLY PAST**Couple's "Time Was" Museum Preserves Years of Americana**

Four miles south of Mendota, Ill., is a new "town" from out of the past.

The "town" is the "Time Was Village Museum," a seven-building attraction owned and operated

by Kenneth Butler and his wife, Doris, of Mendota.

The Butlers opened the village in 1970 after collecting about 12,000 pieces of Americana. Displayed are such items as old bi-

cycles, sheet music, and firearms which have been collected over more than 20 years.

The family-operated museum, Butler said, is "a century in nostalgic review."

Nostalgia abounds along a street of old shops. Among them are shops for a blacksmith, barber, cobbler, and harness maker. There also is an old country store and an old-time firehouse, bookstore, candy store, and office. Homelife is re-created in a Victorian parlor, a farm kitchen, a washhouse, and an attic.

Vehicles Displayed

Another attraction is a collection of motor vehicles, including a 1914 Ford with a brass radiator, a 1910 Stanley Steamer, and a Sears Motor Buggy.

Mrs. Butler, who has studied dolls and their history, has a collection of 300 dolls on display at the museum.

"I have a treasure trove of old parts with which I bring them back to 'life'," she said.

Old toys, some dating to 1850, and an old hand-carved merry-go-round horse are displayed. An early circus bandwagon can be seen, as can circus-wagon wheels and circus posters.

The village is closed over the winter and will open again next May.



SENTINEL: A wooden cigar store Indian guards the entrance of the Smoke Shop, one of 26 shops whose windows or interiors are filled with artifacts of years gone by.



The pictures and article on the previous page are of Kenneth and Doris Butler's "Time Was Village Museum" near Mendota, Illinois. Ken, of course, is an HAS co-founder and our first President. Your editor has visited the museum several times and recommends it most highly. A special area in the book store is devoted to an eye-catching Alger display. In the bottom picture, taken in the museum's old-time ice cream parlor, Doris Butler is directly behind the soda on the table, and Ken is sitting at the far right. (Sent in by Dick Seddon, taken from the December 1, 1974 issue of Grit).

* * *

SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Carl T. Hartmann

We still have available some back issues of Newsboy. They are going fast, so if you want some write now. At the present time we have the following in stock:

- Vol. 1, nos. 1 & 7;
 Vol. 2, nos. 8, 10, 11 & 12;
 Vol. 3, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12;
 Vol. 4, nos. 6, 8, 10, 11 & 12;
 Vol. 5, nos. 1 & 2;
 Vol. 6, NONE;
 Vol. 7, ALL;
 Vol. 8, ALL; 434
 Vol. 9, ALL;
 Vol. 10, ALL;
 Vol. 11, nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10;
 Vol. 12, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12;
 Vol. 13, nos. 1, 2 & 3.

This list will be updated from time to time in the Newsboy. I do pick up a few extra copies from time to time and they will be listed as they come in. If any HAS members have extra copies of out of print issues, we would appreciate the donation. In some of the above listed issues, we only have two or three copies left so I cannot guarantee that you will receive all ordered issues.

* * *

DON'T FORGET! The 1975 HAS Convention will be in Geneseo, N. Y., May 8-10.

HISTORICAL ALLUSIONS IN ALGER
 by Gary Scharnhorst

Recently for an American history seminar at Purdue University, I wrote a research paper on the evolution of the idea of success in America in the late nineteenth century. I used Alger, of course, as the central touchstone for understanding the popular values of that period. I concluded that as the nation became more industrialized and affluent, particularly as wealth became more concentrated in the hands of a few, the Alger Myth of Success also evolved. The early books such as Ragged Dick (1867), I suggested, are about "rags to respectability" (John Cawelti's phrase*) and the later ones, especially after about 1888, describe the rise of a boy to more dizzying economic heights. (For example, see Jed the Poorhouse Boy, 1892). Though exceptions to this generalization exist, I believe it to be a trend; Alger apparently felt that he had to "compete" in his stories with the real-life successes of men like clerk-turned-billionaire John D. Rockefeller and immigrant-becomes-industrialist Andrew Carnegie. To look at it another way, Alger was a folk novelist who intimately shared the values of the larger society, so as the idea of success changed during the thirty years or so in which he wrote juvenile success novels, so too did the image of success as it appeared in the novels change.

In my examination of the novels in their chronological order of publication, I found some rather significant historical allusions in Alger that offer insight into the author's attitude towards economic events of his period. For example, in The Store Boy (1883), he mentions that one character loses money in stocks because "Keene or Jay Gould or some of those big fellows" upset the market (Chapter 35). Keene and Gould were, of course, considered in their day to be ruthless exploiters of the economically weak; both accumulated huge fortunes at the expense of investors who unwisely trusted them. Four years prior to publication of The

Store Boy occurred the incident to which Alger alluded. In 1879, Keene and Gould had actually upset the market with their manipulations of Union Pacific stock. As historian Matthew Josephson recounts in The Robber Barons**, Gould arranged for the circulation of "exuberant reports of the company's financial progress," and as a result, "widows and orphans and lady stockholders rushed to buy the stock." Having artificially inflated the price by increasing demand for the stock, Gould unloaded his shares and profited by about ten million dollars.

The event apparently impressed Alger, for eight years later in 1887, he alludes again to the distasteful scheme in Luke Walton. A widow who had invested and lost her entire property of five thousand dollars, bequeathed by her late husband for the support of her and two children, comes to robber baron Thomas Browning to plead. "'One of your circulars fell into my hands,' she tells him. 'You said that within a year the shares which were two dollars each would rise to at least ten dollars. So I invested all the money I had. You know what followed. In six months the shares went down to nothing and I found myself penniless. . . . But you seem to be a rich man now.'" (Chapter 16). Alger does not merely join the chorus of protests regarding unethical business practices, but suggests that the rich benefit at the expense of the poor, a tenet of many contemporary reformers. Indeed, one of my conclusions in the paper was that Alger was a representative man of his era because he embodied both the popular success ideology and a reformist mentality.

Another example of an Alger allusion to a current event, though indirect, occurs in Jed the Poorhouse Boy. The Interstate Commerce Commission had been created by Congress in 1887 partly to enforce a prohibition against rebates paid by trunk lines to larger railroads and corporations such as Standard Oil, controlled by Rockefeller. The practice of rebating was considered by reformers

to be an unfair circumvention of competition by the rich and powerful; defenders of the practice believed that the economically superior were merely exercising a natural prerogative. Jed, which was published in 1892, five years after the passage of the act which publicized the abuse, offers a clue to Alger's opinion on the issue. Squire Dixon, as a function of public trust, is empowered to appoint the Overseer of the Poor; although Dixon is already a rich man, Alger notes he is so selfish that he "accepts five dollars a month from the man he installed in office." Not surprisingly, I can find no mention of Rockefeller (or for that matter, of Carnegie) in any Alger novel.

Alger at least twice in his later works refers to the economic depression that followed the Panic of 1893. The young hero of Rupert's Ambition (1893) loses his position due to a "dullness in business" in the novel's first chapter. The hero of The Young Salesman (1894) ventures to New York City from Liverpool, and although he makes "application for a hundred situations," his luck "does not improve" because of the "general business depression which made employers adverse to hiring new employees. (Chapter 19).

It is because Alger is not terribly concerned with fortune as he is with goodness and respectability that he never mentions such men as Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller, Stanford, etc., even though he seemingly glories in such financial success stories. In that sense, it is significant that Alger never writes of Commodore Vanderbilt in a book written after 1876. Until that date, the Commodore was frequently praised by Alger as a living example for his readers to emulate; however, the Hepburn Commission in New York revealed in 1876-7 that Commodore Vanderbilt was "on the take" in unethical pools.

When Alger was a young boy, the richest man in the country was John Jacob Astor, who died in 1848. Significantly, Astor's wealth was obtained in

mercantile enterprises rather than industrial ones, so it was not "tainted" in Alger's eyes as were later fortunes. A. T. Stewart, the owner of a dry goods store in New York, accumulated his fortune in a fashion similar to Astor. As a result, Astor and Stewart are consistently praised throughout the Alger corpus for their achievements. In 1890, John Jacob's great grandson William Waldorf sacrificed his American citizenship to move to England, marry into British royalty, and become a viscount. In Jed, written but two years later, Alger recreates the familial rise of the Astors from poverty to royalty. Our hero Jed is discovered near the end of the novel to be a lost prince and is reinstated to his position by birthright with attendant wealth. Such a parallel to actual events is not, I submit, an accident. In other words, Jed/Robert Fenwick, Bart. traces in miniature the fortunes of several generations of the Astor family.

At any rate, this is the direction which my paper took me. I am convinced that many more historical allusions in Alger can be detected. If any members are aware of others, I hope you will call them to my attention.

*From the title of his chapter on Alger in Apostles of the Self-Made Man (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1965), pp. 101-123.

**The Robber Barons, (New York, Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1934), p. 198.

* * *

NOTES FROM RALPH

by Ralph D. Gardner

Recently I've been in correspondence with Miss Marianna Wimberly, a school-teacher in Sumner, Nebraska. Her students read the recent Doubleday edition of Silas Snobden's Office Boy, loved it, and are now hooked on Horatio Alger. As her letter below indicates, they've now enjoyed a few Algiers and would like to get more. I told Miss Wimberly that I believe the members of the Horatio Alger Society will gladly help. So, if you have any Algiers you can spare, please

send them to her. Even one or two would be most welcome. They can be battered old reading copies, just so the text is complete. Duplicates are okay. Our members have always been generous in helping to spread Horatio's good words, so do what you can.

Here's Miss Wimberly's letter:

Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Schools
Consolidated District 101R
Office of Superintendent
Sumner, Nebraska
October 16, 1974

Ralph D. Gardner
745 5th Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Gardner,

This fall I introduced my 7th and 8th grade classes to Ragged Dick and Mark the Match Boy. Before we were through the first part the students were groaning with real worry, "What are we going to do when we're through?" Fortunately, I found Silas Snobden's Office Boy, so we are safe for a short time.

The kids absolutely loved the stories and are most eager to find more. I was delighted to see that today's youngsters could still be truly hungry for the morals Alger puts forth so entertainingly and at the same time I was sorry not to have discovered him for myself. With the trash surrounding kids lives today it is refreshing to find that they can still be reached by something really good.

Finding no other titles available I decided to ask your help in our search. I assure you that you have 48 very anxious people awaiting news of their new-found heroes. You have my thanks and theirs, in advance.

Hopefully,

Marianna Wimberly

January-February

From letters I've received, I know that some of you are already aware that Aeonion Press, of Leyden Mass. 01337, will soon start reissuing a whole series of Alger's books. It will be a fine project, including the scarce titles many of us need, as well as the more popular titles. Most of Aeonian's business is with schools, libraries and other institutions, but their books will also be made available to members of the Horatio Alger Society. I'm writing an individual foreword to each volume. The first group of eight titles will soon go to press. Aeonian has also scheduled for publication a reissue of Horatio Alger or, the American Hero Era. This will be good news to members who've been searching for copies ever since the original edition went out of print years ago. This one will be released in the autumn of 1975. We'll keep you advised. (Editor's note: Dick Seddon has sent me a brochure from the Aeonian Press that lists the eight forthcoming Alger titles. They are Dean Dunham, The Erie Train Boy, Frank and Fearless, Mark Manning's Mission, Ralph Raymond's Heir, A Rolling Stone, The Train Boy and Young Captain Jack. The regular price is \$5.95 apiece, but the pre-publication cost is \$4.95 for each book).

The January, 1975 issue of the TWA Ambassador Magazine has as its cover story, "Could Horatio Alger's Heroes Make It in Today's Business World?" On the cover is a fine illustration from the later Loring editions of the "Ragged Dick Series," showing Dick in a group with Ben the Luggage Boy, Rufus and Mark the Match Boy. I wrote the article. This publication, which has a circulation of 2,404,000, is distributed to all TWA passengers on all their flights. Members can obtain a free copy by writing to: Mr. Jim Carney, Managing Editor, TWA Ambassador Magazine, 1999 Shepard Road, St. Paul, Minn. 55116.

In addition to my other chores, I'm now doing book reviews on a weekly radio show over WRVR-NY. So, any authors among you, send me your books and I'll review them on the air. They've named

the program, "Ralph Gardner's Bookshelf."

Incidentally, for some time I've been trying to determine when the popular phrase, "a typical Horatio Alger success story," was first used. Can anyone help? I'll report the results here in a later issue of Newsboy.

* * *

"MABEL" IS "JERRY"

by Gilbert K. Westgard II

One of the most interesting discoveries in the field of research on Horatio Alger, Jr., occurred at the 1974 convention of the Horatio Alger Society. What had been intended to be a brief summary of the manuscript of Mabel Parker, made to those members present, turned out to be the key that opened the way for study of those stories completed by Edward Stratemeyer.

Ralph Gardner's books give a good description of the manuscript, so I will dispense with that task, and simply confine my remarks to any points which his short examination did not disclose.

The manuscript is not in the handwriting of Horatio Alger, Jr. It shows evidence of being a copy made by a professional copyist from an earlier written version, the latter probably in Alger's own hand. This copyist was evidently older than Alger, since he used the old style of writing a double "s" (fs), which is particularly noticeable in such a word as "Mifsissippi."

In only a few spots is there any of Alger's handwriting. This is of a limited nature, being generally confined to small changes, grammatical corrections, and minor revisions. This was done after 1890.

The most important line, from the standpoint of being able to assign a date to this manuscript, occurs on the first page. It refers to the population of Buffalo, N. Y., as "numbering hard upon a hundred thousand inhabitants." This figure was reached in the year

1866. Alger later crossed out this line, substituting in his own handwriting, "numbering over a quarter of a million inhabitants." The census of Buffalo in 1890 showed a population of 255,664. When this story finally appeared in print, as Jerry, the Backwoods Boy, in 1904, this line was revised by Edward Stratemeyer to read, "now a place of three hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants." The census of 1900 shows a figure of 352,387.

96% of the story of Mabel Parker survives in Jerry, the Backwoods Boy, with about 60% of the paragraphs having no changes whatsoever. 27% have only minor changes, and slightly less than 10% have major ones. Eliminated paragraphs are only about 4%.

Additional material was added to Mabel to help change it into Jerry. 643 new paragraphs, mostly conversational in nature, were written by Edward Stratemeyer. These make up about 30% of the printed book.

Several interesting changes occur both within the manuscript and in the transition to the printed book. The Indian was originally called "Logan," on page 4 of the manuscript, but Alger evidently had second thoughts about the suitability of this name, since it is crossed out and "John" is written above. In the remainder of the story he is known as either "Indian John," or more simply, as "Jack."

In the manuscript there is a minor character, Zack. His name is changed to Jerry Blue in the printed version, thus becoming the principle character. Most of the added material relates to bringing him into a more prominent position.

Mabel Parker, her father, and her grandfather have their last name changed to Parkhurst in Jerry, the Backwoods Boy.

The Indian village is called Okommakaresit in the original story, while it

is nameless in the book. Its inhabitants eventually move "far beyond the Mississinni" in the manuscript, but no mention of their fate is made in the printed version. The opposite takes place with Indian John, whose fate is not mentioned in the manuscript, but who goes out in a snow storm, and is found frozen to death under a big tree in Jerry.

Also, Black Phoebe's fate is unknown in the book, whereas in the manuscript she lives long enough to see Mabel happily married, and the mother of a little girl. When she eventually dies, there are many tears shed over Phoebe's grave by Mabel.

Finally, in the original story, Mehitable marries the fortune hunting lawyer, Dick Clarke, who then deserts her after obtaining her money. In the book she remains a spinster, while Clarke is sentenced to ten years in prison at hard labor.

After hearing the summary of the plot of Mabel Parker, Alex Shaner told me that he had just recently read it under another title. At first he thought it might be Young Captain Jack, but a quick examination of that volume proved that such was not the case.

Next, for a couple of hours I read certain portions of the manuscript aloud, stopping at various points, at which Alex supplied the conclusion of the incident. At this point I was convinced that he had indeed read the story. Now he remembered, it was Jerry, the Backwoods Boy.

Our final task was to locate a copy of Jerry for verifying the similarities. A call to Dan Fuller, who had just gotten home and into bed, (it was 2 a.m.), established that he had a copy, and would bring it down to the motel as soon as he got dressed. As we anxiously awaited his arrival, the phone rang. It was Dan. He had dressed, gone to the shelves where he keeps his Algiers, and had discovered that he had put his copy

of Jerry in an exhibit at his school. There he stood, all dressed, with no place to go! So, he went back to bed, and I continued to call other convention attenders to find a copy of the needed volume, until a copy was finally located, examined, and the fact established that, indeed, Jerry, the Backwoods Boy is a rewritten version of Mabel Parker.

* * *

ARE MY BOYS REAL?

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The following article is from the December, 1965 Newsboy, and since many members have probably not read it, it is reprinted here. It originally appeared in The Ladies' Home Journal, the November, 1890 issue. Gilbert K. Westgard II was the HAS member who made it available to Newsboy).

The idea is suggested that young people will be interested to learn whether the boy characters in my books are taken from real life. I answer in general terms that I have always preferred to introduce real boys into my stories, and have done so in many instances where it has been possible for me to find a character suited to a plot.

The first street-boy with whom I became acquainted in New York was Johnny Nolan, a young boot-black, who made daily calls at the office of one of my friends whose office, in 1867, was on Spruce Street, on the site now occupied by the "Tribune" building. My conversations with him gave me my first knowledge of New York street-boys and their mode of life. My interest was excited, and led me a few months later to undertake the story of "Ragged Dick", in which Johnny figures. I have described him as he was—a good natured but lazy boy, without enterprise or ambition. I gave Johnny a copy of the book when it appeared, and he was quite proud at figuring in print. The original of "Micky Maguire" was Paddy Shea, a tough character, who lived not far from the City Hall, and generally passed the summer at "the island." "Ragged Dick" was a real

name, but I never knew the boy who bore it.

I met the hero of Rough and Ready at the Newsboys' lodge, in the upper part of the old "Sun" building. "Ben, the Luggage Boy", I met at the same place, and the story of that name substantially accords with his. The boys who made for themselves a home beneath one of the piers, were known to Superintendent O' Connor, and he arranged for me an interview with one of them. I had conversations with many street-boys while writing the Ragged Dick and Tattered Tom series, and derived from many of them sketches of character and incidents.

When I was preparing to write The District Telegraph Boy, I sent for a boy who had served in that capacity for nearly two years, and used some of the incidents he supplied to me. "Phil the Fiddler" was a real Italian boy. I obtained the picture which appears in the book, from a Broadway photographer, to whom he sat for it. Mr. Casale, then editor of an Italian semi-weekly paper in New York, furnished me with many of the incidents.

Some of the characters in The Young Circus Rider are still living, in particular Charlie Davis, who left home at an early age and accompanied a circus to Australia. In Frank's Campaign, the boys forming the military company commanded by Frank Frost, were all real boys, and all, with one exception, are living today. The colored boy, little Pomp, in the same story, was intended as a male counterpart to Mrs. Stowe's "Topsy".

I have, by request, given to many of my characters the real names of young friends and acquaintances without necessarily making them portraits. Some of my books and serial stories were suggested in part by incidents in the lives of young persons whom I knew. I am now writing for a juvenile publication a story called The Erie Train Boy. Fred, the hero, served in that capacity last summer, securing the position through me.

I am often indebted for characters and incidents to paragraphs in the daily press. Whenever I find one that seems available, I follow the example of Charles Reade, and cut it out for future reference. I have probably written seventy-five juvenile books and serials, and I have no hesitation in saying that it would have been quite impossible for me to write half the number if I had not drawn in large part my characters and material from real life. The story of Joe's Luck, located in California, was written in San Francisco. Years afterwards the name of the book was given to a mine in southern Africa, of which a picture appeared in the London Illustrated News. In like manner I went to Chicago in October 1887, to obtain material for a story just published in book-form, called Luke Walton; or, the Chicago Newsboy.

I have, of course, introduced a large number of adult characters in my various stories. Many of these are special studies from life. I hold that a novelist, or writer of fiction, is best situated in a large city, where he has an opportunity to study life in many phases, and come in contact with a large variety of types of character. The experience of prominent American and foreign novelists, notably of Charles Dickens, will bear me out in this statement.

* * *
RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

Paul Fisher reports that The Disagreeable Woman is "a welcome addition to my collection," which now includes two more firsts - Ragged Dick and Bertha's Christmas Vision. Paul says that he "retired a couple of years ago and now at the tender age of 59 have started teaching at a local college."

Ken Butler has recently run across Alger in Bartlett's well known work, Familiar Quotations. Surprisingly, the passages considered "on the public tongue" are not from his books, but from his poem, "John Maynard." Stanzas one and eleven are printed from this favorite Alger poem.

And speaking of "John Maynard," Babe Swift owns Gems for the Fireside by Rev. O. H. Tiffany (1883) which has this poem in it. The March, 1972 Newsboy reproduced the poem as it appeared in this beautiful anthology of prose and poetry. Also, Babe asks if any HAS member has the March, 1867 issue of Student and Schoolmate for sale, as he needs this copy to complete his Ragged Dick story.

There will be another auction sale at the Geneseo, N. Y. HAS Convention, May 8-10, 1975, and all donations (which are tax deductible) will be very much appreciated.

I'd like to remind Newsboy readers that this is not a double issue. At the last convention it was agreed that the Newsboy would be labeled January through December and numbered one through twelve for each volume, though there are regularly no issues for January and July. Thus, what used to be the February Newsboy is now the January-February issue.

Herb Risteen announces that he is now completing twenty years of crossword puzzle making, as his first puzzles appeared in the New York Times during the latter part of 1954. Since that time, nearly six thousand of his crosswords have been published in newspapers, puzzle books and magazines. In 1974, two of his crossword puzzles were published in the prestigious Sunday Magazine of the New York Times. On an Alger vein, Herb discovered 56 Algers listed in the Montgomery Ward Catalogue, 1898-1899, Fall and Winter. However, one title was an oddity, Conrad's Plucky Fight, though the subtitle of Adrift in the City was "Oliver Conrad's Plucky Fight." Also, Herb recently picked up excellent copies of McKay editions of Tom Tracy and Tom Brace, so as he says, "there are still treasures to be found now and then."

VP Evelyn Grebel will be in Abilene, Texas (1329 So. 6th St.) from January through April. Evelyn, as well as other admirers of Dave Kanarr's Alger caricatures, have sent in letters of delight at seeing the cover of the December Newsboy. An excellent job, Dave!!