

# Newsboy

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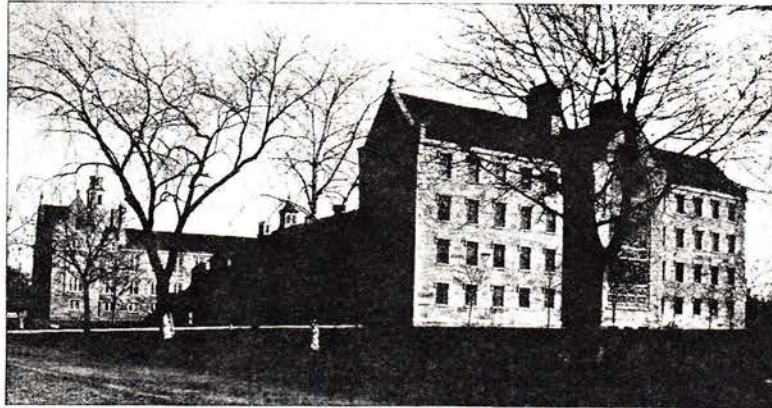


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Monthly Newsletter of  
the HORATIO ALGER  
SOCIETY. The World's  
Only Publication Devoted  
to That Wonderful  
World of Horatio Alger.



*Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler*



WORK-HOUSE, BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

Mention "Blackwell's Island" to an Alger fan and immediately visions of Micky Maguire of Ragged Dick fame and a host of other Alger ruffians come to mind! Blackwell's Island, purchased by New York City in 1828, is a long, narrow island in the East River about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long. It contains 120 acres, and is the main one of the group of islands upon which are most of the public reformatory, correctional and charitable institutions of the City.

The island was named after Robert Blackwell. He married the daughter of Captain John Manning, who surrendered New York to the Dutch in 1673. After his disgrace, Manning retired to his farm on the island, which was then known as Hog Island. Upon his death, it became the property of his daughter, and it remained in the family for many years. (Illustration from King's Handbook of New York City, edited and published by Moses King, Boston, 1892).

## 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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Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. All members' inquiries about their subscription and/or membership status should be directed to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, Michigan 48910.

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.

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NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-467 Ernest J. Mansmann, Jr.  
6039 Edgewood Terrace  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

Ernie (or. E. J.) is a Foreign Affairs Officer in the United States Department of State. His main Alger interest is the collecting of Winston editions with the shoe shine boy on the spine. He has forty-nine of these, but readily admits to there being

additional ones. His other hobbies include the collecting of antique porcelain tea pots (which number 139), picture post cards (of which he has 7300), and Bobbsey Twins and Henty books. He heard of HAS through his reading and research, and through Ralph Gardner.

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BOOK MART

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

Offered by Jerry Friedland, 6 Elyise Road, Monsey, New York 10952.

Lost at Sea	Mershon	G	\$10.00
Mark the Match Boy	Loring	G-Vg	20.00
P. Prescott's Charge	Loring	G	15.00
Paul the Peddler	Loring	G	15.00
Phil the Fiddler	Loring	G	20.00
Strive and Succeed	Loring	G	15.00
Strong and Steady	Loring	G-Vg	20.00

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NOTES FROM RALPH

by Ralph D. Gardner

The biggest Alger news of the decade, without question, is the two phenomenal treasures that Bob Bennett corralled within a two week period. Bob first latched onto The Disagreeable Woman. A friend had seen it in the Swann Galleries (New York) catalog, and Bob bid on it successfully, obtaining it for \$475.00. Next, he was offered (and you can be sure, promptly ordered) Timothy Crump's Ward. This was offered by Tom Stotler, of Penobscot, Maine. The price was \$1,500.00. Bob has one of the finest Alger collections around. The few items he still needs are minor, compared to the great volumes he already has on his shelves.

From my own point of view, as a bibliographer, I'm delighted - not only that these two precious volumes didn't go to a person or institution outside the Horatio Alger Society - but especially because firm, definite prices have at last been established for them.



Until now, we could only estimate, as neither had previously appeared on the open market. Now we KNOW what they're worth! Incidentally, two added benefits of Bob's Timothy acquisition are that Tom Stotler has now become an HAS member and he has generously contributed \$100.00 as a gift to HAS.

Knowing Bob's luck, I'm willing to bet he'll soon pick up duplicates of both these books in the next few weeks.

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Please note this appeal: The University of Wyoming Library is forming a very impressive Horatio Alger collection. These books are on permanent display, and always available for the students, who regularly use them in the School's American Studies Program. So please, HAS members, send them any and all duplicates you don't need. Condition doesn't matter. There can be duplicate copies of titles. These books are wanted, needed, put to excellent use, and spread Horatio's stories in the finest possible way.

Please be generous and send whatever Algers you don't need to: Dr. Gene M. Gressley, Director, Division of Rare Books and Special Collections, The Library, Box 3334, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

Not only will this help the University and the students who are studying Alger's works, but your gifts will be tax deductible. The Library will promptly send to each donor a receipt of gifts that can be used for tax deductions. So please be generous, and do it now, before you forget.

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I recently read in a back copy of Town and Country Magazine (November, 1974) that the National Portrait Gallery in Washington is seeking, among other pictures, a portrait of Horatio Alger. They don't have one. Too bad they couldn't get to bid on the great Alger portrait that Dave Kanarr made to be auctioned off at our fabulous Genesee convention. Hey Dave - how about being real patriotic and making another for the National Gallery, so visitors to

Washington will know what Our Hero looked like? For anyone interested in that article (there's nothing in it about Horatio; just that they need a portrait of him), it's titled "Putting a Face on America," by Paul Dickson. Alger's name, I note, is Number Two on their Most Wanted list.

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MARK STANTON; or,  
BOTH SIDES OF THE CONTINENT  
by Horatio Alger Jr.

as read by PF-314

Mark Stanton was first published in 1890 by the United States Book Company. The page numbers referred to in this report are those of the hardcover edition printed by Street and Smith. I should like to say at the outset that several of my favorite episodes and characters are lacking in this Alger epic and in my opinion it suffers as a consequence of their absence. For instance, there is no big rescue scene; our hero doesn't get a gold watch or fine clothes. There is no villainous squire nor is there a rich young snob. A landlord scene is present, but the landlord comes out smelling like a rose and therefore, I have left that part out of this synopsis. After all, what red blooded Alger fan wants to see the landlord win out?

Mark Stanton, our hero, lives in New York City. He is "a bright boy, with a face one was apt to turn and take a second glance at." Like many of Alger's heroes, he starts out with his fair share of burdens. When Mark was thirteen, his father died and our hero became a newsboy to help support his mother. Now at fifteen he has a job as a wrapping clerk at five dollars a week. His uncle, Philip Pell, is trying to get rid of him one way or another so that he can follow through on a claim for an inheritance of \$25,000 that should go to our hero's mother. (For some unknown reason, Pell isn't concerned about getting rid of Mrs. Stanton, who is his half-sister).

Also, the Stantons have taken on the responsibility of caring for a little



newsgirl named Jennie, aged eight. Jennie had been living with Mrs. Milligan, who was no kin but who claimed to be her cousin. Nora Milligan is a lazy, whining two hundred pound middle-aged woman who prefers whiskey to work. (Alger paints a clearer picture of her than any other character in the whole story). She has been living off what money Jennie makes selling papers, but as our story opens she is in jail for disorderly conduct. It was when she was jailed that the Stantons took over the care of the little girl.

After Mrs. Milligan is released, she goes to live with her son, Mike. He is almost as lazy as his mother, being content to live off what his wife earns taking in washing. Mike forces his mother to help his wife with her laundry business in order to earn her keep. Mrs. Milligan wastes little time in taking the little newsgirl back into her clutches. So once again little Jennie is coerced into earning booze money for the lazy lush.

Naturally, our hero put forth great effort to find Jennie when she disappeared. But by the time he discovered where she had been held, the Milligans had already taken her off to Brooklyn. Before Mark can search for her there, he is shanghaied. A Captain Roberts, claiming to be an old friend of Mark's father, lures him aboard his ship and puts a sleeping potion in his sarsaparilla. When our hero wakes up he is far at sea, headed for San Francisco. The captain is not unkind, and we get the impression that he will treat Mark well. He even offers to teach young Stanton something of navigation so that his time at sea will be spent profitably, in so far as possible under the circumstances.

Meanwhile, Mike Milligan has obtained a job as bartender in Brooklyn. His mother discovers that being related to the barkeep doesn't get her any free liquor. Jennie manages to run away and rejoin Mrs. Stanton. The two have trouble keeping the rent paid since they no longer count on the money formerly

brought in by Mark. Mrs. Stanton sews shirts and Jennie goes back to selling newspapers. With the rent coming due, Mrs. Stanton goes to pawn her gold wedding ring but good fortune strikes. An old family friend, Mr. Mordaunt, hires her to care for and instruct his daughter at fifty dollars a month, plus, he will pay the rent.

Now that we have our hero's family well taken care of, let us return to his misfortunes. Mark has discovered that the captain knows his Uncle Philip. And the reader learns that it is Philip Pell who has had Captain Roberts sail away with Mark a prisoner. Once arrived in San Francisco however, the Captain is instructed by a letter from Pell to let Mark run away, which he does.

As to what thoughts our hero has on the subject, let us eavesdrop on a conversation he has with a gold miner (who is also a lawyer) whom he meets in San Francisco. By a stroke of good luck he has just hired Mark as a partner for another miner. Mark is speaking to Jim Philbrick, the miner, regarding his new employer, yet unseen (Excerpt pages 168-170):

"I hope he will like me."

"If he don't you needn't feel alarmed. I'll look after you and give you a start myself."

"Thank you, sir. You are very kind to a stranger."

"I've taken a liking to you, my lad. You've got a frank, honest face. Have you any one belonging to you?"

"Yes, sir; I have a mother in New York. It is for her sake that I would so much like to succeed."

"Was she willing to have you come so far from home?"

"She didn't know I was coming."

"You didn't run away? If so, I shan't think so well of you."

"No; I was carried away against my will, and without my knowledge."

"That sounds mysterious. Please elucidate, as my legal friends used to say. Mark told his history in as few words as possible.

"It sounds like a romance. Do you



think the captain deliberately planned to take you from New York?"

"I am obliged to think so."

"It certainly looks like it. Had you any previous acquaintance with Captain Roberts?"

"No; he was a complete stranger to me."

"Then no doubt he is the agent of some other party. Do you think of any one who wished to get you out of the way?"

"Yes, sir; I can think of one—a half brother of my mother."

"Have you any wealthy relative whose money this half brother might wish to monopolize?"

"Not that I know of."

"You see I haven't forgotten my legal education. A lawyer always seeks for a motive, and the pursuit of money is a very obvious one. Did Captain Roberts oppose your leaving the ship?"

"No; he even advanced me ten dollars."

"Perhaps he wanted to make it easy for you to run away?"

"At any rate I prefer to stay, now that I am here. When I return I want to take some money to my mother."

"I'll do my best to help you, Mark. In time you may circumvent the man who is plotting against you."

(End excerpt)

So it's on to the gold fields! Mark and his new employer, Sandy Mackaye, get along well. Our hero does all of the cooking and the gold mining for the both of them, as Sandy is troubled by rheumatism. Dabney, an ex-employee who stole five hundred dollars in gold dust from the old miner, warns him that he and a Portuguese gambler named Lopez are planning to rob him in the night. Thus forewarned, they capture Lopez who is then hanged by the other miners. Mr. Mackaye rewards Dabney by signing his claim over to him. And here is the scene whereby we learn of one of those startling Alger coincidences so necessary to his plots. Mark is speaking to Mr. Mackaye (excerpt pages 227-228):

"Have you no relations living, then?" asked Mark.

"I fear not. I had a sister, much younger, who married, and had a child—a

girl. She died in consumption, I heard, and whether the child lived I know not. Probably it died."

"How old would the child have been, if it had lived?"

"About ten years of age."

"Did you know what name it received?"

"No, but I think my poor sister would name it for our mother — Jennie — to whom we were both deeply attached—"

A new idea had come into Mark's mind.

"This is wonderful!" he exclaimed.

"What is wonderful?" asked Sandy Mackaye quickly.

"I believe I know your niece. When I left New York she was under my mother's charge. We have a letter from her mother, written on her dying bed, expressing the wish that Jennie might some day meet her uncle."

(End excerpt)

So our hero and Jennie's Uncle Rupert (for that is Mackaye's given name) leave for New York. Upon arrival there they tell Mark's mother and little Jennie the good news and Mr. Mackaye thanks the Stantons with five hundred dollars. It looks like they'll all live happily ever after as you yourself can divine by reading the final chapter in its entirety as follows; your faithful reader being at a loss to condense the information any more than Alger already has. (Chapter pages 234-235):

Jennie's future having been settled, Mark now came out with a most astounding piece of news.

It seemed that during the journey from the west he had fallen in with an English gentleman, who lent him a package of papers to read, and in one of them he came across the very advertisement which had so excited Philip Pell.

"And there are just three months left in which to prove identity and secure the money," finished Mark. "Mr. Mackaye has given me some good advice in the matter, and I hope by Christmas I'll be able to give you a present that will make your eyes sparkle, mother."

Mark's wish was fulfilled and Philip Pell was forced to see his young relative living in the lap of luxury. Whether Mark suspected that he had a



hand in his sudden taking off to California the disappointed lodging-house keeper never knew. The reader, of course, has already suspected it.

This is how it was arranged. Captain John Roberts owed Pell a large sum of money which he could not pay, and Pell offered to cancel the debt if the captain would agree to entrap Mark aboard his ship and take him off to San Francisco. We may add here that Captain Roberts had a stormy interview with Pell on his return, and they parted enemies, as fellow conspirators are very apt to do.

It is perhaps needless to say that

Mark did not seek to be reinstated in his old position with Merton Price. He is now in the senior class at Columbia College, and expects to enter the Law School next fall.

Jennie still lives with the Stantons, and is growing into a very attractive young lady.

It is rumored that she and Mark—but then this story is not a novel, so I will stop right here and leave the nature of the rumor to the imagination of my readers.

THE END

And so shall I.

Fictitious place names in Mark Stanton

<u>Name of place</u>	<u>Page number</u>	<u>Description</u>
Shantytown	171	California goldmining village

List of characters in Mark Stanton, by Horatio Alger, Jr.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Page number(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>
Emma Stanton	5, 9	Our hero's mother
Jennie Carter	5, 12, 232	Eight year old newsgirl
Mark Stanton	5	Our Hero
Nora Milligan	5, 12	Hefty villainess, a dipsomaniac
Philip Pell	6, 7	Our hero's uncle, a villain
William Stanton*	7, 94	Our hero's father, an accountant (presumed dead)
Mr. Price	7	Dry goods merchant, our hero's employer
Emma Woodburn	9	Maiden name of our hero's mother
Lawrence Enfield*	9	Wealthy Englishman (deceased)
Mr. Tallboy*	9	English solicitor
Mr. Keep*	9	English solicitor
Mike Milligan	21	Nora Milligan's son, a toper
Ellen Milligan	25, 33	Mike's wife, a washerwoman
Mrs. Carter*	26, 232	Little Jennie's mother (deceased)
Mrs. Patrick Flanagan	35	Old friend of Nora Milligan's
Mr. Donovan*	35	An alderman
Mrs. McKenna	36	Old friend of Nora Milligan's
Mrs. Alderman O'Brien	39, 41	A good woman, "neither cultured nor refined"
Mike O'Brien	40	City official
Dennis Sullivan	85	Young friend of our hero
John Roberts	93, 94	A clipper ship captain
Jack Murphy	116, 118	A Brooklyn boy
Peter Murden	132	An avaricious landlord
Ned	137	A mistake, whether Alger's or Mrs. Stanton's is questionable (meant to be Mark, our hero)
Christopher Mordaunt	138, 140	Prosperous actor, a widower

Leila Mordaunt	140, 141	Christopher's six year old daughter
Jim Philbrick	163, 166	A gold miner who was also a lawyer
Rupert Alexander (Sandy) Mackaye	164, 167, 174, 228, 232	A wealthy gold miner (turns out to be little Jennie's uncle)
Mr. Lopez	181, 183	A Portuguese gambler and thief
Mr. Perkins*	184	A gold miner
Mr. Warner	181, 185	A gold miner
Mr. Dabney	177, 197, 198	A reformed thief
John Ferguson*	203	A gold miner
Jennie Mackaye	227	Rupert's mother (And Mrs. Carter's) (Deceased)
Mr. Carter*	232	Little Jennie's father (deceased)

\*Doesn't actually make an active appearance in our story

\* \* \*  
 POSSIBLE ORIGIN OF  
 SOME OF ALGER'S TITLES  
 by John M. Warren  
 PF-458

Consider these quotes from a great American writer:

- " . . . brave!"
- " . . . Act!"
- " . . . Trust!"
- " . . . take heart!"
- " . . . be up and doing!"
- " . . . pursue!"
- " . . . achieve!"
- "Be a hero in the strife!"

Alger?

No. The foregoing is pure Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Nor are the above words selected arbitrarily from some wide scattering of that poet's works. Rather, they all derive from a single poem titled, "A Psalm of Life."

Now could not Horatio have been imbued with the spark of an idea first expounded by his revered professor of Harvard days, Longfellow?

Let us go a step further and ask rhetorically, "Could Henry's brave have inspired Horatio's BRAVE AND BOLD? Or, Henry's Trust to Horatio's TRY AND TRUST? Or Longfellow's hero in the strife Alger's STRIVE AND SUCCEED?"

Sorry, many will probably say with pardonable reservation, but Horatio was his own Captain, his own oarsman, and

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the only thing you'll ever discover that he borrowed were his own original observations of life about him.

Well, I can readily agree with that.

But I'll take a stand on one point and that is that I definitely believe Alger's title WAIT AND HOPE was inspired by this poem.

Two reasons for this.

First Alger quotes two lines from "A Psalm of Life" in WAIT AND HOPE (chapter XXII).

They are: "Be not like dumb, driven cattle,  
 Be like a hero in the strife!"

And secondly, in Chapter IX, hero Ben Bradford explains his motto "Wait and Hope" by saying, "There isn't much use in waiting if you don't work too."

Compare Ben Bradford's speech with the final words of Longfellow's poem.

The last line of the thirty-six lines of "A Psalm of Life" is:

"Learn to labor and to wait."

\* \* \*

A PSALM OF LIFE  
 What the Heart of the Young Man  
 Said to the Psalmist

by Henry W. Longfellow



Tell me not, in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream!  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returned,  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way;  
But to act, that each to-morrow  
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and  
brave,  
Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act, — act in the living Present!  
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time; —

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND  
by Jack Bales

The enclosed "The Philadelphia News-boys; And Their Annual Fourth of July Dinner," was prepared especially for the readers of Newsboy by Gilbert K. Westgard II. Though the setting of the story is not New York, but Philadelphia, Alger occasionally mentioned George W. Childs, publisher of the Philadelphia Public Ledger and a main character of

this piece. In fact, in Madeleine B. Stern's book, Imprints on History; Book Publishers and American Frontiers, [Bloomington, Indiana, Indiana University Press, 1956], Childs is compared to Horatio Alger's character in Risen from the Ranks, Harry Walton. Quoting from page 158: "Actually, Horatio Alger, Jr., was telling an oft-told tale. Harry Walton's career might well be imitated in the future, but its outlines had been set in the past. George W. Childs, for one, had also 'risen from the ranks' in much the same manner as Harry Walton."

Thanks go to Gil for making this story available to us, and I appreciate Dick Bowerman sending me photocopied pages from the above book. Dick, as many Alger collectors know, is writing his dissertation on Horatio Alger, and has gathered hundreds of articles and references on Our Hero.

Bob Bennett and Carl Hartmann paid me a visit last July 19th. The next morning, after an evening of much Alger talk (coupled with examinations of Bob's new books — see page two of this issue), we set off for Des Plaines, Illinois to see Gil Westgard. On the way we stopped and talked with Ken Butler, and he too admired Timothy Crump's Ward and The Disagreeable Woman. In Des Plaines, Gil showed us the convention arrangements for the ROSEMONT TWELFTH TIME. It's only July, but Gil has already done a terrific job of planning things. The motel is beautiful, and Gil has arranged for HAS to have use of a "hospitality room" so that members can congregate and talk during the four day convention. We hope that you're all planning on being there, May 6-9, 1976.

Recently I read "Horatio Alger: Failure," by Malcolm Cowley, in the Summer, 1970 issue of Horizon. The article is not very good. Besides the author's reliance upon Herbert R. Mayes' volume for biographical material, Cowley also makes the assumption that Sink or Swim contains "the only nonmaternal kiss in . . . possibly . . . all the books he wrote . . ." This is incorrect. See the last page of Chapter 19 in The Young Adventurer.