

Newsboy

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



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Monthly Newsletter of
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SOCIETY. The World's
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ed to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



GETTING READY FOR SUPPER IN THE NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE.

Do you know who was the first newsboy in the United States? He was Barney Flaherty, a ten year old who answered the following advertisement which appeared on September 4, 1833 in Benjamin Day's New York Sun: "To the unemployed—A number of steady men can find employment by vending this paper. A liberal discount is allowed to those who buy to sell again." (Source: Famous First Facts, by Joseph Kane).

If Barney had been a boy selling

papers in the latter 1800's, he probably would have been interested in the Newsboys' Lodging House — an institution that is familiar by name to all Alger readers but about which little is known.

In an effort to make available obscure — though existing — material, Newsboy presents on page 2 a history of this remarkable establishment. (Above picture of washroom in Duane Street Lodging House from How the Other Half Lives, by historian Jacob Riis).

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 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.

* * *
NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-470 David W. Thornton
930 Williams Ave.
Placentia, California 92670

David, a retail controller in California, learned of the Horatio Alger Society through HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas. He owns 73 Algers and is also interested in antiques.

PF-471 Gene Steele
4336 Valley Village Station
North Hollywood, Calif. 91607

Owner of fourteen Alger titles, Gene is a motion picture and television producer. William Chase, PF-273, told him of HAS, and he is interested in developing Alger's life for film and television.

* * *
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-090 Roy Wendell
190 High St., Apt. 406
Medford, Mass. 02155

PF-318 Evelyn M. Grebel
1329 South Sixth St.
Abilene, Texas
(This address until April 15, 1976)

PF-325 Ann Sharrard
8 Longview Dr.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824

PF-368 Gary Scharnhorst
425 Harrison St., Apt. 1
West Lafayette, Ind. 47906

PF-395 Irving P. Leif
R. R. #5 Box N-1
Newburgh, Ind. 47630

PF-454 Richard (Dick) Bowerman
2045 Murray Hill Rd.
Apt. 3
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

* * *
A HISTORY OF THE
NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE

by Jack Bales

The middle 1800's brought many social changes to the United States, and particularly to New York City. Immigrants were settling all over the country - in 1852 alone, 300,992 foreigners landed at New York. Many of these newly arrived aliens were hard working men and women, adjusting determinably to their new environment. Others, however, were shiftless and lazy individuals, who upon reaching New York immediately decided to stay, forming few if any plans for

the future.

Slums quickly grew up in the city, and public spirited New Yorkers, unused to the sight of thousands of vagrant children forced to take care of themselves, sought means to combat the poverty and crime that flourished among the juveniles of New York City. There was no protective legislation or compulsory education, asylums and almshouses were of little help, so in January of 1853 thirteen concerned citizens met to form what they called "a mission to the children," an organization that would provide for youngsters' physical needs first, and seek to improve their habits and moral characters later. Thus, the Children's Aid Society was formed.

One of these men — the Founder of the Society and its first Secretary — was Charles Loring Brace, a man suitably fitted for the task that lay ahead of him. Quoting from the Children's Aid Society's The Crusade for Children: "After training for the ministry, he had traveled and studied living conditions in the large cities of Germany, Hungary, England, and Ireland. Returning to New York, the prospect of holding a city parish failed to satisfy him. He longed to work among the wretched and outcast."

Brace first tried to help and reform the men and women on Blackwell's Island and in the Five Points, but a year's trial convinced him that no noticeable success could be achieved through his attempts to aid adults. Thus, it was the young people of the city to whom he then turned.

Plans regarding the operations of the Children's Aid Society were quickly formulated. The organization immediately issued a circular proposing that lodging houses and industrial schools be set up for vagrant children; also, the Society wished "to be the means of draining the city of this class by communicating with farmers, manufacturers, or families in the country who may have need of such employment." [Quotation from circular]

The effects were immediate. Scores of children found their way to the offices of the Children's Aid Society on Amity Street near Broadway, and Brace proceeded to give them the assistance that he had promised.

The earliest type of aid offered by the Society was the sending of friendless children to homes out West. Brace was a firm believer in the idea that a normal home in a healthy environment could profoundly benefit the vagrant child. Between 1853 and 1928 over 33,000 children were placed out West, and studies made in 1900 and 1928 showed that the great majority of them (87%) were happy in their new homes. Many had grown up to become highly respected members of their communities.

Another type of reform included the formation of industrial schools. The Society discovered that many children, because of their shabby clothes and evident poverty, were ashamed to go to the public schools. Thus, the Children's Aid Society formed its own establishments, in which youngsters were taught certain skills, with food and clothing being given to those who attended.

But Charles Loring Brace's ideas and ambitions did not stop here. During the winter of 1853-54, while he was Secretary and Treasurer of the Children's Aid Society, he noticed a great many boys sleeping outside in boxes, on steam gratings, or huddled together under the stairways of the New York Sun offices. Questioning the boys, he was often amused at their accounts of their various lodgings: "Oh, mister," one said, "there's nothing like them steam-gratins — it's just as good as a feather bed! And next to 'em I likes a good box of sand, 'cause you can git it all up 'round you, and kinder snuggle in it; but bummin' is hard work in a nor'easter!"

Brace saw that the boys frequently fought and gambled. Occasionally a street preacher would make an

appearance, but he was always laughed out of sight. Brace asked what eventually became of the boys, and a printer showed him a dozen young men, who at one time had been newsboys. They were all drunk in the back room of a gin shop.

Brace went to his friend, Captain Matsell, Chief of the New York Police, with suggestions as to how the boys could be reformed. Matsell's 1848 report on the juveniles of the city had resulted in considerable public interest, and Brace felt that he now could possibly be of assistance. However, the man shrugged off his ideas, saying, "My dear sir; nothing can be done for these boys! They are a set of perfect banditti!"

Undaunted, Brace decided to establish a lodging house for newsboys, for he observed that any boy growing up in the life style of the common New York newsboy could have a later life of vagrancy and thievery almost predetermined for him. He laid the plan before Judge J. L. Mason (President of the Children's Aid Society), J. E. Williams (Treasurer), and others who were affiliated with the organization. They all approved, and the Newsboys' Lodging House was formally adopted by the Board.

But two large problems still existed. One was that a man was needed to be the superintendent of the lodging house. However, as Brace wrote years later: "Providentially at this time, I chanced upon one of those men who are perhaps peculiar to America — a skillful mechanic, self-educated, of much natural tact, with an unbounded pity for the weak and miserable, and a good deal of sternness toward the lazy and shiftless, and who had been long at work among the children of the Sunday Schools — Mr. C[hristian] C. Tracy."

Much against his friends' advice, Tracy took the job. Though a superintendent was found, Brace still needed to locate a place to house the boys, for understandably but unfortunately, no one wanted to let his property be taken

over by a group of unruly newsboys. At length Tracy came upon a grimy loft at the top of the Sun building, located at the corner of Fulton and Nassau streets. The owner, Mr. Moses W. Beach, editor of the Sun, began his long record of kindness to the Children's Aid Society by letting Tracy use the loft for a newsboys' lodging house.

It was decided that the loft would be divided into a schoolroom, a bedroom, an office, and a bathroom. The bedroom would be furnished with bunk beds, that is, beds placed one on top of another, thus holding the most lodgers in a given floor space.

Mr. Tracy carried out most of the plans, and in a few weeks, at a cost of about \$1,000, the lodge was ready, with accommodations for seventy-five boys. Notices were placed in the newspapers of the city, and Tracy talked to some of the leading newsboys, for these youngsters always had bands of ready followers.

The first night of operation was Saturday, March 18, 1854. A motley group of about fifty boys showed up — including some who came simply to make trouble. Superintendent Tracy told them the purpose of the Newsboys' Lodging House, that he and members of the Children's Aid Society wanted to prevent them from growing up vagrants, that they wished to save them from exposure to the weather and consequent diseases. In short, the lodge was there to help them on in the world.

But Tracy was quick to add that the boys were not objects of charity. Each one was a lodger in the hotel, and each had to pay six cents for a bed. By this procedure, it was hoped that the boys would be given feelings of self-respect, and that they would thereby prize the lodge the more because they would be helping to pay for it.

After this speech, the boys cheered, and one of them, a boy named Mickety, showed his confidence in the plan by

paying a weeks rent in advance, consequently becoming the first newsboy to officially enter his name in the register of the Newsboys' Lodging House. The troublemakers left in disgust, while the boys who stayed reveled in the thought of having a bath with plenty of cold water and a warm bed.

The lodging house soon proved to be popular with the boys of the city, and adults who had been watching its development also approved. The following is from the May 28, 1854 issue of the New York Dispatch:

"On Wednesday last, we visited the apartments recently fitted up in the Sun Buildings as lodging rooms for newsboys, and from what we saw and heard while there, we are well satisfied that the "Children's Aid Society," throughout their useful career, have, thus far, never hit upon a more beneficial or philanthropic idea than the founding of such an institution as the one in question. . . .

". . . our readers will admit that any institution having for its object the bringing together of these boys for the double purpose of ministering to their physical wants, and surrounding them with good influences, must be a commendable one. They (our readers) will also admit that the management of from thirty to fifty such boys is a task which no common man could successfully perform — an office which is anything but sinecure — and we venture to say, that if the Society had searched the world over, they could not have found a man better suited to such a task than is Mr. C. C. Tracy, the Superintendent of the Newsboys' Lodging House. . . .

"About one thousand dollars has thus far been spent in fitting up the apartments, which are on the upper floor of the Sun Building, and consist of the lodging room, a schoolroom, and an office for the Superintendent. The lodging room is spacious, well ventilated, and at present contains beds for fifty boys, although a much larger number can

be accomodated. The floors are well scrubbed, the walls whitewashed, and everything betokens the most scrupulous cleanliness and neatness. Every bedstead is quadruple, and is fashioned something like the berths in a steamboat, with two beds below and two above. The beds are straw mattresses, and are quite soft and comfortable, while the bed clothes looked to us as though they had just left the laundry.

"The schoolroom is fitted up with desks, supplied with seats, and long benches are ranged in front of them; a number of maps hang upon the walls, a pile of school books lie upon a table ready for use, and a blackboard to facilitate the study of arithmetic and writing is conspicuous.

"A library, for the use of the boys, is attached to the Rooms, which already contains many volumes of instructive and interesting books, and additions are constantly being made to it by our liberal publishers; in fact, an unopened package of books from one of these establishments lay upon a bench when we were there. The boys have free access to the library, and it is creditable to them to say that, thus far, not a single volume has been missed.

"The number of lodgers nightly greatly varies, and depends in some degree upon circumstances. The greatest number upon any one night thus far has been forty-one, and they have had as few as twelve; but as a general thing, from twenty to twenty-five may be set down as regular in attendance. The number will, no doubt, be quadrupled when the rigor of winter weather drives the boys in from the streets."

When Mr. Tracy had the boys' confidence, he began to teach them. They learned the Lord's Prayer and what the Golden Rule meant. The Superintendent found that their main vices were wasting money on amusements and gambling. Some industrious boys earned three to five dollars a day. Other boys earned seventy-five cents a day, yet all was

spent on the theater, cards, dice, games with pennies, and lottery tickets, with the boys remaining ragged and poor. To correct these habits, Mr. Tracy introduced games which could be played without money, such as backgammon and checkers. And in order to help them save their money, he devised the Newsboys' Bank, which is discussed in the above New York Dispatch article:

"But what particularly attracted our observation was a Savings Bank which the managers have fixed up for the accommodation of the boys. This is a stout table containing separate box departments, numbered from 1 up to 110. The numbers are upon the surface of the table, and directly over each department, the money being dropped into an aperture accompanying each number. The bottom of the table is protected by sheet iron, and the top is too thick to be easily cut into. . . . This Savings Bank we look upon as a most valuable contrivance, and one which will materially aid such boys as wish to form habits of thrift.

"We should have mentioned before that there is a bathroom and water closet attached to the establishment, both of which are kept in the most perfect order. The bath is freely used by the boys, who seem to delight in ablution, albeit rather a new thing to them. A new customer, occasionally, on coming out after a thorough washing, is scarcely recognizable, so completely does the removal of the dirt alter his appearance."

As this article stated, a schoolroom was in the Newsboys' Lodging House, though Mr. Tracy left the subject of having regular lessons up to the boys themselves, for he knew that any forced schooling would cause them to leave the lodge. However, after they had grown accustomed to their new surroundings, a few boys broached Mr. Tracy about obtaining writing lessons. The Superintendent induced several gentlemen to come in to lecture and give instruction, and thus the informal evening school

was established.

Religious meetings were also held, and these occurred through chance. A number of the newsboys had gone to a public funeral which had made a deep impression on them. While they were discussing the event, Mr. Tracy suggested that a chapter of the Bible be read to them, which would be followed by a prayer. From this evolved the regular religious sessions held in the Newsboys' Lodging House.

Gradually, the influence of Christian Tracy and the lodge produced noticeable positive changes in the newsboys, though it should be remembered that as there were always so many new ones, it was oftentimes difficult to see a state of overall improvement. This latter fact notwithstanding, Moses Beach, editor of the Sun, wrote a letter to Christian Tracy on February 23, 1860. He said in part:

"You wish me to say what I know of the effect of the Newsboys' Lodging House.

"I can best comply by comparing the past with the present. Before the Lodging House was in existence, the newsboys, as a class, were hard characters. A few leaders [that] were 'up to any thing,' and those not strong enough to match them physically, paid tribute. . . . Fighting and rows of every kind were the daily result of their congregation at every newspaper office for their papers, until every decent man sickened at sight of them.

"So much for the exterior. The mental characteristics ran in the same channel. Year by year, and month by month, they grew worse, and never better.

"The contrast at the present time is remarkable. The 'leaders' have disappeared. I have not heard of the robberies for the last two years. A fight or a row among the newsboys is seldom seen. The smaller ones pursue their traffic unmolested, and all things relating to the newsboys give token of

better times among them.

"If these changes are not all due to the Lodging House, I believe that by far the greater part of them can be traced directly to that as the cause."

Mr. Christian Tracy stayed as Superintendent of the Newsboys' Lodging House until 1856. As already mentioned, one of the programs of the Children's Aid Society was the transferring of vagrant children to homes out West. During the middle 1850's, the Society was having Tracy act as its western agent in charge of the children, and during his necessary absences, the number of boys who frequented the lodge had decreased. Thus, it was felt that a new director should be hired, and Mr. C. C. Wiegand became the second superintendent.

Wiegand entered upon his duties as enthusiastically as his predecessor handled them. He made a number of improvements in the Lodge, and he continually searched New York City's docks and markets for boys who could benefit by the lodging house's services.

Wiegand left the lodge for California in 1858 to take a job in the Mint, and Mr. Charles O'Connor, who had served in the Crimean Army, was appointed superintendent, with his wife becoming the house matron. Under their united charge, the Newsboys' Lodging House sheltered more boys than it ever had before. From the years 1864-1865, for example, the O'Connors took care of 6,000 different boys, all between the ages of five and fifteen.

As all Alger readers know, Horatio Alger, Jr. wrote a great deal about the Newsboys' Lodging House, and also about Charles O'Connor. His book Julius; or, The Street Boy Out West (1874) was a tribute to the Children's Aid Society's program of sending children westward, and O'Connor was included in the book as the person who took care of Julius and his friends on their trip to Brookville, Wisconsin. Charles Loring Brace is mentioned in the preface of the book,

with Alger referring to the Children's Aid Society in this section as "an admirable association, whose efficient work in redeeming and saving to society the young waifs of the city streets cannot be overestimated."

Some of Alger's most interesting passages concerning the Newsboys' Lodging House are in Chapter XII of Mark, The Match Boy and Chapter IX of Ben, The Luggage Boy. These chapters are titled respectively "The Newsboys' Lodging House" and "Scenes at the Newsboys Lodging House," and I urge all HAS members to read (or reread) them.

As stated on page four, the Newsboys' Lodging House occupied the top floor of the Sun Building. Readers of Mark, The Match Boy (1869) and Ben, The Luggage Boy (1870) will note that Alger said that the lodge was on the two top floors of the building, with "the rooms on the floor below [being] used for lodging." [From Mark, The Match Boy] This confused me for a long time, as I read the same conflicting statements in other sources. However, I now believe that I have accounted for the discrepancies. In 1860, William A. Booth became President of the Children's Aid Society, and the Newsboys' Lodging House soon became a favorite project of his. Under his direction, the lodge was enlarged so that it could accommodate 150 boys. Thus, I infer that when these improvements took place, Booth secured the floor below the loft as part of the lodging house.

When the lodge first opened, meals were not offered. I do not know when this policy was changed, but in 1866 the cost of lodging was five cents, supper was three cents, and the use of lockers was three cents. Many of my sources that have been published after 1866 have stated the costs of the Newsboys' Lodging House were six cents each for supper, lodging, and breakfast. This information is substantiated in Mark, The Match Boy (Chapter XII) as Ben Gibson says to Mark: "'They'll give us a jolly bed, all for six cents, and

there's a good, warm room to stay in. Then we can get breakfast in the mornin' for six cents more.'" This breakfast, according to Ben, The gage Boy, was "a bowl of coffee and a generous slice of bread. Sometimes, but not always, a little cold meat is supplied in addition." (Chapter X)

In 1868, the Newsboys' Lodging House moved to 49 and 51 Park Place. Perhaps the reason for the move stemmed from the "change of management" in the Sun that took place that year. The Sun Printing and Publishing Association became the owners of the newspaper, and Charles A. Dana replaced Moses Beach as its editor.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find much information about the new lodge — only that Charles O'Connor was still superintendent. However, it is evident that the project of having a "newsboys' lodging house" was a success, for in 1872, according to Isaac Stokes' The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909, a separate building for the lodge began to be constructed on the corner of Duane, William, and New Chambers Streets.

In my research I have only found one Alger reference to this Newsboys' Lodging House. In Chapter II of A Rolling Stone, Alger wrote: "Wren followed his young guide, who now seemed like an old friend, to the big building on New Chambers Street, . . ."

This building was six stories high with a huge sign on the outside proclaiming "NEWS BOYS LODGING HOUSE." [No apostrophe after "News Boys." Also, in the 1800's, "newsboys" was spelled as two words. In this article I have always used the modern spelling] A lengthy article recently found in the March 27, 1874 issue of the New York Times (page 5) describes it:

"The Children's Aid Society celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Newsboys' Lodging House last evening in an especially suitable manner, namely, by

the formal opening of the new building erected at the intersection of Duane, William, and New Chambers streets. [I have noted the following addresses for it in various sources: 9 Duane Street, 244 William Street, and 12 New Chambers Street]

"The building is admirably suited for the purpose which it is designed to serve. The basements and first story will be let for business purposes, which will contribute in some measure to render the establishment self-supporting. On the second floor is the newsboys' dining room; the third story contains the schoolroom, or, as it is sometimes called, the 'audience room,' to which the boys are first admitted when they enter the building; the fourth and fifth floors are devoted to dormitories; and the sixth is turned to the purposes of a well-fitted gymnasium.

"These are, of course, only the principal rooms of the building, which is in all respects suitably furnished with every modern improvement. The kitchen accomodation is ample, a spacious laundry is one of the features of the building, and the bathrooms are excellent. All the suggestions of the institution are those of health, cleanliness, and comfort. Accomodation can be afforded to some 600 boys.

"The process of a boy's admission is something in this way: When he applies for admission, he gives his name, age, and occupation. States whether he can read and write, and answers such questions as may be asked him. He then pays his six cents and is an independent lodger, except that he lies amenable to certain conditions of cleanliness, and must, in the first instance, take a good wash.

"He is furnished with a closet with a lock and key, in which to put his clothes, and for an additional six cents he is entitled to his supper. One of the main purposes of the institution is to encourage a feeling of self-respect and reliance in the boys, and the

trifling fee is consequently imposed, so that he may not feel as if he were relying on merely charitable aid. To impart suitable instruction is also a main idea in the economy of the institution.

"The several rooms in the building are spacious and well ventilated. Sanitary arrangements are well looked to, and the furniture of the apartments is plain, but at the same time shapely and durable as becomes such an establishment.

"In the schoolrooms are two rows of movable desks which will be arranged for the scholars attending the night school, while at one end is a raised platform for teachers and visitors, and which is also designed to accommodate a piano to be used at the Sunday evening exercises. Close by the door there is another platform, but of much smaller dimensions, surrounded by a railing and at this the patron in charge stands to register the boys as they enter.

"The beds in the dormitories are in a peculiar plan. They are arranged something like those on board ship in this respect, that one bed is above another, but they differ in this that all the bedsteads stand separately, and with ample space between them. Nor is there in any instance more than two rows of beds.

"This rule applies to the general dormitories, but there is a more select room in which the beds are more spacious, and in which there are no double rows. The intention is to make beds in this apartment the reward of boy lodgers of especially exemplary conduct."

The lodging house was erected at a cost of \$200,000, and at the dedication, numerous dignitaries of New York addressed a large audience. One of the speakers was Reverend Charles Loring Brace, who spoke of the accomplishments of the Newsboys' Lodging House since its inception: "One of the results of [the]

project was that since the house had been opened there had been over 100,000 boys in it as lodgers. As the fruits of their [members of the Children's Aid Society] work, they pointed to hundreds of respectable young farmers and mechanics who were leading honest and industrious lives in the Western states; to more than a thousand who served their country in the war of the rebellion, and to many humble and religious young men who were trying to do for others in misfortune what others had done for them, and to a few who, as missionaries and teachers, were showing what abilities and character lay hid under the rough exterior."

Not only could more newsboys be accommodated in their new lodge, but special events could be arranged for more of them than ever before. On occasions, celebratory dinners were held in the Newsboys' Lodging House. There was usually a Washington birthday dinner in honor of the United States' first President (see New York Times, February 23, 1927, page 16); a Christmas dinner (New York Times, December 26, 1922, page 15); and an annual dinner (New York Times, February 23, 1930, page 19). A city official or special guest frequently spoke at these affairs — New York Governor Alfred Smith was often such a speaker (New York Times, February 24, 1925, page 1).

The Newsboys' Lodging House — as well as the Children's Aid Society — continued throughout the early 1900's to aid the homeless children of New York City. In 1928 — the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Society, the name of the lodge was changed to the "Brace Memorial Newsboys' Home," in honor of founder Charles Loring Brace.

However, the era of the newsboy eventually passed, and in 1943 the Brace Memorial Newsboys' Home was closed. An article on page thirty-four of the January 12, 1943 New York Herald Tribune describes what occurred. It is titled, "Newsboy Home to be Occupied by Coast Guard; 200 to Move in Tomorrow at 90

Year Old Source of Horatio Alger Stories." Part of it reads:

"Brace Memorial Home for Newsboys, at 244 William Street, where for the last ninety years thousands of homeless boys who came to New York seeking jobs or adventure found refuge until they were able to provide for themselves, will be taken over officially tomorrow by the Coast Guard for use as a reception center. . . .

"The building was acquired by the Coast Guard several weeks ago and contracts were let for extensive interior renovations. . . .

"The oldtime newsboy passed many years ago, but the society continued to care for friendless boys. The name, Newsboys' Home, was never dropped, however, and the boys who lived there celebrated the anniversary of Alger's birthday each Jan. 13. During the depression years the society was called upon to provide shelter for thousands of boys who could find no employment.

"The society announced that it would carry on its service to homeless boys in other centers."

How long the United States Coast Guard occupied the house I do not know. However, the familiar — at least to the boys of New York — building on the corner of Duane, William, and New Chambers Streets was torn down in 1963, thus marking the demise of the Newsboys' Lodging House.

But the history is not yet finished, for there are many facts still to be discovered. Who were the other lodging house superintendents? When did Charles O'Connor leave?

Also, I am interested in Alger's relation to the Newsboys' Lodging House. How much time did he spend there? This is a difficult question to answer, as anything published after 1928 — the year that Herbert R. Mayes' fictitious Alger: A Biography Without a Hero was released — is subject to suspicion. (See January-February, 1974 Newsboy for details about this literary hoax).

As this history is not yet completed, and as it contains only a fraction of the interesting material about the Newsboys' Lodging House, no footnotes are included. A documented and more exhaustive history may perhaps be published when all available information is obtained. I welcome all members' contributions.

Students of New York history will recognize the building shown here — the offices of the New York Sun newspaper. I had always thought that the first Newsboys' Lodging House was located here, but this is incorrect. The first lodge was at Fulton and Nassau Streets, and this building is on Printing House Square, on the corner of Park Row, Nassau, and Frankfort Streets. (Though it appears to have only five floors, there is a "blind" story which has no windows).

A letter to Gil Westgard, owner of the book The Story of the



THE BUILDING ON NASSAU AND FRANKFORT STREETS.

Sun by Frank M. O'Brien, resulted in the verification of what I suspected — that there were TWO Sun buildings. When the newspaper changed ownership in 1868 (see page 8, second paragraph), the offices were transferred to the building shown in the picture, the old Tammany Hall headquarters.

I have not yet found a good picture of the first Sun Building.

With this article I wish to thank the many people who have aided me in finding the facts and dates necessary for the completion of this project. They include the following members of the Horatio Alger Society: Dick Bowerman, Forrest Campbell, Jerry Friedland, Max Goldberg, Irene Gurman, Stanley Pachon, and Gilbert K. Westgard II.

Others are Ms. Joan Buck, Director of Public Relations for the Children's Aid Society in New York; Mr. Glenn S. Gritzmacher, Chief Reference Librarian of Milner Library at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois; and the Local History and Genealogy Department of the New York Public Library.

Also, my sincere thanks to Mrs. Marlene Coleman and Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming of the Illinois Valley Library System, based in Peoria, for obtaining needed material through interlibrary loan.

* * *
B O O K M A R T

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

Offered by Babe Swift, 28 Colin St., Yonkers, New York 10701.

Alger; A Biography Without a Hero, by Herbert R. Mayes, New York: Macy-Masius Publishing Co., 1928. Good, \$15.00

Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era, by Ralph D. Gardner, Mendota, Ill.: Wayside Press, 1964, mint, \$15.00

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The Errand Boy	Burt		3.00

(thick edition, reading copy)

Abbreviations used in this month's BOOK MART: P&C = Porter & Coates Co., HTC = Henry T. Coates Co., T&T = Thompson and Thomas Co., G&D = Grosset & Dunlap Co., G = Good, F-G = Fair to Good.

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MISS HULDAH'S THANKSGIVING

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The following Alger short story is from the collection of Jack Bales. It originally appeared in the December 3, 1864 issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper).

Thanksgiving Day dawned clear and cold. There was no snow upon the ground, but the earth was frozen stiff and the road was rough with little ridges. A brisk November wind was blowing outside, which lent additional cheer to the glowing fires within.

Huldah Greene stepped briskly about the large old-fashioned room, which served at once as kitchen and dining-room. A tall woman, with energy and decision stamped plainly enough on a countenance which had never had any pretensions to beauty. There had been two sisters, Huldah and Susan; the latter had married, and now lived in a town ten miles away, surrounded by a family of children; Huldah had remained unappropriated. Perhaps she had too much else to think of. For ten years she had served as housekeeper in a large country

tavern, where she developed into a notable housekeeper, and became famed through all the country round about for the excellence of her puddings and pies and the superiority of her dinners. But this was a wearing life, and told even upon the iron frame of Miss Huldah. So, when the death of an aunt placed her in possession of a comfortable property, she returned to the old homestead, where she kept house by herself.

To-day she was not to be alone. She had invited her sister's family to celebrate Thanksgiving with her. She was determined to receive them in a style which should do credit to her housekeeping, and to this end had for a day or two been engaged in making elaborate preparations for the Thanksgiving feast. This result was a supply of dainties which would have sufficed for three times the number she expected.

"You won't catch Huldah Greene stinting anybody," she said to herself. "The children shall have all they can eat, and if it does make 'em a little grain uncomfortable, why it's only once a year."

Thanksgiving morning had come, the best room had been swept and dusted, the blinds had been thrown open, and the unwonted sunshine fell on the hard flat sofa and the straightbacked chairs ranged like grenadiers against the sides of the apartment. But the kitchen was the more cheerful place of the two. Visible through the half-open closet-door was a long row of pies—apple, mince and pumpkin—rich, and flaky, and appetizing. The turkey was roasting in the tin kitchen before the fireplace, under the vigilant care of Miss Huldah, who had already arrayed herself in a high-necked dress of black bombazine, which had served her for best longer than I can remember.

So the morning wore away. Eleven o'clock came and still Miss Huldah's company had not arrived. As they lived but ten miles off this was somewhat surprising.

"I expect it takes a sight of time to get such a parcel of children washed and dressed, and ready to set out," said Miss Huldah to herself, a little

uneasily. "I'm glad I aint troubled with a family. Still, I should think sister Susan might have got here by this time; at any rate, I might as well be setting the table, so I can be at leisure when she comes."

Half an hour passed, the old kitchen clock pointed to half-past eleven, the table was set, and the turkey almost done. Miss Huldah went to the door and looked up the road anxiously.

In the distance she detected the rumbling sound of wheels, though the wagon was concealed behind a turn of the road.

"I guess that's Susan," she said, with an air of relief.

But Miss Huldah was doomed to disappointment. It proved to be a neighbor riding home from the village. He slackened his horse's speed as he approached the farmhouse, and fumbling in his coat-pocket said:

"I've got a letter for you somewhere, Miss Huldah. I was down to the village this morning, and the postmaster give [sic] it to me. I expect, from the postmark, it's from your sister."

"From sister Susan!" ejaculated Miss Huldah, in dismay. "Then she can't be coming. I hope she aint going to disappoint me after all."

She tore open the letter hastily, and found that it was indeed as she had feared. Unforeseen circumstances would oblige her sister to remain at home. The letter, which had been written two days previous, contained an invitation to Miss Huldah to spend the day with her sister. Of course it was now too late.

"I'd ought to have got this letter yesterday," she said in a tone of disappointment, as she went back into the house. "It would have saved my cooking up such a stack of things, with nobody to eat 'em."

There stood the table spread for eight. The turkey was nearly done to a turn. Already it was diffusing a delicious odor about the apartment. There was a large plum pudding, and the closet was full of pies.

"Well," sighed Miss Huldah, "it's a shame that there should be nobody to eat

all these good things. I shall feel like a fool sitting down to this big table alone. If anybody should come I really believe that they'd think I was gone crazy. I declare, I feel so disappointed, that I don't believe I could worry down a mite."

All at once Miss Huldah was indebted to her good angel for a suggestion, which illuminated her face with new cheerfulness. Perhaps she might find guests after all. She remembered how, when a certain man sent out invitations to a feast and they that were bidden did not come, he went out into the highways and byeways and gathered in the poor and the outcasts, and made them welcome to the feast which he had prepared.

"I declare," said Miss Huldah to herself, "I don't believe Mrs. Nelson is able to get a Thanksgiving dinner for her children. Why can't I invite them here? I've got plenty if there were twice as many of them. I'll do it!" she concluded energetically.

With resolute Miss Huldah, to resolve was to act. She put on her cloak and hood, and calling the cat out of doors lest the temptations by which she was surrounded should prove too great for her to resist, bent her steps towards a small unpainted house—it was little more than a shanty—where Mrs. Nelson and her six children found a humble shelter.

We will precede her.

Mrs. Nelson, herself a worthy woman, had had the misfortune to marry a drunken husband, whose habits had increased upon him until one morning he was found frozen stiff in a snowdrift, where he had fallen in a state of intoxication on his way home from the tavern. How she had since managed to live she herself scarcely knew. Her children were too young to afford her much assistance. Notwithstanding the occasional help she received from the neighbors there was many a day when her children, after eating all she was able to provide for them, were obliged to rise from the table hungry. It will be easily seen that it was quite beyond her power to celebrate Thanksgiving day with the

bountiful dinner which is usually associated with it.

"What are we going to have for dinner, mother?" asked Jimmy, the oldest boy.

"There isn't anything in the house but a little salt pork and some potatoes," said Mrs. Nelson, sadly.

- "Ain't it Thanksgiving Day, mother?" asked Fanny, who was nine years old.

"Yes, my child," said her mother with a sigh.

"I saw such a jolly row of pies at Miss Greene's," said Jimmy, "this morning when I went in there. Didn't they smell good, though? Just baked, I guess. It's so long since I've eaten a piece of pie that I don't know as I remember how it tastes."

"Why don't you make pies, mother?" asked little Fred, who was too young to understand fully the hard lessons which poverty is not slow in teaching.

"I wish I could, my child," said Mrs. Nelson. "But lard is so expensive. It seems to me as if everything was expensive now. We shall be lucky if we can get enough of the plainest food to eat."

"Wouldn't it be jolly if we could have a roast turkey, mother?" asked Jimmy, who, poor fellow, could not help still thinking about what there seemed so little chance of his tasting. Did you ever have any for Thanksgiving?"

"Yes," said Mrs. Nelson, "we always used to have them at father's. That was before I was married. Afterwards, too, before your poor father got into a bad way we had a regular Thanksgiving dinner."

"Well," said Jimmy, "I should like to try it once, just to see how it seems."

"So should I," chimed in Fanny.

Meanwhile Mrs. Nelson had spread her table, placing thereon a few potatoes and some fried pork.

"You may come up to the table, children," she said. "Dinner's ready."

They were about to commence their frugal repast, when a loud knock was heard at the door.

"I wonder who it can be," thought

the widow, as she went to the door.

"Won't you come in, Miss Huldah?" she asked in a tone of surprise.

"No, I can't stop a minute," answered her visitor, her keen eyes taking in at a glance the frugal dinner-table visible through the half-open door. I only came on an errand. Have you had dinner?"

Mrs. Nelson blushed, though, poor woman, she had little cause to do so. Her poverty was no fault of hers.

"I see you haven't," said Miss Huldah without waiting for a reply. "I am glad of it, for I want you to dine with me."

"Dine with you?"

"Yes. I expected sister Susan and her young folks, but I've just got a letter saying they can't come, and I don't feel like eating alone. So I should be obliged to you if you'd come over and keep me company."

Jimmy's eyes sparkled, for it was he that had seen the long row of pies which made a part of Miss Huldah's Thanksgiving preparations. There was a glad light, too, in the faces of his brothers and sisters as they heard the invitation.

"I'm very much obliged to you," said the widow, gratefully. "It'll be a real treat to the children. But I'm afraid they don't look fit to be seen in your house."

"Never mind, bring them over just as they are. The dinner's all ready to take up, and it won't wait. So, children, put on your things and come right along."

Ten minutes afterwards the children, half abashed, entered Miss Huldah's comfortable house. An ample table, covered with a snow-white cloth, soon groaned beneath a goodly weight of generous cheer.

"Now, every one of you, get a chair and sit right up to the table," said Miss Huldah, cheerfully. "Mrs. Nelson, you must sit opposite me and help take care of those little ones. I ain't used to looking out for so many. Now, Jimmy, pass your plate, and we'll see what we can do for you."

It is needless to tell how these

poor children, unused to plenty, enjoyed Miss Huldah's dinner, nor how much brighter the world seemed to the poor widow who, with thankful heart, beheld her children cheered with a plentiful meal. Miss Huldah was in her element, and seemed bent on filling her little guests to suffocation. But at last the dinner was over. Then the dining-table was cleared away, and the children had many a merry game in the great kitchen. They were to stay to supper, so Miss Huldah insisted, though, sooth to say, they did not need much urging. When at length they were ready to go home, a large basket was packed full, which Jimmy and Fred carried between them.

"I declare," said Miss Huldah to herself, as she sat before the crackling logs in the evening, "I believe I've enjoyed this Thanksgiving better than any I've ever passed. On the whole I'm glad Susan didn't come."

The reader will be glad to learn that this was not the last time that Miss Huldah entertained her poor neighbors, and that a week rarely passed during which a basket filled with specimens of her excellent cookery did not find its way to the humble home of the Nelsons. To them that was indeed a day of Thanksgiving, which opened the heart of Miss Huldah to their necessities.

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ANOTHER COPY OF TIMOTHY FOUND
by Chet Kennedy

(Editor's note: On September 17, 1975, I received a letter from Chet Kennedy, PF-323, telling me that he located and obtained a hardbound copy of Timothy Crump's Ward, the rarest Alger book. Following is his letter).

Sunday, September 7th, was quite a memorable day for me as an Alger collector, as I participated in the discovery, and as a result, purchased the scarcest of Algers, Timothy Crump's Ward. The volume is exactly as Ralph Gardner describes it in his book, and was discovered in a box in the attic of an antique dealer's house.

I called a book dealer friend on other matters on that Sunday about noon. In the course of the conversation he asked who was the author of Timothy Crump's Ward—was it Alger? He had handled one the previous day but was not sure if it were by Alger. I suggested that he spend the afternoon driving to get the book instead of playing golf as he had planned. I assured him of a sale—to me! He went back and got it, in New York State. Later that afternoon I became the owner of the book. The condition is very acceptable and I'm currently reading the story, which is interesting and definitely "early Alger" in style.

So our fellow collectors can take heart that the books are there, somewhere, and can turn up at any time. I'm proud to own what I believe is the fourth known hard cover copy of this book.

* * *

HOW TO RECOGNIZE

BURT HARD COVER FIRST EDITIONS

by Dale Thomas

In collecting Alger books, I feel that HAS members have occasionally been misled as to what exactly constitutes an A. L. Burt first edition — and have consequently purchased Algers which they were told were firsts, but actually were not.

Burt hard cover first editions — in the Burt's Home Series — are identified by a boy's head on the cover of the book, surrounded by a four sided diamond. The boy is wearing a pillbox hat. These books all have the special style of type as shown at the top of this page, and also certain addresses of the A. L. Burt Publishing Company. There are no Algers advertised in these five books. The correct addresses are:

Joe's Luck, 162 William Street
(six pages of ads)

Frank Fowler, The Cash Boy,
162 William Street
(six pages of ads)

ing a tour in Europe. Grace was also placed at an excellent school, and has developed into a handsome and accomplished young lady. It is thought she will marry Sam Pomeroy, who obtained a place in a counting-room through Mr. Wharton's influence, and is now head clerk with a prospect of a partnership. His father received a gift of five thousand dollars from Mr. Wharton as an acknowledgment of his kindness to Frank. Tom Pinkerton holds a subordinate clerkship in the same house, and is obliged to look up to Sam as his superior. It chafes his pride, but his father has become a poor man, and Tom is too prudent to run the risk of losing his situation. John Wade draws his income regularly, but he is never seen at his uncle's house. He is bitterly jealous and envious of Frank, but all danger from him is at an end, owing to his uncle's shrewd arrangement by which his income terminates at Frank's death. Mr. Wharton is very happy in his grandson, and made happier by the intelligence just received from Europe of Frank's engagement to a brilliant young New York lady whom he met in his travels. He bids fair, though advanced in age, to live some years yet to witness the happiness of his dear grandson, once an humble Cash Boy.

THE END.

Tom Temple's Career, I think it is 162 William Street, but unfortunately, I do not have this book. It could be 56 Beekman Street, if there are no Alger ads and the style of type is the same as the example above. Does any HAS member have a copy of this book with the address of 162 William Street?

Tom Thatcher's Fortune, 56 Beekman St.
(two pages of ads)

The Errand Boy, 56 Beekman Street
(one page of ads, located on the reverse of page 255 of the text)

The different street addresses of A. L. Burt Publishing Company are:

162 William Street - until mid 1888.
56 Beekman Street - 1888 to early 1890 -
Tom, The Bootblack was published here.
66 Reade Street - 1890 to 1896 - Tony,
The Hero, The Train Boy, and Dan, The Newsboy were published here.
97 Reade Street - 1896 to late 1900.
52-58 Duane Street - 1900 to about 1915.

RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND

by Jack Bales

In the September, 1975 Newsboy, Paul Fisher has an article about the Algiers published by A. L. Burt Co.. On page 7 there is a reproduction of the back of a Burt dust jacket, but unfortunately, not all of the titles in the left column are readable. Starting from the thirteenth from the bottom, here are the titles which members might have trouble reading: Hector's Inheritance; Helping Himself; Herbert Carter's Legacy; In a New World; In Search of Treasure; Jack's Ward; Jacob Marlowe's Secret; Jed, The Poorhouse Boy; Joe's Luck; Julius, The Street Boy; Luke Walton; Making His Way; Mark Manning's Mission.

As noted on page 2 of the August, 1975 Newsboy, Ernie "E.J." Mansmann is a new member who collects the Winston editions that have the shoe shine boy on the spine. He still needs several volumes for his collection, and he would be grateful if HAS members could help him. The books are: Ben, The Luggage Boy; Fame and Fortune; Luck and Pluck; Jack's Ward; Rufus and Rose; Tattered Tom; Victor Vane; The Young Circus Rider.

Does the name "J. Watson Davis" mean anything to you? He was an illustrator of some of Alger's books, and now, three quarters of a century after Alger died, two original illustrations have been uncovered. They are from the book Phil, The Fiddler, and are part of an exhibit of "The American Illustrator, 1860-1930," which will be held at the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts at the University of California at Los Angeles. I am currently trying to locate more information about this, and I will let Newsboy readers know if I succeed.

In Chapter X of Strong and Steady there are two verses of the song, "Paddle Your Own Canoe." I have seen a reference to a song with the same name; it was written in 1854 by Sarah T. Bolton, and I wonder if the two are identical.

Gil Westgard calls quite often to keep me informed of the 1976 Convention arrangements for the ROSEMONT TWELFTH TIME, which will be held in Rosemont, Illinois from May 6-9. Gil reports that all is going well, and judging from the number of letters I have received from people who will be attending, the convention turnout should be quite large. I hope you all plan to attend.

Carl Hartmann sent me the following information. In order to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration are sponsoring "The American Issues Forum," a nine month (September, 1975 through May, 1976) program that calls for nationwide discussion of a variety of topics. The subject for February 8 through March 6, 1976 is "The Business of America." For discussion the first week there is the topic "Private Enterprise in the Marketplace," and quoting from the publicity material that Carl sent me: "Learning the ways of the city while doing charitable work, Horatio Alger begins writing books about rags-to-riches successes. He becomes an Horatio Alger story himself as his 119 books sell more than 200 million copies." This is a worthwhile program, and one in which the Horatio Alger Society should become involved.

On Sunday evening, August 17, 1975, HAS member Amos Smith was interviewed for fifteen minutes on WFMS, an Indianapolis educational radio station. Amos spoke of Horatio Alger and our Society, and I thank him very much for his unceasing efforts to publicize "our hero" and HAS. Amos reports that he has received some phone calls due to the interview.

While abroad this summer, Herb Risteen visited many of the used book stores in England. He reports that there were few Algiers, and surprisingly, there were not many Henty books either, due to the numerous Henty collectors over there.