

Monthly publication of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY,
a magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

Newsboy



Jack Bales, Editor
1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

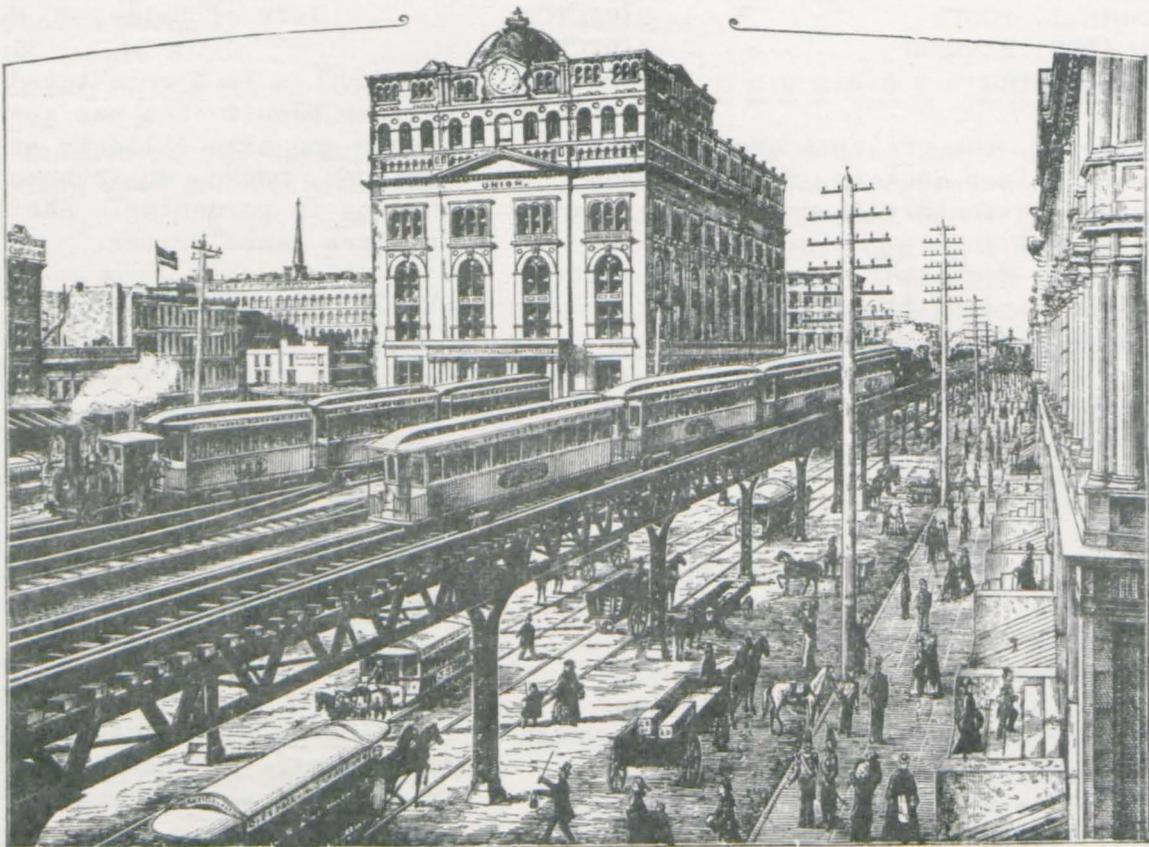


Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

Volume XVI

April, 1978

Number 9



150 Views of New York and Environs.

COOPER INSTITUTE AND ELEVATED RAILROAD IN THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Charles Magoun, Publisher

"What is that building?" asked Frank.

"That's the Cooper Institute," said Dick; "built by Mr. Cooper, a particular friend of mine. Me and Peter Cooper used to go to school together."

"What is there inside?" asked Frank.

"There's a hall for public meetins' and lectures in the basement, and a readin' room and a picture gallery up above," said Dick.

—Horatio Alger, Jr.
Ragged Dick
Chapter VI

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 (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. Cost for single issues of Newsboy is \$1.00 apiece.

Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address, claims for missing issues, and orders for single copies of current or back numbers of Newsboy should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, at 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

A subject index to the first ten years of Newsboy (July, 1962 - June, 1972) is available for \$1.50 from Carl Hartmann at the above address.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited, but the editor reserves the right to reject submitted material.

* * *

REMEMBER: The HAS Convention — the "Jacksonville Jamboree" — will soon be here!! Don't forget the dates, Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 7, in Jacksonville, Illinois.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-440 William H. McNitt
3400 LaSalle St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

PF-463 Richard F. Bales
1538 Plum St.
Aurora, Illinois 60506

ADDRESS CORRECTION - The zip code for Edward Golden is 06820. Please correct your membership roster.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-302 Betty Lee Johnson
705 Palm Blvd.
Isle of Palms, S. C. 29451

Betty Lee is a reinstated member; welcome back!! She has about a hundred Algers and also collects stamps, shells, antiques, books, music boxes, and also engages in gardening. She is a teacher and free lance writer.

PF-526 Jim Fuller
924 Carrolton
W. Lafayette, Indiana 47906

Jim is a sixteen year old student who learned of HAS "through Mrs. Orr, who owns the book store where I buy most of my books."

PF-527 Eunice A. Brace
40970 Cavalier Dr.
Hemet, Calif. 92343

Eunice is an artist who owns over 100 Algers. She has known of the Society for several years.

PF-528 Elsie Usui
45-25 Henry Hudson Parkway
Riverdale, N. Y. 10471

Elsie learned of the Society in The People's Almanac. Besides collecting Algers, she enjoys ballroom dancing, traveling, swimming, and golfing.

PF-529 Julius (Bob) Chenu
16 Farragut Road
Merrick, New York 11566

Bob Chenu is well-known in boys' books' circles, with particular expertise in the works of Leo Edwards (real name - Edward Edson Lee). He's known of HAS for some time, and he writes on his membership application that Dave Kanarr "has been needling me for years now."

PF-530 Richard E. Durnbaugh
4045 Lanette Dr.
Pontiac, Mich. 48054

Richard is an elementary school teacher in the Pontiac Public Schools. He collects trains, Tom Swift books, and pocket knives. He is also interested in photography.

PF-531 Thomas Noonan
98 Temple St.
W. Boylston, Mass. 01583

Thomas learned of our Society through corresponding with HAS Director Max Goldberg.

PF-532 Harry K. Hudson
Rt. 3, Box 57E
Inverness, Florida 32650

It's a great pleasure to welcome Harry into HAS. A renown expert on boys' books, he has recently published a bibliography on the subject (see ad elsewhere in this issue). His personal library numbers over 5,000 and he owns about 200 Algers. Good to have you with us, Harry!

PF-533 D. James Ryberg
7349 Chasewood Drive
Missouri City, Texas 77459

D. James is Chairman, Department of English at a local secondary school. Besides building his collection of Algers, he enjoys writing, growing indoor plants, swimming, and traveling. He learned of HAS through Dick Seddon.

PF-534 Doris Goins
8704 Wabash Road
Celina, Ohio 45822

Doris heard of HAS in the Encyclopedia of Associations. An amateur photographer

and antique collector, she is interested in Alger's influence.

PF-535 Charles M. Weyant
6 Main St.
Harriman, New York 10926

Charles wishes to collect as many Algers as possible. He read of the Society in the World Almanac and wrote Carl Hartmann for information. He is a Scoutmaster, a member of the Harriman Fire Department and a member of the American Legion.

I extend a cordial welcome to all our new members and I hope they enjoy their association with the Horatio Alger Society.

* * *
N E W S B O Y F O R U M

(Editor's note: The title for this now regular letter-to-the-editor section was suggested by Carl Hartmann. While going through my HAS Membership Roster recently I was startled to see that neighboring Springfield had an HAS member. I dashed off a quick letter to Bill Sausaman, declaring that we had to get together soon. Following is his reply:)

February 12, 1978

Dear Jack:

At the time your friendly letter of February 6 arrived I was about to write to commend you on the great job you are doing in editing the Newsboy. Too, from the fact that we are both interested in Alger and live so close to each other, I felt that we should become acquainted. The next time you are in Springfield please look me up and I'll do the same the next time I am in Jacksonville.

As a boy I read every Alger book I could get a hold of. I suppose I read 40 or 50 of them - only 3 or 4 since. At this period of time I was also reading everything I could find concerning the Mexican bandit, Pancho Villa. Now you can guess my age.

Although I have been a member of the Society for many years I have never been able to attend any of its conventions. The conventions are generally held in May which is a very busy month for me. However, I am going to make a special effort to get to the Jacksonville convention. My registration form and \$15.00 fee are enclosed.

Sincerely,

Wm. "Bill" Sausaman

January 30, 1978

Dear Jack:

I am enjoying the Newsboy as usual. I hope to attend the convention. That will be just about the time I will be leaving Texas for Michigan, and Jacksonville will be right on the way.

About a month ago I bought a book - several books - and just got around to reading this one. It is called Saturday Afternoon at the Bijou, published by Castle Books in 1973. The author is David Zinman.

There is one chapter in it entitled "Nancy Drew." Some of the early movies (1938) are mentioned, and information on Carolyn Keene, our own Harriet S. Adams. There is a biography of Edward Stratemeyer, and mention is made of his writings, his literary life, etc. Included was this sentence: "Stratemeyer, a free lance writer whose efforts ranged from pulp serials to historical novels, began writing magazine short stories in the 1880's. An admirer of juvenile author Horatio Alger, Stratemeyer edited 18 [underline Evelyn's] of Alger's "rags to riches" stories after the author's death, and he completed his last story." There is also a nice biographical sketch of Mrs. Adams. A very interesting incident to come across where I least expected it.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Grebel

P.S. One of my new friends here is named - guess - Helen Ford!!

14th Annual HAS Convention
"Jacksonville Jamboree"
Jacksonville, Ill.
May 4-7, 1978

Host - Jack Bales

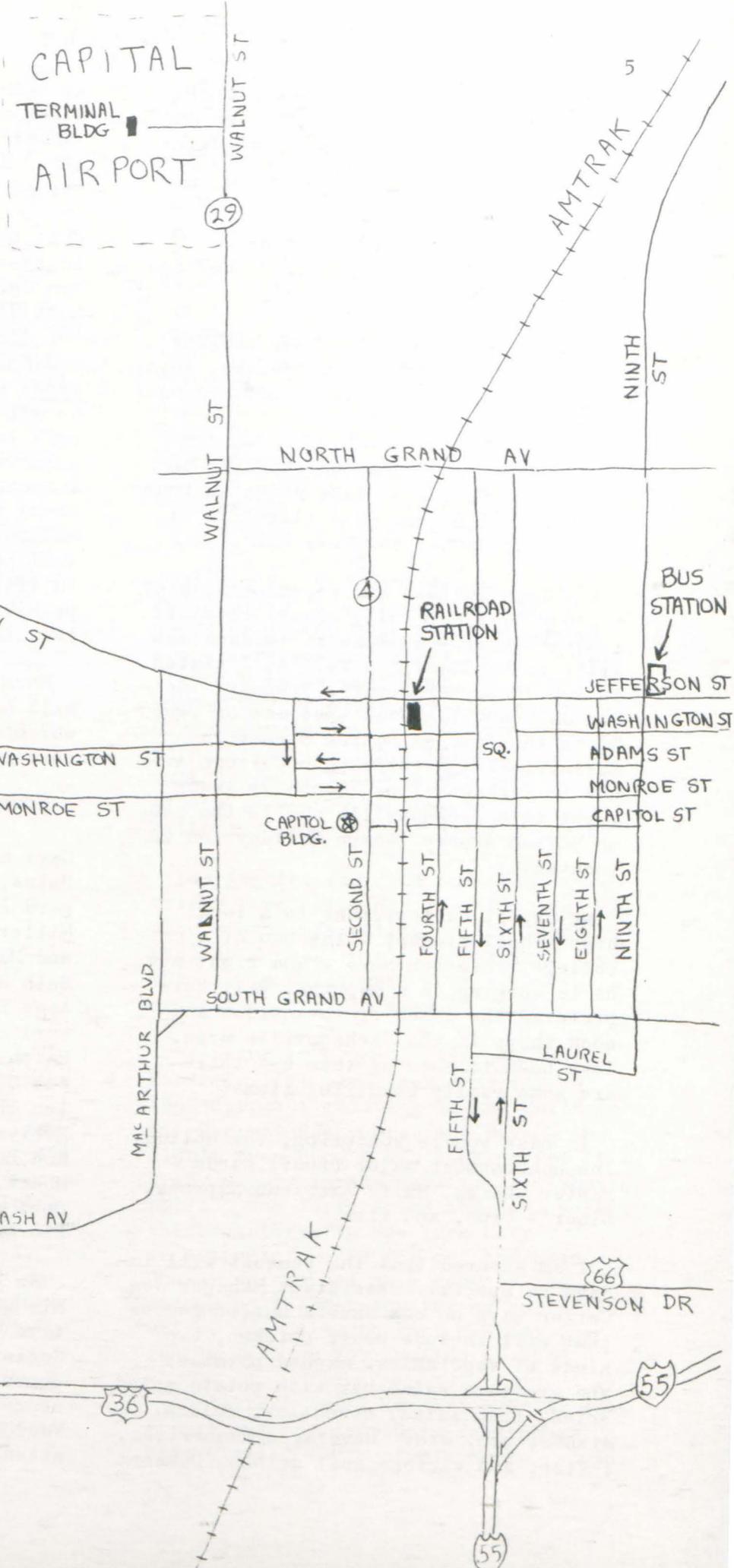
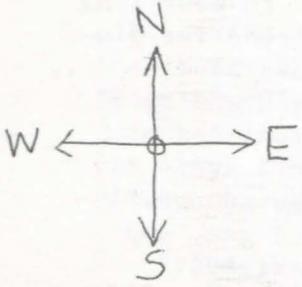
Convention plans could not be better. As announced in the last issue (see blue sheet that accompanied Newsboy), the new assistant manager of the local Holiday Inn is quite concerned that all conventioners enjoy themselves and he is working closely with me in ensuring the convention's success.

REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR MOTEL RESERVATION CARD!! As I stated before, I no longer have to take care of reservations. This is a big relief, as I now can devote more time to planning the various events. However, be sure and send in your \$15.00 convention registration to me. This takes care of the banquet, door card, badge, and food in the hospitality room. Also, when you send in the form that was enclosed with the last two issues of Newsboy I can keep track of who is coming and can catalog the various auction items.

GOOD NEWS!! (and I'm not referring to Stratemeyer's magazine - see Stratemeyer expert Jack Dizer for that). All levity aside, I have recently learned that there is now bus and plane service to Jacksonville. The Jacksonville bus station is located on 218 W. Morton Ave. (Rt. 36) - just west of the Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant. (See map of Springfield in this issue for location of the bus station in that city). As of March, 1978, there is a bus that leaves for Jacksonville at 8:30 a.m. every day except Saturday and Sunday. A bus leaves at 5 p.m. every day except Saturday. The bus to Springfield leaves at 7:15 every day except Saturday and Sunday and at 3:00 every afternoon except Saturday. (The bus station in Springfield is at 9th and Jefferson Streets).

Regarding air service to Jacksonville, I quote from a recent article in the Springfield newspaper:

MAP OF SPRINGFIELD



TO JACKSONVILLE
TO JACKSONVILLE

OLD JACKSONVILLE ROAD

"Brower Airways Wednesday officially launched flight service to Chicago and St. Louis in a brief ceremony at Jacksonville Municipal Airport.

"Three round-trip flights are scheduled daily to each destination, with one-way fare set at \$42 to Chicago and \$35 to St. Louis.

"The company moved its home offices to Jacksonville from Fort Madison, Iowa, in January and serves as airport manager and fixed base operator.

"The Chicago flight, which makes one stop in Macomb, will take about an hour and twenty minutes. The flight to St. Louis takes about one-half hour."

The maps in this and recent issues of Newsboy will hopefully ensure that all conventioners can make it to Jacksonville without difficulty. As I stated in the January-February, Newsboy, the Old Jacksonville Road (see map on page 5) is the same as Monroe Street in Springfield and turns into College Avenue in Jacksonville. Route 36 leads right into Jacksonville and is the same as Morton Avenue (where Holiday Inn is located).

My expert cartographer is a local high school student - the son of a college professor here - and right now he is working on a map that will have pictured the dozen or so antique and book shops in the Jacksonville area. I've been to some of them and there are some really beautiful items!!

In case you're wondering, the Holiday Inn honors most major credit cards - Master Charge, Gulf, American Express, Diner's Club, and Visa.

I am assured that the banquet will indeed be special. Assistant Manager Joe Cotter says he can have a buffet for us that will include beef, chicken, two kinds of vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy, a salad bar with potato salad, bean salad, cole slaw, relish dishes, etc. etc. Beverages number tea, coffee, and various soft drinks. Dessert

is also included. The banquet Saturday night will start at 6:00. An hour long social period will precede the dinner. A cash bar will be available (mixed drinks are \$1.25 each and beer is \$0.50 a bottle). Joe reminded me that there is a "happy hour" every day in the Holiday Inn "Pow Wow Lounge." Two drinks for the price of one, and hors d'oeuvres will be furnished.

Remember Abraham, Lincoln, The Backwoods Boy that Alger wrote? I'm trying to get Governor James Thompson of Illinois to sign a proclamation in Lincoln's home in Springfield honoring both Alger and our convention. So far, I have heard that he will issue the proclamation, stating that convention week will be known as "Horatio Alger Week" in Illinois, but previous commitments prohibit him from signing it that first week in May with HAS members present.

More details and a schedule of events will be present in the May Newsboy, which will be published prior to the convention. Watch for it!!

PEOPLE YOU WILL MEET IN JACKSONVILLE

Carl and Jean Hartmann, Dick and Joanne Bales, Phyllis Bales, Gilbert K. Westgard II, Dick Seddon, Paul and Ruth Miller, Herb and Esther Risteen, William and Margaret Baach, Bob Sawyer, Jack and Beth Row, Forrest and Rachel Campbell, Amos Smith, Les and Bertie Langlois, Carl and Helen Thieme, Brad Alexander, Ralph D. Gardner, Bill Sausaman, Ann and George Sharrard, Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas, Rohima and John Walter, Evelyn Grebel, Irv and Thelma Poznan, Ken Butler, Jerry Friedland, Walter Moore, Eugene Hafner, Phil Atkins, Gilbert and Pauline Westgard, and Eddie and Florence LeBlanc.

As you can see, Forrest Campbell and his wife will be present. For the first time in a decade, both the Horatio Alger Society founders will be present at a convention. Though convention week is near the opening of Ken Butler's "Time Was" Museum, he has assured me of his attendance.

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY AUCTION

Following are some of the donations that have either come to me or have been promised for the auction:

1. Alger picture in bottle, Alger plate - Gil Westgard
2. Volume 9 of Golden Days that includes Robert Coverdale's Struggle and an 1869 Ballou's that has Luck and Pluck - Dick Seddon. (Dick also sent in a donation to the hospitality room).
3. Some periodicals and Alger story magazines - Paul Miller
4. Hand carved dulcimer - Bob Sawyer
5. A nice Henty book - Carl Thieme
6. Autographed copy of reissue of Horatio Alger, Or the American Hero Era - Ralph D. Gardner
7. Painting and ceramics - Evelyn Grebel
8. Assorted books - Rohima Walter
9. Alger books - Eugene Hafner
10. A history of Marlborough - Phil Atkins
11. Electric oven - Gil and Pauline Westgard
12. Bound volume of Golden Days (#18) that has Making His Way - Eddie LeBlanc

Remember - the money that each item brings is tax deductible. Also, mail bids (send to your editor) are acceptable. Here's your chance of helping HAS stay in the black - we hope to beat last year's record of \$1400 raised. As the cartoon by Louis Bodnar in this issue shows, let's make Ralph Gardner cough all night long from speaking too much!

More items will appear in the May issue of Newsboy. Keep them coming!!

* * *

SOURCES OF ALGERIANA

by Jack Bales

Probably one of the most enjoyable aspects of editing the Newsboy is the enormous amount of correspondence that regularly comes my way. Also of importance is the various sharing of information that we Alger scholars come across. Shuffling through my mail stack are a couple of lengthy letters from Jack Dizer - in my opinion the Stratemeyer expert! He sent me a couple weeks ago a copy of his yet unpublished book, Tom Swift and His Friends; Or, The Men Who Wrote for the Boys. I hope that he finds a publisher soon. I'm looking forward to visiting him soon at his home in Utica, New York.

Of course, Max Goldberg and Stanley Pachon deserve mention. Stanley's articles in the Dime Novel Round-Up are always worth reading, and a letter from Max shows that he'll be home this summer when I visit the east coast. Dick Seddon and I will be prowling through various libraries and institutions and calling on Max and others as we try to discover some hitherto unknown facts about Horatio.

Los Angeles resident and free lance writer Dave Soibelman recently sent me some great information on the Newsboys' Lodging House. One of these days I'll make it to California - it's always great to hear from Dave.

Speaking of Daves - there's Dave Kanarr. I've been searching for an 1849 document relating to the Children's Aid Society for years, and Dave - who didn't even know I was looking for it - drops a copy in the mail to me. What a pal!! And Jerry Friedland, who scours the bookstores in New York City in search of books for me; and Brad Chase, who turned up a copy of the anonymous The Newsboy for my collection, which, according to Paul Miller, recently went up for auction at \$240.

As letters spill out all over my desk I pull out one from Gary Scharnhorst. Gary visited for a couple hours a year

ago and we had a good exchange of ideas. He's recently published an article in Theatre Studies - "A Note on the Authorship of Alger's Life of Edwin Forrest." (#23 - 1976-77). It's a notable contribution to Algeriana, and I applaud Gary's efforts.

Gil Westgard has Alger items tucked all over his apartment, and every time I visit he pulls something out for me. Recently it was some rare material concerning Alger at Harvard. Thanks, Gil. Also, many good articles have appeared in Eddie LeBlanc's Dime Novel Round-Up. Eddie has been kind enough to send me some issues that I needed, and I hope to visit him this summer.

Dick Bowerman and I both maintain extensive bibliographies of the literally hundreds of articles and clippings we have. Dick asked that I mention some of them in the Newsboy, and I too decided that I print some of the citations to articles which I have.

The following are citations to works which Dick has, and he deserves the credit for unearthing them (to my knowledge they have not been noted before):

"Alger Heroes Marching On" Los Angeles Times, Feb. 12, 1939, p. 8, col. 1, sec. 1.

Beck, Warren. "Huckleberry Finn Versus The Cash Boy." Education, XLIX (1928) pp. 1-13. This is perhaps the first serious article on Alger's works.

"Boston Conference - Papers on Fiction and the Reading of School Children," Library Journal, IV (September-October, 1879), pp. 36, 320-366.

"Books for Young People," The Christian Union, XXVII (May 24, 1883), p. 420.

Lately I've been interested in contemporary (19th century) references to Alger's works, and I decided to print some of the book reviews to Alger's books though in the case of the New York Times works the notations are

really just notices of the books being published, and not reviews.

Review of Ben, The Luggage Boy, Christian Union, I (June 11, 1870), p. 375.

"New Books - Do and Dare," New York Times, October 20, 1884, p. 2, col. 7.

"New Books - Facing the World," New York Times, August 6, 1893, p. 19, col. 5.

"New Books - From Canal Boy to President," New York Times. November 14, 1881, p. 3, col. 2.

"New Books - Hector's Inheritance," New York Times, October 25, 1885, p. 5, col. 3.

"New Books - Only an Irish Boy," New York Times, August 25, 1894, p. 3, col. 2.

Thanks go to Dick for allowing me to print the first batch of citations in Newsboy.

* * *

THE GOLDEN PRIZE

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The following Alger short story is from the collection of former HAS Vice-President Evelyn Grebel. It originally appeared in Gleason's Literary Companion, April 21, 1860).

"Attention, young ladies!"

Forty young girls, varying in age from twelve to seventeen, simultaneously looked up from their books, and, with glances of curiosity, regarded Madame De Lancy, of whose boarding school they were all members.

Having secured their attention, the teacher proceeded.

"You are aware, young ladies, that our semi-annual exhibition is appointed for the twenty-fourth of this month, or three weeks from to-day. It is

scarcely necessary for me to say that I desire it to appear as well as possible. A part of the exercises will consist of essays, the best six that have been written during the term being selected. In order to excite your emulation, and induce you to exert yourselves more than you otherwise would, I offer this gold pencil as a prize to be given to the writer of the best essay by a member of this school. They are to be handed in a fortnight from to-day, and the decision will be announced the day before the exhibition. I will add that the manuscript must be perfectly neat, and that a blot will be considered sufficient to exclude from the competition."

The gold pencil which Madame De Lancy held up was elegant and without doubt costly. It was only natural that more than one of the girls should have felt a strong desire to possess it. Yet most hoped against expectation, feeling that there was only one present who would probably bear off the coveted prize, much as they might exert themselves.

This fortunate one was Miriam Hamilton, a brilliant, dashing girl, with considerable beauty, and not a little talent. She was generally considered a "genius," being able to make a showy recitation after a slender preparation. In truth, she was little disposed to exert herself, confiding in her readiness, and making it her boast.

It could hardly be said that she was a favorite. She was too imperious, and too exacting of admiration for that. Yet by a sort of tacit consent the chief place in the school was assigned to her.

At recess she remarked to a companion who expressed her admiration of the prize,

"Yes, it is very pretty. It will be just the thing for me to wear at my birthday party."

"When will your birthday come?"

"On the twenty-seventh, three days

after the exhibition."

"Then of course you will exert yourself to get it."

"I shall write for it," said Miriam, "but," she proudly added, "I conceive that it will be hardly necessary for me to exert myself particularly, Marian Trevor."

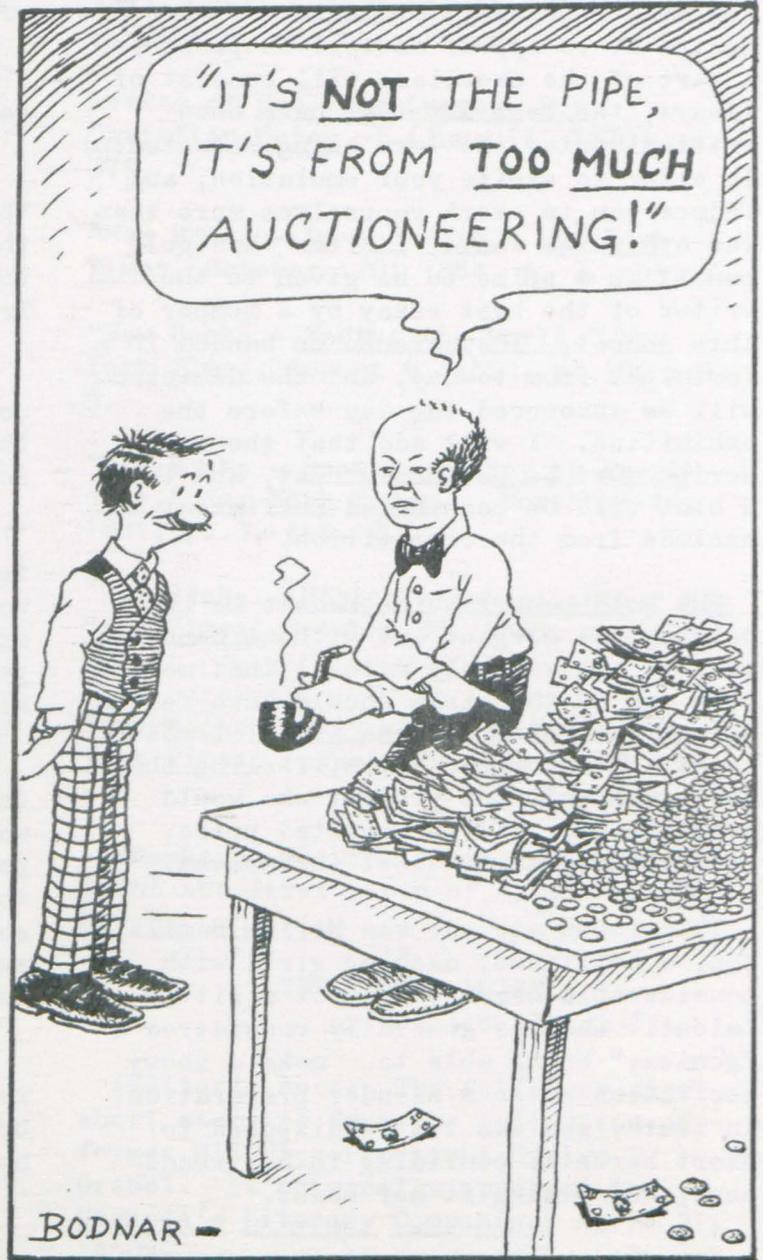
"Oh, no, certainly not," said her complaisant friend. "Everybody knows that you are the best writer in school."

Standing at the distance of a few feet, sufficiently near to hear every word that was said, was a plain girl, dressed in a cheap calico, whose appearance contrasted strongly with the rich attire of the brilliant Miriam.

An expression of pain swept over the face of Jane Ashton, as she heard these words, and she said to herself, despondently, "Of course Miriam will get the prize. Why should I be foolish enough to hope for it? And yet I should so like to get it. It would please Dr. Herman so much."

She fell into a reverie. We will improve the time of her self-communion by mentioning briefly the outlines of her story.

In the first place, she was poor. It needed only a glance at her plain dress to assure one of that. How then did she happen to be attendance at Madame De Lancy's fashionable school? She was not there as a boarding scholar. A few day scholars were admitted, and she was one of these. Even the high rate of tuition would have been too much for her slender means, but this was defrayed by a young physician, Dr. Herman, who had taken an interest in her. She had at first, with commendable independence, declined his generous proposal, but he had promised her that when she became a teacher - the goal of her ambition - and had saved up enough to make it perfectly convenient, he would permit her to repay him. On this condition she



"RALPH GARDNER'S (MIS)FORTUNE"

Please don't forget HAS!! All donations are acceptable for the annual auction, held the Saturday night of the convention. Proceeds will go to help keep the Alger Society operating without a deficit. (Cartoon drawn by HAS member Louis Bodnar, Jr., PF-490, an amateur cartoonist. His address is 1502 Laurel Ave., Chesapeake, Virginia 23325).

accepted his offer with grateful thanks, and entered the school. Yet none the less did she feel grateful to the kind physician who had extended to her the helping hand which no one else would have been inclined to do. None the less did she pray for his health and happiness every night upon her knees.

And now she was ambitious to show him that his kindness was not thrown away. For this only, and not to gratify any ambition of her own, she hoped to carry off the prize.

She was not very hopeful of it. Miriam Hamilton had enjoyed the advantages of the school twice as long as she. Miriam had talent and brilliancy. Jane was not sure whether she had talent. She knew that she was not brilliant, nor quick. She could not get a difficult lesson in fifteen minutes, as Miriam had frequently done. Whatever success she had achieved had cost her hard and persevering labor. But as she began to feel despondent in calculating the chances of success, this passage came into her mind: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." Besides, if she did not win the prize, she would at least have had the benefit of trying. So she resolved to enter the lists - to do as well as she possibly could, and then quietly leave the result to time.

"Are you going to write for the prize, Jane?" asked one of her school-fellows.

The questioner was Marian Trevor, already mentioned as a sycophantic admirer of Miriam Hamilton.

"Yes, I am going to try," replied Jane.

Marion ran straight to her idol, to tell her of Jane Ashton's intention.

"Let the beggar write!" said Miriam, in accents of strong contempt. "It'll amuse her, and I flatter myself it will not interfere particularly with me. Do you think there's any chance of her

gaining the prize over my head, Marian?"

"Gain the prize over you! She might as well undertake to climb up to the moon by a ten-foot ladder!"

Miriam smiled a smile of self-satisfied approval of this adulation, and dismissed the subject from her mind.

Meanwhile Jane Ashton lost no time in selecting a subject for her essay. She felt that in order to stand any chance of success, it would be necessary to do her best. After considerable reflection, she decided to make choice of "Self-Reliance," and its important bearing upon the individual character and upon success in life.

Her design was to weave in as many prominent instances of this trait as her reading should supply, and enforce her view by appealing to their examples. It was not long before she became very much interested in her self-chosen task, and when at length she had completed, it was not without a degree of pardonable self-satisfaction that she surveyed her work.

Meanwhile Miriam Hamilton did not hasten to undertake her task. She was not disposed to exert herself. When the question was asked why she delayed so long, she answered with confidence, "One day will be enough to write mine. I don't pretend to 'dig' like some folks. Thank goodness, I am a rapid worker."

Finally she selected as her subject the not uncommon one - "A Parallel Between Washington and Napoleon." She was influenced in the selection chiefly by the thought that it would be less trouble to write upon this subject than any other. Certainly her heart was not in it, nor was she one, in any way, fitted to comprehend and appreciate the character of Washington.

However, to do her justice, it must be acknowledged that her essay was a very

good one, considering the small amount of time and labor she had expended upon it. She had the faculty of easy and smooth expression, and to the superficial reader her essay would seem very good.

Only the day before the essays were to be handed in, rumors reached Miriam that Jane Ashton had written a very superior essay. Some of the girls had seen it, and were confident she would gain the prize. Until this time Miriam had not felt a doubt of her own success. Even now, she thought that the merit of her rival's essay must be very exaggerated. Still the possibility of Jane's success was enough to fill her with uneasiness, and she determined to find out through her flatterer, Marian Trevor, how good it really was. Accordingly Marian borrowed the essay, and secretly showed it to Miriam. She read it with ill-concealed dismay. It was much better than her own. In spite of her self-love she could not help seeing that, nor did Marian's depreciating remarks at all blind her to the fact. Without, however, betraying her disquiet, she requested Marian to return it, and then formed a plan. She remembered that Madame De Lancey had warned the scholars that a blot would exclude an essay from competition. That thought inspired her with a design of unutterable meanness.

That evening she stole into the school-room, and creeping to Jane's desk, took out the essay which Jane had written with such great care and neatness, and daubed one of the inside pages with ink. This done, she hastily left the school-room, and without one thought of her meanness, thinking only with exultation that the prize was now hers beyond a doubt, she retired to bed.

The next morning the essays were handed in. Jane did not again open hers, and therefore was not aware of the fatal mark which disfigured one of the fair pages. She was in excellent spirits, for she knew that she had done well. Miriam might indeed have done her best, and that consciousness would remain, even if she failed to

obtain the prize which she so ardently desired.

Day succeeded day, and at length the morning arrived when the prize was to be announced. All eyes were fixed eagerly upon Madame De Lancey when she arose, and said:

"Young ladies, you are aware that three weeks since I offered a prize of an elegant gold pencil to the writer of the best essay. I am very glad to find that there has been such an interest manifested, as is indicated by the number presented. Thirty essays have been handed in to me—all of which, I am glad to say, indicate more than ordinary pains on the part of the writers. But the first, in point of excellence is one on the subject of "Self-Reliance," by Jane Ashton."

There was quite a sensation. Jane blushed with pleasure, while Miriam turned white with astonishment and mortification.

"I thought," she said aloud, "that a blot was sufficient to exclude an essay from competition."

"Well?" said Madame De Lancey, calmly.

"Was not Jane Ashton's essay blotted?"

"How do you know?" inquired Madame De Lancey, with startling emphasis.

"Good heavens! I have betrayed myself!" thought Miriam, appalled.

"Young ladies," said the teacher, "a mystery is unravelled of which I have been seeking a solution. A week since, in passing the door of the school-room, I saw a girl at Jane Ashton's desk. In the darkness I could not distinguish the person, but supposed it Jane herself. When, however, I examined her essay the next day, and found the fresh blot, I was led to suspect a plot. Not until this moment, however, have I guessed who had the meanness to conspire against her. I assigned her the prize, because the blot was not due to her

carelessness. Jane Ashton, come forward and receive the prize you have so richly merited."

Miriam rushed from the room in blended rage and mortification, and the next morning sent for her books. She couldn't endure the ill-concealed contempt with which many, who had once flattered, now looked upon her. Jane Ashton wore her honors meekly. Her school-days are now over, and she is the beloved wife of the young physician at whose expense she was sent to school.

* * *

BUILDING AN ALGER COLLECTION
by Bob Sawyer

In 1972 I was approaching the age when I was thinking of retirement. As my wife was an antique collector, we frequently spent our weekends going to flea markets, antique dealers, and sales. I noted that often there were a few Alger, Tom Swift, and Rover Boy books offered for sale. As a boy I had read all three avidly so I started to pick up a few here and there. I really did not visualize a collection but just wanted a few of each to awaken old memories. Looking them over - mostly from the ads in the books - I started to realize how many different ones there were. Before long I was eagerly looking for titles I did not have.

In 1973 I read a news item about the Horatio Alger Society. It mentioned Ralph Gardner so I wrote him. He responded at once and told me about the Society, how to join, and a little about his book. As I lived less than 100 miles from Mendota, Illinois, I drove up one day and purchased a copy of The Road to Success directly from the publisher, Wayside Press. I didn't know that Ken Butler, the owner, was one of the founders of the Society and that he also owned the marvelous "Time Was" Museum that my wife and I had enjoyed many times.

With information derived from Ralph's book, I soon became a full-fledged Alger buff. I also joined the Society and

Newsboy made my "juices" flow even more. About this time I ran across fifty Algers, mostly new titles for me, at a flea market. I bought them all for \$50. I was off!!! Soon I found I was accumulating more and more books and it was becoming difficult to keep track of what I had and what I needed. After some thought I set up a loose leaf notebook system. I had the pages printed up on 8½ x 5½ notepaper with reinforced edges. I had them printed on both sides to cut down on bulk in the notebook, designing them so I could use them for Algers, Swifts, Rovers, and others. Each page identified the series, title, subtitle, author, date of publication, first edition publisher, first edition state, estimated availability, and reprint title. The bottom half of the page allowed for a listing of up to eleven books showing date acquired, purchase price, publisher, condition, edition (first or reprint), estimated value, and final disposition.

Many collectors use a file card system but I prefer this for a small collection of under 1,000 volumes. It can be tucked under your arm and off you go to your favorite book dealer with all the data on your books at your fingertips. WARNING - Don't get careless and walk off and leave it. I sweated that one out once!!!

The more I collected, the more pride I felt in my books so I decided to design book plates. This would identify each book with myself and my collection. Leaving a blank space at the top, each book could then be tied in and identified with my loose leaf system. By opening the book to the book plate, I could quickly refer to my notebook and know when I had acquired it, how much I paid for it, and other data. An artist friend developed my idea and a quick print outfit ran off 1500 of them on gummed paper, all for less than \$10.00. See Newsboy of May, 1977 for a picture of my plate.

Up until now my chief concern was for new titles. Publishers, first editions, even condition were not of primary

importance. It was real fun because almost everywhere I went, I picked up new titles. By 1974 I had sixty different titles of Algers and had not paid over \$2 for any of them. My collection was mostly of New York Books, Donohues, Winstons, Hursts, and a few Burts. In July of 1974 I ran into five Lorings, none first editions but all in excellent condition. I paid \$3.50 each and really thought I was "putting out the dough." In August I found my first first edition, one of the easy ones, From Canal Boy to President, but it was a thrill. At the same time my Swift and Rover collections were growing bit by bit.

By now I had retired from Sears & Roebuck and moved back to my home state of Ohio. My main interest was still new titles but they were starting to slow up as I was getting to the "toughies." Paul Miller of Vienna, Ohio answered an inquiry with a long, chatty letter that answered many of my questions. Since then he has been a big help in many ways with letters, and he recently stopped in to see me. I have had regular correspondence with Ernie Sanford, Forrest Campbell, Ed Gross, Mark Preston, Jack Bales, Ralph Gardner, and many other Partic'lar Friends. All of them have contributed heavily to the knowledge side of the ledger.

In 1976 I attended my first Alger convention in Chicago. It was memorable and I discovered that the conventions are the greatest bonus the Society has to offer other than Newsboy. Such nice people, all interested in the many aspects of collecting Algers. A full and interesting program was offered (see Newsboy). People like Bob Bennett, Jerry Friedland, Carl Hartmann, Dale Thomas, Ken Butler, and others put out the hand of fellowship and they freely gave of their knowledge.

By this time I had acquired 95 different titles and a total of 174 Algers at an average cost of \$2.50 each. I estimated my collection was now worth about \$1300, nearly three times what I had paid. After the Chicago convention and a long talk with Bob Bennett, I

decided to try to upgrade my collection, stop buying the cheaper reprints, and going after first editions only when the opportunity came to buy at a fair price.

By 1977 I had 111 different titles and a total of 243 Algers and 12 first editions. They cost nearly \$900 and had an estimated value of \$2,200. In May I attended "Booked in Boston" and again enjoyed myself immensely. Bob Bennett got me started on Westbrook's Boys' Home Weeklys and Brave and Bold Alger weeklies. I try to inventory my books each January and in 1978 I had 126 of the 132 Alger titles, 337 books, and 34 first editions. My total cost was \$1,614.20 and the estimated value was \$3,523.00. My Tom Swift Series was complete, Tom Swift, Jr. (starting to become collectible) was about two-thirds complete, Rovers were filling out nicely. I was now getting into upgrading and adding dust jackets, and finding first editions in these series.

Newsboy intrigued me from the very first and I look forward with interest to each new issue. Carl Hartmann furnished me with all back copies available and with the help of Ernie Sanford and Forrest Campbell, I managed to find all of the back copies of the early mimeograph Newsboys. I now have all but four or five copies of the later printed format. I made an index of all the reference information I thought of interest to an Alger collector and am having the early copies bound into two volumes. I plan to do the same with the printed copies when my collection is complete.

The point I am trying to make is that it's easy and interesting to start an Alger collection. Start with the inexpensive New York Books, Donohues, Federals, etc. Don't be in a big hurry and you can find most of the titles at very reasonable prices. Rather than pay the big price and buy whole collections, allow yourself the thrill of finding a rare or just a new (to you) Alger at a low price. There are still many Algers out there, though they are getting harder to find.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HARD-COVER, SERIES-TYPE BOYS BOOKS

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On a recent trip East, we took the back roads and came up with 35 books, including the Tom Swift "Shorthand Tom" for 35¢, 4 first editions and the total expenditure was less than \$50.00. You never know when the little thin book at the bottom of a dusty pile will turn out to be Nothing to Do or The Disagreeable Woman.

It's fun to watch your list of titles grow, reaching a certain point from which you can start upgrading. Cataloging and evaluating your books all add to the fascination. You can even get into repair and rebinding. Using Ralph's book, other bibliographies, Dime Novel Round-Up, Boy's Book Buff, Newsboy, and other publications you can constantly build your knowledge of Alger and his books. Reading the

various Alger, attending the conventions, writing and receiving letters from members all increase the benefits.

Before you know it your little collection has become a valued and worthwhile project. Like antiques the older they get, the scarcer and more valuable they are. Unless you pay ridiculous prices, you can hardly lose. And boy, is it a great hobby that's lots of fun!!

* * *

In my list of auction items I neglected to mention that Harry Lane sent me some beautiful copies of Tip Top Semi-Monthly and some issues of Twice-a-Month Top Notch Magazine. Also included in the box he sent was a framed reproduction of a 19th century sailing ship outside New York City. Harry later wrote to say that it was dated around 1870.



FROM THE EDITOR'S SCRAP BOOK



The January-February, 1978 issue of Newsboy has on page 14 an Alger letter that refers to a story that the author was supposed to write for the magazine Truth. Carl Hartmann pursued this matter and reports that he could not find any Alger short story in this periodical.

Bob Sawyer writes: "Enclosed find a copy of the index I have made to go with the bound collection of all the early mimeographed Newsboys. I have tried to include anything of interest to an Alger collector as far as references are concerned. I'll be glad to send a set to anyone who requests it for about 50¢ a set. This is about what it will cost to copy and mail it."

The late Hubert Humphrey frequently mentioned in his speeches that his middle name, Horatio, was given to him by his parents because of their respect of the ideals set forth by Horatio Alger. Gil Westgard called last January and remarked that he thought it coincidental that Humphrey died on January 13th of this year, the birthday anniversary of Alger.

Herb Risteen writes in a recent letter: "Wish you could see my boys' books collection. Six hundred volumes, all very good or better. In addition to the Algers, I have a complete set of Castlemon - 58 titles - also 90 Henty titles, mostly Blackie and Scribner, and Optics, Rover Boys, Stratemeyer, etc. Really look impressive and colorful on the shelves."

Our condolences are expressed to Carl Thieme and his wife, whose eldest son died last December. Carl reports that he was burned over 90% of his body when a steam pipe ruptured at the place where he worked. Carl and Helen, please accept our deepest feelings of sympathy.

Morri Molho, 2320 Cliff Drive, Newport Beach, Calif. 92663 wrote recently and said: "Idly looking through the Smithsonian Magazine I noticed your name and some comments by you in the letters to the editor section. [See Jan.-Feb., 1978 Newsboy, p. 8]. I happen to have several Horatio Alger books and since I do not collect them I wonder if they have any value and if anyone would be interested in their purchase."

Long time Alger collector (PF-064) David Carlson of Alaska reports that he has 115 Alger titles now. How are the pickin's in Alaska, David?

Lloyd P. Merrill, PF-427 informs us that he has "finally broken the hundred mark in titles, having 103 at this time. This includes the two Algers which were published in Newsboy, A Fancy of Hers and The Disagreeable Woman."

Gil Westgard reports that Hugo, The Deformed and Nothing to Do are at the bindery now and that they should be ready for mailing soon. If he cannot obtain them in the next several weeks, he will distribute copies to purchasers who are present at the Alger Society convention in May. Others he will mail.

New (reinstated) member Betty Lee Johnson has "a pretty good copy of Paul, the Peddler by A. L. Burt to trade or sell. Pages are yellowed a bit but binding is tight. Small blemish on spine."

Boy Scout books collector Tracy Catledge says that "enclosed is my check of \$10.00 for another excellent year of Newsboy. I have certainly enjoyed it this past year and the multitude of new friends in book collecting that it has sent my way. I'm still searching for those Boy Scout books. Hope the last year's book collecting was good to you."