

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 XVII

August-September, 1978

Numbers 1-2



A highlight of the 14th annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society - held in Jacksonville, Illinois from May 4-7, 1978 and hosted by Jack Bales - was the reception in the home of the Illinois College President. Above shows President Donald C. Munding (left) accepting from HAS member Paul Miller a donation of some Alger books which will be housed in the College Library. Ralph D. Gardner holds the volumes. (See inside for full convention coverage).

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.

* * *

The fourteenth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society was a big success. Many thanks to all who attended the Jacksonville Jamboree. See you next year in Cleveland!!

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-158 E. Garnet Fay
10440 S. Wood St.
Chicago, Illinois 60643

PF-278 Donald D. Dowling
P.O. Box 162
West Park, New York

PF-477 John R. Ruckel
2 Daniel Court
Beverly Hills
Lecanto, Florida 32661

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-542 J. Gary Newton
915 Hay - P.O. Box 5-3401
Fayetteville, N. C. 28305

J. Gary Newton learned of the Alger Society through an ad placed in a book magazine by HAS Director Dick Seddon. He is a pharmacist, owns 14 Algers, and is interested in them as being historical motivational literature.

PF-543 P. R. (Dick) Rieber
429 S. Hansell Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31792

Besides collecting Algers and learning as much as he can about the many editions and publishers, Dick's other hobbies include coins, stamps, antiques, and prints. He is also an antiquarian book dealer, and his work involves him in the area of public relations and communications.

PF-544 Gilbert M. Kapelman
Steep Hill Road
Weston, Connecticut 06883

Gilbert heard of us through an article written by your editor. An attorney by profession, he wishes to build up his collection of 30 Alger titles. He also collects folk art.

PF-545 Edward J. Dziura
8711 Sheridan
Montague, Michigan 49437

Edward owns 73 Algers, and has

interests in golf, books, and antiques.

PF-546 Dr. Raymond L. Murray
P.O. Box 5596
Raleigh, N. C. 27650

Professor Murray has 58 Alger books. HAS member Bill McCord told him of our Society.

PF-547 Morris E. Brown
#1003 924 Wonderland Rd.
London
Ontario Canada
Postal N6K2V9

The New York Public Library told Morris of the HAS. Owner of 41 stories, he would like to put together a complete set of titles.

PF-548 Peter C. Walther
6 Hara Crescent
New Hartford, New York 13413

Peter is an elementary school teacher who enjoys reading, music, and film history. His particular interest in Alger centers around the Stratemeyer titles. He owns 25 stories.

PF-549 William D. Russell
240 E. County Line Rd.
Hatboro, Pennsylvania 19040

William owns almost 800 copies of Alger's works. Involved in construction work, he "just enjoys collecting and reading Alger's novels."

PF-550 Robert T. Eastwood
360 Atkins Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Robert is a firefighter and bookseller who wants to compile a complete collection of Alger's titles. As he writes: "My only hobby is book collecting - Horatio Alger, Joseph C. Lincoln, Middletown, Conn. imprints, and items pertaining to railroads.

PF-551 G. F. Edwards
1806 C Box 1461
Lawton, Oklahoma 73502

G. F. Edwards likes "bookselling by mail, periodical and booklet publishing, reading, writing letters, studying humanity, and searching for out of print books. He is a floor mechanic by occupation.

PF-552 Syd Kleinman
One Rockefeller Plaza
New York City, N. Y. 10020
* * *
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 Jack R. Schorr, 853 South Lemon St., Anaheim, Calif. 92805

Luck and Pluck Series, H. T. Coates
(gray with winged wheel on cover):

Try and Trust	G	\$5.00
Strong and Steady	G+	5.00
Risen from the Ranks (soiled)	G	4.00
Herbert Carter's Legacy (inside hinge starting to split)	G	5.00

Tattered Tom Series, Coates
(brown, boy with shoe box on cover):

Sam's Chance	G+	5.00
Slow and Sure (cover faded, frontispiece missing)	G	2.50
Phil, The Fiddler	G+	5.00
Slow and Sure	G+	5.00
Paul, The Peddler (slight stain on cover)	G+	5.00
The Young Outlaw (corner of bottom spine chewed)	G	2.50
Ben, The Luggage Boy, Winston (green, boy's head in wreath)	G+	5.00

John C. Winston books with colored plates:

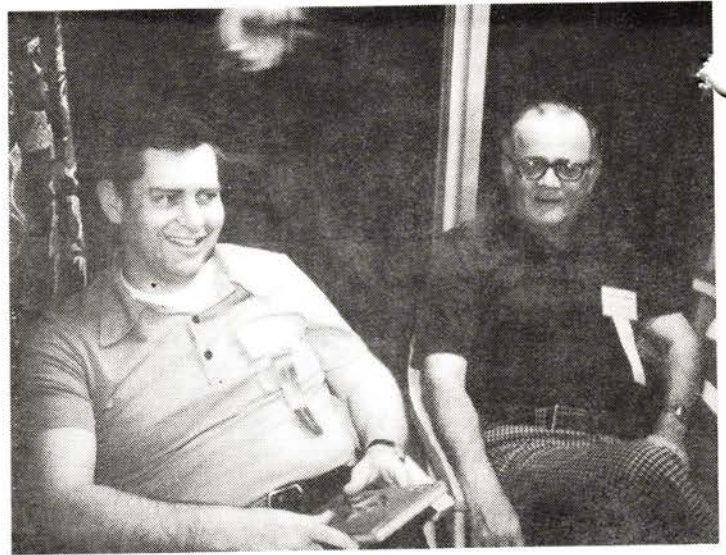
Young Outlaw (some fading)	G	3.00
Slow and Sure (some soiling)	G	3.00
Slow and Sure (brown)	G	3.00

(The "BOOKMART" ads are continued on page 6).



TWO DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS, Mrs. Harriet Stratmeyer Adams (second from left), who writes the "Nancy Drew Mysteries" under the pseudonym of Carolyn Keene, and Nancy Axelrad (second from right), who as Laura Lee Hope writes the "Bobbsey Twins," were guests at a special reception held at Illinois College for the Horatio Alger Society. The society held its annual convention at the Holiday Inn in this city recently with 55 members and guests attending. Illinois College President Donald Munding (left) met with the group at Barnes House on the campus. Jack Bales (right), public service librarian at the college who also serves as editor of the "Newsboy," the monthly publication of the Horatio Alger Society, served as local host for the convention.

from the Jacksonville Journal Courier,
May 21, 1978



HAS Vice-President Brad Chase and Treasurer Dale Thomas relax in the Jacksonville Holiday Inn's Hospitality Room.



Expert wood carver Bob Sawyer proudly shows one of his works - a hand carved chest in which he keeps his Alger material.



Alger Society President Jerry Friedland points to Cleveland, Ohio, the site of the 1979 HAS convention. VP Brad Chase used the map to pinpoint the locations of all our members, and Rachel Campbell sewed the Society banner.



Horatio Alger Society Secretary Carl Hartmann makes a point at our annual business meeting. Carl and his wife Jean have attended every convention since the first in 1965.



Dime Novel Round-Up editor Eddie LeBlanc with some of the boxes of books he brought to the "Jacksonville Jamboree."



Brad Alexander (left) and Paul and Ruth Miller enjoy a breakfast in the Jacksonville Holiday Inn.

The following books are Grosset and Dunlap Stratemeyer completions:

Nelson, The Newsboy (tan)	G	\$5.00
Falling in with Fortune (tan)	G	5.00
Jerry, The Backwoods Boy (green, shook)	G	4.00

Out for Business	Mershon G+	10.00
Young Circus Rider (russet colored, inside hinge separated)	P&C G	6.00

35.00
1.05
36.05 Add 30¢ postage for first book and 15¢ each additional volume. Jack's phone number is (714)772-6015.

Offered by Bob Sawyer, 204 Mill St., Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

The following are from Westbrook's "Boy's Home Weekly" Library. Each is in good condition, priced \$5 apiece, post-paid.

Jack's Ward; Sam's Chance; Tom, The Bootblack; Do and Dare; The Cash Boy, The Young Adventurer; Phil, The Fiddler; Slow and Sure; Risen from the Ranks; Herbert Carter's Legacy; The Boat Club (Oliver Optic - cover missing); Struggling Upward; Luke Walton; Andy Gordon. All 14 issues for \$55.

Frank Fowler	Burt	Ex	\$10.00 ✓
Making His Way	Hurst	Ex	5.00
Tom, The Bootblack	Burt	G	5.00
Strive and Succeed	Burt	shaken	3.00
Slow and Sure (small hole in spine)	Loring	Ex	10.00
Mark, The Match Boy	Loring	F	4.00 ✓
Jack's Ward	Burt	shaken	3.00
Chester Rand	Hurst	F	3.00
Paul, The Peddler	T&T	F	3.00
Paul, The Peddler	Burt	Ex	5.00
Andy Gordon	Federal	F	2.00
Phil, The Fiddler	Federal	F	2.00

Bob would like to trade for Tom Swifts, Swift Jr.'s, and Rover Boys.

Offered by Walter J. Moore, 914 Linview Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

★ The following are Loring's, all first editions, but not first issues of first

editions. All are in very good condition, \$25 each. They are:

The Young Outlaw, Rough and Ready, and Strong and Steady.

The following are A. L. Burt first editions, in very good condition, \$20 each:

Tom, The Bootblack, The Errand Boy.

The following are Porter and Coates first editions:

Bob Burton (fair), \$12.50; Victor Vane, good, \$20.

The remaining books are not first editions:

Dan, The Newsboy	Burt	Vg	\$20.00
Mark Mason's Victory	Burt	Vg	20.00
Slow and Sure	S&S	Vg	15.00
Strive and Succeed	P&C	Vg	15.00
Joe, The Hotel Boy	C&L	G+	20.00
Jack's Ward	Burt	G	5.00
Jack's Ward	Winston	Vg	5.00
Shifting for Himself	Winston	G	5.00
Harry Vane	NYB	G	5.00
Walter Sherwood's P.	Donohue	P	3.00
Sam's Chance	Donohue	Vg	5.00
Adrift in New York	Donohue	P	3.00
Only an Irish Boy (miniature edition)	Hurst	G	5.00

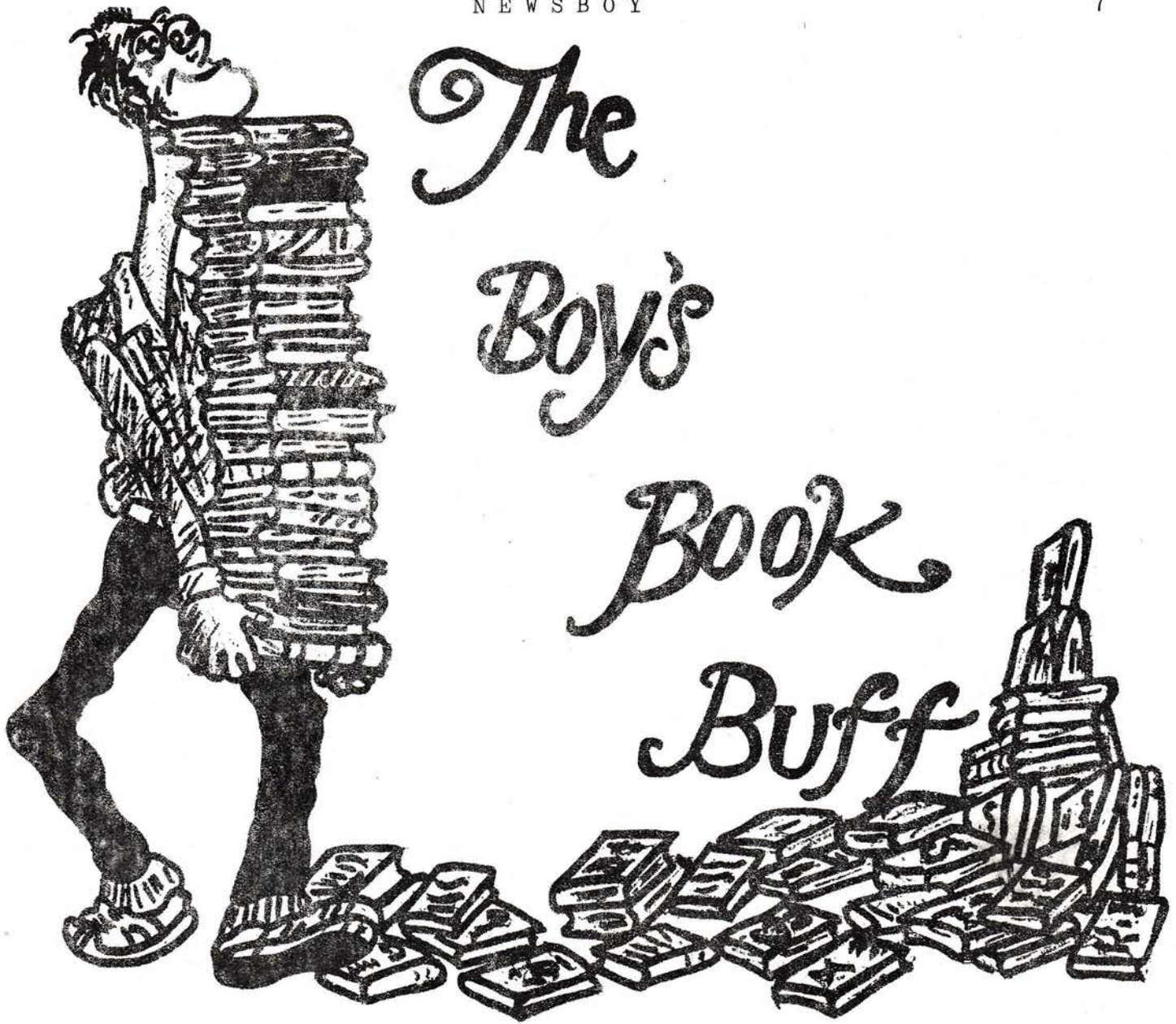
Offered by Betty Lee Johnson, 705 Palm Blvd., Isle of Palms, S.C. 29451.

Andy Grant's Pluck, Federal, Good; Paul, The Peddler, Burt, Good; Struggling Upward, Donohue, Good. No prices given.

Betty Lee also has a number of Oliver Optics that she would be willing to sell.

Abbreviations used in this month's BOOK MART: F = Fair, Vg = Very good, G = Good, Ex = Excellent, P = Poor, P&C = Porter & Coates, T&T = Thompson and Thomas, C&L = Cupples & Leon, S&S = Street & Smith, and NYB = New York Book.

* * *



THE BOY'S BOOK BUFF is a fanzine aimed at collectors of Boys' (and girls') series and adventure books. Everything from Tom Swift to Tom Corbett, from Horatio Alger to Leo Edwards is our sphere of influence. If you are a collector of this field of literature, or are simply curious, then this is the publication for you. You'll find issues filled with long interesting articles that examine characters, separate series, and backgrounds with a fresh, in-depth approach. Every phase of boys' book collecting is covered in our issues, and we do it with a clear, informal style.

Issue #6 is now out, featuring a look at the Motion Picture Comrades, Bob Chenu's article on collecting the series books, updates to the Hudson bibliography, an extra-large meaty ad section, and many other features that will hold your interest and help develop your understanding of this often neglected field of popular literature.

Sample copies of THE BOY'S BOOK BUFF are 75¢, a six issue subscription is \$4.50. Back issues are available, #1 and #2 at \$1.00 each (both in short supply), #s 3, 4, 5 at 75¢ each. Subscriptions cannot start with back issues. If you have an interest in this field of collecting, or are simply curious, give us a try. You will find it worth your while.

Robert Jennings, RFD 2, Whiting Rd., Dudley, Mass. 01570

From the May 24, 1978 issue of Voice of Fellowship, edited by HAS member Amos Smith.

THE EDITOR SAYS:

The annual convention of The Horatio Alger Society held in Jacksonville, Illinois, May 4-7 was enjoyable and very worthwhile despite the rain and cold.

Jacksonville is the town where MacMurray College and Illinois College are both located. Jack Bales, librarian at Illinois College, was the able host for the convention.

Ralph Gardner, author of books about Horatio Alger, Jr. and his writings is always in attendance and adds much to the meetings. Present, also, were Society members Harriet S. Adams (Carolyn Keene), author of the Nancy Drew books, and Nancy Axelrad (Laura Lee Hope), author of the Bobbsey Twins series.

One of the benefits of membership in the Horatio Alger Society is the monthly publication "Newsboy". It often reprints short stories by Alger that appeared in early magazines. In the May issue, as an example, we had "Henry Trafton's Independence" which appeared in the April 28, 1860 issue of Gleason's "Literary Companion" and in an 1880 copy of "Home Circle."

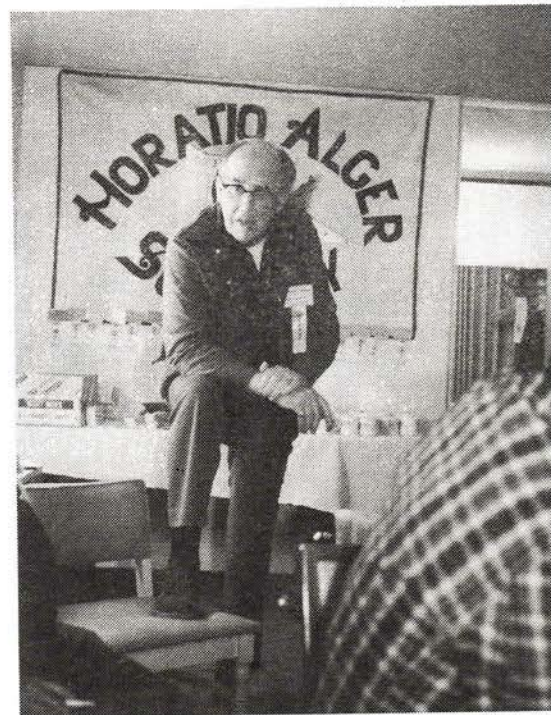
The membership dues (\$10.00) also includes a roster of members and information which is important, especially to those who are collectors. Several members collect antiques in addition to books. For me I enjoy the reading matter that comes and the opportunity to get with the members at least once a year.

The Horatio Alger Society functions as a non-profit Society with this creed: 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 inflamed hero ideals in countless millions of Young Americans.

Membership comprises both men and women. If you wish a membership form or more information write your editor.



Convention host Jack Bales is surrounded by Bobbsey Twins author Nancy Axelrad (left) and writer of Nancy Drew books Harriet Stratemeyer Adams.



Bob Sawyer makes a point in the Holiday Inn's Hospitality Room. Horatio Alger Society banner is in the background.



Alger Society Treasurer Dale Thomas and President Jerry Friedland share a joke during the convention.



One of the highlights of the convention was the reception that the President of Illinois College, Dr. Donald Munding-er, hosted for the Society members. These two pictures show the convention-ers mingling with members of the Illinois College faculty at Dr. Munding-er's home.

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

Host - Jack Bales

1978 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

by Gilbert K. Westgard II

Each year a few members show up for conventions of the Horatio Alger Society prior to the official starting time. This year was no exception. President Jerry Friedland and William Leitner drove from New York and were among the first to arrive. Carl and Jean Hartmann, the champion attenders, having been present for every convention, drove from Lansing, Michigan for an early start on conventioning. Dick Seddon flew from Boston to Chicago where he was met by Alger publisher Gil Westgard who drove directly to Jacksonville for an early start. Jack Bales didn't have to put in an early appearance, but somehow he got wind of there being some Alger enthusiasts at the Jacksonville Holiday Inn, and so he, too, started earlier than the official starting time.

Quite a few items donated for the auction were on display in President Friedland's room. Each new arrival added something, and everyone seemed interested in giving close attention to the items they would bid upon at the close of the convention. This diversity was amazing. Tags were attached which identified the giver. These gave brief descriptions, and lines were present for the names of the successful bidders and selling prices which could be filled in later.

The Hartmanns, Seddon, and Westgard drove to Hannibal, Missouri to see Mark Twain's hometown. Along the way they stopped at a few antique stores to look through the merchandise for books, post cards, and other items of interest. By the time they returned to the comfort of the Holiday Inn several more members had arrived. Bob Bennett, Ralph Gardner, Gilbert and Pauline Westgard added their

presence to the early arrivals in Jacksonville.

Jack Bales hosted a dinner for the fortunate early birds at his apartment Wednesday night. Salad, lasagna, beer, and soft drinks were enjoyed by all.

The next day Harriet S. Adams, Nancy Axelrad, Rohima and John Walter, Les and Bertie Langlois, Jack and Beth Row, Brad Chase and others arrived until the number in attendance had risen to a point where it was no longer possible to keep track of who had arrived and who was yet to come.

On the morning of May 5th the annual business meeting of the Horatio Alger Society was called to order by President Friedland. Treasurer Dale Thomas reported that the Society was in the black. Brad Chase reported on the possibility of getting the U.S. Postal Service to issue a postage stamp in honor of the 150th anniversary of Alger's birth which will be in 1982. A series of documents and papers were made available to those who wished to see how the process of requesting this special stamp is handled.

Dick Seddon informed those in attendance of his activities of placing ads in various publications to try to attract new members. Any member who knows of a publication where an ad might be seen by other Alger collectors are requested to inform Dick Seddon of such periodicals. Last year \$100 was authorized to place ads to attract members, of which \$40 has been spent. \$200 additional was authorized for this purpose for the next year. Carl Hartmann reported a total of 209 members, and also read replies from those who had dropped active memberships.

Consideration was given to the idea of lowering membership dues for aged and retired members who cannot afford the regular price. It was voted to experimentally refer such cases as may arise within the next year for possible appropriate action by the membership committee. It was voted to set up a



Newsboy editor Jack Bales and host of the convention poses with his mother Phyllis and twin brother Dick (right), also an Alger Society member.

 committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a fund for graduate scholarship devoted to the study of Alger. It was voted to set up a committee to investigate the possibility of writing instructions to be used as guidelines for disposition of persons' collections by heirs in the case of death of any member. Ralph Gardner was appointed to head the scholarship investigation committee. Dick Seddon and Gil Westgard II were appointed to the committee for service to deceased members in relation to their collections. The nominating committee reported their recommendation to renominate all officers presently constituted. This was so done.

A special reception was arranged for the HAS by host Jack Bales. Dr. Donald C. Mundinger, President of Illinois College - the institution at which Jack works - had us all at his home for light refreshments Friday evening. Members talked with members of the College faculty, and all who were present

enjoyed themselves immensely. Paul Miller gave some copies of Alger from his collection to President Mundinger for placing in the College Library. Alger biographer Ralph Gardner spoke briefly at this ceremony, as did President Mundinger.

The combined book sale stretched along the side walls of the meeting room for the full length of the facility. For those who had already been buying and selling privately, this was the opportunity to see everything together. Comparisons were made and volumes exchanged owners as quickly as the money changed hands.

Very few of the poorer quality volumes were sold. However, the better books were rapidly snatched up by those who recognized them. This would seem to indicate that as a group we are becoming more discerning in our judgments of what Alger books and specific bindings and publishers are desirable.

In addition to the books there were other notable attractions. Bob Sawyer had a carved case for storing magazines, story papers, and other Alger related material. John Henry Walter, dressed in authentic frontier garb, had an array of Indian trade goods that could have bought Manhattan Island many times over (if only he had been around back when that real estate originally changed ownership). Harriet S. Adams and Nancy Axelrad were kept busy autographing quite a few of their Stratemeyer Syndicate volumes. Also, they purchased piles of the older volumes written by Edward Stratemeyer to fill in gaps in their own collections of the works of Harriet's popular father. (Anyone having older Stratemeyer Syndicate books for sale is urged to write to Mrs. Adams, giving title, publisher, condition, and price). Carl T. Hartmann, acting in his position as Secretary of the HAS, had various donated items and HAS publications for sale. His Alger bottles are a nice addition for any collector of Alger material.

(continued on page 15)

JACK BALES HOSTS

Horatio Alger Society Convention
here May 4-7

This article is from the
Illinois College Rambler,
the April 26, 1978 issue

by Jon Althoff

Rushing into Schewe, you curse the English Department for assigning you a 7 page paper on Horatio Alger, Jr. Knowing little about him other than the fact that he has been called the most influential writer of the late nineteenth century, and wrote his books on "rags to riches" success stories of honest young American boys who worked as newsboys and shoe shiners, you turn to the Britannica for more background. However, in this case, the encyclopedia won't help you much. For you see, most of the information on Alger is lies.

Almost all Alger information has been based on a biography of Alger done by a man named Herbert R. Mayes, when Mayes was 28. In 1972, Mayes revealed his book as a hoax. He had started to write a completely factual account of Alger. "But I was young and I found out pretty soon that it would take a lot of work. And from what I had read on Alger, he seemed like a damn dull idiot." So he made it up. As a result, posterity believes he was born in 1834 (instead of the correct date of 1832), and that he was in the company of a French prostitute when he was really in Divinity School. Mayes quotes Alger as saying about his relations with the

woman (in his diary), "I was a fool to have waited so long. It was not so vile as I thought." "How could anyone believe it?" Mayes asked. But the biography was believed. Mayes did not reveal the hoax until '72 because he did not want to ruin the publisher or one of the book's favorable reviewers, who later became Mayes' close friend.

Today, Herbert R. Mayes, Editor of the Year in 1960, is past director of the Saturday Review, and past editor of Mc Call's and Good Housekeeping. He is currently retired and is working on his memoirs that will be published soon. He wrote the following to his friend JACK BALES, Schewe Public Service Librarian: "What I think you ought to do is prepare yourself to write the definitive book about Alger; a book that tells the full story, including, of course, all details about my book...It's a project that would take a long time to complete; but you're so damned young you can afford it, and you ought to. Such information as I've collected in the last couple of years would be at your disposal, and with your interest in the subject, I'd be inclined to bet on you to do the necessary job." Mr. Bales has visited Mr. Mayes in Boston and New York, and truly admires him. The above quote

would suggest the feeling is mutual.

Whether or not Mr. Bales takes Mr. Mayes' advice to write a book on Alger, he will still remain involved in Alger trivia. The proud owner of a large number of Alger biographies and of Alger books (some of them quite rare), he has been collecting books and articles on Alger for approximately 15 years. His interest started when he found and read one of Alger's books in his father's library collection.

The Horatio Alger Society (HAS) was founded in 1961, and now consists of 200 members internationally who collect Alger books and nostalgia. Mr. Bales first attended a HAS meeting when he was 17, leaving for home from it with a suitcase full of Alger books, his good suit and clothes stuffed in a pillowcase. Because of his young age, he was "taken under the Society's wing" and got to know many helpful people.

His interest in Alger and library research grew, and after his graduation from Illinois College and the U. of I. (in Library Science), he took over the editor job of the Newsboy, the official magazine of the HAS.

Between library work, editing the Newsboy, researching information on Alger from material scattered throughout the world, and writing Alger articles for book magazines, he admits that he doesn't have much time left. "I write 100-150 letters a month all over the world. I love research. It's a labor of love," Mr. Bales told the RAMBLER.

Throughout his hard work and contacts throughout the organization, he has been able to set the Alger Conven-

tion in Jacksonville this year. Covered by the Associated Press and state radio stations, the estimated gathering of 80-90 will be held at the Holiday Inn May 4, 5, 6, and 7. Harriet Adams and Nancy Axelrod, who under pseudonyms write (respectively) the Nancy Drew and Bobbsey Twins books, are personal friends of Mr. Bales and will be in attendance. Governor Thompson has declared the week "Horatio Alger Week."

According to DR. JAMES DAVIS, I.C. history professor, "The impact Horatio Alger had on the American popular mind is great. Many people modelled their lives in a way that conformed with the heroes of Alger's works." Mr. Bales refers to the Alger books as "good escape literature." He also does not deny that the books are nostalgic and maybe a bit corny. However, he feels that the themes of the book deal with going from "rags to respectability," rather than to "riches." "The principles he (Alger) set forth 100 years ago are still valid. There's nothing wrong with pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps," It has certainly worked well for Jack Bales.

A display of Alger books is on exhibit in I.C.'s Schewe Library, and the public is cordially invited to come to the Holiday Inn to buy dime novels and books at the sales Saturday morning, May 6. One is also invited to talk to the Alger buffs who will be spending their time eating, sleeping, and breathing Alger nostalgia.



The three bushiest beards of the Alger Society are from left to right: John Henry Walter, Brad Alexander, and Gilbert K. Westgard II.

HAS co-founders Ken Butler (left) and Forrest Campbell display the flag that Forrest's congressman sent him. It flew over the Capitol Building in Washington on January 13, 1978, Alger's birth anniversary. The "Jacksonville Jamboree" marked the first convention in over ten years that both Alger Society founders were present.



William Baach (left) and Maurice Royar relax during the annual Horatio Alger Society business meeting.

Other items of interest included the convention souvenirs that Jack secured for us. A handsome coffee mug with a picture of Ragged Dick on one side, and "Horatio Alger Society / JACKSONVILLE JAMBOREE / Jacksonville, Illinois / May 4-7, 1978" was presented to all members as they arrived. (These can be obtained from Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910. Price is \$3.50 each).

President Jerry Friedland presented keychains having pictures of Alger book covers on them. These were made for him by M. Miller Saurer, who was unable to attend this year's convention.

Housed in a glass exhibition case in the Illinois College Library were several rare Alger books from the collection of Jack Bales. Also included was a signed proclamation by the Honorable James Thompson, Governor of Illinois, recognizing Alger's unique contribution to America and the purposes to which the Horatio Alger Society are dedicated. May 1-7, 1978 was proclaimed to be Horatio Alger Week in Illinois, and all citizens of the state were directed to "Strive and Succeed."

A brief program preceded the banquet. To begin the evening, Forrest Campbell presented to the Society a large American flag which had flown over the U. S. Capitol on January 13 (anniversary of Alger's birth), 1978. Ken Butler accepted the flag and said that it would fly from the pole in front of the Wayside Press each year on Alger's birthday. Ken remarked that he always wanted to be a custodian of something, since he always figured a custodian had a nice, simple job without any worry. He also observed that the flag had flown over the Capitol on the date of the death of another Horatio - Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

President Friedland announced that a special Presidential Award was being made for Irene Gurman, who unfortunately could not attend this year's meeting, having recently moved.

Dale Thomas was then invited to present the Luck and Pluck Award. Before presenting it he got a rousing round of applause by inviting the HAS to have the 1979 convention in the area of Cleveland, Ohio.

Dale then continued. "The Horatio Alger Society 1978 Luck and Pluck Award is presented to Richard R. Seddon for outstanding and continuing services to the Society."

Dick was nearly speechless, but he managed a brief thank you.

Those who were in attendance at our previous year's convention - "Booked in Boston" and who know the enthusiastic way Dick undertakes difficult tasks for the Society, thought the award was richly deserved.

Gilbert K. Westgard II was then called on to announce the winner of the annual Newsboy Award. Before presenting it, Gil played a few grooves of a phonograph record. Several members recognized it as a recording of Alger's Phil, The Fiddler. After turning off the record, Gil said: "What you have just heard is a book, Phil, The Fiddler. It was recorded at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky in 1972. We only recently became aware of it because a young lady whom I have dated is blind. The Horatio Alger Society 1978 Newsboy Award is presented to the American Printing House for the Blind for excellence of presentation and high level of technical quality in their Talking Book Recordings of Alger novels. Here to accept the award for the American Printing House for the Blind is Dr. Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired here in Jacksonville."

Dr. Umsted responded: "On behalf of the American Printing House for the Blind, the Executive Director, Dr. Carson Y. Nolan and the Board of Trustees, I accept this award, and will make sure they get it immediately. Dr. Nolan felt quite badly that he could not be present
(continued on page 17)



Details concerning these photographs are on the next page.

From the Jacksonville Journal Courier, May 14, 1978

House For Blind Award



The American Printing House for the Blind was recently honored at the annual banquet of the Horatio Alger Society on May 6, 1978, at the Holiday Inn in Jacksonville.

The association was presented with the Alger Society's "Newsboy" Award, a plaque which is given yearly to an individual or organization that has helped to further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Horatio Alger was a famous 19th century author who wrote over 100 juvenile tales with the theme of poor boys working hard to improve their situations in life. The Alger Society was founded in 1961.

The American Printing House for the Blind issues numerous "talking books." These are phonograph rec-

ords of popular books and novels, and some of the stories thus recorded are the works of Alger.

Accepting the award was Dr. Richard G. Umsted, Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, seen above left. Gilbert Westgard of Chicago, Alger society member, made the presentation.

The banquet was the culmination of the four-day convention of the Alger Society. Hosted by Jack Bales, Public Service Librarian at Illinois College, the convention drew over 60 people from all over the country. Among those in attendance were Harriet Stratemyer Adams and Nancy Axelrad, respective authors of the best-selling Nancy Drew and Bobbsey Twins series.

On page 16 are pictured the winners of the Horatio Alger Society's annual awards.

The large photo shows HAS Director Dick Seddon (left) with the Society's "Luck and Pluck" Award. At the right is Dr. Richard G. Umsted, accepting the "Newsboy" Award for the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Umsted is Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, Illinois.

The lower left picture is of Dr. Umsted with the Newsboy Award.

The lower right photograph shows Alger Society Treasurer Dale Thomas (right) presenting Dick Seddon with the Luck and Pluck Award.

Newsboy extends its congratulations to Dick and the American Printing House for the Blind.

to receive it himself. I think that this recognition on the part of the Horatio Alger Society to the American Printing House for the Blind is, in fact, an excellent choice on your part. The APH represents a tremendous service to the visually impaired children and adults of the United States. Personally, my hat is off to you for your selection of the APH to receive this award. Thank you."

President Friedland then called upon Paul Miller, as the chairman of the nominating committee, to present its choices for the officers of the Society. Paul reported that their choices were those individuals who now held the offices (see page 2 for listing). There being no other nominations, the slate was accepted.

Jerry then suggested, "Let's eat!" And . . . we did!

As in the past, Ralph D. Gardner became our auctioneer for the evening, with Jack Bales helping him, with the goal of trying to surpass the previous year's financial return. The odds against Ralph accomplishing this task were formidable, there being fewer people present, but he undertook the challenge with a do or die attitude.

When bidding slowed down, Ralph managed to get it going again with some colorful and witty remarks.

Dale Thomas and Carl Hartmann kept track of the final bids, and would periodically announce the financial plateaus as they were attained.

After more than two hours of bidding, last year's total was surpassed with a figure of \$1526 - an all time record.

Sunday morning was the last opportunity to get together until the following year in Cleveland. Little groups of Alger enthusiasts formed at the scattered tables in the motel restaurant. A few last minute deals on Alger books and other material were made, and by noon everyone had left with the hope of doing it all over again on an even bigger scale next year at the CLEVELAND CONNECTION, May 10-13, 1978.

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

Office of the President
Illinois College
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650
May 8, 1978

Professor Jack Bales
Illinois College
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Dear Jack:

Thank you for bringing the Alger Society to Jacksonville for its annual convention. They are a delightful group of people and it was so easy to get caught up in the enthusiasm of your meeting. Their presence in Jacksonville was an important addition to

our collegiate activities. It was fun to be with a group which has a special interest in a distinct period of Americana.

On a personal level, Jack, I've probably not had any more fun or enjoyment this past year than I had on the two occasions which I shared with you and your friends. I thought the Saturday night dinner followed by the auction was especially delightful and the fact that we stayed almost to the end of the auction is an indication of the enjoyment we were having.

Once again, thank you for bringing the Alger Society to Jacksonville.

Sincerely yours,

Donald C. Munding
President

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
College of Education
311 Education Building
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Mr. Jack Bales
Public Service Librarian
Illinois College
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

Dear Jack:

I was very much impressed with the convention and am indebted to you personally for all the courtesies extended me and my wife. You made us feel welcome and very much at home and I enjoyed thoroughly the opportunity to visit your campus.

Thanks, too, to your boss who took time out to show us about the library. It is very impressive, and I took time to view your collection. I felt fortunate indeed to find a copy of The Young Book Agent - not in the same league as your copy, but still a good one and at a very fair price.

Cordially,
Walter J. Moore, Professor
Early Childhood Education

August-September

Illinois School for the
Visually Impaired
658 E. State Street
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650
May 10, 1978

Mr. Jack Bales
Editor, Newsboy
1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the outstanding hospitality extended me at the Horatio Alger Society's banquet Saturday evening. I was very impressed with the members and, therefore, appreciated all the more the opportunity to receive the Society's annual Newsboy Award for the American Printing House for the Blind. As stated in my response, I believe the Society's choice was excellent and certainly well deserved.

Please know too that the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired would be pleased to have you and other members of the Horatio Alger Society visit our campus at any time.

Respectfully,

Richard G. Umsted
Superintendent

Horatio Alger Society
Fairhope, Ala. 36532
May 11, 1978

Dear Jack:

You had a wonderful convention! You were a perfect host, and despite the cold and the rain, every one seemed to have warm regards for one another.

I suppose you will make some mention of the member present from the farthest distance, which would be Alex Shaner of California, I suppose, but don't forget

the oldest member in seniority, Eddie LeBlanc, PF-015, that is of course, not counting Ken and me.

Please tell your mother that I was pleased that she came and that I was glad to have the opportunity to meet her. I am still amazed at the lookalike quality of your brother Dick. Your mother says she has no difficulty telling you apart, but I think the rest of us might be confused!

Your partic'lar friend,

Forrest Campbell
Co-founder
Horatio Alger Society

119 N. Harper Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90048
June 26, 1978

Dear Jack,

Mea culpa -- the Alger souvenir mug came just before Father's Day and it was outstanding among the items of loot I received from my children, grandchildren, and yes, a great-grandchild - Luisa, age 8. We're expecting our third great-grandchild next month. A thousand thanks.

The mug now occupies an honored place alongside Mr. Lincoln's bust, the head of Mark Twain, and a globe in my combination office, library, music room, guest room, trophy room (plaques and other such nonsense), and of course, a well stocked bar. So...if you ever come to town....

I'm working on a couple of stories for Westways, and one for Esquire, and that's the way I am enjoying my retirement.

Warmest regards,

Dave Soibelman

* * *

PERSONS ATTENDING THE CONVENTION

Members who were present at the Jacksonville convention were: Carl Hartmann, Les Langlois, Ken Butler, Ralph D. Gardner, Jack Row, Gil Westgard II, Bob Bennett, Pauline Westgard, Dale Thomas, Evelyn Grebel, Keith Barnes,



Bertie Langlois, Rachel Campbell, and Beth Row relax at the Illinois College President's home.

Langlois, Jack Row, Ed Levy, Forrest Campbell, George Clarke, Judson Berry, Bob Bennett, Paul House, Dan Fuller, Les Poste, Gil Westgard, Dick Seddon, and Jack Bales.

FOURTEEN CONVENTIONS

Carl Hartmann

THIRTEEN CONVENTIONS

Les Langlois

TWELVE CONVENTIONS

Ken Butler and Ralph Gardner

ELEVEN CONVENTIONS

None

TEN CONVENTIONS

Paul House and Jack Row

NINE CONVENTIONS

Gilbert K. Westgard II and Bob Bennett

EIGHT CONVENTIONS

Jack Bales and Dale Thomas

SEVEN CONVENTIONS

Irene Gurman, Evelyn Grebel, and Keith Barnes

SIX CONVENTIONS

Forrest Campbell, Dan Fuller, and Les Poste

FIVE CONVENTIONS

Herb Risteen, Carl Thieme, Dick Seddon, Amos Smith, Paul Miller, Jerry Friedland, and Brad Chase

FOUR CONVENTIONS

Max Goldberg, Judson Berry, Milton Salls, Ralph Anderson, Rohima Walter, Eugene Hafner, Glenn Corcoran, Bill McCord, and Marilyn Saurer

THREE CONVENTIONS

Ed Levy, Eddie LeBlanc, Blanche Lloyd, Irving Poznan, Bette Bogue, Ralph Brandt, Ann Sharrard, Alex Shaner, Bob Sawyer, Brad Alexander, and Pauline

Forrest Campbell, Herb Risteen, Carl Thieme, Dick Seddon, Amos Smith, Paul Miller, Jerry Friedland, Dick Bales, Brad Chase, Rohima Walter, Glenn Corcoran, Eddie LeBlanc, Ann Sharrard, Alex Shaner, Brad Alexander, John Juvinall, William Sausaman, Bill Baach, Bill Leitner, Harriet S. Adams, Nancy Axelrad, Walter Moore, Bob Sawyer, Maurice Royar, Neil McCormick, George Miller, and Jack Bales.

* * *

ATTENDANCE AT

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY CONVENTIONS

compiled by Bob Bennett

(convention)	(members attending)
1965 - Mendota, Illinois	14
1966 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin	19
1967 - Des Moines, Iowa	22
1968 - New Haven, Connecticut	24
1969 - Kalamazoo, Michigan	9
1970 - Revere, Massachusetts	13
1971 - Sioux Falls, South Dakota	14
1972 - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan	20
1973 - Indianapolis, Indiana	30
1974 - New Philadelphia, Ohio	27
1975 - Geneseo, New York	35
1976 - Rosemont, Illinois	34
1977 - Waltham, Massachusetts	50
1978 - Jacksonville, Illinois	38

The hosts at these respective conventions were: Ken Butler, Les

Westgard

Jacksonville Journal Courier, April 23, 1978TWO CONVENTIONS

Max Friedman, Darel Leipold, George Miller, Cecilia Wild, Joseph Wild, Eddie Westgard, Norman Hanson, Frank Eisenberg, Florence Ogilvie Schnell, Gary Scharnhorst, Bill Leitner, Harry Lane, Mark Preston, Dick Bowerman, Owen Cobb, Helen Gray, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, and Nancy Axelrad

ONE CONVENTION

Keith Thompson, Ed Reynolds, Gladys Judson, John Sullivan, Roy Wendell, Hal McCuen, Morris Olsen, Frances Henry, George May, Pauline Milten, Paul Alger, William Murrell, Walter Moore, Paul Fisher, Steve Press, Don Shinner, Harlan Miller, Philip Neufeld, L. F. Hartsock, Norman Peterson, Jack Barker, Max Sheldon, Jacqueline Steele, Robert Birkheimer, Bill Sausaman, Karl Weber, Sylvester Mangini, Stewart McLeish, Russell Dock, J. Yale Rubin, Robert Banks, George Clarke, George Blackburn, William DiCarlo, Edna Banks, Joseph Festa, Maurice Royar, Gary Lemon, Keith Allen, Al Sukut, Bill Henderson, Donald Erickson, Wallace Robinson, Benjamin McAdoo, Joseph Kellas, Alan Quick, Donald Elder, Robert Anstey, Bob Fertig, Carroll Holt, J. Boyd Mullan, Alta Bonk, Philip Atkins, Ira Marshall, Robert Camp, Lloyd Merrill, Bob Bickel, Dick Bales, Herbert R. Mayes, William Baach, Delbert Brandt, Robert Jennings, David Barton, Neil McCormick, John Beirne, and John Juvinall

Alger Society will meet here May 4-7

The Horatio Alger Society will be having its annual national convention May 4-7 in Jacksonville, according to Jack Bales, editor of the organization's monthly magazine Newsboy and host of this year's event.

"We're an organization of some 200 book collectors and Alger researchers across the country and abroad," said 26-year-old Bales, who is public service librarian at Illinois College. "Members are of all ages and occupations — from high school students to retirees — and are all interested in the works and philosophy of American juvenile author Horatio Alger, Jr."

Alger wrote over 100 books with such titles as **Strive and Succeed**, **Struggling Upward and Risen from the Ranks**. The volumes are concerned with newsboys, bootblacks, and other youths who, through hard work, diligence and persistence achieved success.

"It all centers around the Great American Dream," stated Bales. "It's the belief that anyone, no matter how poor, can move up in life. In fact, today the Horatio Alger Awards are given by the American Schools and Colleges Association to outstanding Americans who grew up in humble circumstances."

The Horatio Alger Society was founded in 1961 by a retired Kalamazoo, Michigan, postal employee and a Mendota, Illinois, advertising executive so that the ideals set forth by Alger would be remembered.

Members at the Convention will trade Alger books and memorabilia, visit with each other, and prowl through local antique and book

stores. The convention's headquarters will be at the Jacksonville Holiday Inn.

Illinois Governor James Thompson will issue a proclamation stating the period of the convention to be "Horatio Alger Week" in Illinois.

Some of the persons who will be present at the meeting have achieved noteworthy prominence in their respective fields. One such Alger Society member is Ralph D. Gardner, a New York advertising executive, whose 1964 Alger biography, **Horatio Alger, Or the American Hero Era**, is being reissued this May by Arco Press.

Another is Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, the author of the Nancy Drew mystery stories, who is known by millions of girls by her pseudonym, "Carolyn Keene." It was Mrs. Adams' father, Edward Stratemeyer — a friend of Horatio Alger's — who wrote the famous Rover Boys series.

Mrs. Adams' associate, Nancy Axelrad, will also be present. She is currently engaged in writing the Bobbsey Twins books and is better known as "Laura Lee Hope."

Other Alger Society members include students who are writing their dissertations on Alger. One man is reissuing some of Alger's rarest books, thus making them available to people who cannot afford to pay the top dollar that the valuable first editions now bring.

"Sure, the Alger books are nostalgic, and perhaps a little corny," admitted Bales. "But the principles he set forth 100 years ago are still valid. There's nothing wrong with pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps."

SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Carl Hartmann

At the present time we have the following Alger items for sale. Back issues of Newsboy are as follows:

Vol. I - No. 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12
Vol. II - No. 2, 4 through 11

Vol. III - No. 1-12 (reprints)
 Vol. IV - No. 1-5, 8, 11, 12
 Vol. V - No. 2
 Vol. VI - No. 10
 Vol. VII - No. 1-5, 8-10
 Vol. VIII - No. 1-10
 Vol. IX - No. 1-9
 Vol. X - No. 1-10
 Vol. XI - No. 2-7, 9-10
 Vol. XII - No. 1-4, 6-9
 Vol. XIII - No. 1-2, 5-12
 Vol. XIV - No. 1-3, 5, 8, 10-12
 Vol. XV - No. 1-12
 Vol. XVI - No. 1-12

Volumes I - XII - each issue 50¢
 Volumes XIII - XVI - each issue \$1.00

We also have the following items available:

Cast Upon the Breakers (by Alger), first edition, \$6.95.

Silas Snobden's Office Boy (by Alger) second printing, \$5.95

Alger tiles, \$2.00; frame for tiles, \$3.50.

Three pictures suitable for framing: Dan, the newsboy; Phil, the fiddler, and the illustration showing Ragged Dick; Mark, the match boy; Rufus, the newsboy; and Ben, the luggage boy.

Many of the Newsboy back issues are limited to one copy - first come, first served. If you have any back issues you would like to donate to the Society, send them to the Secretary.

* * *

TO ALL ALGER SOCIETY MEMBERS
 by Dick Seddon

Perhaps some of you have noticed an ad which has been appearing in a few publications once in a while, over my signature, purporting to solicit new members for the Horatio Alger Society. This is a result of a discussion at the Boston convention where I volunteered for this task. I did little last year for several reasons, probably mostly constitutional inertia (my medical sounding name for laziness). However, I have

since reformed, and will double my dosage of Geritol and try to produce some results this year.

I have, since Jacksonville, placed two or three small ads, but would like a little help from you members who subscribe to publications which attract readers whom we might interest.

So if some of you will mail me a copy of papers, magazines, ad sheets or whatever, in order that I will have correct addresses, ad rates, etc. which can spread our ad budget over a wider geographical area than the publications I know about, it would help me greatly.

Also, I find that I am not the world's best copy writer, so don't be afraid to make any suggestions as to improving any ads that you do happen to see. To tell the truth, the results have not been sensational as yet and I can't believe that there are not just hordes of people out there waiting for the chance to join, so it must be my copy.

If I can get some of you writing copy and some more of you telling me where to run the ads, all I will have to do is write checks, and I can probably get my wife to do that.

How can we fail with executive talent like that?

* * *
 THE "CLEVELAND CONNECTION"
 by Dale Thomas

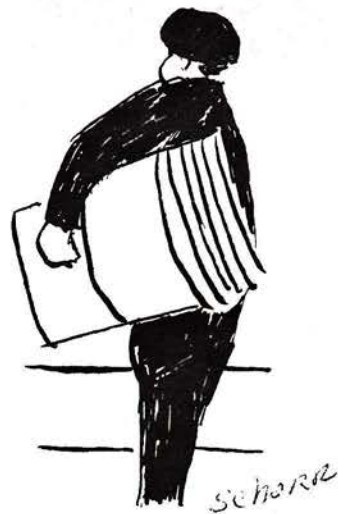
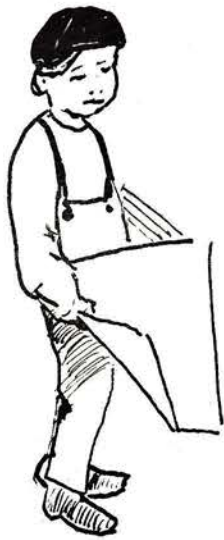
Mary Ellen and I are pleased to announce the "Cleveland Connection," the 15th annual meeting of the Horatio Alger Society.

The dates are May 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1979, and the headquarters site selected is the Sheraton Hopkins Airport Hotel on the grounds of the Cleveland Hopkins Airport. We will be housed in the motel section.

The rates are \$26.00 for double or single rooms, and the registration fee will be \$16.00. Every effort will be
 (continued on page 25)

ALGER'S PARTIC'LAR FRIENDS

JACKSON



Neil McCormick, Bill Leitner,
and Brad Alexander in the Hol-
iday Inn's Hospitality Room.



Les and Bertie Langlois have
attended every Alger Society
convention except one.

Alex Shaner, Nancy Axelrad,
and Harriet Stratemeyer Adams,
talk to Ralph Gardner (far
left) at the book sale Sat-
urday morning.



made to make your stay in Cleveland most enjoyable.

There are many things to see and do in Cleveland, and although the meeting officially starts the tenth, we hope you will come early and enjoy our city.

* * *



"It's the announcement of the 'Cleveland Connection,' the 15th annual meeting of the Horatio Alger Society."

* * *

BERTHA'S CHRISTMAS VISION
PUBLISHED BY WESTGARD

By the time you read these lines, the copies of Bertha, published by Gilbert K. Westgard II, should be in the hands of its purchasers.

The spine of the book, designed by Westgard, has the snowflake pattern, title, author, and name of publisher in gold.

The binding is done in black cloth, and has one large snowflake on the cover.

This edition of Bertha is reproduced from an original edition, which features the illustration and illustrated title page that is lacking in the Hurst reprint edition of this rare title.

(continued on page 28)



**BERTHA'S
CHRISTMAS
VISION**



**BY
HORATIO
ALGER
Jr.**



WESTGARD



Ralph D. Gardner (with characteristic pipe) converses with Nancy Axelrad in the Holiday Inn.



Dick Seddon, Amos Smith, and Bill Leitner converse at the home of the President of Illinois College.



Rohima Walter in the motel's Hospitality Room.



Long time crossword puzzle maker Herb Risteen (right) with Nancy Axelrad and Harriet S. Adams.



Carl Thieme and others talk to Illinois College faculty members at the President's reception.



Ralph Gardner, Bob Bennett, and Nancy Axelrad compare notes at the HAS annual business meeting.

Collectors News

April, 1978

Horatio Alger Society Schedules Convention



The past and the future!! Dale Thomas (left) the next host of the HAS convention, with Jack Bales, this year's host.

The Horatio Alger Society is having its 14th annual national convention in Jacksonville, Ill., May 4-7.

"We expect a good turnout," said Jack Bales, host of the meeting. "Jacksonville is near Springfield where all the Abraham Lincoln sights are, and members can also browse through the many antique and book shops in the area."

"The Horatio Alger Society numbers about 200 book collectors," added Bales. "These conventions are really special. We get a chance to get together every year, renew long-time friendships and meet some new people. It's great to see someone whom you've never met before but have corresponded with for some months."

The convention headquarters will be at the Jacksonville Holiday Inn on Rt. 36.

Information on the Alger Society can be obtained from its Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann, at 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, Mich. 48910.

The announcement of publishing plans for this edition of Bertha was mailed by Westgard at the end of May. Two and one half months later the finished copies have been delivered. Quite a commendable record for this enthusiastic Alger publisher.

A special extension of the previously announced deadline will be allowed by Westgard until the end of September. After that time the price will be \$22.50 each. Send just \$15.00 before September 30, 1978, and this very desirable reprint will be sent without delay.

Send all requests to: Gilbert K. Westgard II, 9561 N. Dee Rd., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

* * *
TWO MORE REPRINTS FROM WESTGARD

TOM TRACY

and

GRAND'THER BALDWIN'S THANKSGIVING

Gilbert K. Westgard II continues his Alger publishing venture with a combined announcement of the reprinting of a pair of titles that appear on nearly every want list.

Tom Tracy first appeared in 1887 in the pages of Golden Argosy. It next appeared in paper covers the following year, and later as one of the scarce Leather Clads.

John W. Lovell issued the first hard cover edition of Tom Tracy. However, all these printings showed the name of the author as Arthur Lee Putnam. This was corrected around 1900, but even these copies which show Alger as the author are among the most difficult editions to locate.

Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving was only published in one edition in 1875. It is a collection of some of Alger's poetry that had appeared earlier in some of the publications of Alger's era. It shows a facet of this creative writer not glimpsed elsewhere.

It is curious to note that the spine of the original edition shows the title

as Grandfather Baldwin's Thanksgiving, rather than the contracted Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving.

Both titles will appear in the same high quality bindings that have distinguished all volumes published by Westgard. It is his feeling than an Alger book that he publishes should fit in comfortably with those copies done in the last century, and not stick out like sore thumbs.

The pre-publication price of Tom Tracy is \$14.00 and Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving is \$11.00. After September 30, 1978 add 50% to these prices.

Beginning on page 31 is the first chapter of Tom Tracy, a rousing story in Alger's best vein.

* * *
ALGER REFERENCES TO
CERTAIN DISTINGUISHED PERSONS

by Forrest Campbell

In the Alger stories, on certain occasions, the hero of the story has the opportunity to exchange remarks with a friend who has been further advanced in an academic education than has our young hero.

In such cases he is always able to converse on the same level as his educated friend and no doubt leaves his readers pondering upon the meaning of a certain word or term used, or a certain personage perhaps familiar to his nineteenth century readers, but now unfamiliar to his twentieth century ones.

Such references to his present readers who are of a limited education such as myself, sends us to our reference books if we just happen to have one on the subject in question.

A case in point is found in the story of Herbert Carter's Legacy, in chapter 28, entitled "Mrs. Carter's Guest," in which a college educated man is the honored guest.

The conversation between the guest

Found by Des Plaines man

Westgard offers first Horatio Alger novel

—Des Plaines Suburban

"Hugo, the Deformed" by Horatio Alger Jr. has recently been published by a local Horatio Alger enthusiast, Gilbert K. Westgard II, of 9561 N. Dee Rd., Des Plaines.

"Hugo, the Deformed," Alger's first novel, was serialized in the New York Sun newspaper in 1857. For more than a century, it remained unknown to Alger collectors, until it was discovered by Westgard in 1973 along with six other serializations by Alger, an author whose name was to become a synonym for success.

Westgard's discovery led to the

and our young hero touches on a reference to a Dr. Johnson, and Victor Hugo, a nineteenth century author who is familiar to all of us. But the name of Dr. Johnson sent me to my reference books. I must admit that the additional reference to a published work, entitled The Rambler, was helpful in determining the correct Johnson personage which I found to be Dr. Samuel Johnson, born in 1709.

Perhaps the reason for Dr. Johnson's widespread popularity was due to his close friends, who were distinguished personages in their own right, such as David Garrick, Edmund Burke, Oliver Goldsmith, and others who became known as "Johnson's Circle." Dr. Johnson's literary style became known as "Johnsonese."

* * *

"THE NEWSPAPER BOY"

Elf of the City, a lean little hollowed-eyed boy.
Ragged and tattered, but lithe as a slip of the Spring.
Under the lamplight he runs with a reckless joy.

Times, July 13, 1978

replication of "Hugo" in the Park Ridge Herald during the centennial celebration in Park Ridge and tear-sheets of the Herald containing this story were placed in a Park Ridge time capsule to be opened in 2073.

During the latter half of the 19th Century, Alger wrote approximately 130 novels, most of which portrayed the American ideal of success through honesty, hard work, and thrift. Alger's heroes were mostly poor boys who rose in life from poverty to a respectable position in society.

Westgard began to collect Alger's books 20 years ago, and he now has every book ever written by the popular author. Westgard has published limited editions of five of the rarest Alger novels, and has a sixth edition currently in the press.

Westgard publishes only 200 copies of each book, in hardbound volumes done in the style of a century ago, and serially numbered, and signed by the publisher. Publicity for Westgard's Alger publications is directed to members of the Horatio Alger Society, a nationwide organization of fans and collectors of Alger's works. Their conventions are held annually each May.

More information on Westgard's publications and on the Horatio Alger Society may be obtained by writing to Gilbert W. Westgard II, 9561 N. Dee Road, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016.

Shouting a murderer's
doom or the death of
a king.
Out of the darkness he
leaps, like a wild,
strange hint,
Herald of tragedy, come-
dy, crime, and
despair.
Waving a poster that
hurls you, in fierce-
black print,
One word, "Mystery,"
under the lamp's white
glare.

Elf of the night of the
City, he darts with
his crew
Out of a vaporous fur-
nace of color that
wreathes
Magical letters a-
flicker from crimson
to blue
High overhead. All
round him the mad
world seethes.
Hansoms, like cantering
beetles with lunatic
eyes,
Run through the moons of
it. 'Buses in yellow
and red
Hoot; and St. Paul's is
a bubble afloat in
the skies,
Watching the pale moths
flit and the dark death's-head.

Painted and powdered they shimmer and
rustle and stream
Westward, the night moths, masks of the
Magdalen! See,
Puck of the revels! he leaps through
the sinister dream.
Waving his elfin evangel of
Mystery,
Puck of the bubble or dome of their
scoffing or trust,
Puck of the fairy-like tower with the
clock in its face.
Puck of an Empire that whirls on a pel-
let of dust,
Bearing his elfin affiche through the
splendors of space.

Mystery,—is it the scribble of doom on
the dark,
"Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin,"
again?

Mystery,—is it a scrap of remembrance,
a spark

Burning still in the fog of a blind
world's brain?

Elf of the gossamer tangles of shadow
and light,

Wild electrical webs and the battle
that rolls

League upon perishing league through
the ravenous night.

Breaker on perishing breaker of
human souls;

Soaked in the colors, a flake of the
flying spray

Flung over wreckage and yeast of the
murderous town.

Onward he flaunts it, innocent,
vicious, and gay,

Prophet of prayers that are stifled
and loves that drown.

Urchin and sprat of the City that roars
like a sea

Surging around him in hunger and glory
and shame,

Cruelty, luxury, madness, he leaps in
his glee

Out of the mazes of mist and the vistas
of flame.

Ragged and tattered he scurries away
in the gloom:

Over the thundering traffic a moment
his cry,

"Pypurs! Pypurs!" reckless of death
and doom

Rings; and the great wheels roll and
the world goes by

Lost, is it lost, that hollow-eyed
flash of the light?—

Poor little face flying by with the
word that saves,

Pale little mouth of the mask of the
measureless night.

Shrilling the heart of it, lost like
the foam on its waves!

(Editor's note: The above poem is
from the collection of Jack Bales, and
is by Alfred Noyes. It appeared in
the February 5, 1910 issue of Living
Age).

(Editor's note: Following is the
proclamation sent me by Illinois
Governor James Thompson on the occasion
of the Horatio Alger Society
Convention):

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Executive Department
P R O C L A M A T I O N

Horatio Alger was the most popular
author in the United States in the last
thirty years of the 19th century. Hav-
ing authored over one hundred books for
young people stressing good habits,
honesty and diligence, Horatio Alger
has influenced several generations with
his work.

Today, the Horatio Alger Society
strives to further his philosophy and
encourage the spirit of "Strive and
Succeed" that for half a century guided
his undaunted heroes.

The 14th annual convention of the
Horatio Alger Society meets in Jackson-
ville, Illinois, May 4-7. Alger fans
from around the country will converge to
discuss their favorite author, hunt for
copies of his works and visit the his-
torical sites of one of only three
people Alger biographically covered -
Abraham Lincoln.

THEREFORE, to further the philosophy
he instilled in his readers, I, James R.
Thompson, Governor of the State of Illi-
nois, proclaim May 1-7, 1978, HORATIO
ALGER WEEK in Illinois that our citi-
zens may follow the spirit of "Strive
and Succeed."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the Great Seal of
the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of
Springfield, this nineteenth day of
April, in the Year of Our Lord, one
thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight,
and of the State of Illinois the one
hundred and sixtieth.

James R. Thompson
Governor

TOM TRACY.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCES TOM, THE NEWSBOY.

"Telegram, Mail, Commercial! All the evening papers! Which will you have, sir?"

The gentleman addressed paused in his walk up Broadway, and having a sympathy for poor boys—he was a prosperous gentleman now, but had been a poor boy once himself—attentively regarded the boy who addressed him.

This was what he saw: A well made boy, with dark brown hair, frank, attractive face, and an expression of manliness and self reliance. Without immediately answering the boy's question, he asked:

"What is your name, my boy?"

"Tom Tracy," was the prompt reply.

"Not a bad name. So you make your living by selling papers?"

"Yes, sir; I try to."

"Isn't it a good business?"

"Well, sir, not as good as it was once."

"Do you sell papers in the morning as well as in the evening?"

"Sometimes I 'tend a stand up town in the morning. People generally buy morning papers at stands."

"Do you live in the Newsboys' Lodging House?"

"No, sir; I've got a mother and little brother. We all live together."

"Surely you don't support them all?"

"No, sir; I couldn't do that. Mother makes vests for a clothing dealer, but the pay is very poor, and she can't make as much as I do."

"On the whole, my young friend, you seem to have a hard time."

"I don't complain, sir, as long as we get enough to live and pay the rent."

"Yes, rent must be a serious consideration. How much do you pay?"

"Five dollars a month."

"Not a large sum, but a good deal for you."

"Yes, sir; that is what worries us most."

"How do you manage it?"

"Well, we try to save a little every day—it takes about sixteen cents a day—so that by the month's end we may have the rent money."

"Have you a strict landlord?"

"Yes; he won't wait long for his money. Once we had to put him off three days, and he threatened to turn us into the street."

"Rather hard hearted, I should say."

"Well, I don't know as we had a right to complain. He was entitled to his money."

"I see you are willing to look on both sides of the question. Where do you live?"

"On Bleecker Street. We used to live on the East Side; but mother got a chance to work for a clothing house on Eighth Avenue, and found it more convenient to move to the West Side."

"I hope he'll buy some papers," thought Tom, a little uneasily, for considerable time had been taken up by the conversation, and he had seen his friend Jimmy O'Hara sell five papers while he was engrossed by the strange gentleman.

But he needn't have felt anxious. John Rockwell was neither thoughtless nor inconsiderate, and he was the last man to allow a poor boy to lose through him.

"I mustn't take up any more of your time," he said. "You may give me all three of your papers."

With a smile of satisfaction Tom selected them from the pile under his arm, and handed them to his new acquaintance.

The latter drew a silver dollar from his pocket and placed it in the boy's hand.

"I am afraid I can't change this," said Tom; "but if you'll wait a minute I'll go into a store near by and get change."

"I don't want any change."

"What!" exclaimed Tom, opening his eyes wide in surprise.

John Rockwell smiled.

"The balance of the dollar will go to pay you for the time I have taken up. I have no doubt you can find a use for it."

"Thank you, sir," said Tom, gratefully; "mother will be very glad, and so will Bertie."

"Who is Bertie?"

"My little brother. His full name is Herbert."

"Well, good evening, Tom. That's your name, I think you said. Whenever you see me passing come up to me and I will buy a paper."

When the gentleman had walked away Jimmy O'Hara crossed over.

"I say, Tom," he said, "was that a reg'lar customer?"

"No; I never saw him before."

"He had a lot to say. I sold six papers while he was talkin' with you."

"How much profit did you make?"

"You ought to know—six cents."

"I did better. See what I got for three papers;" and Tom displayed the silver dollar.

"Did he give you that?" asked Jimmy, a little enviously. "He might have talked to me all night if he'd give me as much as that."

"Such things don't happen every day, Jim; I wish they did."

"The paper business ain't what it was, Tom. I'm thinkin' of leavin' it."

"What will you do?"

"I've got a chance to black boots up town. That's all profit—except the blackin'. I've been in the business before."

"I think I shall stick to selling papers, Jim. If that gentleman would only buy of me reg'lar, I could make it pay well."

"You could just. But it's hard makin' fifty cents an evenin', and a feller's liable to get stuck on half a dozen papers, and that takes off the profit."

This conversation was interrupted twice by customers, and resumed after the welcome interruption.

"I'll make more than that tonight, Jimmy," said Tom Tracy, complacently. "That dollar's a big haul. Have you seen Tom Cavanagh lately? Wasn't he in partnership with you?"

"Yes, but he's got a better chance now, Tommy has."

"What is it? Gone in business for himself?"

"He's sellin' roses, corner Twenty Third Street and Sixth Avenue, for a party that's got a flower store."

"How much can he make?"

"A dollar a day when trade is good. He gets twenty cents for every dollar he takes in. He generally takes in five or six dollars a day. How many papers have you got left?"

"Only six."

"I say, young man, what's the price of your cheapest paper?" asked an old lady, addressing Tom.

"I can give you either the *Telegram* or *Mail* for two cents, ma'am."

"That's too much. I'll give a cent."

"That wouldn't leave me any profit."

"It's all the paper's worth. There ain't anything in the papers nowadays. I bought one day before yesterday, and couldn't find a single name I knew among the deaths."

Tom felt like laughing.

"Perhaps you'll have better luck today," he suggested with a smile.

"S'pose you let me look before buyin'."

"That isn't the way I do business; I can't afford it."

"Well, here's your money then," grumbled the old lady. "Give me the *Telegram*."

Tom placed a copy in her hands, and received in return two battered cents, one of which was a Canadian coin.

"I say, Jim, that old lady could live on ten cents a day, and save money. She seems very anxious to have her friends die. Paper, sir?"

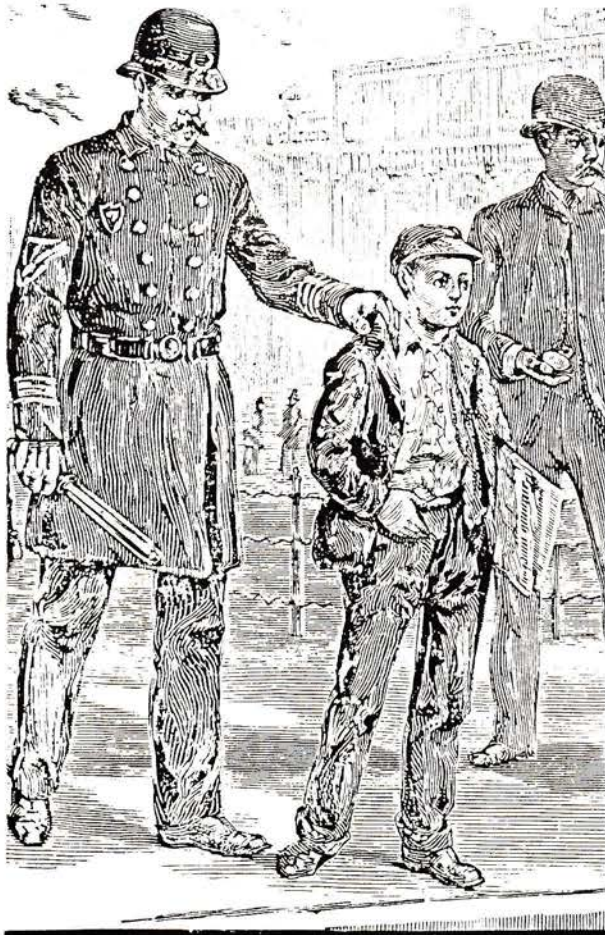
The new customer bought two papers, and five minutes later Tom found he had sold out his entire stock.

He counted over his money, and found that, including the silver dollar, his profits amounted to a dollar and a half.

"Mother and Bertie shall have a good supper to-night," he said. "It shall be something better than dry bread, such as we had last night. But then it rained, and the papers wouldn't sell."



TOM AT THE DOOR OF THE HERMIT'S CABIN—See page 92



THE ARREST OF TOM TRACY.—See page 26.



THE HERMIT OF CENTRAL PARK.—See page 95