

Newsboy



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.

Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899



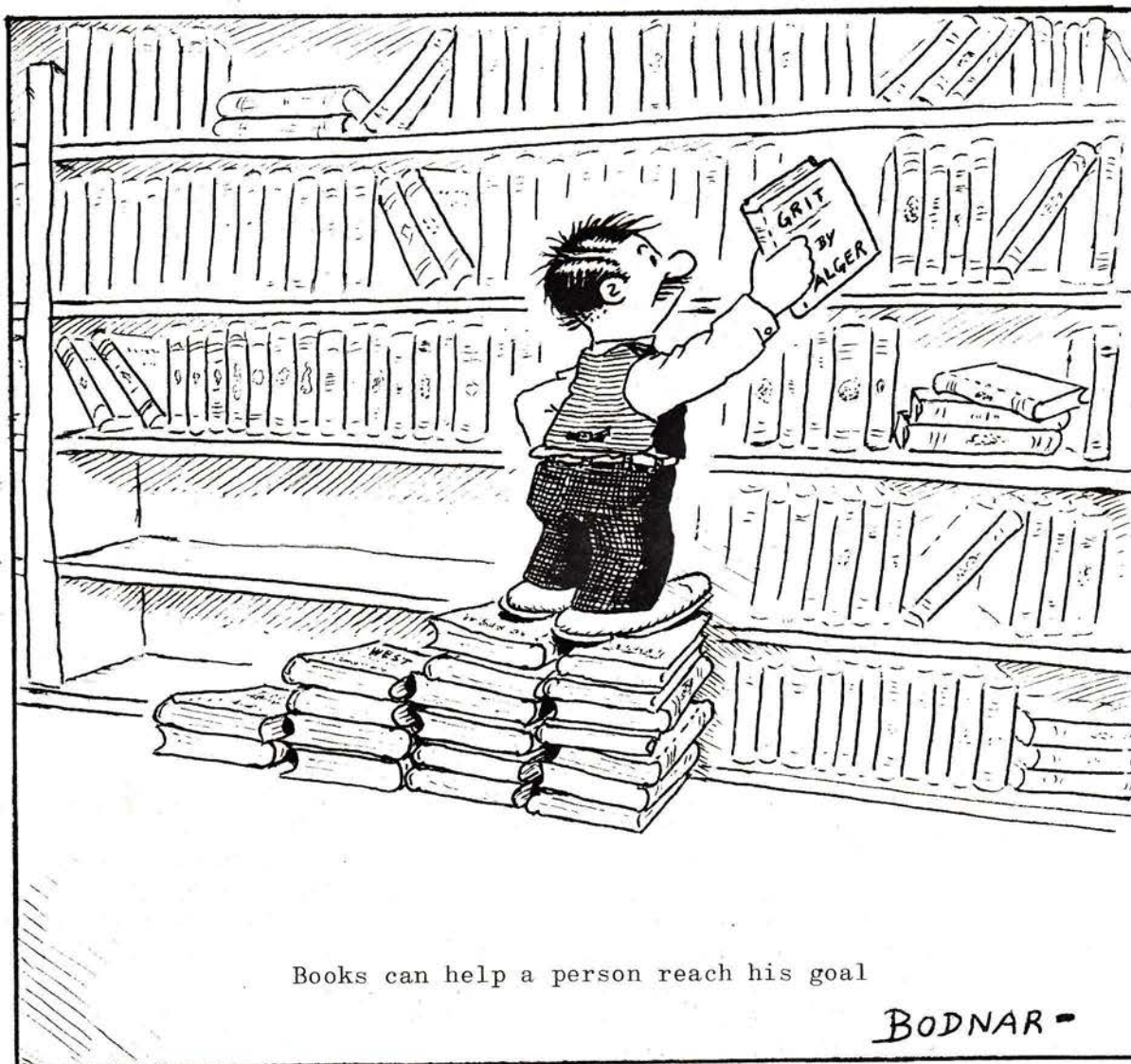
Jack Bales, Editor
1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

Volume XVII

December, 1978

Number 5



This cartoon was created and drawn by HAS member Louis Bodnar, Jr., 1502 Laurel Avenue, Chesapeake, Virginia 23325.

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr., and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes — lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

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Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. 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 "Cleveland Connection" — will soon be here!! Don't forget the dates, Thursday, May 10 through Saturday, May 12, 1979, in Cleveland, Ohio.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-559 Richard Mintz
5064 Encino Ave.
Encino, Calif. 91316

Richard owns eight Alger titles. His other hobbies include stamp collecting, computer programming, pottery, and playing the piano.

PF-560 Maynard D. Faith
1807 Tecumseh St.
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805

Maynard is a retired telephone technician and is interested in learning about Alger and the historical things of his times. Besides collecting Alger books, he is interested in amateur radio, microscopy, gardening, wood working, kite flying, and reading.

PF-561 David Harris
Fenimore Avenue
Mohegan Lake, N. Y. 10547

David, owner of thirty five Algers, is retired and is interested in music, books, crossword puzzles, and cartooning.

PF-562 John Phillip Simpson
6810 Milton Ave. East
Tacoma, Washington 98424

John heard of the Alger Society through a book store in Tacoma. Owner of five Alger titles, he is interested in reading and collecting books.

PF-563 Harold K. Saur
P.O. Box 548
Diablo, Calif. 94528

Besides Algers, Harold collects Rover Boys, Motor Boys, and Tom Swift volumes. Now retired, he inherited a number of Alger books from his father and is interested in building up his collection.

PF-564 Edgar F. Auten
P.O. Box 59
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

Edgar is a semi-retired life insurance agent. Owner of seventy Algers, he collects Zane Grey, Edgar Rice Burroughs, J. R. Curwood, and works by other authors. He is interested in travel and mountain activities.

PF-565 Beatrice Fortner
20600 Attica Road
Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461

Beatrice is an antique dealer who "enjoys reading Algers and studying the lifestyles of that era. I read them as a child and they had a great impact on my early life."

PF-566 Philip M. Block
58 Fleetwood Road
Newington, Ct. 06111

Philip is an environmental consultant who enjoys reading Algers. He also likes scuba diving.

PF-567 Emily F. Spalding
7411 37th Ave.
Kenosha, Wis. 53142

Emily is a public school secretary who learned of the Society in an article in the Kenosha newspaper. She enjoys gardening, hiking, and church activities.

PF-568 Lester Bird
Old York Road
Bordentown, New Jersey 08505

Lester owns 100 Algers and likes going to yard sales and flea markets. Now retired, he enjoys reading and putting jigsaw puzzles together.

* * *

PF-493, Gilbert K. Johnston has recently died. Condolences from HAS are expressed to his family.

IN MEMORIAM

* * *

NOTE TO ALL HENTY COLLECTORS: Mort Spinner, 24538 Village Station, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024 is interested in first editions by G. A. Henty. If you have any, please contact him at the above address.

* * *

WILL HORATIO HAVE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY?

by Brad Chase
Vice-President
Horatio Alger Soc.

Horatio Alger will be 150 years old on January 13, 1982. Many of us feel that it would be one of Horatio's happiest if we could have a commemorative stamp issued that day in his memory. Several of us have been working towards that end and so far have had success as well as failure.

As you may recall, Dick Seddon and I received a charge at the 1977 convention in Boston to look into what was involved in getting a commemorative stamp issued which would honor Horatio on his 150th birthday. We were asked to report our findings to the attendees of the 1978 annual convention. We also received a charge to promote the growth of the Society. For a while, Dick and I shared these responsibilities but then we decided to split them up. Dick took over the new membership work and has had good results. For better or worse, I ventured into the curious world of commemorative stamp requesting. So far it's been fun even though my failures have outnumbered my successes. Here's where I've been and what I've done.

Four thousand requests for commemorative stamps are made every year. About 1500 of these meet the established criteria and are judged acceptable. From these about twenty are actually chosen. These figures provided by the staff of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee show the odds against getting a request accepted. The official function of the Committee is to recommend subjects and artists for the various categories of stamps, including commemoratives, to the Postmaster General.

Mr. Jack Williams, who is the coordinator of the committee, has his office in room 5700 of the U.S. Postal Service Building in Washington, D. C. It seems incredible to me that a person could

(continued on page 5)

The Horatio Alger Awards Committee

recognizes

Ralph D. Gardner

for his continuing efforts over
many years through his writings
which encourage Horatio Alger's
principle of "strive and succeed"
in the

American Tradition of Free Enterprise.

31st Annual Awards

May 15, 1978

Norman Vincent Peale
Eileen M. Gray

* * *
 NOTE: The scroll at left is a reduced in size reproduction of the original which was given to HAS member Ralph D. Gardner at the 31st annual awards ceremony of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee. Congratulations, Ralph!!
 * * *

(continuation of Brad Chase's column)
 spend his life in a world involving decisions about whose picture will be on a stamp. So it apparently is with Mr. Williams and he seems to know his business.

Anyway, during 1977 I found out that this Committee was the mover and shaker of the commemorative stamp business. On a trip to Washington, I visited room 5700 and talked to a staff person who gave me the discouraging odds and also a brochure which tells how to make a request. As many of you know, I put together a submittal package which was reviewed by the directors of the Society, then corrected and edited. It was on display last May at the Jacksonville Convention. The Society approved the package by passing a Convention Resolution of endorsement. In our view (which was subsequently confirmed by Mr. Williams) the submittal package fully met the criteria which presumably moved us into the 1500 range. The failure odds were reduced and we were on our way towards success, we thought.

On my next trip to Washington in July, I brought along the package, more or less to test out with the Committee staff its acceptability and completeness. My thought was that if it was acceptable, I would then get the proper signatures and drum up some support aimed at a formal submittal to the Committee sometime this fall. There is still plenty of time to submit as one of the Committee's criteria is that a request must be received at least 18 months prior to the issuing date.

On that July trip, I got to talk with the Man himself. . .the mover. . .Mr. Jack Williams. He was not too encouraging and repeated the discourag-

ing odds. But, he said that the Committee was meeting that next week and he would be happy to present our submittal package to them. I hesitated but then said fine. He indicated that I should not be surprised if the package was not accepted as very few were the first time.

At his suggestion, I called him to find out the results. (This was in late August). He said the request had been considered by the Committee at the July 28th meeting and had not been recommended. He said that it could be resubmitted as the Committee meets four times a year. In response to my inquiry, he indicated that Horatio Alger as a stamp subject would have to fit into an already existing set of categories for commemorative stamps. In his view, two categories which were closest were the "Literary Arts Series" and the "Prominent Persons Series." I gathered that in the Committee's judgment there were better candidates this time in those series.

So, what now and where do we go from here? One obvious move is to resubmit the package but make it much more of a formal submittal with all the proper signatures accompanied by words and actions of endorsement by prominent persons. Ralph Gardner has been active in this respect as he discussed our commemorative stamp activity recently with Helen Gray of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee. Helen contacted Dick Seddon, Dale Thomas, and me to indicate that she had written the Postmaster General about a possible commemorative stamp for Horatio. I've written to Helen to fill her in about our experiences to date in this regard and have suggested we combine forces towards our common goal. Hopefully, we can develop a measured and carefully defined strategy obtaining appropriate pressure in order to be more successful the second time around.

We have ample time and hopefully plenty of patience. Our goal is clear and our sights are set. When we are successful, it will be with great satisfaction to be

in Boston on issuing day and witness Our Hero being forever remembered through a commemorative stamp. It will truly be a happy birthday for Horatio, perhaps one of his happiest.

* * *

THE GOLD WATCH SYNDROME IN ALGERESE—
IS SYMBOLIC OF SUCCESS, BUT—

by Forrest Campbell

In the beginning, centuries ago, man cast his glance skyward to note the passage of time by the position of the sun. Even today, with a watch strapped to our wrists, alarm clocks in the bedrooms, and striking clocks on the mantel, we are still aware of the passage of time by the sun's rays through a window casting a shadow on the floor or wall.

When Horatio Alger began writing his juvenile stories, almost every hamlet, village, town or city adopted their own time according to the position of the sun, while rural communities nearby adopted the time of the nearest municipality.

Man has always been concerned with the passage of time. It is said that sun dials existed some 3500 years before Christ, with sand glasses for more minute detail. Weight driven, or spring wound clocks are more modern, dating back to the 14th century, and it is said that the first watch, made in Germany and named from night watchmen, dates back to the 15th century.

So, a timepiece of some sort was in existence in Alger's day. True, they were improved upon from key wind to stem wind models, but the comparison of time between municipalities causes all sorts of problems. As the railroads pushed our frontiers westward the matter of the correct time of day became extremely complicated.

In 1883 the railroads adopted the time zone system which made some order out of chaos, but municipalities, in Alger's lifetime, continued to operate on local time, and this situation was not changed

until after Alger's death and well into the 20th century.

In the 19th century the display of a silver watch was a mark of a distinction among the young dudes and aristocrats, but the display of a gold watch was reserved for a man of wealth or the mark of a successful man.

* * *

A TRIP TO ALGER COUNTRY

by Jack Bales

This past summer I spent over a week with HAS member Dick Seddon as we researched Horatio Alger at Harvard University, the Boston Public Library, the Natick Historical Society, and in other institutions that have Alger material.

It was a great trip! Dick is always the congenial host, and as we traveled all over Massachusetts and part of Maine, he enthralled me with accounts of his early life - Alger himself could not have come up with a more "rags to riches" career!

We called on other Alger members while on the east coast. An afternoon was spent at Max Goldberg's home, and Max took us to the Natick Historical Society and on a tour of the spots where Alger stayed. Another day was passed at Eddie LeBlanc's sprawling house in Fall River that is literally packed with dime novels, juvenile books, and story papers. And finally, we called on the well-known Morris Olsen who buys Alger books from dealers all over the eastern part of the United States.

It was a stimulating journey - perhaps soon the results of it all will be made public as unknown facts about Alger's life are discovered.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-395 Irving P. Leif
329 College Drive
Edison, New Jersey 08817

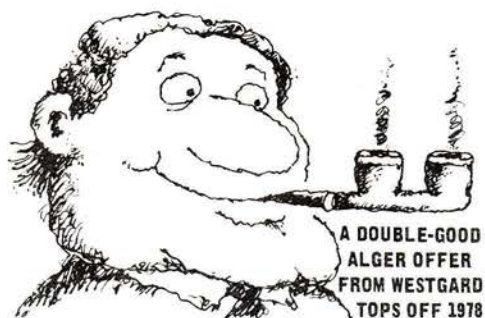
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RESULTS OF 1978 AUCTION AT THE JACKSONVILLE CONVENTION

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
1.	Currier & Ives, Picture of a Ship	Milton Salls	Pres. Mendinger	\$6.00
2.	Stirrup Pipe Holder	Russell Dock	Jerry Friedland	12.00
3.	New York City Photos	Russell Dock	Jerry Friedland	6.00
4.	Tattered Tom - Loring	Dick Bowerman	John Juvinall	7.00
5.	5 Alger Books	Bernie Biberdor	Mrs. Musick	8.00
6.	Lincoln Poster Awards	Bill Leitner	Bob Bennett	15.00
7.	Warmer	Russell Dock	Bob Royer	3.00
8.	Wooden Cigar Box	Russell Dock	Jerry Friedland	10.00
9.	Framed Embroidery	Bob Royer	Paul Miller	8.50
10.	Corona Portable Typewriter	Jerry Friedland	Evelyn Grebel	5.00
11.	Tatted Picture	Russell Dock	Ann Sharrard	5.00
12.	American Military Biography	Bill McCord	Pres. Mendinger	10.50
12a.	Pipe	Russell Dock	Bill Leitner	1.00
13.	Salesman Book Sampler	Rohima Walter	Paul Miller	6.00
14.	3 Stock Cut Books	Rohima Walter	Mrs. Jarrett	9.00
15.	Horatios Boys	Roy Wendell	Brad Alexander	9.00
16.	Beer Sign	Bill Leitner	Bob Bennett	8.00
17.	2 Watermelon Rugs	Mrs. Westgard	Evelyn Grebel	2.00
18.	Ceramic Bowl of Roses	Evelyn Grebel	Paul Miller	6.00
19.	Ceramic Bowl of Roses	Evelyn Grebel	Mary Ellen Thomas	50.00
20.	Alger in a Bottle	Gil Westgard	Mrs. Geo. Miller	5.00
21.	Bedspread	Russell Dock	Ken Butler	35.00
22.	Ginger Jar	Evelyn Grebel	Bill Leitner	8.00
23.	Ceramic- The Young Musician	Evelyn Grebel	Jerry Friedland	6.00
24.	With Washington in the West - 1st Edition	Jerry Friedland	Harriet Adams	20.00
25.	3 Sports Books	Rohima Walter	Pres. Mendinger	5.00
26.	Alger Paperweight	Max Goldberg	Jerry Friedland	15.00
27.	Battery Bottle & Spectacles	John Walter	Ken Butler	9.00
28.	Japanese Tea Set	William Boach	Gil Westgard	7.00
29.	McGill Change Maker	Russell Dock	Bill Leitner	12.00
30.	Ceramic Elf	Doris Bennett	Mary Ellen Thomas	25.00
31.	Postage Stamp Train	Ann Sharrard	Jack Row	20.00
32.	From Canal Boy to President	Brad Chase	Mrs. Jarrett	12.00
33.	2 Japanese Prints	William Boach	Mrs. Jarrett	8.00
34.	Motor Boys Books	William Boach	Harriet Adams	20.00
35.	Motor Boys Books	William Boach	Jerry Friedland	5.00
36.	2 Paintings on wood	Evelyn Grebel	Bob Bennett	5.00
37.	12 Beer Cans	Neil McCormick	Jack Bales	4.00
38.	Rough & Ready - Loring	Carl Theime	Jack Bales	7.00
39.	Argosy, Volume 7	Jerry Friedland	Dale Thomas	30.00
40.	Golden Days, Volume 9	Dick Sedden	Dale Thomas	40.00
41.	Hectors / Inheritance - 1st Edition	Dick Sedden	Jerry Friedland	15.00
42.	The Young Book Agent	Dick Bowerman	Harriet Adams	25.00
43.	With Clive in India	Bernie Biberdor	Ken Butler	6.00
44.	Photo Album	Bill McCord	Mrs. Bales	4.00
45.	A Book	Ken Butler	Pres. Mendinger	3.50
46.	Water Color Original	Evelyn Grebel	Jean Hartman	15.00
47.	Washboard	William Boach	Alex Shaner	2.00
48.	Water Pump	Russell Dock	Bill Leitner	5.00
49.	Ben Hur - Players Edition	Gil Westgard	Jerry Friedland	20.00
50.	The Newsboy Partner	Forrest Campbell	Brad Alexander	11.00

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
51.	Plate	Ken Butler	Jerry Friedland	15.00
52.	Chutzpah Game	Gil Westgard	Mrs. Bales	3.00
53.	Frank Merriwell Stories	Milton Salls	Ed LeBlauc	9.00
54.	Dick Merriwell Stories	Milton Salls	Ed LeBlauc	6.00
55.	Towel & Plate	Florence Schnell	Rohima Walter	5.00
56.	Sterling Silver Sugar Tongs	Florence Schnell	Jerry Friedland	20.00
57.	The Magnificent Continent	Gil Westgard	Dr. Westgard	5.00
58.	Oven Broiler	Dr. Westgard	Dr. Olmstead	25.00
59.	Struggling Upward - st edition	Davis Kanarr	Bob Bennett	35.00
60.	From Canal Boy to President	Jerry Friedland	Brad Alexander	31.00
61.	Risen From the Ranks - 1st edition	Jerry Friedland	Bob Royer	26.00
62.	Ben Logans Triumph -1st edition	Dale Thomas	Harriett Adams	47.00
63.	The World Before Him - 1st edition	Dale Thomas	Jerry Freidland	70.00
64.	Rockwood Vase	Lorraine Corcoran	Ken Butler	27.00
65.	Young Captain Jack	Bob Bennett	Geo. Sharrard	17.50
66.	Wedgewood Plate	Russell Dock	Jack Bales	25.00
67.	Deer Antlers	William Boach	Bill Leitner	5.00
68.	2 Books	Carl Thieme	Mrs. Musick	2.00
69.	Our Crowd - Letter to Alger	Bob Bennett	Jack Bales	5.00
70.	Original Cartoon	Louis Bodnar	Wm. Boach	10.00
71.	The Boys Home Weekly - oddity	Jack Barker	Bob Sawyer	5.00
72.	Letter from Donahue to Stratemeyer	Harriett Adams	Carl Hartman	10.00
73.	Letter from W. D. Boise to Stratemeyer	Harriett Adams	Paul Miller	10.00
74.	Advertising Brochure	Harriett Adams	Jerry Friedland	13.00
75.	Letter from A. Cheney to Stratemeyer	Harriett Adams	Gil Westgard	15.00
76.	Golden Days Serialization	Paul Miller	Ann Sharrard	17.50
77.	New Years Calls by Alger	Paul Miller	Alex Shaner	6.00
78.	Oliver Bright by Stratemeyer	Herb Risteen	Harriett Adams	6.00
79.	The Fireside	Bob Bennett	Jerry Friedland	10.00
80.	Golden Days - Volume 18	Ed LeBlauc	Dick Seddon	50.00
81.	Student & Schoolmate 1867	Morris Olsen	Dale Thomas	70.00
82.	Dulcimer	Bob Sawyer	Dr. Westgard	75.00
83.	Standish Story	Milton Salls	Alex Shaner	7.50
84.	Alger Plate	Gil Westgard	Forrest Campbell	5.00
85.	6 P & C Ragged Dick Series	Herb Risteen	Mr. Jarrett	35.00
86.	Ballous Monthly Magazine - Luck & Pluck	Dick Sedden	Paul Miller	42.00
87.	The Haunted Bridge	Gil Westgard	Jerry Friedland	30.00
			TOTAL	\$1,526.50

This auction information was sent in by HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas. Our appreciation to all those who made this year's auction the best ever!!!



The rarest book by Horatio Alger, Jr., of which only two copies are known to exist, is *The Disagreeable Woman*, written under the pseudonym Julian Starr. These copies are owned by: 1. Library of Congress, and 2. Bob Bennett, former President of The Horatio Alger Society.

Gilbert K. Westgard II is publishing *The Disagreeable Woman* in a limited edition of only 200 copies. This continues his policy of offering the rarest Alger books in the finest bindings that are available. Gil is doing a really great job of removing these rare titles from the want lists of many of our members.

By the time you read this, a notice sent directly by Gil Westgard should already have reached you. If you have misplaced the order form from that mailing a copy of the order form is being included with this issue of NEWSBOY.

Also available will be a special edition of Herbert R. Mayes' fictionalized Alger biography, *Alger, A Biography Without A Hero*. These copies will be issued as a 50th anniversary edition, and will have a new introduction written by Mr. Mayes, wherein he tells the whole unvarnished truth about *Alger, A Biography Without A Hero*, and also discusses how it has influenced all subsequent volumes about Alger's life.

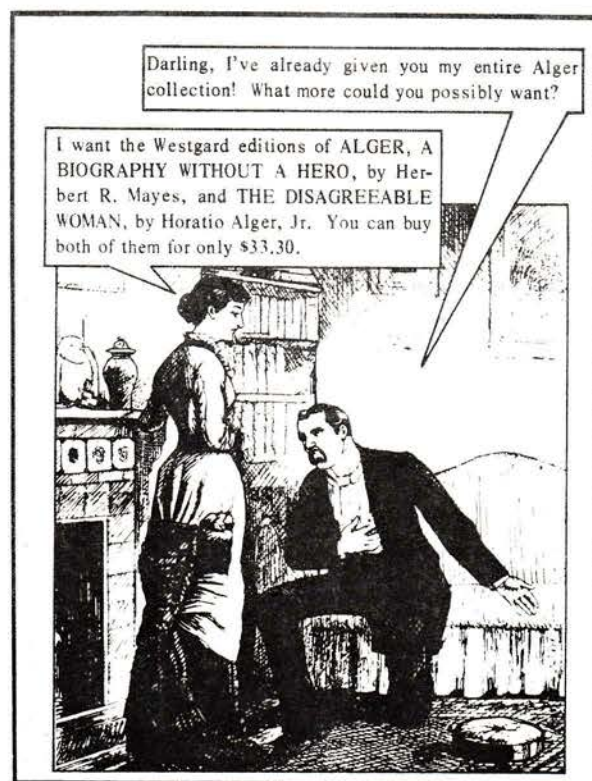
Jack Bales has also contributed a section discussing the importance of the Mayes biography.

All copies of *Alger, A Biography Without A Hero* will be autographed by Herbert R. Mayes, Jack Bales, and by the publisher, Gilbert K. Westgard II. Here is your opportunity to have a book that will really increase in value!

Westgard asked Mayes about publishing an edition of *Alger, A Biography Without A Hero* when they met at the Alger Society Convention, Booked In Boston, hosted by Dick Seddon in 1977. At first, Mayes was willing to permit the reprinting of this important volume, but later changed his mind. Westgard persisted in his request, and after further consideration Herbert R. Mayes gave his OK to the project and contributed a magnificent introduction over thirty pages in length. Those who have already read this introduction have said that it is one of the most important documents in the field of Alger research.

If you act before December 15, 1978, these two volumes are available at a special combination price of only \$33.30. This is an additional savings of 10% from the regular prepublication prices of these volumes purchased individually.

Gil Westgard has told the Editor of the NEWSBOY of some of the volumes which he plans to make available in 1979. There are going to be some really good offerings from this enthusiastic Alger publisher.



HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY 15TH ANNUAL MEETING



SHERATON HOPKINS
AIRPORT HOTEL
CLEVELAND HOPKINS AIRPORT
MAY 10, 11, 12, 1979



CLEVELAND--The Best Location in the Nation--Some facts about Cleveland, the site of the 1979 CLEVELAND CONNECTION.

Cleveland, the largest city in Ohio, and the Gateway to the Midwest, is one of the leading industrial centers of the United States. It lies on the southern shore of Lake Erie, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. These waterways and the city's location near huge supplies of coal and iron ore helped make Cleveland an important steel producer. The city also ranks as a transportation and cultural center of the Midwest and a chief Great Lakes port.

Moses Cleaveland, a surveyor for the Connecticut Land Company, founded Cleveland in 1796. This company had bought the site of present-day Cleveland from the state of Connecticut. The site formed most of an area called The Western Reserve, which Connecticut had reserved for settlement. The village was named after Cleaveland, but a newspaper printer misspelled the name in 1831 and it has been known as *Cleveland* ever since.

THE CITY

Cleveland covers 76 square miles (197 kilometers), or about a sixth of Cuyahoga County. The Cleveland metropolitan area, often called *Greater Cleveland*, covers 1,521 square miles (3,939 square kilometers). It extends over four counties--Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Medina. Within a radius of 500 miles are found 58.6 percent of the population of the United States and 67.3 percent of the United States manufacturing plants.

CLEVELAND PROPER. The valley of the Cuyahoga River divides the city into an East Side and a West Side. Iron and steel mills, oil refineries, and other plants operate in the valley, called the Flats.

Cleveland's chief public buildings border the Mall, a park that extends from Lake Erie into downtown Cleveland. These buildings include the Cuyahoga County Court House, City Hall, the Public Auditorium and Convention Center, the Public Library, the Federal Building, and the Justice Center.

Monumental Park, commonly called the Public Square, lies nearby in the center of the downtown area. Moses Cleaveland set aside the 4.4 acre (1.8 hectare) square as a park. The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument and a statue of Cleaveland stand in the square. The Terminal Tower Building, one of the tallest buildings in the United States, rises 768 feet (234 meters) at the square's southwest corner.

The city's main streets branch out from Public Square. Cleveland's best-known street is Euclid Avenue, which extends from the square through the eastern suburbs. The main downtown shopping district lies along Euclid from the square to East 22nd Street.

Cleveland's residential areas spread outward from the downtown district. Like many other industrial cities, Cleveland has large slums. These areas present a sharp contrast to Cleveland's clean and modern suburbs.

METROPOLITAN CLEVELAND. Parma, Cleveland's largest suburb, has a population of about 100,000. Other suburbs include Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Shaker Heights, and University Heights.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL AUCTION SALE. DONATIONS TO THE AUCTION ARE CHEERFULLY ACCEPTED.

MISS SIMPSON AT SARATOGA
by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The following Alger short story is from the collection of Evelyn Grebel. It originally appeared in Gleason's Monthly Magazine (October, 1882) and the November 7, 1891 issue of Yankee Blade. It is a reprint of "Count Von Heilbrun.")

Miss Simpson was the mistress of a small, neat cottage, and some three or four thousand dollars in bank stock which, with her economical habits, made her quite a lady of fortune in the small village where she lived.

It might have been a weakness, but it was an excusable one, that after practicing economy for eleven months and three weeks of every year, Miss Simpson was accustomed to afford herself each year a week at Saratoga, where for seven days living at an expensive hotel she almost persuaded herself that she was really a lady of wealth.

But she never protracted her stay. At the end of the week she always withdrew from the scene of gaiety and dissipation, and wended her homeward way to Higginsville, when her week's sojourn at Saratoga gave her something to think of and talk about for the rest of the year.

On one of her annual pilgrimages to Saratoga, Miss Simpson made the acquaintance of a tall, dignified-looking man, whose light-colored hair was suffered to wave carelessly over his brow. He took the trouble to devote himself to the middle-aged spinster in a way to which she had never been accustomed. For the fact that Miss Simpson remained unmarried was hardly from choice. She had often thought that she would prefer to be Mrs. Smith or Jones, or any other name, rather than an elderly old maid, but the fates had not been propitious. Therefore, when Mr. Heilbrun, for so he announced himself, began to be attentive, she felt pleased and showed it, and began to dream that he might have serious intentions.

At length, all too soon, the week came to an end. She had never regretted it as much. She even began to wonder whether she could not manage to stay another week, but prudence forbade her doing so for an uncertainty. If, indeed, she were only sure of a proposal from the graceful foreigner, but that was very doubtful. So she announced to Mr. Heilbrun that tomorrow they must part.

"Oh! say not so, my dear Miss Simpson!" he exclaimed with fervor. "You cannot be so cruel!"

"But," said Miss Simpson, casting down her eyes, "I didn't intend to remain more than one week."

"Then you can not change your plan?"

"I don't think I can. My arrangements are all made to return home tomorrow."

"Saratoga will be desolate for me, my dear Miss Simpson, when you are gone. I shall be quite desolate."

"You are only joking, Mr. Heilbrun, I am sure," said Miss Simpson, simpering. "Say not so, my dear Miss Simpson, you have made a profound impression upon my too susceptible heart. Say that you will be sorry to leave Saratoga for my sake."

He clasped his hands together, and Miss Simpson, considerably flustered, replied, "I don't mind confessing that I am more sorry to leave Saratoga than usual."

"My dear Miss Simpson, be not angry with me if I ask you one little question?"

"I would not think of being angry with you, Mr. Heilbrun."

"Then could you bring yourself to love an unfortunate exile, who had been buffeted by the winds of adverse fortune for many years?"

"I don't know but I might," said Miss Simpson, lowering her eyes, "but it is so sudden, Mr. Heilbrun."

"But you go away tomorrow, and I must speak now."

"I do not know but I might manage to stay a little longer, but I don't know much about you."

"Then let me tell you my sad story, my dear Miss Simpson. Can you listen without weariness?"

"I should like very much to hear it, Mr. Heilbrun."

"Then, Miss Simpson, let me tell you to begin with, that I am of a noble Hungarian family. You call me Mr. Heilbrun, but I am really Count Von Heilbrun. You start, but, yet, he who offers you his hand has it in his power to make you a Countess."

Miss Simpson listened with delight. It would, indeed, have been worth while waiting so long if she could be raised to the rank of a countess, and so excite the mingled envy and admiration of all her acquaintances.

Miss Simpson, though a good-hearted woman, was not above human weaknesses.

"Yes," proceeded the count, "I belong to one of the noblest Hungarian families, but I and my brother took part in the Revolution, of which you have doubtless heard?"

"Yes," said Miss Simpson, though to tell the truth, she could not have told whether Hungary was in Asia or Europe, and would not have dared to contradict any one who should assert it was in Africa.

"I need not say, then, that we failed, and I was compelled by the proud tyrants to leave the country. Since then, I have lived in England, in America - where have I not lived? Feeling the pangs of a heart-sick exile, never meeting a sympathizing heart until I met you,

my dear Miss Simpson, whom I hope soon to make Countess Von Heilbrun."

"What a charming man," thought Miss Simpson, "and how poetically he talks."

"I need not say that I am poor," proceeded the count, "and I should not venture to offer you the hand of a penniless exile, but that I have information that the edict of exile has been repealed and I may now return and take possession of the estates of my father."

"Indeed, that will be very pleasant," said Miss Simpson.

"Yes, but there is one difficulty. I have not the means to go over. Once at home, I shall have no difficulty. If I had but five hundred dollars, though a thousand would be better, I might carry you with me as my bride, and we might in three months be living on our own estate, but I know not where to borrow this paltry sum."

Here he subsided into a mournful fit of reflection.

"I don't know," said Miss Simpson, hesitatingly, for she did not like such an obstacle to postpone a prospect so splendid. "I don't know but I can supply you with the money."

"If you could, my darling!" said the count, fervently, "but no, you might doubt me, you might think me a mercenary imposter."

"No, I am sure I should not," said Miss Simpson, quickly.

"Then you will not fear to place this money in my hands?"

"No, if we are to be married, it will be for my advantage as well as yours."

"True, I did not think of that. But as soon as we are in beautiful Hungary, I shall insist on giving you back the amount you so kindly advance. Nay, do not oppose me, I insist upon it."

"How soon will you need it?" asked the lady.

"The sooner the better. If it might be that we could sail in one fortnight I should be most happy."

"Then," said Miss Simpson, "I will go home tomorrow, and return as soon as possible."

"But you will be sure to return? You will not leave me desolate. It would break my heart!"

"No, I will come straight back," said Miss Simpson, practicably.

The next morning Miss Simpson returned to Higginsville in excellent spirits. The prospect of becoming a countess in a fortnight was very exhilarating, but she thought it best not to do any more than breathe vague hints, preparing to burst upon the astonished villagers at a later date in the full-fledged dignity of a lady of title.

She raised a thousand dollars on her bank shares, and determined after marriage to return with the count, and effect the sale of them and her cottage. Now she could not wait for this.

A day or two later Miss Simpson was on her return to Saratoga with a thousand dollars in her pocket.

The count was enraptured to see her, and received her with emprossement.

"Have you the money, dearest?" he inquired.

"Yes," she answered.

"Then our happiness will not long be delayed."

This conversation took place in the corridor of the hotel. Just then two gentlemen turning the corner confronted them.

"Oh!" said one, "this is the man we are after."

"We've got him at last."

They evidently referred to the count, who, though a little pale, folded his arms, and with his hat under his arm stood his ground.

"Madam, is this a friend of yours?" asked one of the newcomers.

"He is my promised husband," said Miss Simpson, bashfully.

"I'm sorry for it, for I must arrest him."

"By what authority!" faltered Miss Simpson.

"As an adroit swindler. Has he got any money out of you?"

"No, but—"

"Then you are very lucky. Two months since he courted a woman in New York, and after getting two hundred dollars out of her on some pretence, came to Saratoga four weeks since, probably to play the same game. It is not the first time."

Miss Simpson looked at the count, and his look satisfied her that it was all true. All her beautiful dreams were over. But luckily she had her money safe. The count was marched off, and she went back to Higginsville, a wiser and sadder woman, but still a single one.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

On September 30th of this year, ventriloquist Edgar Bergen died. One of his many obituaries states that "the inspiration for Charlie McCarthy came to the young Bergen in 1922 in the form of a cocky Irish newsboy who sold papers in his neighborhood. Bergen sketched the newsboy and took the drawings to a carpenter who made the dummy's head for \$35. Bergen carved the body himself."

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

THE NEWSBOY'S DEBT.

ONLY last year, at Christmas time,
While pacing down a city street,
I saw a tiny, ill-clad boy—
One of the thousands that we meet—

He stood and gazed with wistful face,
All a child's longing in his eyes;
Then started, as I touched his arm,
And turned in quick, mechanic wise.

Raised his torn cap with purple hands,
Said, "Paper, sir? Sun, Star, Times!"
And brushed away a freezing tear
That marked his cheek with frosty rimes.

"How many have you? Never mind—
Don't stop to count—I'll take them all;
And when you pass my office here
With stock on hand, give me a call."

He thanked me with a broad Scotch smile,
A look half wondering and half glad.
I fumbled for the proper "change,"
And said, "You seem a little lad

"To rough it in the streets like this."
"I'm ten years old this Christmas time!"
"Your name?" "Jim Hanley." "Here's a
bill—

I've nothing else, but this one dime—

"Five dollars. When you get it changed
Come to my office—that's the place.
Now wait a bit, there's time enough:
You need not run a headlong race.

"Where do you live?" "Most anywhere.
We hired a stable loft to-day,
Me and two others." "And you thought
The fruiter's window pretty, hey?"

"And you are cold?" "Aye, just a bit.
I don't mind cold." "Why, that is strange!"
He smiled and pulled his ragged cap,
And darted off to get the "change."

So, with half unconscious sigh,
I sought my office desk again.
An hour or more my busy wits
Found work enough with book and pen.

But when the mantel clock struck five
I started with a sudden thought,

For there beside my hat and cloak
Lay those six papers I had bought.

"Why, where's the boy, and where's the
'change'?"

He should have brought an hour ago?
Ah, well! ah, well! they're all alike!
I was a fool to tempt him so!

"Dishonest! Well, I might have known;
And yet his face seemed candid, too.
He would have earned the difference
If he had brought me what was due."

Just two days later, as I sat,
Half dozing in my office chair,
I heard a timid knock, and called,
In my brusque fashion, "Who's there?"

An urchin entered, barely seven—
The same Scotch face, the same blue eyes—
And stood half doubting, at the door,
Abashed at my forbidding guise.

"Sir, if you please, my brother Jim—
The one you gave the bill, you know—
He couldn't bring the money, sir,
Because his back was hurted so.

"He didn't mean to keep the 'change,'
He got runned over up the street;
One wheel went right across his back,
And t'other fore-wheel mashed his feet.

"They stopped the horses just in time,
And then they took him up for dead;
And all that day and yesterday
He wasn't rightly in his head.

"They took him to the hospital—
One of the newsboys knew 'twas Jim—
And I went too, because, you see,
We two are brothers, I and him.

"He had that money in his hand,
And never saw it any more.
Indeed, he didn't mean to steal!
He never lost a cent before.

"He was afraid that you might think
He meant to keep it any way.
This morning, when they brought him to,
He cried because he couldn't pay.

"He made me fetch his jacket here;
It's torn and dirtied pretty bad,
It's only fit to sell for rags.
But then you know it's all he had!

"When he gets well—it won't be long—
If you will call the money lent,
He says he'll work his fingers off
But what he'll pay you every cent."

And then he cast a rueful glance
At the soiled jacket, where it lay.
"No, no, my boy! Take back the coat.
Your brother's badly hurt, you say?"

"Where did they take him? Just run out
And hail a cab, then wait for me.
Why, I would give a thousand coats,
And pounds, for such a boy as he!"

A half hour after this we stood
Together in the crowded wards,
And the nurse checked the hasty steps
That fell too loudly on the boards.

I thought him smiling in his sleep,
And scarce believed her when she said,
Smoothing away the tangled hair
From brow and cheek, "The boy is dead!"

Dead? Dead so soon? How fair he looked,
One streak of sunshine on his hair.
Poor lad! Well, it is warm in heaven:
No need of "change" and jackets there.

And something rising in my throat
Made it so hard for me to speak,
I turned away, and left a tear
Lying upon his sunburned cheek.

This poem is from the collection of Alger Society member Rohima Walter. It is taken from World Renowned Authors and Their Grand Masterpieces of Poetry and Prose, edited by Henry Davenport Northrop and published by D. Z. Howell Company in 1902. Thanks go to Rohima for sending me this.

With this December issue of Newsboy, myself and all the officers of the Horatio Alger Society extend to you our cordial best wishes for a happy holiday season!!