

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
1407A Winchester St.
Fredericksburg, VA
22401

Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

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Number 10



Street boys shooting craps in the Newsboys' Lodging House.
(From the collection of Jack Bales; photo reproduced by
HAS member Pete Eckel).

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

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, 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.

Bob Williman's Alger convention — "The Capital Caucus"—will soon be here. Remember the dates — May 14-16, 1981, in the Washington, D. C. area.

* * *

PF-615 Reuben J. Hatfield
2575 Harlan St.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

Reuben is a postal clerk and learned of the HAS when he saw a "Newsboy" envelope as he was sorting mail! Owner of 46 titles, he also collects fruit labels, science fiction books, and jazz records of the Roaring Twenties. He is also an "amateur tenor banjoist."

PF-616 Edward H. Fulmer
611 E. Marion St.
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

George Owens told Edward of the Alger Society. Besides the 55 Algers in his collection, Edward also is interested in books with movie stars as heroes and old children's books.

PF-617 Barrie J. Hughes
328 Bugbee Drive
Watertown, New York 13601

Barrie is the Circulation Director of the Watertown Daily Times and collects newspaper carrier statuettes. He learned of the HAS through Brad Chase.

PF-618 John W. McGuire
6883 Oakhurst
Central Point, Oregon 97502

John is a remodeling contractor and is interested in art—besides selling Alger books.

PF-619 Ema Harrington
131 7th Ave S. E.
Oelwein, Iowa 50662

Ema was told of HAS by her brother, member Harry Smith. Now retired, she owns 36 Algers.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-570 Richard B. Hoffman
2925 28th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

PF-592 Troy Wagner
 % Mary Grace Goodwin
 Apt. 807
 4550 North Clarendon
 Chicago, Illinois 60640
 * * *
 B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to HAS members. Thus, it is assumed that all books can be returned if the buyer is not satisfied with them. See September, 1980 "Book Mart" for criteria in determining condition of books. Please list title, publisher, condition and price.

Rohima Walter, 1307 Greenbush, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, has a list of Algers for sale. Write her, enclosing SASE for list.

Dave Kanarr, 1032 14th St., Bellingham, Washington 98225, has the following books for sale: Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era, by Ralph D. Gardner, Wayside Press, 1964, with dust jacket, in very good condition with slightly chipped dust jacket, and Alger: A Biography Without a Hero, by Herbert R. Mayes, 1928, Macy-Masius, very good in chipped dust jacket. BOTH books for \$50. Will take first check or phone call - (206) 733-6308.

* * *
 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1335 Grant Ave.
 South Plainfield, N. J.
 07080
 February 22, 1981

Dear Jack,

Last week we passed by Fredericksburg on our way to Williamsburg. Our daughter, Cindy, plays basketball for Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia and they had a game with William and Mary. We always try to visit Cindy around her birthday. This year we followed the team back to Farmville, on to Richmond, and up to Princess Anne in Maryland. We traveled over 1000 miles. I had hopes of giving you a surprise call but sorry to say we just ran

out of time.

Anyway, Jack, wouldn't you know, I found a beautiful, exquisite, great statue of a newsboy in Maryland, made around 1880. (I'll start a newsboy museum yet)! Just had to tell you the news.

Best Regards,

Pete [Eckel]

1802 Thackeray Rd.
 Madison, Wisconsin
 53704

Hi Jack,

I recently came across an article that gives additional information on the newsboy statute in Great Barrington, Mass. It might be of interest to our members. [Quoted elsewhere in this issue].

I am sure that our Capital Caucus will be a success. I can certainly recommend the D. C. area. I have spent a week's vacation in D. C. for the last three years. It is one of my favorite towns. Especially in the spring, with all the flowering bushes and trees. It sure is a beautiful town. My brother lives on the edge of Georgetown, and those rows of houses sure give a historic look to that area.

Jack, they have two large books sales there—the Vassars sale and the Brandeis sale in D. C. I don't know the dates but it will probably come a little too early for most of our HAS members. Last year I went early to the Vassars sale. It was the best and biggest book sale that I've ever seen. I found some first edition Zane Grays for 75¢ and a Tattered Tom for \$1.00. I found some other good old books too. It sure was fun.

I've found a some good Leo Edwards books but I haven't found many dust jackets. I have all the Jerry Todds and Andy Blakes in dust jackets, but I guess the other titles will take a while longer before I find all the d.j.s.

There's a new boys' series magazine that recently came out. It has a few interesting articles and is called the Yellowback Library. It's put out by Gil O'Gara out of Des Moines, Iowa. [Editor's note: Write Gil O'Gara, 2019 S. E. 8th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50315. Cost is \$6.00 per year, issued bimonthly]. The first issue had a good article on Leo Edwards.

Well, I better get this into the mail. One item of interest. I was up to Lake Delton to visit Percy Seamans, at the Wise Owl Book Shop. He showed me his latest Alger title, Making His Mark, a Westgard reprint. I'll see you in D.C., Jack.

Sincerely,

Neil [McCormick]

119 N. Harper
Los Angeles, CA
90048
March 31, 1981

Dear Jack,

The issue of Newsboy with the story of a boy at the New York Herald in the days of Charles Dana and Horace Greeley I sent to my 89 year old editor for whom I worked for 20 years, because it would be a choice item for his newspaper history library. Now, Jack, I have two shelves of my own library filled with newspaper books and I'd like my own copy of that issue. So, Sir, I ask, can do? If one is available and if it requires the buck, lemme know fast and I'll send it.

My wife and I are in a little bit of a fast-moving pace these days as we plan to go to London, Cairo and Israel with the American Technion Society international conference group on May 10-25. This morning I completed our passport applications, and tomorrow we get our pictures taken and then to the passport office. Heigh-ho! Wanna come along? I'd love to have you, as I hope we'll have time to inspect the Dickens territory, the old poets Lake country in

the north of England, and of course, the countryside. Egypt will be new to me, but I have been to Israel twice, my wife not yet.

The trip is my reward for having been the society's p.r. man and editor and sole writer of the periodic newsletter for the last seven years.

The most recent issue of Newsboy was a dilly, as usual. How goeth the librarian of the E. Lee Trinkle [Governor of Virginia in the 20s] Library. Exposed already to the computers. Whattamatta with the old goose feather pens; one was good enough for Thomas Jefferson, and a fellow named John Hancock, no relation to the insurance company, who made quite a swath with his quill. Ah, progress, ah nuts. Back to the abacus!

Best,

Dave [Soibelman]

1307 Greenbush
Lafayette, Ind.
47904

Dear Jack,

Will write a few lines. I sure had a nice surprise last night. Gilbert Westgard stopped to see us. We showed him our collection of books - we gave him some and he gave us some that he had. It was a really nice visit. We told him if we he wanted to he could stay all night but he decided to go on. We sure enjoyed every minute of his visit. Even our dogs were on their best behavior.

Will close and get to working on another book list. I hope to sell quite a few to help on the next convention. How many are coming this year? Have you got any unusual things for the auction this year? I mailed Bob William some things only recently.

Your Pf-160,

Rohima [Walter]



Horatio Alger,

"IF YOU'LL try to be somebody," said Frank to Dick, "and grow up into a respectable member of society, you will. You may not become rich—it isn't everybody that becomes rich, you know—but you can obtain a good position, and be respected."

"I'll try," said Dick to Frank. "I needn't have been Ragged Dick so long if I hadn't spent my money in goin' to the theatre, and treatin' boys to oyster-stews, and bettin' money on cards, and such like."

So Dick the bootblack, a manly lad beneath his dirt and rags, opened a savings account and learned to read and write—all to the end that he might throw away his box and brush and become a clerk. Eventually he does—and one knows that his clerkship will lead straight to wealth and respectability.

Ragged Dick; or, Street Life in New York appeared in 1867. At once the book became a best-seller. In the next thirty years its author, the Reverend Horatio Alger, would repeat the same wishful story in *Struggling Upward; Strive and Succeed; Jed, the Poorhouse Boy*, and more than a hundred others. The hero might be a street urchin, the son of a village widow, or an orphan adrift in the West, but he was certain to be honest, industrious, and eventually triumphant, although the Reverend Mr. Alger often had to rely heavily on Lady Luck to bring off this denouement. The public responded by buying almost 200,000,000 copies of the books in which poor boys rose to fortune.

For fortune was the invariable reward. To Alger, success meant wealth. One may doubt that he inspired a great many young Americans to emulate his heroes—after all, it was also the age of *Tom Sawyer* and *Peck's Bad Boy*—but there is more than coincidence in the acceptance by millions, old as well as young, of his own unquestioning belief in riches as life's highest goal.

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NUMBER 15 OF A SERIES ON
BOOKS: *The Image of America*
by Earl S. Miers and Paul M. Angle

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From Publishers Weekly, April 3, 1954, p. 1623.

NEWSBOY BOOK REVIEW

by Bob Bennett

Horatio Alger, Jr.: An Annotated Bibliography of Comment and Criticism. By Gary Scharnhorst and Jack Bales. Metuchen, N.J. and London: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1981. Introduction by Herbert R. Mayes. 179 pages. Index. \$12.

[Note: Copies available from Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910, at discount price of \$9 each].

An extraordinary research effort has produced a magnificent bibliography of criticism and comment on the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr. Scharnhorst and Bales "take no prisoners" in their straightforward disposal of many of the existing myths concerning Alger and his works.

There has been a host of material written about Alger in the form of biographies, introductions to reprinted Alger books, newspaper and magazine articles and even in a few college theses and dissertations. Unfortunately, much that exists in print about Alger has been freely borrowed from unreliable sources and embellished by the new writer to the extent that it is difficult to separate fact from fancy. This book is of paramount value to the Alger scholar in that it puts to rest many of these fabrications.

The book is controversial because a work of criticism must necessarily be critical and no attempt is made by the authors to mitigate their sometimes caustic remarks about specific works or articles. I applaud Scharnhorst and Bales for having the courage to stand by their convictions in bringing us a truly utilitarian research tool.

This well-organized book, attractively bound in linen cloth, is highly recommended to all who have an interest in Horatio Alger, Jr.

* * *

Less than a month to the convention!!
Don't forget—May 14-16, 1981.

THE BOY WITH THE PAPER ROUTE

by James Aldredge

[Editor's note: The following article was sent in by Neil McCormick (see page 3 of this issue). It originally appeared in The Newspaper Collector's Gazette, July, 1971. The newsboy statue in Great Barrington, Massachusetts has been mentioned several times in Newsboy during the last few months].

For 76 years a newsboy has stood at Maple Ave. & Silver Street in the village of Great Barrington, Mass. As far as is known, he is the only statue erected in the U.S. to honor the young chap with a paper route. [Editor's note: this is incorrect].

Last October 19th he witnessed an impressivesight: more than a hundred paper boys from the country roundabout marched up to him as part of the special ceremonies marking International Newspaper Boys' Day. As it happened, there was no one around to contrast these ceremonies with those which had taken place on the same date in October three-quarters of a century before—when the statue was unveiled.

On October 10, 1895, a private railroad car had brought a distinguished company to Great Barrington. Most prominent in the group was Colonel William L. Brown. As the inscription on the statue tells, it was he who presented the little figure in bronze to the Berkshire town, site of his summer home, "Locustwood."

Colonel Brown, President of the New York Press Club, held a controlling interest in the New York Daily News. (This was not the Manhattan tabloid of today, but a daily that flourished in an earlier era). Born and educated in Ohio, he had served in the Civil War in the 85th and 115th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, where he was accorded the rank of colonel as an aide-de-camp to Governor William Allen.

At the close of hostilities, he joined

up with a party making a trip by mule team across the Western plains. Winding up in Montana, where he lived for awhile, he tried his hand at mining and also served as chief clerk of the territorial legislature. Then he returned to Ohio, settling in Youngstown, where he founded the Youngstown Vindicator. He entered politics and was elected to the Ohio State Senate in 1875. But he could not resist the call of "the big time" - the nation's largest city; two years later he moved to Manhattan and bought an interest in the New York Daily News. He served as President of that paper for over a quarter of a century. He died in 1906.

The statue is known locally as the Newsboy Fountain. The sculptor, David Richards, indulged his droll humor by creating four different basins. For cats to drink from, there is a bronze cat with arched back and upraised tail; for dogs, a shaggy dog's head. These survived the years unscathed. But both the bronze lion's head with the drinking basin for horses, and the smiling Satan for humans had to be "renewed" last year when the statue was cleaned, as they had been ripped from the base of the fountain.

What young newsboy served as the model for Mr. Richards' statue? After 76 years his identity is lost forever; but, whoever he was, he has been immortalized impressively. Certainly no newspaper boy at the turn of the century could have looked more natural as he strode along, his cap jauntily aback his head, his bag of papers over his shoulder, pausing only to put a copy of the latest "Extra" into the hands of a customer.

The little bronze figure is admired by all who drive by it today. It can be seen a short distance south of Great Barrington (on the outskirts), only a few rods west of Route 7 along the eastern edge of New England. It is right alongside Route 23, which comes to join Route 7 from Hudson, Claverack, and Hillsdale in New York State.

* * *

RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

ERRATA

I regret to report that an error is in last month's article on the "Carl Cantab" pseudonym. In the second paragraph on page 7, Gary Scharnhorst and myself quote Alger as saying he contributed articles "to the Post, Transcript & other publications." Due to an error on my part, this should be: "to the Bost. Transcript & other publications."

A few people in HAS commented that the April Newsboy followed the March issue by only a few days. Our quick thinking Secretary, Carl Hartmann, deliberately did this so that this extra large issue would be mailed before the postal rates went up.

Ben McAdoo wrote me some months ago about a radio spot about Alger that was on an American Forces Radio and Television Services program. The information on Alger was totally incorrect; undoubtedly based on Mayes' Alger biography. I have written AFRTS but have received no reply.

Les Poste sent me a clipping from the February, 1981 American Libraries. In response to a query about what he read as a youth, President Ronald Reagan reported that he read—among other books—the Frank Merriwell stories and books by Horatio Alger, Jr. "All in all," Reagan said, "as I look back I realize that all my reading left an abiding belief in the triumph of good over evil. There were heroes who lived by standards of morality and fair play. . ." Reagan, by the way, is a past recipient of the Horatio Alger Award. PF-431, Lucille Mone, sent me a clipping from the Omaha World-Herald (Nov. 27, 1980) that talks about Reagan's "fascination with Horatio Alger, Tom Swift and the Bible."

SPECIAL NOTICE

Past President & Co-founder Kenneth Butler fell and broke his hip. We will all miss Ken at this years convention. Our prayers and best wishes for a fast recovery Ken.

Nominees sought for Alger Society's annual youth award

By BARBARA VIRVAN
Staff Writer

Although he has been dead for 82 years, Horatio Alger's spirit is alive and well in the hearts and minds of those like Bob Williman of Kemmerton Lane, Bowie.

For 25 years, Williman has collected information on Horatio Alger—and for the last several has been a member of the exclusive Horatio Alger Society, a group which honors Alger's memory and work.

"Alger's influence on American society was quite tremendous—he's really underrated," says Williman of the 19th century author.

He believes that Alger's creed of hard work, perseverance and honesty equalling success is still true today and is seeking nominees for the society's "Strive and Succeed" award.

Williman explains that the award is designed to honor a young person "who exemplifies the qualities of Horatio Alger."

There are no age restrictions, he points out, and a nominee does not necessarily have to come from a poor background.

"It doesn't have to be a poor kid—as long as he or she has adhered to the high principles of honesty, fair dealing and hard work.

"It could be someone who has overcome a difficulty in his life or who has come up with a good idea and moved forward with it—an entrepreneurial type."

The award will be presented at the society's convention scheduled for May 14-17 at the Quality Inn on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and the deadline for nominations, sent to Williman, is set for the end of February.

The award consists of a \$100 savings bond and plaque or certificate, to be presented at the convention's banquet.

"I want to give this award," Williman explains, "to encourage a young person. I had encouragement when I was growing up—I had breaks, people gave me jobs along the way.

It sounds like classic Alger, but Williman lived the part of a young boy working diligently out of a poor background to one day become the

president of his own company.

His mother had serious health problems throughout her life and, as she was not insurable, Williman's father held down three jobs to foot all of the steep medical bills.

"We didn't have much when I was growing up—I know what hungry is, I know what cold is," he said.

It was at the age of eight that Williman was first introduced to Alger. At that time his mother bought an Alger book for five cents at a second-hand store. "I liked the message—that a poor boy could make good. My mother kept buying the books and I grew up reading Alger."

Williman credits Alger, along with his father, for the inspiration to rise above his humble beginnings.

"I worked from fifth grade on, he explains. I sold peanuts, was a newsboy, worked in a grocery store and welded in a shipyard. I did hard, dirty, nasty work—but I never saw any job as demeaning. I was always happy to be working.

"It was really later in my life that I realized Alger's influence on me—that I could master any circumstances."

When asked if he believed today's youth shares that kind of zeal, Williman pauses before answering. "I think some people are born with that kind of drive, that it's an innate sense.

"I can see two ways of looking at the kids who are given whatever they want. First, they become soft, but they're also being robbed of the opportunity to accomplish and the opportunity to achieve.

"When I made a dollar, I felt good. That dollar was a symbol of my accomplishment, but you're not getting that when you're just given money. That money comes from someone else's labor."

Williman's belief in the American dream and the will to succeed is unwavering. "If you're willing to work hard you can achieve anything you want, be anything you want.

"In this country we can start with nothing and end up with a lot. That's the way it's always been, and I really believe that."

This article is from The Bowie (Maryland) Blade-News, January 29, 1981, and Bob Williman is pleased to report that two recipients have been selected to receive the "Strive and Succeed Award" of the Horatio Alger Society. Their names are James Cassidy and Ronnie Robeson, both of Bowie. Quoting from a letter written by John W. Koontz, who nominated them, "They are two honest, hardworking boys who are not only ambitious, but considerate as well. They are achievers not only with their business, but also in school and sports."

The two young men, seniors at Bowie High School, have their own business. Quoting from Ronnie's autobiographical sketch: "When I was twelve years old my friend and I wanted to try a lawn mowing business. We would mow the yard and trim. We would always do the best job we could. In the fall we would rake the leaves and when winter came we would see how many people would want us to shovel their driveways of snow." James writes that their "first big money job" was given them by a real estate agent who "drove up and asked if we would cut the grass and clean up a house he was trying to rent. In my mind, that was the springboard of success for our business. Over the last two years our business has grown continually. It has spread to other sections of Bowie and hopefully it will spread to other towns."

James' parents are Dr. and Mrs. Edward W. Cassidy, and Ronnie's are Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Robeson.

Bob Williman, 1981 HAS Convention Host, says that both youths and their parents will be at the convention banquet, held Saturday night of the convention. Bob wishes to thank The Bowie Blade-News for its support of this project.