

Official 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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Homeless street boys in nineteenth century New York, from the collection of Peter Eckel. In this issue . . . Stratemeyer Pseudonyms is reviewed on page 5, and A. L. Burt's hardcover Alger's are discussed by Bob Williman on page 7.

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 bimonthly (six issues per year) 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.

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

Newsboy ad rates are as follows: Full page, \$32.00; half page, \$17.00; quarter page, \$9.00; per column (1" x 3-3/4"), \$2.00. Send ads to Bob Sawyer, 204 Mill St., Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Make checks payable to "Horatio Alger Society." Ads are due two weeks prior to the date of the issue in which you want your ad to appear.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-683 Michael Blake
2397 Palo Verde
Palo Alto, Calif. 94303

Michael writes that "I played Pearly Gates, the hero, in the 1967 world premiere of Forrest Campbell's Children's Theatre play, "The Boy From the Bowery." Michael is an editor, and is interested in magic. He comes to HAS through the courtesy of Hal McCuen (who directed "The Boy From the Bowery.")

PF-685 James R. D. Felter
4020 N. 54th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

James heard of us through Bob Bennett. Owner of seven Algers, he is involved in real estate, and also collects classic cars.

PF-690 Charles M. Jacobs
230 West Front St.
Cambridge City, Indiana 47327

Charles, a curator, has seventy-five Alger titles in his collection, and is also interested in archaeology, cinematography, and Victoriana. He heard of the Alger Society through Gary Scharnhorst's and Jack Bales' Alger bibliography.

PF-691 James D. Alger
McMicking and Company
351 California St.
San Francisco, CA 94104

General Alger is retired from the U.S. Army. He is a direct descendant of Horatio Alger, Jr., and his biography appears in the Alger Family Genealogy Descent from Thomas Alger of Taunton, Massachusetts. Ninety-six Algers are in his collection, and his other hobbies include photography, sports (polo, riding), and archeology. (We in HAS also wish to publicly thank him for his monetary donation. It is much appreciated).

PF-692 Charles J. Schissel
Estes Street
Amesbury, Mass. 01913

Charles, a physician, learned of HAS through Gene Hafner. He collects the books of Zane Gray, among others.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-596 Deidre Ann Johnson
2329 S. 9th St. B401
Minneapolis, MN 55406

PF-632 Robert L. Bean
120 N. Camino de Suerte
NBU 0206
Green Valley, Arizona 85614

PF-660 Douglas Hoffman
3216 Sellman Rd.
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

* * *

L E T T E R S

4627 Wild Indigo
#605
Houston, Texas 77027
September 13, 1982

Dear Jack,

I certainly enjoyed the August-September issue of the Newsboy. That particular issue is treasured because it features the two most significant parts of my collecting Alger books--the issuance of the stamp and the meeting of so many wonderful people. I strongly recommend the convention to anyone who has never attended. Perhaps when I summon the courage to host one here in Houston, the Texas HAS delegation can appear in large numbers.

I recently had some fun while looking for books. A reputable dealer here in town was telling me about an illustrator who had become quite popular recently, and she asked me to be on the lookout for those illustrations while scouting around. As luck would have it I found a book and paid a dealer his \$25.00 price. He appeared quite pleased to make such a sale so I was positive I had not made a prudent purchase. Back in Houston

I returned to the dealer who specialized in Harrison Fisher illustrations. She had two Alger firsts to show me. After I checked the points according to Bennett I knew I had to have both. As the lady was adding up my total, I showed her the Fisher book and said I'd like to use that as partial payment. She handed me my two firsts--Herbert Carter's Legacy and Phil the Fiddler--and said, "Will these and a check for \$45.00 be enough?" I nodded yes.

Good to meet you at the convention.

Sincerely,

Jim Ryberg

135 Central Park West
New York, N.Y. 10023
October 28, 1982

Dear Jack,

Recently returned after being away for a couple of months, and I have to catch up on a dozen projects I've got in various stages of completion.

My radio show, "Ralph Gardner's Bookshelf," keeps me busy. It's a Sunday night feature on WVNJ. It's on both AM and FM, and covers the entire New York Metropolitan Area. I think it may be the only one-hour radio show devoted exclusively to author interviews.

This includes fiction and non-fiction writers, and--besides authors--artists, movie people, sports figures and others--many of them long-time friends --who've written books I enjoy.

Among my guests have been Gay Talese, Kurt Vonnegut, Steve Birmingham, Gen. William Westmoreland, Jerry Kosinski, Belva Plain, Peter Benchley, John Toland, John Eisenhower, Allen Ginsberg, Cyd Charisse, Isaac Asimov, Rod McKuen, Erica Jong and a whole bunch more.

When Rocky Graziano was on the show we talked about the old days, in the late 1940s, when as a newspaperman I knew him

when he was training for his bout with Tony Zale.

Among famous artists, I've had Jules Feiffer, David Levine, Maurice Sendak, Hirshfeld, Edward Gorey and others. Some of these just decline all invitations to be interviewed, but they were nice enough to come up to my studio for a pleasant conversation about their latest books. A few years ago I did what turned out to be Alexander Calder's last interview.

Not too long ago Herb Mayes came over and we had an enjoyable talk on his most recent book; John Tebbel was here to talk about his monumental four-volume history of publishing. During a recent roundup of books on popular collectibles, I discussed John Dizer's wonderful book, Tom Swift and Company, which, of course, beautifully covers the works of Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate. This is a book I can recommend to all HAS members, as our Partic'lar Hero, Horatio Alger, is well represented on its pages.

In Ireland I interviewed John Gardner (who has taken up where Ian Fleming left off, as author of the James Bond books--his first two have been bestsellers), and my friend Eileen O'Casey, the widow of Sean O'Casey. Eileen is a fine writer in her own right. They both live in Dun Laoghaire--pronounced Dunleary--very near my own stomping grounds in Dublin.

As soon as I have a second, I'll write again, with news of some of the other things that keep me busy.

Cordially,

Ralph D. Gardner

P.S. I'm delighted to hear from Bob Sawyer about the great preparations being made for the Columbus get-together in May. All our conventions are so delightful that the last one is always hard to beat, but Bob's going full-blast to make the next one the best yet. I hope all our members will be there to join in the

fun, the Algiers-swapping, and everything else that makes it the high spot of my year, every year. Jack, please mention in Newsboy that every member should send in (or bring with them) a contribution for our annual auction, which always is among the convention highlights, and we urgently need the income the auction provides.

290 East 7th St.
Berwick, PA 18603
Nov. 21, 1982

Dear Jack:

Am taking a short vacation before Thanksgiving and made writing an item for the Alger Society a priority. I humbly ask that you include it in a future issue of Newsboy and solicit responses from the members regarding this "suggestion."

I am suggesting that the Society establish the office of Chaplain as part of its official organization. I further suggest that the duties and responsibilities shall be:

1. That this office be filled by appointment by the President of the Society for a two (2) year term, with no limitation as to the number of consecutive terms to be served.
2. That the chaplain shall be a person of sound moral character who, though witnessing to his/her own particular faith, will be sensitive to the reality of persons of other faiths within the Society. He/she shall provide opportunity for those persons to witness to their faith.
3. The chaplain shall see to it that each convention is opened with an invocation (prayer of blessing); that grace is offered at the corporate meals of the Society; and that the convention is closed with a benediction. These responsibilities may be carried out in person or delegated to other members of the Society.
4. The chaplain will work with the

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President and Secretary to keep informed about illness, injury, or death within the Society. He/she shall contact said member(s) on behalf of the Society and shall offer a prayer for well-being and/or consolation for said member(s). Furthermore, the chaplain shall report such information and action to the Society via the Newsboy.

5. The chaplain shall work with and assist the President in cultivating harmony and good-will within the Society. He/she may serve in the capacity of confidant or counselor as called upon by the membership. He/she would respect and maintain the confidentiality of such a relationship.

Hope you have an enjoyable holiday!
Looking forward to the next issue.

A friend,

Bob Eastlack

* * *

NEWSBOY BOOK REVIEW

by Jack Bales

Stratemeyer Pseudonyms and Series Books: An Annotated Checklist of Stratemeyer and Stratemeyer Syndicate Publications. Compiled and edited by Deidre Johnson. Greenwood Press [P.O. Box 5007, Westport, Conn. 06881]. Introduction by the author. Footnotes. Bibliography. 343 pages. Hardbound: \$45.00.

A few cynical thoughts ran through my head when I first came across this book in the pages of Library Journal. Realizing that the Stratemeyer Syndicate and its many ghost writers is--at best--an awesome subject to tackle, I was almost prepared to dismiss the volume even before looking at it.

I confess I was wrong. This book is everything that the publisher's blurb makes it out to be: "Deidre Johnson [Note: She is an HAS member] has compiled the names of all known magazine stories, dime novels, and series and nonseries titles created by Edward Stratemeyer and his publishing syndicate from 1889 to 1981. A brief introduction

discusses the history of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and provides biographical information about Stratemeyer himself and other prominent writers and publishers connected with the Syndicate."

The bibliography is simple to use. Although I am no expert on Edward Stratemeyer, it appears that the biographical section concerning him and his corps of writers offers much towards filling the many gaps in the juvenile books field. Writers covered include Leslie McFarlane, Howard Garis, St. George Rathbone, Harriet S. Adams, and others.

All entries are arranged alphabetically by pseudonym, and cross references are used where appropriate. A summary of each series is given, and dates, years, etc. are included. Publishers' ads are quoted verbatim. Appendix A lists "Stratemeyer and Stratemeyer Syndicate Pseudonyms"; Appendix B gives a "Chronological List of Stratemeyer and Stratemeyer Syndicate Series"; Appendix C lists "Series Publishers"; Appendix D notes "Series Contributors"; and my own favorite, Appendix E, gives a "Secondary Bibliography of Articles and Books Containing Information About Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate." To tie it all together, Appendix F is a "Partial List of Libraries with Stratemeyer or Stratemeyer Syndicate Holdings."

Even just the casual browser in old children's books will be impressed at the staggering amount of data that Professor Johnson has accumulated. As large as the bibliography is, the researcher is not intimidated by its scope--just relieved that finally a book exists which can help him/her identify those elusive titles.

Of course, as with any bibliography, there are errors and omissions. The well-known article, "Edward Stratemeyer and His Book Machine," is cited in Appendix E as being in the October 10, 1971, 1971 Saturday Review when the correct date is July 10, 1971. Though this is insignificant, I was rather annoyed to

find Horatio Alger misrepresented. On page xix, Professor Johnson states that "the extent of Alger's connection with [the Stratemeyer Algiers] is not known." Not true! The biographical sketch in Gary Scharnhorst's and my Horatio Alger, Jr. meticulously details how Alger first approached Stratemeyer with the idea of completing one of his manuscripts. Quotations from Alger's letters to Stratemeyer are used (from the files of the Syndicate) and it is unfortunate that this material was not included.

But this doesn't hinder the usefulness of Deidre Johnson's book. A mammoth undertaking, it is executed superbly. A definite must for the book collector!

[Note: Yes, the price, \$45.00, is indeed high. However, it is not out of line with the prices of today's books. As a librarian, I can speak with confidence about the reputation of Greenwood Press; it has published some outstanding bibliographies. Moreover, I have seen paperbacks of less than 100 pages sell for \$75.00 and up. It is all a matter of demand. Obviously, this book will not be sold in every book store in the country, moreover, the demand will not be high. Hence, the price is higher than usual. On the plus side, it is sturdily bound, and is a handsome volume. Don't miss it!]

* * *
PRESIDENTIAL CHIT CHAT
By Bob Sawyer, PF-455

Back in pre-Alger days, the word was, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." If I may paraphrase, "Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY.

According to our Secretary, Carl Hartmann, annual dues pay less than one-half of our expenses. Newsboy and the Roster take the biggest bite. It has been the aim of our Society to avoid raising the dues. To accomplish this, it has been our custom to hold an auction on the final night of our convention.

This has been a fun affair, and no arms are twisted to get people to bid if they don't care to do so. In the past, Jerry Friedland has coordinated the gathering and displaying of items to be auctioned, and he has consented to do so again this year. Bob Bennett and Ralph Gardner have spelled each other as capable and humorous auctioneers. Together they usually raise up to \$3,000 for our needy coffers.

Items auctioned are donated by the membership, many by those unable to attend the convention. Offerings are of great variety, ranging from first edition Algiers, reprints, paperbacks, paper items, as well as interesting memorabilia of the time of Ragged Dick. Some donate things they have purchased in foreign lands, others use their own skills and give interesting craft work. Anything is welcome, so use your imagination and dig into your attics or what-have-you and come up with something that will bring in a few dollars at the COLLECTED IN COLUMBUS CONVENTION AUCTION.

Items donated are displayed prior to the annual banquet so the prospective bidders can look them over and decide what they want to go after. This year we would like to partially list in the March-April or May-June Newsboy some of the items to be sold. This will give those unable to attend a chance to submit sealed bids. Before something is put up for auction, it will be announced if there is a sealed bid. When it is "knocked down" the sealed bid will be opened. If it exceeds the auctioned bid, it goes to the sealed bidder.

So, it is important that you let us know as far ahead as possible what you plan to contribute. Please try to notify the Convention Host, Bob Sawyer, before February 15, 1983, so they can be listed in Newsboy. [Editor's note: I'll try and get the May-June Newsboy out before the convention, so any last minute items can be listed]. Of course, contributions will be accepted after that date also, up until the night of the auction.

ANNUAL AWARDS: It is the custom of the Society to honor members and/or others that we feel have exemplified the principles of our Hero. I have heard from some of the committees (see June-July Newsboy), and I assume that all of them are selecting deserving winners of THE LUCK AND PLUCK AWARD, THE NEWSBOY AWARD, and THE DICK SEDDON AWARD. As Convention Host I have the privilege of selecting the winner or winners of THE STRIVE AND SUCCEED AWARD. This is a \$600 scholarship award for boys or girls. This money is raised by our Secretary, Carl Hartmann, in his own personal project, the beautiful collectors' items, THE HORATIO ALGER CUP PLATES. Those attending COLLECTED IN COLUMBUS will hear first hand just how they are made through an interesting slide presentation. In cooperation with the two Columbus, Ohio newspapers, The Columbus Dispatch and The Columbus Citizen-Journal, Mr. Terry L. Vassie, Circulation Manager of The Dispatch, and his staff will select the outstanding news carrier from each paper. They will each be awarded \$300 at our annual banquet.

* * *

THE ALGER "FIRST HARDCOVER EDITIONS"
PUBLISHED BY A. L. BURT

By Robert E. Williman

The A. L. Burt Company published five titles in paperback prior to their appearance in hardcover editions. These titles appeared as editions of the Boy's Home Library in the following order: Frank Fowler, Joe's Luck, Tom Temple's Career, Tom Thatcher's Fortune, and The Errand Boy. I have examined several copies of the earliest hardcover editions of these titles that were produced by Burt and have discovered significant differences between volumes of the same title which on first inspection appear to be the same books. I have been able to determine the order of the production of these books and the marks (points) by which each can be identified. The purpose of this article is to "kick-off" further research on this subject as I am quite certain that other variations

besides those which I have been able to examine must exist in other collections. I will welcome additions and corrections to the following information so that I may at a later date write again and more authoritatively on this subject.

With the sole exception of Tom Temple's Career, it appears that these titles' first appearance in hardcover was as a rather deluxe edition, characterized by leaf decorations on both the spine and cover. On the cover appears the head of a boy wearing a cap which appears to be a bellhop's or an old-time sailor's cap without decoration. An interesting fact that I was able to determine is that the earliest editions of all of these titles show a round tuft of hair protruding from under the cap on the left side of the head. I am able to state that if this tuft of hair is not present than the book is not a first hardcover edition, although its presence does not necessarily indicate that it is. Further verification of points is necessary to determine the first hardcover. It is interesting to note that the same boy is illustrated on the true paperback first editions of the Boy's Home Library Series and that the tuft of hair is present in those illustrations. Sometime between 1893 and 1897 the entire cover and spine of these editions were redrawn. The tuft of hair was removed, the shading lines at both sides of the boy's head were changed from cross-hatched lines to parallel lines, and the boy was given a face-lift but now appears less handsome and intelligent. The new drawing was carefully traced from the old, but a close inspection reveals that the entire drawings for both cover and spine were redrawn in their entirety. Several volumes have been inspected which have no cover illustration whatsoever. All of those seen are with the redrawn spine with an additional series of small decorative lines at the bottom of the spine and the addition of the wording, "A. L. BURT NEW YORK" in two lines stamped in gold immediately above. These would be the third format of this edition.

Collins' Corner

By Leonard Collins

Horatio Alger



From time to time we read about the best sellers in literature. The mind goes back to an evening at the Arlington Historical Society when Carl Johnson of the Arlington High School faculty gave a talk on the life and works of Horatio Alger.

Hundreds of kids of yesteryear really thrilled to the lives of Tom the Bootblack, Ragged Dick, Phil the Fiddler, and Dan the Newsboy. They loved reading books like "Do or Dare," "Sink or Swim," "Strive and Succeed," and many, many more.

Johnson spoke about Horatio Alger, and that evening brought back fond memories of the books Alger wrote. Alger was born in Revere and died in Natick. In between, he sold over 200 million copies of his works.

His hero was always a young fellow who started at the bottom of the ladder and finally reached the top by honesty, love of family and hard work. His theory was that a farm boy could be President, a poor boy a millionaire, and a peddler a wealthy merchant through those virtues.

How many boys now grown to manhood remember hiding an Alger book inside the history, geography or English books while doing his homework at the kitchen or dining room table, while mother and dad were reading in the parlor?

One had to be very careful in those days, because there was no radio or television to take up the attention of the "old folks." Many

times the look on Junior's face would tell them that he wasn't interested in the history or geography books.

How one wept when the Squire, also the bank president, was going to foreclose on the poor widow's home because she spurned his proposal of marriage. How one marvelled at Danny, her son, a newsboy and her total support, who jumped into the river and saved the millionaire's son from drowning. Then he received a \$10,000 reward, and rushed to the bank just before it closed, to pay off the mortgage.

Oh, the reader in the dining room was thrilled. And how one hated the sneak thief who stole Tom the Bootblack's shining outfit, and took away the small income that kept his mother and him from going Over the Hill to the Poorhouse.

Then there was Phil the Fiddler who found \$500 and returned it to its rightful owner. He not only received a new violin, but a four-year course in a conservatory in Italy. He returned to America a great musician.

Yes, one guesses Horatio Alger books would be quite "corny" today, but back in those days, they were wonderful. Those long winter evenings they were a great source of joy to that lad out there in the kitchen or dining room doing his homework.

Of course, the marks on the report cards were not quite up to snuff, but the memories of those poor lads in the streets of the Big Cities made a lasting impression on that lad sitting in the kitchen studying.

We mentioned that maybe today those books would be "corny," but only to the youths that have now grown much older. It is a safe bet that the kiddoes today would really love to read some of these great stories, because in most folks there is great happiness in many events that took place when they were youngsters. The "library" out there in the dining room or kitchen has changed, but those students doing their homework would still love to read about those wonderful boys who were the heroes in Alger's books.

HAS member Roy Wendell often sends in to Newsboy clippings that mention Horatio Alger. This recent one is from the November 11, 1982 issue of the Arlington Advocate. (Arlington, Mass. is a suburb of Boston). Thanks, Roy, for your thoughtfulness!

Several techniques were carefully employed to determine the marks of the earliest editions which I was able to examine. Among these were the sequence of addresses used by Burt during this period. These addresses were obtained from the book ads invariably found in these editions. (For the record these were: 1883-88, 162 William St.; 1888-89, 56 Beekman St.; 1889-96, 66 Reade St.; 1896-1900, 97 Reade St.; 1900-10, 52-8 Duane St.). Type wear from each book was also checked as well as the titles of the books advertised. Books advertising the Boy's Home Series were taken to be earlier than those of the same title which advertised the Alger Series For Boys.

Frank Fowler: Found in the leaf decoration format, but more information is needed to determine the marks of the first hardcover. HELP!

Joe's Luck: Earliest copy examined: Burt's address is 66 Reade St. "THE END" is printed after the story on the last page. This was removed in all other copies of this title which were examined. Two pages of book ads: Alger Series For Boys, one page plus another page listing Burt's Home Library but only titles alphabetically A through D. Burt advertises that there are 250 titles in that series in this copy. There were no book ad pages missing from this copy. Round lock of hair protrudes from left side of boy's cap.

Tom Temple's Career: The earliest hardcover printing of this title found is not in the same format as the other four titles. It appears in a rather plain cover with a scrolled band at the top and bottom, blindstamped as well as the title in the center of the cover in two lines. The spine has the title in three lines followed by a line, then ALGER followed by two decorations in gold. The cover is red cloth. The earliest copy of this title seen in the leaf format has the following points: Curl of hair, Burt's address is 66 Reade St., one page of ads in front of book, no ads in back (although it is possible

that some could have been removed from the copy examined). Two stories follow the end of the Alger story, and these are by other authors (Hawthorne and Randolph respectively).

Tom Thatcher's Fortune: Curl of hair, Burt's address is given as 56 Beekman St. One page of books ads in front for Boy's Home Series. Back of book lists two pages of book ads. None of the twenty titles listed are children's books.

The Errand Boy: Curl of hair, ads on back of last page of story for The Alger Series For Boys. Twenty-eight titles listed. Burt's address is given as 66 Reade St. No other ads in this shaken copy, but other pages could have been removed. This copy was inscribed, "December 25, 1893."

While going through the Burt Algers of this cover design I came across a rather interesting volume of Dan the Newsboy. Of several copies examined, I found one which everywhere except on the first page of the story listed the title as Dan the Newsboy. There the title of the story was given as Dan the Detective. (This was the original title of the story as found on the extremely rare first edition).

I would like to thank Ralph Gardner for his help and encouragement in producing the foregoing, as well as Brad Chase for sharing some of the information which he has researched to produce his upcoming work on the Burt Algers.

* * *

An item sent in to Newsboy some months ago is rather interesting. It appeared in Liz Smith's column in the July 30, 1981 New York Daily News and reads: "Shawn Cassidy is looking good for the lead in 'Shine,' the Horatio Alger musical about a shoeshine boy who becomes a kingpin banker in two days. 'He did a terrific audition,' admits producer Terry Allen Kramer." Jerry Friedland reports that he has heard that "Shine" --while not yet produced--has not been scrapped either.

FROM THE EDITOR'S FILES
by Jack Bales

HAS members may be interested in Collectibles Illustrated [Depot Square, Peterborough, NH 03458]. Published by Yankee Publishing Incorporated, a single issue costs \$1.95, and a year's subscription (6 issues) is \$11.50. Jerry Friedland told me about it, and issue #1 (May/June 1982) is especially good, as it contains an article (with color illustrations) on old-time series books for juveniles.

Speaking of reading, check out Publishers for Mass Entertainment in Nineteenth Century America [Edited by Madeleine B. Stern, Boston, G. K. Hall & Co., 1980]. Each chapter covers a different publishing company. Ralph Gardner wrote the chapter on Street and Smith, and Eddie LeBlanc supplied contributors with copies of old periodicals, plus illustrations used in the book.

Donald F. Elder sent in an interesting article from Processing Week. (May 24, 1982 issue). Entitled, "Is Ethic of Enterprise Fading?" it states that "without motivation to work, there's a danger employees will become cynical." Horatio Alger is mentioned near the beginning.

From Gary Scharnhorst: "You may want to mention that the Theodore Fontane poem 'John Maynard' is not a translation of Horatio Alger's, but an adaptation, like Alger's from John B. Gough's 'The Pilot.' [See March-April 1982 Newsboy]. Interested readers may note, simply enough, that both Gough's essay and Fontane's poem (line 10) mention that the ship sailed from Detroit to Buffalo --and Alger's poem does not mention this route."

Harry Lane sent in a long article from the Mobile, Alabama newspaper. "Horatio Alger Still Inspires Mobile Book Collector" centers on Harry and his Alger collection. It starts out: "In 1908, when he was 11 years old, Harry Lane received a copy of Horatio

Alger, Jr.'s The Young Salesman as a Christmas present. He read the book, liked it--Alger's works were enormously popular with the young boys of their day--and began trading and collecting Alger's works. Eventually he gave up that first collection, but in 1945 he took it up again. 'They brought back memories of when I was a boy.'"

"Dean Collects Children's Books" is the title of an article from The Daily Press [Utica, N.Y., Oct. 23, 1982]. Focusing on HAS member Jack Dizer's book collection, one sentence reads: "Dizer now has between 6,000 and 7,000 volumes in his collection, including complete sets of Tom Swift, the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, the Bobbsey Twins and the Rover Boys, among others." Dr. Dizer is the Dean of Technology and Business at Mohawk Valley Community College, and is the author of Tom Swift and Company, which was recently reviewed in Newsboy.

A couple months ago I ran into the editor of The Henty Society Bulletin here in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dennis Butts, from England, was vacationing here, and we met at a party. He had heard of the Newsboy, and we spent many hours talking about boys' books. If you're interested in Henty, write Roy Henty, Secretary, The Henty Society, 60 Painswick Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

Evelyn Grebel sent in a clipping from the Abilene, Texas local paper. A picture of a 24-year-old newspaper girl selling papers dominates the article, which tells how she "has been selling papers at the South First and Treadaway intersection since she was 11 years old. She saves the money she earns throughout the summer to buy her own school clothes."

Brad Chase recently saw this book: Horatio Alger's Children: The Role of the Family in the Origin and Prevention of Drug Risk. [By Richard Blum, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1972]. It has nothing about Alger in it, of course.

Bob Williman recently wrote an article for First Days, the Journal of the American First Day Cover Society. Called "The Gill Craft Error Cachet," the article details how a first day cover manufacturer used a picture of Amos Cheney on a first day cover, and not a picture of Alger. (The reference set, the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of World Biography, found in most libraries, is responsible for the mistake, as the article on Alger in it features a picture of Cheney). Bob's article is from the August 15, 1982 issue.

Irene Gurman, a lifelong collector of material about George Custer, was mentioned in a new bibliography on Custer called Custer Lives, by James Dowd. It lists 3,114 Custer items, and on page 7 the author writes in acknowledgement: "Irene Gurman, researcher-scholar, formerly of Royal Oak, Michigan. Without Irene's files to work from, this bibliography would have been nigh impossible." Congratulations, Irene!

GIL WESTGARD MEETS FRANK GRUBER. In a recent phone conversation, Gil reported that he drove into a muffler shop to get his muffler replaced, and saw the owner's name on a sign. It was Frank Gruber. When he casually asked the owner if he were any relation to the Alger Gruber, the man replied, "He was my father." Gil said that, just to be sure, he asked him about his father's bibliography. "Oh," he said, "you mean that little paperback, gold or yellow colored, wasn't it?" Gil then asked where his father's collection was (we have all heard many stories concerning it--one of which is that a plane came in the dead of night to whisk it away). Gruber said that the collection now is in the hands of his father's widow.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Hicks reports that her husband, Julian Hicks, died on Sept. 27, 1981. She said that her husband "was very much an Alger lover. Read them in his childhood and in later years." Condolences are expressed to her and their family.

1983

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John T. Dizer, Ph.D., is head of the Mechanical Technology Department at Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, N.Y. A collector of juvenile books, he has written numerous articles on them for *Dime Novel Round-Up* and other publications.



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Interested in The Rover Boys? Don't miss the October 1982 issue of the Dime Novel Round-Up, now in its 51st year of publication. "The Publication History of The Rover Boys" is the cover story of this issue. Write HAS member Eddie LeBlanc at 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Cost is \$10.00 per year (6 issues).

The 10th issue of The Mystery & Adventure Series Review has a new, cleaner look. This issue delves into the Troy Nesbit Books and also the Hugh McAlister stories. Published quarterly, the subscription cost is \$5.00. Write Fred Woodworth, P.O. Box 3468, Tucson, Arizona 85722. Make checks payable to L. M. Wood.

Ken Butler sent in a book ad from The Wall Street Journal. In a plug for The Cox Report on the American Corporation (by Allan Cox, Delacorte Press), the ad asks: "In the American Corporation of the 1980s, what chance does Horatio Alger stand against a Harvard M.B.A.?" In smaller letters there is: "A surprisingly good one. Today's executives are living proof of the kind of social mobility and economic advancement the Alger stories of aspiration are all about."

Carl Hartmann read an intriguing clipping from the August 3, 1981 Lansing State Journal (Michigan). Titled, "Hardy Boys Mix With Scholars," it discusses the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection at Michigan State University--home to 12,000 comic books, 2,000 Harlequin romances, 3,500 western novels and thousands of other printed items, including children's books by Horatio Alger and other authors.

Don't forget--next May's convention dates are May 5-8, 1983. Hosted by Bob Sawyer in Columbus, Ohio, this convention may break all attendance records. See you there!!



A room in Jerry Friedland's house showing some of the hundreds of "nostalgia items" in his collection.