

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

Volume XXIII

July-August 1984

Numbers 1-2



A "maximum card" (see July-August 1984 Newsboy, page 5), bearing the first day of issue cancellations of both the 1952 Newspaper Boys stamp and the 1982 Horatio Alger stamp. (From the collection of Jack Bales).

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 bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$15.00, with single issues costing \$3.00. Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address, and other correspondence should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

The Society recognizes Bob Bennett's Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography, as the most current, definitive authority on Alger's works.

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; half page, \$17.00; quarter page, \$9.00; per column (1" x 3-3/4"), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, to Bob Sawyer, 204 Mill St., Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-294 Thomas A. Bayless
331 N. Old Ranch Rd.
Arcadia, Calif. 91006

Thomas--a member from years ago--has rejoined the Society.

PF-726 Donald E. Morton
R. R. 2, Box 118
Brook, Indiana 47922

Donald, owner of 69 Algers, is interested in "everything" about Alger, and enjoys hunting, coins, books, iron banks, guns, "and so on." Rohima Walter told him of the Society.

PF-727 Albert E. Little
320 Washington Ave.
Colonial Beach, VA 22443

Albert writes that his hobbies--besides Alger--include "reading and traveling whenever the opportunity arises. I am smitten with Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado." 35 Alger titles are in his collection, and he also notes that he is "interested in the old telephone pole glass insulators of any color other than the usual green, blue, or clear glass."

PF-728 J. Seaford Brandy
1350 5th St., Suite 206
Yuma, Arizona 85364

J. Seaford, who is legally blind, is interested in recordings of Alger's books, and would like to collect books for his grandson in England. He is studying amateur radio and enjoys listening to classical music.

PF-729 Mrs. Pat Browne
Popular Press Popular Culture
Center
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

PF-730 Fred A. Goulden
116 Gates
Palmyra, New York 14522

Fred has over 70 Algers, and has a fascinating interest--at one time he

trained parakeets for bird acts! (He's now retired from the business). Fred learned of HAS from a book dealer member.

PF-732 Sherwood E. Moore
2120 Northeast 21st St.
Fort Lauderdale, FLA 33305

* * *

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 August-September 1982 "Book Mart" for criteria in determining condition of books. Please list title, publisher, condition, and price. If book for sale is a first edition, give bibliography used to determine same. (To determine condition of book, see also criteria noted in "Dick Seddon Alger Collection" insert in March-April 1984 Newsboy).

Offered by William Russell, 240 E. County Line Rd., Hatboro, Penn. 19040.

Out for Business	G&D	Vg	\$15.00
Jerry, Backwoods Boy	G&D	Vg	\$15.00
Andy Grant's Pluck	Donohue	Vg	2.00

(large deluxe edition)

Offered by Bob Sawyer, 204 Mill St., Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Tel.: 614-471-9963. Send \$1.00 postage for anything under \$10.00.

Young Explorer (dark blue sports cover)	HTC	G	\$8.00
Bob Burton (format 3-B)	Winston	G	4.00
Mark the Match Boy	P&C	G	15.00
Joe the Hotel Boy (not a first edition)	C&L	G	20.00
The Western Boy	T&T	G	15.00
Shifting for Himself (Alger series paperback, no back cover)	S&S	F	3.00

NOTE: Mark the Match Boy has dark brown leaves and berries on the cover.

Abbreviations: HTC = H.T. Coates, P&C = Porter & Coates, T&T = Thompson & Thomas, S&S = Street and Smith.

HORATIO ALGER, JR.: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COMMENT AND CRITICISM

Supplement II

by Jack Bales and Gary Scharnhorst
1984

In the months following the publication of the first supplement to our bibliography [See March-April 1983 Newsboy, page 4], we have located additional items that have significantly aided us in our research into the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr. Thus, keeping with our policy of publishing all information relating to Alger that we find, this second supplement to Horatio Alger, Jr. was compiled. Arrangement is similar to the parent volume, and it includes material published prior to January 1984. [Our bibliography was published by Scarecrow Press of Metuchen, N.J. several years ago. For copies send \$11.00 per book to Carl Hartmann, Secretary, Horatio Alger Society, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910. Make checks payable to Horatio Alger Society].

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HA	Horatio Alger, Jr.
<u>N</u>	<u>Newsboy</u> , Horatio Alger Society publication

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I. REVIEWS OF ALGER BOOKS

1856

1. "Our Book-Table. Literary Notices," rev. of Bertha's Christmas Vision, Yankee Blade, 5 January 1856, p. 3.

Brief notice of publication. "The volume is tastefully got up, and would form a most acceptable Christmas present for the young."

1880

2. "Record of Publications," rev. of The Young Explorer, Tony the Hero, Making His Way, and Robert Coverdale, Harvard Register, 2 Dec. 1880, p. 245.

Listing of publications of graduates of Harvard College.

II. REVIEWS OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES

1982

3. Philip B. Eppard. Rev. of Horatio Alger, Jr. by Bennett, The Papers of the Bibliographic Society of America, 76 (Third Quarter, 1982), 364-366.

Extols bibliography. "Bob Bennett, a devotee with one of the finest Alger collections, [has] made an important bibliographic contribution to Alger scholarship. Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography clearly surpasses the earlier bibliographic work of Ralph D. Gardner, which has for many years been considered standard by Alger collectors."

1983

4. Kermit Vanderbilt. Rev. of Horatio Alger, Jr. by Scharnhorst and Bales, American Literary Scholarship 1981, ed. by James Woodress. Durham: Duke University Press, 1983, p. 210.

Brief notice of publication, referring to the bibliography as a "new contribution to our appreciation of Horatio Alger, Jr."

III. LITERARY ANALYSES IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS

1979

5. Bruce A. Lohof. "Alger, Horatio

(Jr.)." In Novelists and Prose Writers, volume 2 of Great Writers of the English Language. James Vinson, editor. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979, pp. 32-36.

Incomplete listing of HA's works with brief, inaccurate biographical sketch.

1983

6. Gary Scharnhorst. "Biographical Blindspots: The Case of the Cousins Alger," Biography, 6 (Spring 1983), 136-147.

Summarizes the lives and careers of HA and his cousin, William Rounseville Alger, observing that little is known about either person. "Yet what happens when little or nothing can be learned about the private life of a historical figure . . . ? In the mirror of historical hindsight, the life of such a figure may be severely distorted or hidden entirely in a biographical blindspot."

IV. SELECTED ARTICLES IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

1982

7. Randolph Brandt. "Writer's Legacy Lives On," Atlantic City, N.J. Sunday Press, 16 May 1982.

Briefly sketches HA's life and philosophy. Interviews members of Alger Society at 1982 convention.

Reprinted in N, 21 (May-June 1983), 8-10. See also letter to editor in same issue, pp. 2-3.

8. Leonard Collins. "Horatio Alger," Arlington, Mass. Advocate, 11 Nov. 1982.

Nostalgically recalls the popularity of HA's books. Predicts that "it is a safe bet that the kiddoes today would really love to read some of these good stories."

Reprinted in N, 21 (Jan.-Feb. 1983), 8.

1983

9. Michael Burgan. "Governing by

July-August

Myth." The Hartford [Conn.] Courant, 4 Jan. 1983, p. A11.

Criticizes HA's philosophy and compares it with Ronald Reagan's administration. ". . . a society that clings to the Alger myth, and a president who governs by it, distorts its own past, conceals the present truth and seems incapable of offering a better future for its dispossessed."

V. ARTICLES IN HOBBY AND COLLECTORS' MAGAZINES

1983

10. Jack Bales. Newsboy Book Review, "N, 21 (Jan.-Feb. 1983), 5-6.

Reviews Stratemeyer Pseudonyms and Series Books by Deidre Johnson [Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982], and briefly comments on HA's literary relationship with Stratemeyer.

11. Robert E. Williman. "The Alger 'First Hardcover Editions' published by A. L. Burt," N, 21 (Jan.-Feb. 1983), 7, 9.

Analyzes five titles by HA published by A.L. Burt Co., discussing the "significant differences between volumes of the same title which on first inspection appear to be the same books."

12. Gary Scharnhorst. "Alger's Contributions to the Boston American Union," N, 21 (March-April 1983), 19.

Lists newly discovered short stories by HA, originally appearing in American Union, noting that five of the six stories were written under the Carl Cantab pseudonym.

Note by Peter Walther on pp. 23-24 of same issue offers additional data.

13. Gary Scharnhorst. "Alger's Contributions to the Boston True Flag," N, 21 (March-April 1983), 20-23.

Lists ninety newly discovered poems and short stories by HA originally appearing in True Flag. Majority were written under HA pseudonym, Carl Cantab.

14. Robert Reed. "Horatio Alger Society Appealing Collector Club,"

Tri-State Trader, 2 April 1983, p. 2.

Praises HA Society and its publication, Newsboy.

Reprinted with letter to the editor in N, 22 (July-August 1983), 5.

15. Bob Bennett. "Alger Stories Found in Several Michigan Weekly Newspapers," N, 21 (May-June 1983), 21-23.

After searching through files of 55 Michigan newspapers, "I discovered fourteen different [HA] stories and thirty-two separate appearances in seven newspapers."

16. Bob Bennett. "Anonymous and Pseudonymous Writings of Horatio Alger, Jr.," N, 21 (May-June 1983), 4-5.

A "listing of the various ways [HA's] material was signed other than with his full name."

17. Bob Bennett. "Carl Cantab Story Found in Gleason's Monthly Companion," N, 21 (May-June 1983), 21.

Brief notice of discovery of new HA story, written under pseudonym.

18. Gary Scharnhorst. "Alger and Falling in With Fortune," N, 21 (May-June 1983), 5.

Offers evidence that "Alger may have written a part of another of the so-called 'Stratemeyer Algiers,' in this case Falling in With Fortune."

See also item 20.

19. Rev. Robert D. Eastlack. "Printings of New York Book Co. Algiers," N, 21 (May-June 1983), 5-7, 11-13.

Discusses the various editions of the HA novels published by New York Book Co.

20. Gary Scharnhorst. "Alger and Falling in With Fortune: Part 2," N, 22 (July-August 1983), 12.

Offers additional evidence that Edward Stratemeyer divided a 200 page HA manuscript in two parts, "publishing the first 124 pages in the opening chapters of Out For Business and reserving the latter 75 or so pages for the sequel Falling in With Fortune."

See also item 18.

21. Jack Bales. "Strive and Succeed: Horatio Alger, Jr. and His Times," The Henty Society Bulletin, 4 (Sept. 1983), 5-14.

Biographical sketch of HA, coupled with material on Herbert R. Mayes' hoax.

VI. MISCELLANEA

A. Biographical Sources

1864

22. Order of Services at the Ordination of Mr. Horatio Alger, Jr., As Pastor of the Unitarian Church and Society, in Brewster,

Copy of "program" gives details of HA's ordination.

Reprinted in N, 22 (July-Aug. 1983), 1, 11.

1983

23. "Merry Christmas!: Little Boy Meets Author," N, 22 (Nov.-Dec. 1983), 10.

Reprinted recollections of how a small boy "spent a charmed evening in the company of Horatio Alger, Jr., the pioneer publicity agent of boyhood."

Originally appeared in My New York by George Steele Seymour [date unknown].

B. Dramatizations and Reviews

1982

24. Ileana Rudolph and Joseph Finnigan. "TV Teletype," TV Guide, 4-10 Dec. 1982, p. 70.

"ABC is turning to the works of Horatio Alger . . . to offer inspiration to the young viewers of its Weekend Specials." Reports that an adaptation of Frank and Fearless will be broadcasted on February 12 and February 19, 1983.

Reprinted in N, 22 (July-Aug. 1983), 15, along with two TV Guide listings concerning each episode.

1983

25. Robert Merritt. "Creating 'Shine' Was Group Effort," Richmond, VA Times Dispatch, 2 Oct. 1983, p. 1, 15.

Details how "Shine," the "Horatio Alger Musical," was created and how the four creators "came to know the man whose name is synonymous with the American Dream."

Reprinted in N, 22 (Nov.-Dec. 1983), 1, 12-13.

C. Major Literary Allusions

26. Clarence Day. Life With Mother, in The Best of Clarence Day. New York: Knopf, 1948, p. 260.

Details childhood relationships with family members and describes his boyhood. "I had heard a good deal about a writer named Horatio Alger who wrote books for boys. . . . The boys Alger introduced me to were level-headed youngsters, not dreamers, and they seemed to be right on my level, or not much above it. They were manly, but in a sensible way; . . ."

1969

27. "Burger, Warren (Earl)." Current Biography Yearbook 1969. New York: H. W. Wilson Co., 1969, p. 62.

Biographical sketch of Supreme Court Chief Justice. "Growing up in modest circumstances, Burger devoured the juvenile rags-to-riches stories of Horatio Alger and began delivering newspapers at the age of nine to help out with the family finances."

1983

28. Amy Wallace and Jerry Griswold. "What Famous People Read," Parade Magazine, 13 March 1983, p. 21.

A collection of famous Americans' comments on what they read as children. "Gerald Ford and Reagan shared a liking for the rags-to-riches sagas by Horatio Alger. 'The books I recall making a deep impression on me,' says Ford, 'were the Horatio Alger series.' Love of reading not only leads to adventure, Ford concludes, but also 'unlocks the doors to business success.'"

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor are welcome and will be considered for publication, but may be edited or condensed due to space limitations.

2019 S. E. 8th St.
Des Moines, IA 50315
Feb. 9, 1984

Dear Jack,

Enclosing a possible item for Newsboy. Appeared in #52, "Boy Impersonations," by Stanley Schell, Werner's Readings and Recitations, Edgar S. Werner Co., New York, 1913, p. 59.

By pure accident I found it on the reference shelf of the Des Moines main library. Sorry I couldn't send you a better copy, but the machine there is less than excellent and they wouldn't let me check the book out.

Anyway, the recitation sounded so much like an Alger piece that I thought it might be of interest.

Nothing extraordinary in the book collecting game happening here.

Hope you are well,

Gil O'Gara

ONLY A NEWSBOY

[From Werner's Readings and Recitations]

(Boy costumed as ragged newsboy with bundle of papers under arm).

Right, I'm only a newsboy! My father lived and died a gentleman, and it isn't his fault that I'm selling papers today. He endorsed a friend's note, and had it to pay, and father had to sell his big house, and all the grand furniture and silver, and the carriage and two beautiful horses, and my dear little pony, and had to pay all his money in the bank besides.

We moved to a little wooden house, and father sold his diamond-studs and ring for money to live on till he could get employment. Would you believe it, he walked the big city over for I don't know how many weeks, and never got a bit of work? You see, he was brought up a gentleman, and knew no trade, and everybody that had any use for a clerk, or secretary, or agent, or tutor, had one.

And although father couldn't count all his friends when he was rich, he actually didn't have one after he was poor! You'd have thought he was a criminal, the way they'd cross on the other side when they saw him coming.

Well, father wouldn't let mother or sister try to do anything, and kept me at school, so that the money didn't last long. He was taken very ill--with a broken heart, mother says. He was ill so long, that, when he died, all of mother's and sister's beautiful jewelry was gone; and it took what pictures and such things as they'd saved to bury him. I came home from school, and we all went to work in good earnest.

Happy with a patched coat and shoes? Well, yes. Clothes don't make a boy happy; they make him warm. I've pretty good luck selling papers, and when I go home there's always a smile and welcome from two dear ones that I wouldn't vex for all the world. You needn't sneer at me as "only a newsboy," for I'm too happy to feel it. Paper sir? Here you are, sir. [Runs after supposititious customer].

Box 161
405 10th Ave.
Baraboo, Wis. 53913
April 5, 1984

Dear Jack,

This is a very sad time for me and our family. Herb had a long illness. Though he said he never had any pain, for which we were grateful, he gradually became weaker and weaker.

He spoke often of his Alger friends. We spent hours and hours reminiscing. You know how close to his heart was the Horatio Alger Society. And how we enjoyed the meetings we were able to attend--right from the first one. The

HERBERT LYLE RISTEEN

Herbert Lyle Risteen, age 84, died in Baraboo on March 26, 1984.

Mr. Risteen was born December 9, 1899, at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, son of Walter and Anna Risteen. He graduated from Chippewa Falls High School, attended Eau Claire State College, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and graduated with a B.A. degree from Lawrence in 1923. He was also a veteran of World War I. Following his marriage in 1924 to the former Esther C. Olson of Eau Claire, Mr. Risteen was a high school history and Latin instructor. From 1930 to 1964, he was an employee of the Department of Taxation, State of Wisconsin. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, The Fortnightly Literary Club, and the Sauk County and Wisconsin Historical Societies. During World War II, Mr. Risteen served as secretary of the Sauk County Rationing Board. He was also a member of the Baraboo Board of Education for 15 years, four of them as president. In addition, Mr. Risteen was a member of CESA 12 from 1965 to 1971; two of these years as president. Mr. Risteen was the author of six works of historical fiction for boys; books with titles such as "Indian Silver," "Black Hawk's Warpath," "Chippewa Captive" and "Tomahawk Trail." He was also a collector of boys' books, and a charter member of the Horatio Alger Society of America. Nationally known as a crossword puzzle constructor, Mr. Risteen was a regular contributor to the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Simon and Schuster, Pocket Books, and numerous puzzle magazines, having published over 6,000 puzzles during his lifetime. Survivors include his wife, Esther, in Baraboo; a son, Landon, of Chicago; and two daughters, Mrs. Henry Gordon (Eleanor) of Evanston, Illinois, and Mrs. Edward R. Hasselkus (Betty) of Madison. Mr. Risteen is also survived by eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a brother, Dr. W.A. Risteen of Chippewa Falls.

Services for Mr. Risteen will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Baraboo with the Reverend Dr. Ruwal Freese officiating Wednesday, March 28, 1984 at 11 a.m. Graveside services will be conducted at 4 p.m. at Forest Hill Cemetery in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

last one was with you in Jacksonville. Herb was always delighted when Newsboy came.

Most sincerely, Jack,

Esther Risteen

4310 Leisure Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
April 5, 1984

Dear Jack,

Thank you for the special issue of the Newsboy honoring Forrest. A very wonderful way to remember him.

In the next Newsboy will you please express my thanks to all who wrote the beautiful tributes to Forrest. He so enjoyed corresponding with so many who shared his joy in everything Alger. He never tired of searching out new ways to express his interest, which in turn led to further interests, one of which was the study of early New York, as it pertained to Alger and the Alger stories. It always seemed that all was well with Forrest's world when I could hear the tyewriter, and I'm so thankful he was able to stay with it as long as he did, even during severe health challenges. The very last he wrote was a dear little story for our great granddaughter's Christmas gift, only a few days before he went to the hospital. Our family and I miss him terribly, he was a wonderful, caring man always, and I'm so glad the Alger Society goes on for the enjoyment of so many others. I keep remembering that enthusiastic meeting at our home when Forrest and Ken Butler started it. If I'd known that day how it would grow, I'd have taken a picture of them; Ken was sitting on the floor beside the bookcases -- they were so enjoying the plans they had for the society.

Sincerely,

Rachel Campbell

* * *
I came upon a bookdealer's catalog recently [R. & A. Petrilla, Box 306, Roosevelt, NJ 08555]. The very first item listed was a first edition of Alger's Rufus and Rose ("Green cloth, blind-stamped; gilt spine titles; slightly cocked.") The price asked for the book was \$50.00. (No other Algers were listed).
* * *

July-August

THE LOST LIFE OF HORATIO ALGER, JR.
by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales

So reads the title page of the latest Alger biography, to be published early next year by Indiana University Press. Exhaustively researched and copiously footnoted, it reflects the objective we made for ourselves right from the beginning: to compile, once and for all, the true story of Alger's life. As is pointed out in the preface: "Every clue in what may be fairly deemed a complicated missing-person case has been painstakingly pursued. . . . We scanned hundreds of reels of microfilm, searching for overlooked contributions from [Alger's] pen or for his name on published passenger lists and hotel registers. Of course we wrote hundreds of letters of inquiry over the years. The preparation of this biography has been nothing less than a labor of love. It was undertaken to set straight the record of a lost life."

Further details concerning the availability of this volume--which will contain photos never before published, including one taken at Alger's funeral--will appear in future issues of Newsboy. Though numerous individuals have aided us in our research over the years, perhaps our biggest debt is acknowledged on the dedication page:

To Herbert R. Mayes,
who urged us to set the record straight.

* * *

CATCHING A SCHOOLMASTER ASLEEP
by Carl Cantab

(Editor's note: As reported in the October-November 1982 Newsboy, Gary Scharnhorst discovered this Alger story--written under the Carl Cantab pseudonym--in the June 3, 1854 issue of the Yankee Blade, p. 2. Gary discovered thirteen Alger stories in all, and additional ones will be reprinted in subsequent issues of Newsboy).

Master T----- was a schoolmaster of the old regime. We don't have such in these days, of modern improvement or

degeneracy, which shall I call it?

The Master ----- it seems most natural to call him by that name, had adopted his profession as a young man, and forty successive victims devoted to the occupation had first silvered his hair, and then thinned it so that for a long time he had been obliged to call in art to the assistance of Nature, in other words, don a wig.

With Master T----- birch was a sovereign remedy for all the ills that all school boys are heirs to--a sort of panacea which like Russia Salve was applicable to an infinity of diseases.--The boys were not quite of the same mind--the remedy, was in their eyes, infinitely worse than the disease in its most aggravated form.

In the long summer afternoons, the little school-house where Master T----- bore away, would oftentimes grow intolerably hot, which would produce a sleepy feeling in both teacher and scholars. As for the teacher, he struggled against it, and the scholars, they had the alternative of struggling against that, or a stout birch well applied--they found it most politic to select the former.

One afternoon, however, even Master T----- who had despatched a heartier dinner than usual, after several ineffectual efforts to arouse himself, sank gently into the Land of Dreams.

Strangely enough, all the scholars were wide awake. When an audible snore from Master T----- testified that he was fast asleep, they rose silently from their seats, and tried to devise some method of best taking advantage of this stroke of good luck.

Finally it occurred to them to take from out a closet, a skull which they knew was kept therein. This they placed on the master's desk, and, gently removing his wig from his head, crowned the skull with it.

They next passed a small string round the chair--closely tying the master to it; then proceeding to the doors, walked silently away.

Master T----- woke up, perhaps half an hour afterwards. Mechanically raising his hand to his head, he found it

bare--looking around him in bewilderment, he beheld only rows of vacant seats. Returning from the survey, his eye rested upon the skull grinning at him. He snatched the wig from it, and in the act, loosened a paper containing the following words:

Here soundly sleeps good Master
T-----

We hope that nothing may awake
him,
And if he should'nt wake at all,
It's very clear who then will
take him.

"Is it possible I've been asleep," exclaimed Master T----- in astonishment, at the same time rising suddenly, and not being aware of the cord that bound him to the chair, it rolled over with him.

How he finally succeeded in extricating himself, is'nt known. That he did, however, is well ascertained, and as for going to sleep again in school --"catch a weazel asleep" if you can.

* * *

NOTES FROM RALPH
by Ralph D. Gardner

I'd like to pass along a suggestion for future convention hosts. I've noticed for some time that our "book sale"--as it now exists--is getting out-of-date. Anything really good is gone the first day, before the scheduled book sale. Then, many members who attend already have just about all the Algers that are being offered. However, I do think it could still be an exciting event if there is ample advance publicity (in the convention area) to bring in the public who may want to buy some of these books, and--especially--to get local booksellers to come in and offer their stock. I believe a lot of local dealers would come if they knew there is no charge for their participation, a table will be provided free, and they can make very good contacts (and that the whole event just lasts a couple of hours, so they really wouldn't lose much time away from their regular business).

Also, some publicity effort should be made to persuade local people to search through their attics and bookshelves and to bring to our book sale items they think our members could use. I'm afraid our past couple of book sales have been disappointing, with decreasing buying interest, little activity, and some of those who offered books taking home almost as many as they brought along.

On the other hand, new members, just starting their Alger collections, could really find a lot of needed titles here at very low cost. It would be good to get some input and suggestions from other members, especially those who, each year, display cartons filled with goodies for those who can use these great books.

* * *

ALGER BANNED IN WORCESTER, MASS.

(Editor's note: Gary Scharnhorst recently discovered newspaper articles focusing on the famous 1907 "Alger book banning" that took place in the Worcester, Massachusetts Public Library. In a letter, Gary also noted that S. N. Behrman's introduction to Strive and Succeed: Two Novels by Horatio Alger briefly mentions this controversy. The appropriate section--along with the newspaper articles--are reprinted below, with Behrman first).

When I was a boy in Worcester, Massachusetts, I read Alger as omnivorously as Ford and Eastman and the others did, with, alas, less flourishing results. I read them for excitement, encouragement, and fun. I took an Alger a day from the Worcester Public Library. I read Alger and Shakespeare indiscriminately; I was steeped in both. It was not at all a bad combination; both were alluring with beckoning visions of Eldorado--Alger's surely much closer to home.

I thought I'd read all of them but now that I discover that he was more productive even than Georges Simenon is, I realize that I couldn't have. Since

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the Algers disappeared from the Worcester Public Library by 1907, I must have gobbled them all before I was fourteen. The Algers disappeared, not by edict, but by passive resistance on the part of the librarians, or, possibly, atrophy of demand. There was a storm of protest in Worcester about the unavailability of the Algers, not by the young, who had picked up other favorites, but by irate oldsters. A stormy article appeared in the Worcester Gazette on August 10, 1907, headed: DEMAND RETURN OF BOYS' BOOKS: SOME DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DIDN'T KNOW POPULAR VOLUMES WERE BEING THROWN IN WASTE HEAP.

The Gazette reporter interviewed an elderly adolescent who, evidently, had in his youth been imbued with the immaculate Algerian morality:

"One man, who is the father of a family of husky youngsters told the reporter he would breathe easier about the morals of his boys, who are frequenters of the library, if the works of Balzac, Boccaccio and a lot of others he could name were thrown out and their places filled with extra sets of the works of Alger and Optic."

The librarians, with vocational stubbornness, did not make the replacement. They permitted Balzac and Boccaccio to hang on.

(The following article is from page 1 of the August 8, 1907 issue of the Worcester, Massachusetts Evening Gazette. Its heading is "Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger Must Go From Library").

The good old stories of Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger have been barred from the shelves of the Worcester public library. This, by edict of the executive force of the institution, who claim they have this right.

The boys' stories are not "thrown out," as it would look, although there are few of the works of either author

left there. But as fast as the old books are worn out they are discarded and no new ones are bought to fill their places.

This announcement comes as a sort of shock to the "old" boys who grew up on a diet of Alger, Optic and others of a like nature and have managed to keep the pot boiling in spite of the fact that their heads were filled with the thrilling tales of travel.

The Assistant Librarian, Robert K. Shaw of the Worcester library said today that the reasons for ousting the old reliables from the library was not a revolutionary one, but was simply because the stories were old, and that newer ones were on hand to fill their places.

Then the statement was made that the Alger and Optic books were not just the kind boys should read, that they gave them wrong impressions and led them to desire careers of adventure.

While the act of putting out these books might lead one to believe the library force was trying to establish a city of molycoddles [sic] the facts are that such books as "Bob Hampton of Placer" and countless other "red hot" wild-west stories are kept, are secured as soon as published and that pasters are on them calling attention to the fact that the books must be returned in one week, indicating the large demand for this sort of reading.

When a Gazette reporter called at the library this morning to ask about the matter, he was told that the act of cutting Alger and Optic from the list was not a drive at the books, but was simply a matter of letting the books die out and replacing them with better story books for boys. It was then said that it was not only the purpose of the library to kill out all the bad, but to fill up with the good and that while boys in general might not have been hurt by reading these books, there were other books that would do them more good.

Some of the trustees of the library have just heard of the matter and say they will have to think it over. One of them said, emphatically, that these good old books would never be taken from the shelves of the library as long as he could prevent it.

Most of the trustees of the library are out of the city and could not be seen today, others said they had not heard of the matter, but would look into it.

 (Following is an editorial from the Worcester Evening Gazette, appearing on page 4 of the August 9, 1907 issue).

ALGER AND OPTIC

There are many who will dispute the opinion that "Tattered Tom," "Ragged Dick" and other books and heroes of Horatio Alger and Oliver Optic are too exciting and unfit for youngsters to read. The disputants will be the youngsters and some of the older "boys" whose education in fiction a few days ago consisted mainly in reading these very books. There are many successful business men, lawyers, physicians who can look back to the days when they enjoyed the tales of young America. Exciting these tales surely were but few of them were of the blood and thunder variety. Many of them told stories of lads who succeeded against great odds. Mainly the heroes were boys, "poor, but honest," who had adventure[s] which to the young reader were indeed wonderful and thrilling. There were few heroes who finally did not reach success through perseverance and pluck. They were books which combined interesting reading with little lessons of honesty and courage. If there is any American reader of Alger and Optic who can look back and truthfully say that his mind was unduly inflamed and his ideas of right living twisted by these stories the trustees of all the libraries in the country are welcome to clean them out. It is doubtful if such a one can be found.

(The following article is from page 1 of the August 10, 1907 Worcester Evening Gazette. Its bold heading is: "Demand Return of Boys' Books: Some Directors of Public Library Didn't Know Popular Volumes Were Being Thrown in Waste Heap").

Public sentiment as indicated by interviews with scores of well-known men of the city since the news came out that the books of Oliver Optic and Horatio Alger were to be blacklisted by the executive force of the library, in what these citizens choose to term a very high-handed way, leads to the belief that the books will be called for and unless produced the matter will be taken to the trustees for action.

First the statement is made by the defenders of the books that Horatio Alger was a minister, a graduate of the Harvard Divinity school, and that he spent a great portion of his life in New York, where he labored for the improvement of the condition and morals of the street boys, and that his books were all written with a similar object in view.

Oliver Optic, the pen name for William Taylor Adams, was another good man, interested in the general welfare of boys. He was a teacher in the Boston schools for 20 years, a member of the school committee of Dorchester and a member of the Legislature. He wrote more than 100 boys' books, every one of them filled with good, healthy, educational matter framed with the sort of red-blood conditions that made the average boy read the whole, getting the good solids while absorbing the trivial. No case is recorded where any boy in the land ever went bad from reading the works of either of these actually famous authors. Alger's books are of the same general type as the others.

A canvass by a reporter of the Gazette revealed the fact that only one in all the number he saw had not been a reader and an admirer of both authors. Prominent men, including members of the

board of trustees of the library, denounce the sentiment that prompted the ban being placed on those books and say the books shall be returned to the shelves for those to read who so desire. Such books as "The Boat Club," "Young America Abroad," "The Starry Find," "Onward and Upward," by Optic, "Luck and Pluck," "Ragged Dick" and "Tattered Tom," by Alger, dear to the memory of thousands of grownup American boys today, must have some good in them to have been so popular.

Henry D. Parker, a lawyer, once a senator and at present a member of the board of directors of the library, said today he had a talk with Librarian Green some years ago about these books being taken from the library, as he did not believe them the sort sort for boys to read. He said he never allowed his children to read them and they gave boys the wrong impression of life.

More than 100 men who have some prominence in the city have been asked the question, "Do you think the Alger and Optic books should be left in the library for circulation among the boys and others of the city, or should they be thrown out?" Every single one has said "Leave them!" or words to that effect.

The only members of the board of directors of the library seen by the reporter, the rest being away from the city, are Ex-Alderman Charles T. Tattman, and he said, "Those books will never be taken from the library if I can prevent it." Dr. A. C. N. Peterson, another director, said: "What right have the people in the library to do this? I will make it my business to probe this matter and see whether the boys are to be robbed of this good reading or not." Charles R. Johnson, a director, said he is not acquainted with the situation, but will look into it before he makes any statement. Alexander Belisle, a director, said: "I have three sons who graduated from college and they read the books. I did not, but I will ask my sons what

they think of the matter."

In City hall, the heads of departments generally quoted President Roosevelt as deep as "mollycoddle" when the subject was mentioned, and some of them said they would be willing to wager that the strenuous "Teddy" himself was brought up on a good deal of Alger, Optic, Castleman and like books. One man who is the father of a family of husky youngsters told the reporter he would breathe easier about the morals of his boys, who are frequenters of the library, if the works of Balzac, Bocaccio and a lot of others he could name were thrown out and their places filled with extra sets of the works of Alger and Optic.

The Gazette will gladly print all communications, whether for or against the retention of the books in the library. It is a fact that Sunday school libraries all over the country keep these books for the edification of the children.

 ("Likes Optic and Alger" precedes a letter to the editor appearing on page 1 of the August 11, 1907 issue of the Worcester Evening Gazette).

To the Editor of the Gazette:--

Sir:--The "Demand Return" of Alger's and Optic's works gives me pleasure, for certainly what was fit for the "Daddies" to read is good enough for the sons. The idea of not being the proper works, caused feelings of disgust and the first question asked was: Is it GRAFT?"

Yours very respectfully,
 L. F. KINGSBURY,
 194 Grafton St., City.

* * *

Rohima Walter sent in an article from the February 5, 1984 Indianapolis Star. Covering "Hoosier antiques and collectibles," it mentions Alger and how "the first edition of Ragged Dick is priced at \$1,000 to \$1,500. Fewer than a dozen copies have been found, and all are in well-worn condition." Comments, anyone?



Michiana Antiques owners "Colonel" William and Eva Pengelly hold some of their more than one million antiques and collectibles at their Allen store. An adjoining room and their home are also full.

The picture at left is from an article sent to me by Carl Hartmann that appeared in the May 29, 1984 Detroit Free Press. The Pengellys are HAS members, and I am sure that they would be delighted to have other members stop by their store. The text of the article is as follows:

It has been more than 20 years since a younger Colonel William Pengelly frequented a flea market booth owned by Eva Panzich.

"He used to buy from my booth all the time and then go out and make money," Eva says. The business success carried into their personal life as the couple married and opened their own antique shop.

"It is unusual to find two people that like antiques," she says. Ten years ago, the couple moved from Indiana to Michiana and opened Michiana Antiques at the corner of M-49 and U.S. 12 in Allen, east of Coldwater. The city is called the antique capital of the world.

Running the store is a full-time job for the couple. Eva opens the store seven days a week while her husband scours the area for sales and auctions. The store is packed solid, yet the couple continues to add to the inventory. "We have a running inventory--we run from it," jokes Eva.



The Pengellys unload a truckload of chairs.

STRIVE AND SUCCEED by Gene Hafner, Pres., HAS

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Thorp and his family, and the auctioning of Dick Seddon's treasures, the 20th annual Horatio Alger Society Convention was a tremendous success. Those unfortunates who were unable to attend this year's convention would be well advised to make plans to attend Gil Westgard's Palm Beach Pleasure Pursuit, the HAS convention next year in Palm Beach, Florida. (Who said Alger collectors don't get around)?

Events and pictures will appear in the next, convention issue, of the Newsboy, but I feel so good about the sale and the auction that I just have to pre-empt the write-up. Our Society will benefit, thanks to the generosity of Dick's daughter, Judy Barton, 15% of the total sale of all the books and Alger related paper in the collection. Since the sale of the 84 first editions and the Garfield collection grossed over \$13,000 you can see what a benefit it will be for all of us in the Horatio Alger Society. The two top bids were both mailed in offers. If you own a thin copy of Ragged Dick and Seeking His Fortune you will have to upgrade the value of your collection. The Ragged Dick went for \$626.00 and--hang on to your hat--Seeking His Fortune, \$1,000! Thanks to all of you who submitted bids by mail--you really made the in-house bidders realistic. This reminds me to say that the rest of the collection will all be sold by mail, so if you need some of these great condition books to fill out your list of titles, be forewarned that there are others out there who would like to add that same book to their collections.

On a more personal note I would like to thank the nominating committee, headed by Bill Russell, for honoring me and Vice-President D. James Ryberg to be your officers for the next two years. We solicit your ideas for the betterment of our Society. I especially would

like to commend Past President Bob Sawyer for a job well done over the past two years. I am certain that everyone in the Society who has had some contact with Bob during his term of office echoes that sentiment. He worked long and hard for our Society and the financial statement reflects that his efforts were not in vain. I hope that I can live up to the example he set.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

Dick Hoffman, PF-570, has rejoined HAS. Good to have you back, Dick!!

Viola M. James, PF-165 reports that she "will be 87 years old on July 11th" and that she "plans on paying my dues as long as I am able. I have saved all my Newsboys, so I have many. I am a charter member." Hope you're with us for a long time, Viola!!

Brian P. Doherty, PF-725, sent in an interesting clipping from the Delaware County (Pennsylvania) Daily Times, May 30, 1984. Entitled "Horatio Alger Has Nothing on Sam," it covers the author's first few jobs. Part of it reads: "I also believed, thanks to Mr. Binswanger [his civics teacher] who made Horatio Alger our hero, that opportunity knocked often for those who were most prepared to take full advantage of its knocking."

Rohima Walter reports that Blanche Lloyd--formerly HAS Secretary and one of the original members--died in Lafayette, Indiana on May 26, 1984. Our sympathy is expressed to her family. (She was PF-034).

Mrs. Blanche Lloyd

Mrs. Blanche Grove Lloyd, 83, of 1010 Cumberland Ave., WL, died at 7:20 a.m. Saturday in Home Hospital, Lafayette. She had been hospitalized five weeks.

Mrs. Lloyd had been a librarian at West Lafayette Public Library 25 years. She later managed a library at American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., for nine years.

Born near Mount Zion in Tippecanoe County, she had spent most of her life in West Lafayette, and graduated from West Lafayette High School. Her marriage was in 1919 in West Lafayette to Verne T. Lloyd, a former West Lafayette fireman. He died Aug. 28, 1953.

Jack Dizer writes that "I made my first Alger convention. Very sorry you weren't there. Most disappointed. Enjoyed it immensely. Delighted to meet Max Goldberg in particular plus many with whom I had corresponded for years but never met." [I'm one of those with whom Jack has corresponded. Hope we'll meet someday, Jack!!!]

Rohima Walter notes that she found The \$500 Check, "so that makes another hard title to find."

On April 29, 1984 Dr. Jack Dizer delivered a lecture to the Friends of the Colgate University Library. Jack sent me a copy of his really fascinating essay, "Edward Stratemeyer, Tom Swift & The Syndicate." Part of his conclusion is as follows: "If you go into Waldens right now you will find about ten Tom Swift titles, but Tom has changed. This is a third series, quite futuristic and more science fictionish but still with lots of action and some science. Even Shopton 'in central New York State' has been moved to New Mexico. We know New York is losing industry but to lose a whole city is ridiculous. . . . I might close with a note on the longevity of some of the Stratemeyer series. . . . Tom, of course, has been around intermittently, in various guises since 1894. And so what does it prove? Probably nothing except that kids still like exciting books with plenty of action, some plot and a nice ending. And I don't think that's too bad either."

Margaret Harding reports that her husband, Glenn A. Harding, died on November 10, 1983. Our condolences are expressed to her and her family.

Bob Williman announces that his address has changed--I lost his new house address, which I will report in the next Newsboy--but his new mailing address is P.O. Box 1564, Bowie, Maryland 20716.

I'm planning on the next issue being the 1984 Convention Issue. Don't miss it!