



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

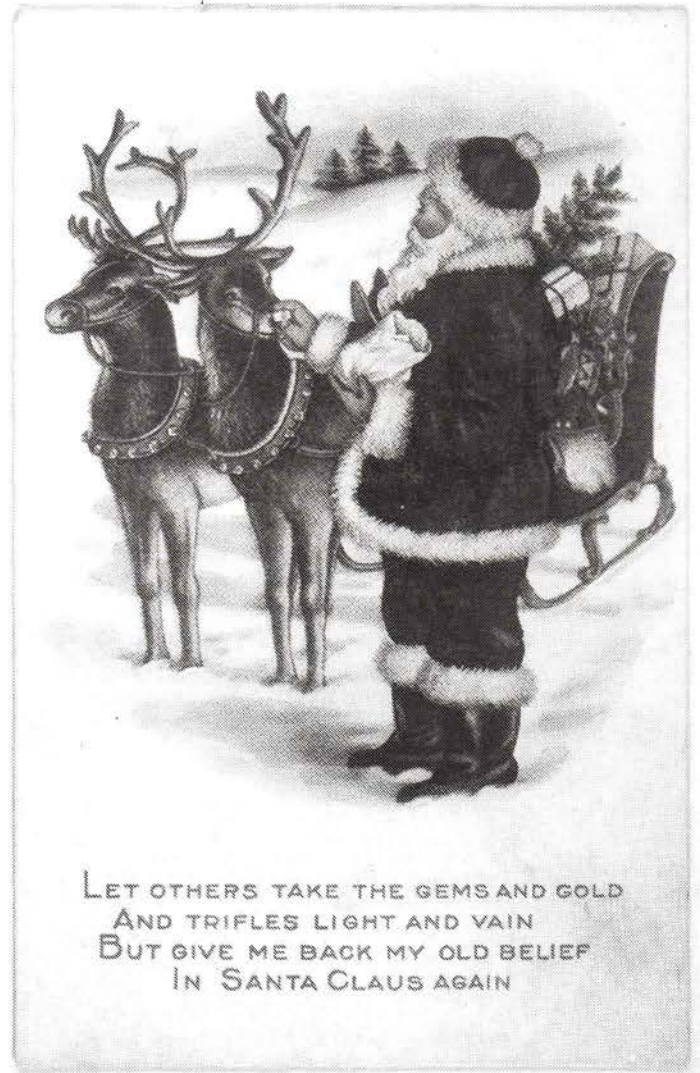


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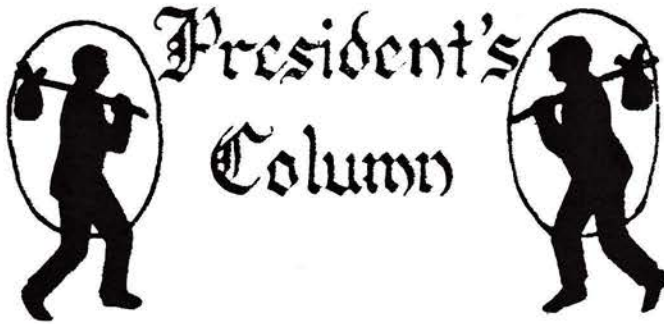
NUMBER 3

Seasons Greetings



Happy Chanukah





PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Dear Particular Friends of the Horatio Alger Society:

I have just spent a week of vacation in Pennsylvania, flea marketing and antiqueing. I was really looking for Alger treasures but came up empty handed. It was good to get away for awhile and I'll look for Algers at Bill McCord's Catskill Convention next May. That is where the hard to find Algers will be and anyone who hasn't been to a convention and who needs Alger books please join us for four days of fun, fellowship and sightseeing May 3,4,5, 1990.

On Wednesday night before Thanksgiving Day we had a visit from Old Man Winter, in the form of 6 inches of snow. Historians have said it is the first Thanksgiving snow we have had in 51 years. It is possibly normal for some of our members north of here, but this is supposed to be in the south!

I have been busily looking for quality items to donate to the Convention Auction. I have come up with some but am still looking. Now is the time to start stock piling good, hard to find objects, and books and bring or mail them to Bill McCord. Let's see how generous we can be in our gifts. The H.A.S. treasury needs the money and remember - it is tax deductible. If we would donate items that we hated to get rid of and would bid on them if the bid price was too cheap, as I've seen many of our members do, then that would be a generous gift. More of us need to do this in order to build up the treasury so that we don't live from hand to mouth, as the old saying goes.

We also need to start thinking about the upcoming election of officers, and send our input to Brad Chase who is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in any of the offices please make your feelings known. Also, remember that candidates can be nominated from the floor.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members who helped to write up the convention story and also to the photographers who did such a good job capturing on film the festivities of "Horatio in Ohio."

My Best Regards to All of You,
George Owens, PF-586

A LOOK AT SOME ALGER PAPER TITLES

By
BILL RUSSELL, PF-549

Did you ever look for a certain Alger title and were never able to find one? You may be looking in the wrong place. Some Alger titles only appear in paperback or in a serialization. So in order to add that title to your collection, you will have to obtain it by way of paperback or magazine serialization. A title that might be in paper form only will appear in some hardcover edition under a different name, such as "The Merchants Crime".

The Leisure Hour Library published this story three times over a period of twelve years. The Hardcover edition of this title is "Ralph Raymonds's Heir", a very common title to find and reprinted a number of times by various publishers. And finding "The Merchant's Crime" just about impossible because there just weren't many many paper copies to survive over the years as it it was only a small magazine and not of good quality paper. As it aged it became brown and brittle. The publisher F.M. Lupton claims "Cheapest Library Ever Issued", and it probably was. Priced at five cents and published semi-weekly, there probably weren't that many published even with the three appearances.

Some of the easier titles were those published by Street & Smith in their Alger series. These paperbacks held up better over the years plus the printings were much larger. They are out there, and usually one can be found in good condition. An example of a title that you just don't see that often is "Both Sides of the Continent" and the hardcover version is "Mark Stanton" also a tough book to find.

One of the problems in collecting these titles is what to do with them. They are hard to display--just about impossible. The Argosy's and any that are bound aren't too much trouble. I just lay them flat and put any of the smaller bound volumes up in a book case, just like any Alger hardcover book. Magazines such as Leisure Hour Library with "The Merchant's Crime" I have in a plastic envelope, and that seems to be the best way to preserve these items.

If you are a title collector, then you have to go after some of those that are paper. Some titles are very easy to find, and others are almost impossible. Speaking of some of the impossible or very hard to find titles, we have to look at those published by Aldine Publishing Company of London, England. With such titles as "Ben Stanton the Explorer," "Bill Sturdy," "Uncle Jacob's Secret," and "How his Ship came Home" just to mention a few. Few people have any or all of them.

These titles comprise a part of Alger collecting which is a real challenge. So when you finish collecting hardcovers, some of those paper titles or even collect Alger poems and short stories. Then you will really start wondering, "What am I getting myself into?"

STANLEY A. PACHON AUCTION RESULTS

ITEM #	TITLE	APPROX. VALUE	SOLD
FIRSTS			
1	Bertha's Christmas Vision	\$250.00	\$100.00
2	Fame and Fortune	70.00	40.00
3	Ben Logan's Triumph	60.00	50.00
4	A Boy's Fortune	75.00	75.00
	Helen Ford	60.00	50.00
	Charlie Codman's Cruise	75.00	25.00
7	Finding a fortune	100.00	100.00
8	Frank Hunter's Peril	80.00	80.00
9	Nothing to do	275.00	350.00
10	Seeking His Fortune	450-500.00	911.00
11	The Young Adventurer	80.00	60.00
12	Slow and Sure	50.00	50.00
13	Phil the Fiddler	75.00	95.00
14	Rufus and Rose	75.00	25.00
15	Grandfather Baldwin's Thanksgiving	275.00	150.00
16	Grandfather Baldwin's Thanksgiving	300.00	180.00
17	Shifting for himself	40.00	35.00
18	The Western Boy	125.00	100.00
19	Only An Irish Boy	75.00	90.00
20	Tom Temple's Career	100.00	70.00
21	Struggling Upward	80.00	75.00
22	Struggling Upward	50-60.00	35.00
23	Struggling Upward	50-60.00	20.00
4	Jed The Poorhouse Boy	80.00	75.00
25	Jed The Poorhouse Boy	50.00	25.00
26	Only An Irish Boy	75.00	90.00
27	Ragged Dick	700.00	500.00
28	Ragged Dick	200.00	150.00
29	Young Bank Messenger	85.00	125.00
30	Walter Sherwood's Probation	85.00	75.00
31	Walter Sherwood's Probation	75.00	45.00
32	Walter Sherwood's Probation	65.00	30.00
33	In A New World	60.00	50.00
34	In A New World	40.00	20.00
35	Digging For Gold	65.00	40.00
36	Digging For Gold	50.00	25.00
37	The Young Adventurer	85.00	210.00
38	Young Circus Rider	125.00	110.00
39	Store Boy	50.00	35.00
40	Hector's Inheritance	50.00	40.00
41	Farm Boy to Senator	60.00	90.00
42	Farm Boy to Senator	50.00	25.00
43	The Young Musician	60.00	45.00
44	Out For Business	55.00	45.00
45	Out For Business	65.00	65.00
46	The Odds Against Him	80.00	90.00
47	Young Captain Jack	80.00	100.00
48	Out For Business	125.00	176.00
49	Robert Coverdale's Struggle	200.00	115.00
50	\$500	300.00	475.00
51	Dean Dunham	150-200.00	350.00
52	Ben Bruce	40.00	65.00
53	Mark Mason's Victory	40.00	35.00
54	Adrift in New York	75.00	170.00

ITEM #	TITLE	APPROX. VALUE	SOLD
NON-FIRSTS			
100	Abner Holden's Bound Boy	100.00	130.00
101	Annals of the Harvard Class	100.00	10.00
102	Munsey Magazine "A Fancy of Her's"	75.00	30.00
103	Bertha's Christmas Vision	25.00	35.00
104	Tom The Bootblack	250.00	110.00
105	Tony the Hero	75.00	60.00
106	Joe's Luck	100.00	20.00
107	Tom Tracy By Arthur Lee Putnam	150.00	75.00
108	The Nugget Finders	50-75.00	45.00
109	The Nugget Finders	50-75.00	35.00
110	The Nugget Finders	50-75.00	50.00
111	Garfield Library [Vol. 1-8]	200.00	50.00
112	Garfield Library [Vol. 1-8]	200.00	55.00
113	Frank Fowler, The Cash Boy	75.00	30.00
114	Horatio Alger, Jr. A Biography and Bibliography		
		40.00	30.00
115	Ralph Raymond's Heir	125.00+	25.00
116	Ralph Raymond's Heir	60.00	35.00
117	The Garfield Library [6 ind. volumes]	100.00	
118	Walter Griffith	50.00	40.00
119	Young Israel [Vol.VII]	65.00	125.00
120	Young Israel [Vol.IV]	45.00	200.00
121	Young Israel [Vol.VI]	65.00	110.00
122	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XIX-XX]	75.00	125.00
123	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XXI-XXII]	40.00	30.00
124	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XXIII-XXIV]	40.00	20.00
125	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XXV-XXVI]	40.00	103.00
126	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XXVII-XXVIII]	35.00	25.00
127	Student & Schoolmate [Vol.XXIX-XXX]	70.00	80.00
128	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol.II]	15.00	20.00
129	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol.III]	15.00	20.00
130	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol.V]	15.00	60.00
131	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol.VI]	15.00	15.00
132	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol.VII]	15.00	30.00
133	Gleason's Monthly Companion [Vol. X]	15.00	100.00
134	Adrift in New York [No. 711-722]	25.00	25.00

FOR SALE ?

HORATIO ALGER, Jr. Author of several series of popular books for boys, with themes involving the hero's triumph over adversity and his rise from "rags to riches." Autograph Letter Signed, one page, Octavo, New York, May 12, n.y. To Jerome. "I have just returned from a visit of nine days to Massachusetts. I shall be at home on Friday, from 3 to 6 in the afternoon, and I shall be very glad to see you. If you can't come then, I shall probably be at home the same time on Saturday." Fine condition, framed in gilt, with a photo of an illustration of his character "Tattered Tom." 13½ by 12 inches. \$ 1500.00

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RAMBLES NO.7

LOUIS CHARLES and EDWARD STRATEMEYER

Doubtless many of you Stratemeyer specialists know of the existence of "Love's Maze," a musical collaborative effort on the part of Louis Charles and Edward Stratemeyer. Investigative research at the Library of Congress this past summer however has brought to light not one but three such efforts on the part of these two Stratemeyers. The Bibliographical citations are listed below in chronological order:

- 1] Deposit number 25177 dated November 8, 1886, Edward Stratemeyer and Louis C. Stratemeyer of Elizabeth as authors have deposited the title of a Musical Composition, to wit: "AMY AND DICK, Comic Opera in Two Acts" Written by Edward Stratemeyer, Composed by Louis C. Stratemeyer; All Rights Reserved.

No deposit copies were indicated; a pencilled notation gave the author's address as "24 Palmer St."

- 2] Deposit number 4987 dated March 3, 1887, Edward Stratemeyer and Louis C. Stratemeyer as authors have deposited the title of a Book, to wit: "The Complete Libretto of LOVE'S MAZE, Comic Opera in Two Acts". Written by Edward Stratemeyer, Composed by Louis C. Stratemeyer; All Rights Reserved.

Two copies were deposited on March 19, 1887.

- 3] Deposit number 5929 dated February 25, 1888
Edward Stratemeyer and Louis Charles Stratemeyer as authors have deposited the title of a book, to wit: "The Complete Libretto of, THE PERFUME PRINCE, Comic Novelty Opera in Three Acts". Written by Edward Stratemeyer, Composed by Louis Charles Stratemeyer: All Rights Reserved.

No deposit copies were indicated.

It is important in dealing with this information to understand the restrictions I imposed on myself: 1] The only time frame I investigated was the years 1870 to 1898; 2] Only the name "Edward Stratemeyer" was consulted as a copyright depositor, not Louis Charles Stratemeyer;" This implies of course that any deposit entries under the name "Louis Charles Stratemeyer" might not be entirely congruent with those citations to be found under "Edward Stratemeyer;" 3] I did not verify the existence of the deposit copy of Love's Maze nor did I check the possibility of the existence of the other two.

The Copyright Law requires that two copies of the published work be deposited in the Library of Congress, so that ideally everything published in the United States since 1790 is on file. Unfortunately in many cases that is just not so as either the deposit copies are no longer on file or a copyright was registered without carrying through the deposit procedure. This apparently was the case with "Amy and Dick" and the "Perfume Prince;" why this occurred seems to be something of a mystery. Parenthetically it is interesting to note that E. Stratemeyer himself also registered "Love's Maze" as a Musical Composition at an earlier date [even though he was not the composer] on February 25, 1887 and a different registration number was assigned to it: #4608, no copies deposited. One wonders why Louis Charles Stratemeyer did not do this.

To summarize: Between 1886 and 1888 Louis Charles Stratemeyer as composer and Edward Stratemeyer as author collaborated on three comic operas. The only libretto to be deposited as a published item was the second: "Love's Maze." It is at this time unknown whether the musical score was deposited or not; that information might be found under "Louis Charles Stratemeyer." Were these light operas ever performed, at least in the Elizabeth-Newark area? I don't know.

In November 1978, I had my first and only interview with Harriet Stratemeyer Adams and as I recall we talked of many things. During the course of our conversation I obliged her with a rendition of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" on the piano after which she shared a touching memory from childhood which always impressed her: she was four years old, she said [which would place this event in 1898], and she remembered vividly her Uncle Louis going to the piano with cigar in hand, and his fingers travelling up and down the keyboard so dextrously that the ash was not even dislodged from the cigar. Now as a professional musician I can well appreciate the expertise with which this must have been executed; his sense of style and touch must have been exceptional. And even though I like a cigar myself occasionally [however not at the piano, I may add] I don't think I could attempt it. It has occurred to me many times since then what a wonderful token to posterity Mrs. Adams has left us of this rather extraordinary pianist Louis Charles Stratemeyer, as seen through the eyes of a child of another century.

Peter C. Walther, PF-548

9 September, 1989

THE 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. Founded by Forrest Campbell and Kenneth B. Butler.

OFFICERS: President, George Owens; Vice-President Frank Jaques; Executive Secretary Carl T. Hartmann; Treasurer, Alex T. Shaner

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Membership Applications, renewals, changes of address, and other correspondence should be sent to the Society's Secretary.

Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910. Manuscripts, Letters to the Editor, and correspondence for the general Membership should be directed to: Editor NEWSBOY, Jim Ryberg, 930 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009-6505.

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THE LOST LIFE OF HORATIO ALGER, JR., by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales, is recognized as the definitive biography of Horatio Alger, Jr., and HORATIO ALGER, JR.: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY, by Bob Bennett, is recognized as the most current definitive authority on Alger's works. Letters and manuscripts are welcomed but will not be returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with each submission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEWSBOY PLANS TO HONOR KEN BUTLER

I was saddened to read in Newsboy that Ken Butler recently died. Ken's wife, Doris had told me that Ken was ill and in a nursing home, so his death wasn't a total surprise. Still, Ken was the first Alger Society member I ever met, and we corresponded, off and on, since I first met Ken back in 1969. I was around 17 or 18, and he invited me to visit him in his home in Mendota, Illinois, just a couple of hours from my hometown of Aurora. He showed me his extensive Alger Collection; moreover, I think he was just getting his fine "Time Was" museum going, and he showed me the hundreds of antiques that were going to be on display. The Alger Society's "Old Guard" will recall that he hosted our first convention in 1965. His generosity knew no limits, and we will sorely miss him. Thus, Newsboy invites all members who knew--or knew of-- Kenneth B. Butler to send in a few sentences of remembrances. These will be printed in a special section of Newsboy, and I will forward all letters to Ken's wife, Doris, so she can keep them. [Since we could write pages and pages on Ken, please try to limit your remarks to a paragraph or two, as I'm sure we will have dozens of contributors]. I have volunteered to act as "clearing house" for this plan. Please send your letters to:

Jack Bales
119 Lakeshore Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

A few people have asked what I'm doing since I gave up Newsboy after some 14 years of editorship. [As I write this, two of my Alger Society awards are above me on a wall in my office at work]. My two children are keeping my wife, Lisa, and me busy.

Patrick is a bit over 2 and one-half [Sorry, but I can't help but brag that he knows all his letters and numbers and is starting to learn how to read---ahhh, the glory of "Sesame Street"--no, he hasn't tackled Tom The Bootblack yet!] Laura is little over one-half year old - smiles and laughs all the time and is a real beauty. We are certainly blessed with two healthy children! I write a lot of book reviews for both the local newspaper and for library journals [I'm a reference librarian here at Mary Washington College], and my new book on novelist Kenneth Roberts has just been published. I'm shortly beginning a new book.

I still correspond with H.A.S. members. Ralph Gardner is always dropping me a line or two. Other folks include Bob Bennett, Carl Hartmann, George Owens, Gil O'Gara and Gil Westgard. I missed seeing fellow writer and good friend Peter Walther when he was in Washington, D.C. I've been corresponding with Jack Dizer for decades and still have never met him. I hear from Eddie LeBlanc every so often, and Bob Sawyer phoned me awhile ago. All of these fine people in H.A.S.--may it go on for another twenty-five years or more!

Jack Bales PF-258
Editor Emeritus

Dear Mr. Hartmann:

Thank you for the membership package that you sent me recently. I am returning the application for membership form to you completed.

I have been able to find a Japanese version of Ragged Dick recently. I am now searching for The Tin Box.

Thank you for all your help in getting me into the Alger Society. I appreciate it very much.

I will be ordering some of the books that the Alger Society is offering for sale. Are they all still available?

Sincerely,
Clyde R. Ross, Jr PF-845
Yokohama Kanagawa, Japan 231

Ed. Note: Clyde lives in Yokohama, Japan with his wife Masako. He is 33 years old and is a Manager, Financial Analysis. His interest in Alger is in early books for children [through Tattered Tom series.] His other hobbies/interests are in 19th Century British and Russian Literature, Modern Japanese Lit. and Juvenile series books. He currently has 8 Alger Titles. Welcome to the fold Clyde.

Had a call from Berry Hill Bookshop that they had about 250 Algers for sale. They did, including some 1st. and none over \$20.00. I picked up a bunch and called Brad Chase and Bill McCord. One or both came over. I will sell Brad or Bill any I picked up for what I paid when they come over - I just didn't want them to get into the wrong hands! Turns out the collection was what was left from Milt Salls. The prices were a fraction of what he had been asking. The last time I checked there were still a lot of good Algers there [at Berry Hill] and the prices, for Algers, were very low. Was going to ask Brad to drop you a note to alert other collectors but just found this card from somewhere so am using it!

Dr. John T. Dizer Jr.
PF-511 Utica, NY



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Hartmann,

Just received my latest NEWSBOY and am very happy with it, as I have been continuously under Jim's editorship. In fact Jack Bales is contributing items in its pages which is definitely a step in the RIGHT direction. Please continue to advise all on board of your sterling efforts and keep up in the future as you have been doing in the immediate past.

I am sending you something on Edward Stratemeyer and hope you can use it. I know in the past you have printed pieces on him because of his professional association with Alger and I even recall something once being said about a new slant on the publication: Alger cum Stratemeyer. I thought since most Alger collectors collect Stratemeyer too it might prove interesting to your field of readers. You are welcome to use it if you wish; discuss it with Mr. Ryberg and if you decide against its appearance please send it back to me so I can send it to Eddie LeBlanc or Gil O'Gara. They both have articles from me waiting to appear and I dislike inundating them with material.

Yours most sincerely,
Peter C. Walther, PF-548

[Ed. note]

See page 15 for Peter's article, "BIBLIOGRAPHIC RAMBLES NO.7".
With our thanks, Peter.

Dear Jim;

I just today received the new Newsboy, and I think it's first class. You couldn't be doing a better job and, considering all your other chores, it's remarkable that you find as much time for Newsboy as you do.

I've enclosed a snapshot of myself at Caffe FLORIAN in Piazza San Marco, Venice [my summer home for the past 29 years.] You can find me at Florian's about six o'clock any summer evening having my afternoon cigar and coffee. I like it when there aren't many people around. Every night they have concerts at 9:00 o'clock and the place is jammed.

The Cross word puzzle from the International Herald Tribune, August 31, 1989, shows for 41 down: Alger's "Tom." My wife is a cross word puzzle nut and she has them finished [takes her just about 12 minutes to finish them] before I get up in the morning.

Newsboy readers may be interested to know that the "1990 Library of Congress Desk Calender", shows [on page for week of Oct. 8-14, 1990] a full page illustration of the 1905 Hurst edition of "Do and Dare." [The book is "part of the Juvenile collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division."] It has the pasted-down color cover illustration of a young railroad worker holding an oil can and hammer. In the description on the facing page it says [in part]: "Later generations, increasingly webbed in complex problems, have relegated Alger to the sphere of the quaint--without realizing, perhaps, the depth of his influence on the American mind."

Cordially,
Ralph D. Gardner PF-053

ALGER SERIES No.20

"BOTH SIDES OF THE CONTINENT" BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.



Both Sides of the Continent;

OR,

MARK STANTON

By HORATIO ALGER, JR.

AUTHOR OF
"From Farm Boy to Senator," "The Erie Train Boy,"
"Dean Dunham," etc.



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 "Phil, the Fiddler," and many other splen-
 did books for boys, published by
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FROM PAGE 9

Already her hand had been sought in marriage, but as yet she had seen no one whom she could look with that affection, without which marriage would be a mockery. Charlie and Harry, too. Eleven years had changed them not a little. The boys of four and six had become fine manly youths of fifteen and seventeen. The eldest had entered college. Harry, however, who was by no means studious had entered his father's counting-room. That was a sorrowful night on which Mr. Dinsmoor made known to his afflicted wife the bankruptcy which was inevitable. Still sadder, if possible, was the sale which it enforced of the house which they had so long occupied, the furniture which had become endeared to them by memory and association, and the harsh interruption which loss of fortune put to all their treasured schemes.

"My poor boy," said Mrs. Dinsmoor, sorrowfully, as she placed her hand caressingly on the brown locks of Charlie, the eldest of the two boys. "It will be a hard sacrifice for you to leave the studies to which you are so much attached, and enter a store, as you will be obliged to do."

"Ah I had not thought of that," murmured Charlie. "It will indeed be a sacrifice, but, mother, I would not care for that if you could only be spared the trials to which you will be exposed from poverty."

"Thank you for your consideration, my child; but do not fear that I shall not accommodate myself to it. It is a heavy trial, but we must try to think that it will ultimately eventuate in our good."

At the auction of Mr. Dinsmoor's house and furniture, the whole property, without exception, was knocked off to a young man, who seemed apparently of twenty two or three years of age. He was able to secure it at a price much beneath its value, for times were hard and money scarce, so that he had but few competitors. Mr. Dinsmoor did not hear his name, and the pressure of sad thoughts prevented his making the inquiry.

Possession was to be given in one week. Meanwhile Mr. Dinsmoor sought out a small house in an obscure part of town, which in point of elegance and convenience formed a complete contrast to the one he had formerly occupied. He felt, however, that it would be all his scanty salary as a clerk [for he had secured a situation in that capacity] would enable him to afford.

Lizzie looked with a rueful face at the piano, as a dear friend, from whom she must henceforth be separated, it being quite too costly a piece of furniture to be retained in their reduced circumstances. Her proficiency in music, for which she had great taste, made her regret it doubly, since she might with it have added to the resources of the family by giving music lessons. On the last evening in which they were to remain in the old house, their sad thoughts were broken in upon by a ring at the bell.

"Can they not even leave us to enjoy the last evening in quiet?" said Charles, half petulantly.

Immediately afterwards there entered a young man, in whom Mr. Dinsmoor recognized the purchaser of the house.

"I need not bid you welcome," said he, smiling faintly, "since you have a better right here now than myself. Had I been told three months since that this would be, I would not have believed it; but we cannot always foresee. I shall be prepared to leave tomorrow."

"I shall be better satisfied if you will remain," said the young man, bowing. "How do you mean?"

"Simply that this house and furniture are now mine to do with as I like I choose to restore you the latter, and offer you the use of the former, rent-free, as long as you choose to occupy it."

"Who then are you," asked Mr. Dinsmoor, in increasing surprise, "who can be so kind to utter strangers with no claim upon you?"

"You are mistaken. You have a claim upon me. Shall I tell you what it is? Eleven years ago to morrow, for to morrow is Christmas day, a poor boy who had know none of the luxuries and but a few of the comforts of life, stood in this street. His mind was ill at ease, for he had lost his way. But as he walked on, he beheld a blaze of light issuing from a window, from your window, and aroused by curiosity he looked in. Around a Christmas tree brilliant with light, a happy group were assembled. As he stood gazing in, he heard the front door open, and a gentleman came out and kindly invited him to enter. He did so, and the words of kindness and the Christmas gift with which he departed have not yet left his remembrance. Seven years passed, and the boy's fortune changed. An Uncle, long supposed to be dead, found him out, and when he actually died, left him the heir of a large amount of wealth. Need I say that I am that boy, and my name is Willie Grant?"

The reader's imagination can easily supply the rest. Provided with capital by his young friend, Mr. Dinsmoor again embarked in business, and this time nothing occurred to check his prosperity. Charlie did not leave college, nor did Lizzie lose her piano. She gained a husband, however, and had no reason to regret the train of events which issued from her CHRISTMAS GIFT.

PRINTING HISTORY

Dec. 30, 1854 - - Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion

June 1902 - - People's Literary Companion

Nov.- Dec. 1964 - - The Horatio Alger NEWSBOY

* * * * *

From the Collection of Max Goldberg PF-08



"I am sure, sir, I am very much obliged both to them and you," said the boy, gratefully, advancing towards Mr. Dinsmoor of whom he had lost whatever little distrust he had at first felt. A moment afterwards and he stepped within the spacious parlor. To him, whose home offered no attractions and few comforts, the scene which spread before him might well seem a scene of enchantment.

"Lizzie," said Mr. Dinsmoor, "come forward and welcome your guest. I would introduce him to you, but unluckily I do not know his name."

"My name is Willie--Willie Grant," was the boy's reply.

"Then, Willie Grant, this is Miss Lizzie Dinsmoor, who is, I am sure, glad to see you, since it was at her request that I invite you to enter."

Willie raised his eyes timidly, and bent them for a moment on the singularly beautiful child, who had come forward and frankly placed her hand in his. There is something irresistible in the witchery of beauty, and Willie felt a warm glow crimsoning his cheeks, as, for a moment, forgetful of everything else, he bent his eyes earnestly upon Lizzie. Then another feeling came over him, and with a look of shame at his scanty and ill-fitting garments, he dropped her hand, and involuntarily shrank back, as if seeking to screen them from sight.

Perceiving the movement, and guessing its cause, Mr. Dinsmoor, with a view to dissipate these feelings, led forward Harry and Charlie, the younger boys, and told them to make acquaintance with Willie. With loud shouts of delight they displayed the various gifts which St. Nicholas had brought them, and challenged his admiration. Everything was new to Willie. His childhood had not been smiled upon by fortune, and the costly toys which the boys exhibited elicited quite as much admiration as they could desire. Occupied in this way, his constraint gradually wore off to such a degree that he assisted Charlie and Harry in trying their new toys. Soon, however, the recollection that it was growing late, and that he had yet to find his way home, came to him, and taking his old hat he said to Mr. Dinsmoor, in an embarrassed manner:

"My mother will be expecting me home, and I should already have been there but that I lost my way, and happened to look in at your window, and you were so kind as to let me come in--"

"Where does your mother live, my little fellow?" asked Mr. Dinsmoor. "On -----Street."

"O, that is not far off. I will myself show you the way, if you will remain a few minutes longer."

Mr. Dinsmoor rang the bell, and ordered a plate of cake and apples, as he conjectured they would not be unacceptable to his little visitor. Meanwhile Lizzie crept to her mother's side and whispered:

"Willie is poor, isn't he?"

"Yes. What makes you ask?"

I thought he must be, because his clothes look so thin and patched. Don't you think he would like a Christmas present, mother?"

"Yes, my darling. Have you anything to give him?"

"I thought, mother, perhaps you would let me give him my five dollar goldpiece. I think that would be better than any playthings. May I give it?"

"Yes, my child, if you are really willing. But are you quite sure that you would not regret it afterwards?"

"Yes, mother," and Lizzie ran lightly to the little box where she kept her treasure, and brought it forth and placed it in Willie's hand.

"That is your Christmas present," said she gaily.

Willie looked surprised.

"Do you mean it for me?" He asked, in a half-bewildered tone.

"Yes, if you like it."

"I thank you very much for your kindness," said Willie, earnestly, "and I will always remember it."

There was something in the boy's earnest tone which Lizzie felt was an ample recompense for the little sacrifice she had made. Mr. Dinsmoor fulfilled his promise, and walked with Willie as far as the street in which he lived, when, feeling sure he could no longer mistake his way, he left him. Mr. Dinsmoor, whom we have introduced to our readers, was a prosperous merchant, and counted his wealth by hundreds of thousands. Fortunately his disposition was liberal, and he made the poor sharers with him in the gifts which fortune had so liberally showered upon him. Notwithstanding the good use which he made of his wealth, he was fated to experience reverses--resulting not from his own mismanagement, but from a general panic which all at once involved in ruin many whose fortunes were large and whose credit was long established. In a word, Mr. Dinsmoor failed.

Eleven years rolled by since the Christmas night on which our story opens. Lizzie had not belied the promise of her girlhood, but had developed into a radiantly beautiful girl.

FROM PAGE 9

Already her hand had been sought in marriage, but as yet she had seen no one whom she could look with that affection, without which marriage would be a mockery. Charlie and Harry, too. Eleven years had changed them not a little. The boys of four and six had become fine manly youths of fifteen and seventeen. The eldest had entered college. Harry, however, who was by no means studious had entered his father's counting-room. That was a sorrowful night on which Mr. Dinsmoor made known to his afflicted wife the bankruptcy which was inevitable. Still sadder, if possible, was the sale which it enforced of the house which they had so long occupied, the furniture which had become endeared to them by memory and association, and the harsh interruption which loss of fortune put to all their treasured schemes.

"My poor boy," said Mrs. Dinsmoor, sorrowfully, as she placed her hand caressingly on the brown locks of Charlie, the eldest of the two boys. "It will be a hard sacrifice for you to leave the studies to which you are so much attached, and enter a store, as you will be obliged to do."

"Ah I had not thought of that," murmured Charlie. "It will indeed be a sacrifice, but, mother, I would not care for that if you could only be spared the trials to which you will be exposed from poverty."

"Thank you for your consideration, my child; but do not fear that I shall not accommodate myself to it. It is a heavy trial, but we must try to think that it will ultimately eventuate in our good."

At the auction of Mr. Dinsmoor's house and furniture, the whole property, without exception, was knocked off to a young man, who seemed apparently of twenty two or three years of age. He was able to secure it at a price much beneath its value, for times were hard and money scarce, so that he had but few competitors. Mr. Dinsmoor did not hear his name, and the pressure of sad thoughts prevented his making the inquiry.

Possession was to be given in one week. Meanwhile Mr. Dinsmoor sought out a small house in an obscure part of town, which in point of elegance and convenience formed a complete contrast to the one he had formerly occupied. He felt, however, that it would be all his scanty salary as a clerk [for he had secured a situation in that capacity] would enable him to afford.

Lizzie looked with a rueful face at the piano, as a dear friend, from whom she must henceforth be separated, it being quite too costly a piece of furniture to be retained in their reduced circumstances. Her proficiency in music, for which she had great taste, made her regret it doubly, since she might with it have added to the resources of the family by giving music lessons. On the last evening in which they were to remain in the old house, their sad thoughts were broken in upon by a ring at the bell.

"Can they not even leave us to enjoy the last evening in quiet?" said Charles, half petulantly.

Immediately afterwards there entered a young man, in whom Mr. Dinsmoor recognized the purchaser of the house.

"I need not bid you welcome," said he, smiling faintly, "since you have a better right here now than myself. Had I been told three months since that this would be, I would not have believed it; but we cannot always foresee. I shall be prepared to leave tomorrow."

"I shall be better satisfied if you will remain," said the young man, bowing. "How do you mean?"

"Simply that this house and furniture are now mine to do with as I like I choose to restore you the latter, and offer you the use of the former, rent-free, as long as you choose to occupy it."

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From the Collection of Max Goldberg PF-08



NEWSBOY BOOK REVIEW By Ralph Gardner

KENNETH ROBERTS: The Man and His Works.
By
Jack Bales

Forward by John Tebbel. 354 pages \$37.50.

For his smoothly-written, informative bibliography of Kenneth Roberts, author Jack Bales is fortunate to have as his publisher Scarecrow Press, America's leading publisher of scholarly books for libraries, universities and other educational institutions. Their sponsorship assures this fine book the wide distribution it warrants.

Jack-- a veteran H.A.S. member [and Newsboy editor for 14 years] -- in his new book, Kenneth Roberts; The Man and his Works, has produced a hefty volume that details the products of the popular novelist whose fiction includes Northwest Passage, Oliver Wiswell, Arundel and others that became bestsellers and hit movies.

Throughout his long career, Roberts [1885-1957] -- a New England native -- established and sustained a reputation for stories that were enjoyable to read and were models of historical accuracy.

Divided into four parts, fact-filled sections include a biography [largely based upon correspondence, Bales' interviews with people who knew Roberts, letters plus other primary source material, much of it now appearing for the first time.] There follows annotated criticism in which Bales summarized 988 reviews of the author's works; newspaper and magazine articles, essays and book references. Chapters also cover theses, dissertations, obituaries and critical writings. Others provide new research [that will be welcomed by scholars] as well as title and subject indexes.

Jack, whose entertaining writing style is well-known to H.A.S. members, was aided in his research by dozens of librarians, collectors and Robert's contemporaries.

Praising this book, Phillip Cronenwett, of the Dartmouth College Library, [repository of Robert's papers] wrote that Bales' effort "will remain the standard bibliography of Roberts for the foreseeable future."

The book is further enhanced by a lively forward by John Tebbel who, like Jack, has also written about Horatio Alger. A number of this man's 22 illustrations -- reproduced on slick paper -- are previously unpublished.

Besides his longtime interest in Alger, Jack -- who is Reference Librarian at Mary Washington College -- has read Roberts' literature for more than 20 years. He is Special Projects Research Consultant to the Kenneth Roberts Centennial Commission.

All who are fascinated by events that took place during the years when our nation was young -- and this certainly includes all Horatio Alger enthusiasts -- should have Jack's book in their collections. Order it through your local bookshop or directly from Scarecrow Press, Box 4167, Metchen, NJ 08840. H.A.S. members who are booksellers can get quantity discount information by phoning 1 [201] 537 7107.

ROSTER CHANGES

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* * * * *

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CHRISTIAN REGISTER 1 APRIL, 1865 page 50

GREATFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

S. Natick, March 27, 1865.

The undersigned desires hereby gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of his parishioners and friends in their recent "surprise" call upon him, and in the very liberal donation of money and other useful articles which they brought with them. The hour we spent together in social intercourse and festivity, was none the less enjoyed by me and mine for being wholly unexpected. Their gifts were rendered doubly welcome by the spirit of kindness and cordial good will with which they were accompanied.

Horatio Alger.
[Thanks to Jack Bales PF-258]

KENNETH ROBERTS:

The Man and His Works

[The Scarecrow Author Bibliographies, 85]

Jack Bales

Foreword by John Tebbe]

354 pp. photos 1989 89-34008 ISBN 0-8108-2227-X \$37.50

With such extensively researched books as *Arundel*, *Rabble in Arms*, *Oliver Wiswell*, and the enormously popular *Northwest Passage*, American historical novelist Kenneth Roberts [1885-1957] established and maintained a reputation throughout his literary career as an author whose books were not only enjoyable to read but also models of historical writing and accuracy. Jack Bales' comprehensive Roberts biobibliography, the first ever published, will serve a wide audience of literary historians, students, researchers, book collectors, and other readers.

Part I is a 74-page biographical essay, largely based on letters, interviews, and other primary resource material. In Part II, an annotated bibliography of criticism, Bales lists and summarizes 988 reviews of Roberts' works, newspaper and magazine articles about him, essays and other book references, bibliographical studies, theses and dissertations, obituaries, and other critical writings. Appendixes in Part III provide supplementary research material needed by the Roberts scholar, and Part IV contains author, title, and subject indexes.

Dozens of librarians, scholars, book collectors, and contemporaries who knew Roberts aided Bales in the preparation of his biobibliography. Widely-published author John Tebbe, who knew Roberts, has written the book's informative foreword. With 22 photographs, some of them previously unpublished.

Jack Bales, Reference Librarian at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA, has read and collected the works of Kenneth Roberts for over 20 years and is the Special Projects Research Consultant to the Kenneth Roberts Centennial Commission in Kennebunkport, ME. He has published two books with Gary Scharnhorst: *HORATIO ALGER, Jr.: An Annotated Bibliography of Comment and Criticism* [Scarecrow 1981] and *THE LOST LIFE OF HORATIO ALGER, Jr.* [Indiana University Press, 1985].

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HORATIO VISITS RIP VAN WINKLE

1990 HORATIO ALGER CONVENTION

Plans for the 1990 Convention are progressing well. I will be meeting in January with several H.A.S. members in the State of Florida to finalize plans for some of the special activities being arranged for the convention. Several local book dealers have indicated that they will prepare for H.A.S. members. [One of the dealers is PF-810.]

Please make your reservations early with the CATSKILL MOTOR LODGE, New York State Thruway Exit 21, Route 23B, Catskill, N. Y. 12414 [Phone: 518-943-5800] and be sure to mention that you are a member of H.A.S. and are attending the Convention.

Double [2 persons]	\$41.00 per night
Double [4 persons]	\$51.00 per night
Single [1 person]	\$39.00 per night

TRANSPORTATION:

-by Air to Albany, N.Y. Car rentals are available there. It is a drive of approximately 35 miles to Catskill via the N.Y. State thruway, exiting at Exit 21. The Motel is on your right as you exit the Thruway.

-by Train to Hudson, N.Y. [an express stop for Amtrack.] The station at Hudson is approximately 5½ miles from Catskill. We can arrange to pick you up there if you let us know in advance when you are arriving.

-by Car use the New York State Thruway to Exit 21 [Catskill]. From New England, you can use the Mass Pike to the Thruway, or if you prefer the scenic route, 23 comes across the Rip Van Winkle Bridge into Catskill. After crossing the bridge, follow the signs to the Thruway entrance [about 1½ miles] and you will see the motel.

AUCTION NOTES:

Whether or not you can attend the convention, please consider mailing or UPSing articles for the auction. Auction receipts are vital to the H.A.S. and a relatively painless way of raising money.

FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE 1990 H.A.S. CONVENTION PLEASE USE THE COUPON INSERTED IN THIS NEWSBOY.



**Wishing you all
the joys of the
Christmas season!**



THE CATLEDGE'S

Carolyn PF-816

Tracy PF-507

*In the coming year, I look forward to joining with every member
in playing a leading role in the Horatio Alger Society.*

FROM OUT OF OUR PAST COMES.....

DECEMBER 1968

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

Facets of Algerana, by the late Max Goldberg, President

I like the statement of W. G. Sumner. It is so typical Algerana. "There is no boon in nature. All the blessings we enjoy are the fruits of labor, toil, self-denial and study."

Longfellow must have thought of Alger when he wrote, "The heights that great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

The combined chairman of Olin Mathieson Chemical, E.R. Squibb & Sons, and Beechnut Lifesavers, is Alger B. Chapman, a real "Strive & Succeed" example.

The Alger theme seems to be applied to animals as well as humans. Under the heading of "Rags to Riches Story" the New York Times writes about "Nickel Boy" who took the 1962 Jennings handicaps at Pimlico, earned more than \$350,000 during his career. One of the turf's foremost "Rags to Riches" horses, Nickel Boy was the son of parents sold for \$65.00.

The Porter & Coates popular juvenile lists a Five Hundred Dollar Legacy by Alger, printed in color, cloth, \$1.25. Does anyone know about this title? It is not listed in Gardner's book.

"The Rise & Fall of Horatio Alger's Creator" by Wesley P. Callender, Jr. is an interesting and concise biography of Aaron K. Loring. Parts are taken from Madeline Stern's book "Imprints of History". The author gives a brief history of Alger and states a few remarks by John Tebbel. He states that "Aaron Loring was himself one of the outstanding reminders that the Alger Formula for success was not infallible or at least that such success if it were achieved would not automatically be everlasting." Nothing is everlasting, not even life.

Disraeli alludes to success as "the top of the greasy pole." Certainly no one can stay long on the "greasy pole", but it requires grit, courage and tenacity to reach it. As to Alger's formula not being infallible, the best laid plans of mice and men sometimes go awry. It requires concentration and planning to attain one's ambition. Having obtained it, one must guide that success. oddly enough Alger's formula was infallible if done with diligence. The fact that Loring was a success as a publisher and lending librarian proves it was right.

There is a maxim in chemistry that two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Had Loring continued his concentration upon publishing instead of opening a coffee

shop, and not dividing his time between the two, he would not have gone bankrupt. The publishing house paid off, the coffee shop was "on the cuff." It made too many leaks in the combined endeavor. As Franklin said, "Small leaks sink great ships." He won by diligence and lost through neglect.

Antony LaCamera, of the Boston Globe, states, "Jimmy Helms, local young singer climbs to success, and years of hard work are paying off. The 24 year old singer was a guest on the Merve Griffin Show who was so impressed by his performance that he signed him for thirteen more appearances." The story of his life is the Horatio Alger type if there ever was one. Born on a Florida farm where he picked cotton and guided a mule drawn plow. Worked in small night clubs for training and experience. This tear found him bookings in TV variety shows and a recording career.

Ed Levy sent me an article titled, "The Homilies of Horatio" by Marcus Klein. It is a diatribe upon Alger and a commentary on several of his books including Ragged Dick. Here are some excerpts from the Klein Article:

"Age has not been kind to Ragged Dick who is now 100 years old. Instead of being forgotten, as would have been appropriate to his peculiar modesty, he has become a myth. Worse, he is the hero of the one durably popular native American myth, the typical Horatio Alger story, the myth of success...No one any longer believes in the Alger story, least of all the young boys to whom Alger addressed his oppressive platitudes...The massive approval that Alger once secured is simply not to be explained by a taste for inspirational capitalism. Estimates of the sale of the novels range from a stupendous 17 million to an incredible 300 million.

Never could so many boys have loved any kind of official virtue...For one, the Alger hero did not necessarily begin in rags and he never concluded in riches. Ragged Dick was rewarded with a job paying \$10.00 per week. Fosdick, in Mark the Match Boy, inherited a fortune of \$2524.00.

Julius's killing in real estate was \$4500.00. The complete winning on an average of 106 novels was calculated to amount to \$10,000.00. Alger's heroes do not want to be rich. The signs of success are not money and power but a new suit, a savings account, good grammar, a watch and sometimes a bit of superficial education. they do not lie, cheat or steal...When the boys set out to make their way in the world they might as well stir the imagination of a youngster by their implications that they are cynical. They are sinister young con men, no matter what Horatio Alger said."

According to Secretary Hartmann, the Horatio Alger Society has 121 active members, and enters the new year in good shape and are financially sound and our officers have been busy serving you and your interests.

MORE FROM OUR PAST

ANNIE'S CHRISTMAS

A Horatio Alger-type story written for the Newsboy
by
Forrest Campbell

Reprinted from the 1964 Newsboy Vol. 3 #7

It was the Friday before Christmas and big white, wet flakes of snow were falling quietly outside the window of Annie's home, where she was busily engaged stringing popcorn onto a chain for the tree which she hoped her father would bring her. Her mother had died less than a year ago. She remembered her last Christmas with her mother and father. It had been such a happy one. She had missed her mother so terribly much, and so had her father, who had taken to drink to drive the sad memory from his tormented mind. Drink had given him some comfort, but had become an ever increasing habit, which he had not the will to throw off.

Of late, he had been spending most of his time with his foot upon the rail-- and too much of his money. Annie had suffered from want of nourishing food, and warm clothing because of her father's condition, but she had not complained, for she loved her father, and prayed often that her father would be restored to her as he used to be.

Without funds, her father had stopped to beg an acquaintance to buy him a drink. His request had been denied and shamefully he returned home seeking shelter and nourishment in the form of food. His unsteady step was recognized by Annie who met him at the door.

"Did you bring home some food for our supper, father dear?" she asked. "I have no money, Annie," he replied, shamefully; he couldn't tell her why.

On the next day when Annie's father was handed his pay envelope, he asked his employer for a raise.

"How is it that you need a raise, Fred," he inquired.

"I haven't been able to provide properly for my little Annie; I love my little girl; I'd do anything for her." "Do you love her enough to stop drinking, Fred?" he asked, frankly.

Fred hung his head in shameful admission of his guilt. No one had expressed the real truth to him in this manner before. His employer continued, "You do not deserve a raise, Fred. The quality of your work has declined." His employer took back the pay envelope, removed five dollars, and sealed it. "When you improve the quality of your work, I'll give you a raise. Until then, take your sealed pay envelope home to Annie; and with this five dollars, buy her a Christmas present."

The challenge was just what Fred needed. An instant change came over him. He resolved then and there to improve the quality of his work and was determined that Annie's welfare and happiness would be of first importance. It was indeed a happy Christmas for Annie and her father.

REPRINTED FROM THE DECEMBER 1964 EDITION OF
THE NEWSBOY.

[Just a note: While you read this plan on your attending the 1990 Convention, "HORATIO VISITS RIP VAN WINKLE.]

THE MENDOTA AFFAIR, or meeting, may come to be known as a gathering of Particular Friends of Horatio Alger, Jr. The success of this gathering depends upon your personal interest and enthusiasm. The date selected is of two days duration--May 21 and 22nd. Kenneth Butler, the general chairman of this gathering has--even at this early date-- great plans to entertain you as well as to feed you and house you.

Mr. Butler's many interests include a fleet of some 23 antique automobiles, and plans a parade with the members of the Society as a passenger in each car. An antique high wheeled buckin' bicycle rodeo event will be open to all members with honorable mention for the member who can remain seated the longest. No seat belts will be provided, and it is not equipped with a side-saddle. Bring your movie camera and record this hilarious event.

There will be a conducted tour of the WAYSIDE PRESS, courtesy of the President, Kenneth Butler. You will observe the process of printing by expert craftsmen as evidenced in your copy of Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era, and Alger Street, which was arranged and edited by Gilbert Westgard, II [S-24].

Ralph Gardner has promised to be in attendance. If your copy of Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era has not yet been autographed by the author, bring it with you. There will be a discussion period for questions and answers. If you have duplicates in your Alger collection which you hope to sell or exchange, bring them along too. Bring any book or item which is not for sale, but which you wish to place on exhibition. Auctions will be taboo, but dickering will be permitted. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with other fellow members.



Ralph Gardner at the Caffe Florian in Piazza San Mario, Venice; his summer home for the past 29 years.



...and to all a good night...