



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

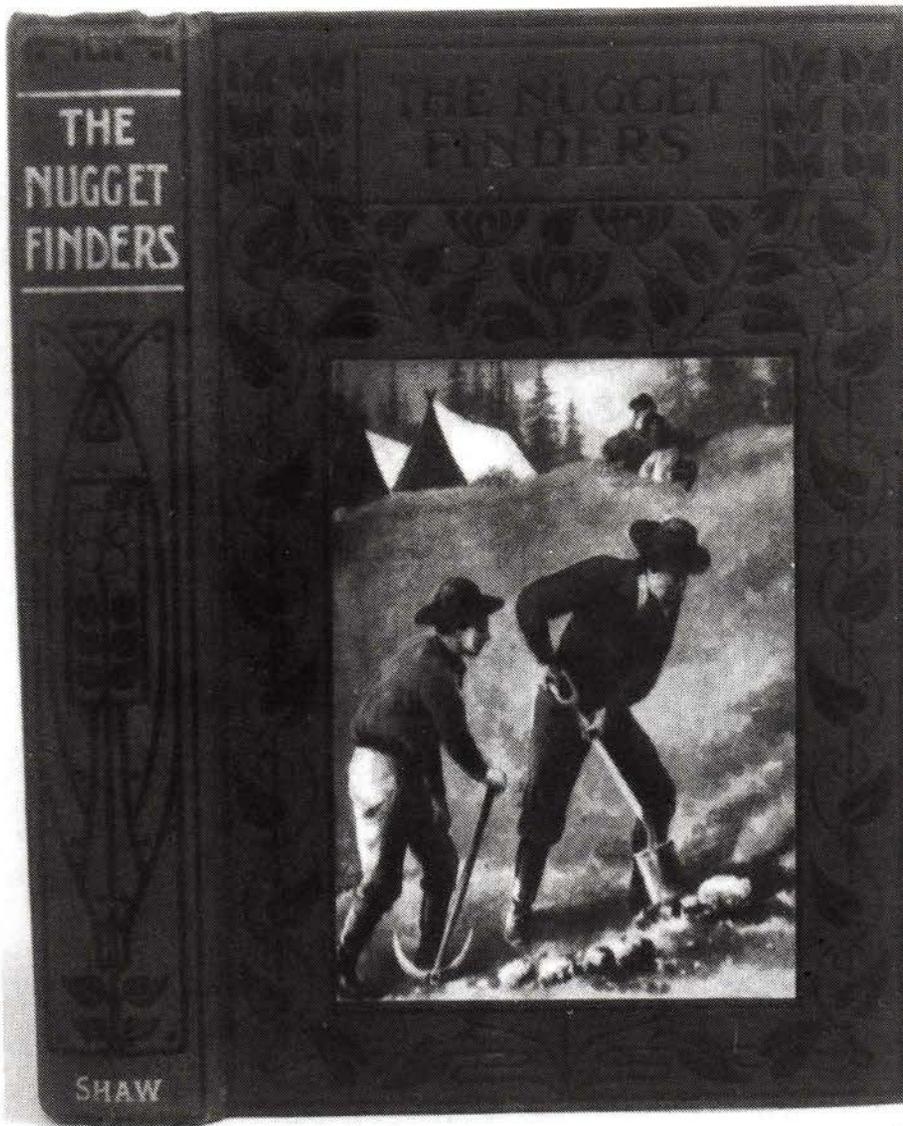
A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

VOLUME XXIV

JULY - AUGUST 1991

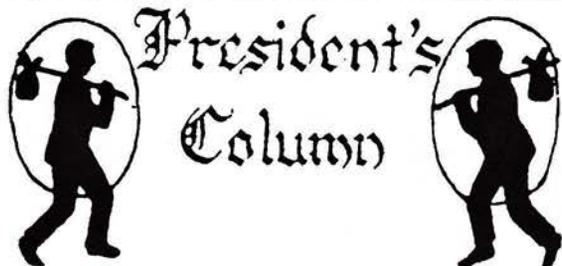
NUMBER 4

Seeking out 'The Nugget Finders'



SEE PAGES 6-7

One of the various formats of "The Nugget Finders" (a reprint of "In a New World") published in England by John F. Shaw.



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 Alger's undaunted heroes--lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and Flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

where has the summer gone?

It seems such a short time ago that we met in Indianapolis. The next Alger convention will be in Waco, Texas, a short seven months away.

Bob and Alys Collmer and John Cadick will co-host the Horatio Alger Society's 28th. annual convention at Baylor University **APRIL 23-25, 1992.** Mark your calendar now.

Our editor of Newsboy, Bill Gowen, stopped in Chillicothe on July 26-27 and we had a very nice visit. Of course, improvements in the Newsboy were discussed. Except for personal letters or phone calls, the Newsboy is the only means of communication members have. Our editor will be pleased to hear from you; your suggestions, comments and experiences are needed to make each issue of Newsboy interesting to everyone.

Do you know that members can advertise for free in Newsboy to sell Horatio Alger books or Alger-related material? Rates for advertising your Alger wants or for selling or buying non-Alger material are shown on Page 2 of every issue.

Please let your president know if you would be willing to host the Horatio Alger Society convention in 1993.

That's all for now.

Your Partic'lar friend,

Will Wright, PF-639
16826 U.S. #50
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

The marvelous thing about a vacation is that it makes you feel good enough to go back to work and poor enough to make you have to.

* * * *

Wedding ring: one-man band.

* * * *

OFFICERS

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|-------------------|---------------------|
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NEWSBOY the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bimonthly [six issues per year]. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$20.00, with single issues costing \$3.00. Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, change of address, and other correspondence should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann-4907 Allison Drive-Lansing, MI 48910.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Associations's International Bibliography

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE H.A.S.

Bob Bennett's Horatio Alger, Jr: A Comprehensive Bibliography.

PUBLICATION FORMATS OF THE FIFTY-NINE STORIES BY HORATIO ALGER Jr. as reprinted by the John C. Winston Co. COMPILED BY Bob Sawyer, PF-455 and Jim Thorp, PF-574.

HORATIO ALGER BOOKS. Published by A.L. BURT by Bradford S. Chase.

HORATIO ALGER OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA by Ralph Gardner. Revised 1991.

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

Newsboy ad rates: 1 page, \$32.00; 1/2 page \$17.00; 1/4 page, \$9.00; per column [1"x3-3/4"] \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to the Horatio Alger Society, to Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive-Lansing, MI 48910.

DONATIONS

DICK HOFFMAN PF-570

* * *

JAMES J. LOWE PF-668

* * *

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Michael H. Cotzman PF-881
 Rt.#3 Box 5610
 Berryville VA 22611
 Carolyn

Michael is with the Blue Ridge Insurance Agency His company insures the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Michael also has a collection of Horatio Alger books. How many we don't know as he did not inform us yet.

Lee Switzer PF-882
 5870 7th, Street N.E,
 Fridley, MN 55432 [612] 571-1750
 Gaylene T-70

Lee is an Elementary School Principal. His other hobbies are coins, gardening and travel. He is interested in all aspects of Horatio Alger and states he will be an active participator.

Van Daele L. Mabrito PF-883
 204 Antler
 San Antonio, TX 78213
 Rauzia Nell T-30 [512] 341-0152

Van Daele first saw us in the Antique Trader then wrote antique stores all over the East trying to find us again. He is a retired cowboy boot salesman who claims his only "sin" is his Alger collecting. He says that reading Alger as a boy was a source of inspiration for him that helped him through the years. [See his informative and interesting letter in the letter department.]

ADDRESS CHANGED AND ROSTER CORRECTIONS.

Richard B.Easterbrooks PF-857
 103 Tanbark Road
 Marstons Mills, MA 02648
 T-32 [2]

Richard tells us he has a new member of his family, a black & white cat named Alger!

Richard B. Hoffman PF-570
 2925 28th. Street N.W.
 Washington DC 20008 [202] 667-6481
 Eileen T-125 [3]

Edward T. LeBlanc PF-015
 87 School Street
 Fall River, MA 02720
 [508] 672-2082

Mark A Preston PF-453
 307 East Main Street
 Ellsworth, ME 04605

Morton J. Schwartz PF-733
 700 Highland Trail
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516 [919] 933-976

* * * *

BOOK MART

FOR SALE-FOR SALE-FOR SALE-FOR SALE-FOR SALE-FOR SALE

BRAVE & BOLD #45 Colored Cover
 ADRIFT IN NEW YORK,
 Excellent Condition \$45.00
 * * * *

Joe's Luck [Burt] 1st, Hard Cover
 162 William St. Excellent Cond. \$120.00

Jerry B. Friedland
6 Elyise Road
Monsey NY 10952
[914] 354-6440

* * * * *

The HAS still has a few copies of the following books for sale. You may still buy these at reduced prices - once gone you will have to pay a premium price on the secondary market.

A FANCY OF HERS - THE DISAGREEABLE WOMAN
 2 stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. with an introduction by Ralph Gardner. \$12.95 PP 1st Edition.

THE LOST TALES OF HORATIO ALGER, edited by Gary Scharnhorst. 1st. Edition \$21.95 PP [many of the stories are in question as to whether Alger wrote them. If you have any ideas please send your comments to our editor]

MABEL PARKER; OR, THE HIDDEN TREASURE
 With Preface by Gary Scharnhorst. 1st. Edition \$16.50 PP.

Send your orders for the above books to:

Carl Hartmann
4907 Allison Drive
Lansing, MI 48910-5682

Make checks payable to THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED.

ALGER CUP PLATES STILL AVAILABLE:
YOUNG CIRCUS RIDER \$10.00 PP
THE NEWSBOY \$10.00 PP
 Cup Plate sales supply the money for the STRIVE AND SUCCEED AWARD given each year at our annual convention.

NEXT YEAR
APRIL 23-25, 1992
WACO TEXAS

Indianapolis Convention Registration

| NAME | PF# | REMARKS |
|--------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Hugh Alley | 835 | |
| 2. Marlene Alley | | |
| 3. Bill Baach | 492 | |
| 4. Margaret Baach | | |
| 5. Bernie Biberdorf | 524 | Co-Host '91 Conv.; new Society Director. |
| 6. Marcy Biberdorf | | Co-Host '91 Convention |
| 7. Bob Born | 761 | Indiana HAS member; helped hosts. |
| 8. Tom Brady | 836 | |
| 9. John Cadick | 858 | '92 Conv. Co-Host [with Collmer] |
| 10. Kathleen Chamberlain | 874 | |
| 11. Brad Chase | 412 | Offered table prayer at banquet |
| 12. Rolf Chase | 602 | |
| 13. Kitty Chase | | |
| 14. Bob Collmer | 866 | '92 Convention Co-host [with Cadick] |
| 15. Alya Collmer | | '92 Convention Co-host |
| 16. Glen Cocoran | 339 | |
| 17. Lorraine Cocoran | | |
| 18. Paul Cripe | 633 | |
| 19. Mary Ann Ditch | 861 | |
| 20. George Dunning | 776 | |
| 21. Velnor Dunning | 818 | |
| 22. Milt Ehlert | 702 | Reporter for Banquet & Oral Auction |
| 23. Carol Ehlert | | |
| 24. Jerry Friedland | 376 | Auctioneer for Oral Auction |
| 25. Ralph Gardner | 053 | Drew Caricatures during Convention |
| 26. Bill Gowen | 706 | |
| 27. Evelyn Grebel | 318 | |
| 28. Gene Hafner | 175 | |
| 29. Wyonne Hafner | 720 | |
| 30. Carl Hartmann | 102 | HAS Exec. Secretary, Oral Auction Recorder. |
| 31. Jean Hartmann | 710 | |
| 32. R.J.Hatfield | 615 | Indiana HAS member; Transportation Aid. |
| 33. Bob Huber | 841 | |
| 34. Gordon Huber | 843 | |
| 35. Jeanne Huber | | |
| 36. Floyd Hunt | 785 | Indiana HAS member |
| 37. Ken Jones | 877 | New member; registered during Convention. |
| 38. John Juvinall | 537 | |
| 39. Bob Kasper | 327 | HAS Vice-President |
| 40. Bill Leitner | 381 | |
| 41. Murray Levin | 851 | New Director [3 year term] |
| 42. Bill McCord | 360 | Silent Auction Recorder [with Levin] |
| 43. Helen McCord | | |
| 44. Ivan McClymont | 722 | New Director [3 year term] |
| 45. Margaret McClymont | | |
| 46. Neil McCormick | 506 | |
| 47. Paul Miller | 351 | |
| 48. Ruth Miller | | Reporter for Thursday Social |
| 49. Al Nippert | | |
| 50. Jean Nippert | | |
| 51. Bart Nyberg | 879 | |
| 52. Gil O'Gara | 627 | Made presentation on <u>THE YELLOWBACK</u> |

| NAME | PF# | REMARKS |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 53. Anita O'Gara | | |
| 54. Wallace Palmer | 612 | |
| 55. William Palmer | 800 | |
| 56. Judy Roobian-Mohr | 849 | Compiled Authors/Publishers; Treasurer |
| 57. Bob Mohr | | |
| 58. Bill Sausaman | 217 | |
| 59. Marianna Sausaman | | |
| 60. Joe Slavin | 880 | |
| 61. Bob Sawyer | 455 | Overall Auction Chairman |
| 62. Percy Seamans | 405 | |
| 63. Ann Sharrard | 325 | Co-Chairman for Silent Auction |
| 64. George Sharrard | | Co-Chairman for Silent Auction |
| 65. Nina Teagarden | 821 | |
| 66. Fred Teagarden | | |
| 67. Dale Thomas | 315 | Oral Auction Recorder |
| 68. Mary Ellen Thomas | | |
| 69. Jim Thorp | 574 | Oral Auction "Runner" |
| 70. Mary Jane Thorp | | |
| 71. Rohima Walter | 160 | |
| 72. John Henry Walter | | |
| 73. Clyde Willis | 119 | Reporter for Saturday Silent Auction |
| 74. Jeanne Willis | | |
| 75. Will Wright | 639 | HAS President; Business Meeting & Banquet MC |
| 76. Nell Wright | 876 | New Member, Registered at Convention |
| 77. Greg Biberdorf | | Convention Hosts' Son, [Photos] |
| 78. Vivian Garber | | Hospitality Room Receptionist |
| 79. T.E.Grinslade | | 94-year-old Alger enthusiast [Indianapolis] |
| 80. Melissa Melick | | <u>STRIVE & SUCCEED</u> Recipient |
| 81. Betty Missbach | | |
| 82. Marty Missbach | | |
| 83. Nancy Missbach | | Conducted Book Binding Seminar |
| 84. Mark Denbrook | | |
| 85. Mr. Reynolds | | <u>STRIVE & SUCCEED</u> Recipient's stepfather |
| 86. Mrs Reynolds | | <u>STRIVE & SUCCEED</u> Recipient's mother |

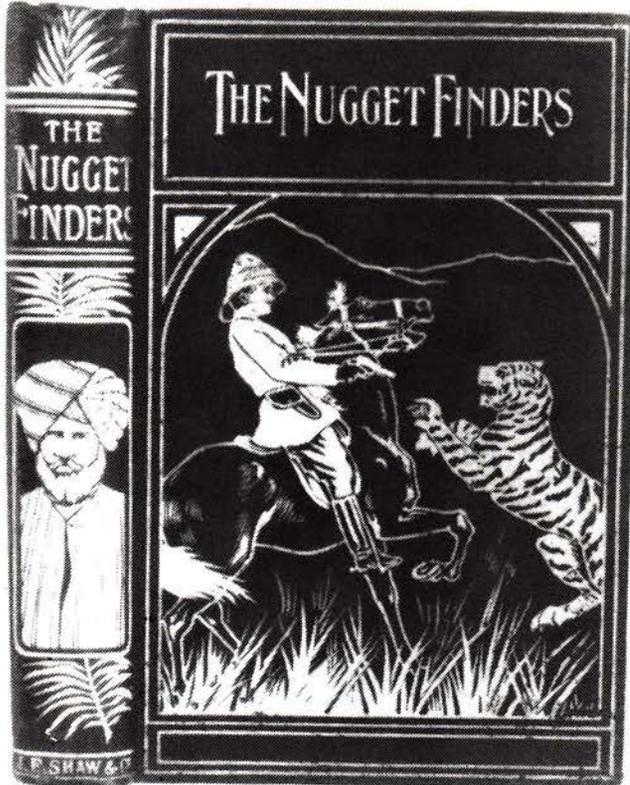
The following did not/could not attend the '91 Convention but participated as noted:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Edward T. LeBlanc | 015 | Could not attend; \$40. donated to HAS |
| 2. Floyd R. Martin | 580 | Did not register; donated two hams |
| 3. Edwin Paul | 867 | Son in accident; \$40. refunded |
| 4. Geneva Royar | 814 | Did not register; \$25. donated to HAS |
| 5. M.R.Royar | 300 | Did not register; \$25. donated to HAS |
| 6. Chas Tschetter | | Could not attend; \$40. refunded |
| 7. Mary Jo Tschetter | | Could not attend; \$40. refunded |
| 8. John Walter | | Could not attend; \$40. refunded |

Summary: 54 HAS members attended
 32 Guests attended
 21 States represented, plus two from Canada.

'The Nugget Finders' — an inside look

Robert E. Kasper, PF-327



As an Alger first edition collector I recently acquired my ninety-fifth first edition. However, it took almost eighteen months to reach that point from ninety-four first editions. In order to maintain my interest in Alger I found it necessary to begin looking for non-first edition items. Because of their relative scarcity, and varied formats, I decided to concentrate on the John F. Shaw editions of "The Nugget Finders" published in England. This title is a reprint of "In A New World" published by Porter & Coates in 1893.

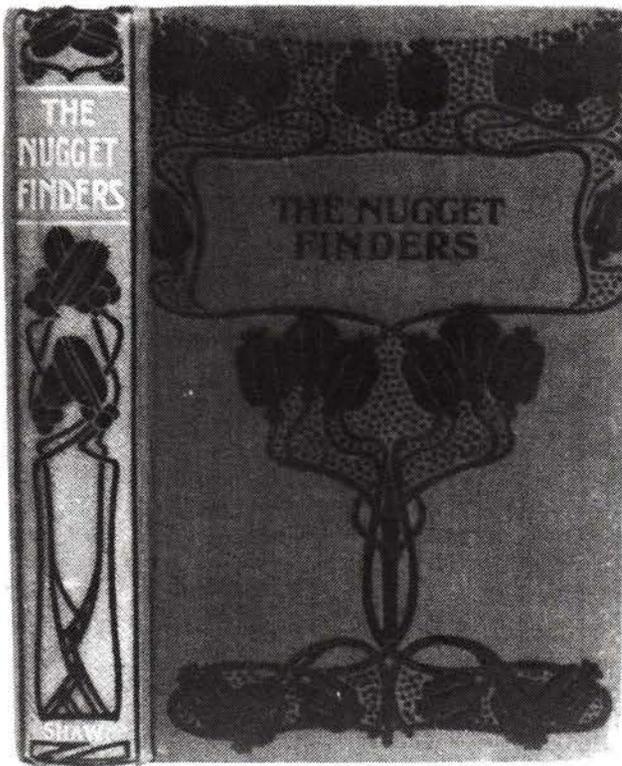
At the present time I have eight different copies of "The Nugget Finders" in my collection. I have examined ten different bindings in other Alger Collections. That makes a total of eighteen confirmed formats and I'm sure there are many more. But how many? And why so many? It seems unlikely that this title was so popular that Shaw felt it necessary to design and print a minimum of eighteen separate and distinct editions. If this were the case, why didn't Shaw publish other stories by Alger? To my knowledge, no other Alger titles were published in hardcover form by Shaw or any other English publisher. Perhaps a description of some of the different formats can shed some light on this mystery.

All copies examined contain twenty-one chapters and 192 pages of text. Shaw used two different addresses on the title page - 48 Paternoster Row and 3 Pilgram Street - both located in London. It has been established that the Paternoster Row address is earlier. The presentation dates range from December 23, 1903, to Christmas 1915, with just about every year in between represented. About half of the copies I examined had 1909 or 1910 presentation dates. Apparently this title was popular with Sunday School Teachers as six of my copies were awarded to students for regular attendance. I have identified four frontispiece states as follows:

1. A black and white picture of two oxen pulling a wagon [noted in one copy].
2. A black and white picture of a group of outlaws shooting their victims [noted in one copy]
3. A color picture of a young boy and man digging on a hillside [noted in ten copies].
4. No frontispiece [noted in six copies].

A slightly reduced version of format #3 was used on one of the later bindings as a pictorial cover. In one of my copies the colored frontispiece is pasted on a thick piece of black paper which is somewhat smaller than the rest of the pages. At first I thought this was done by one of the previous owners because it was so crudely executed.

Continued Page 7



'The Nugget Finders'

From Page 6

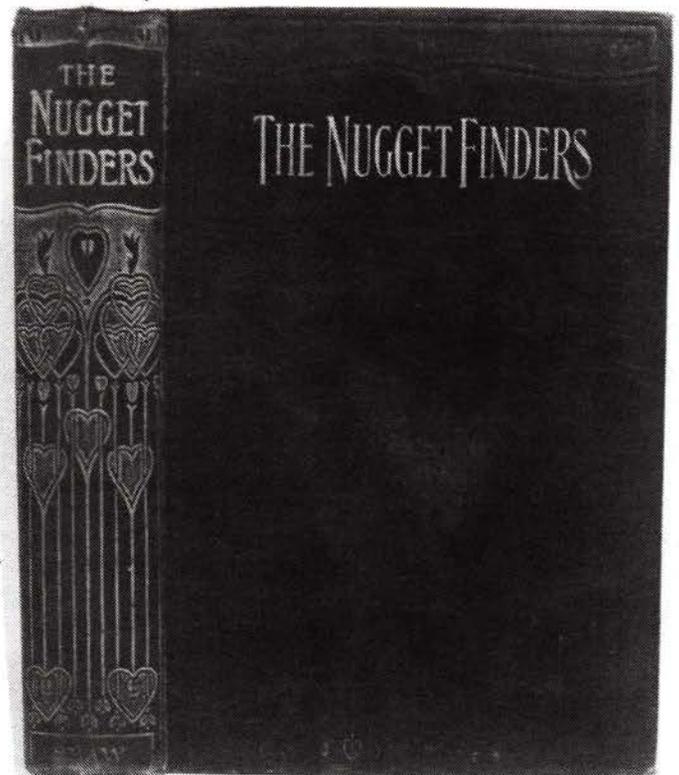
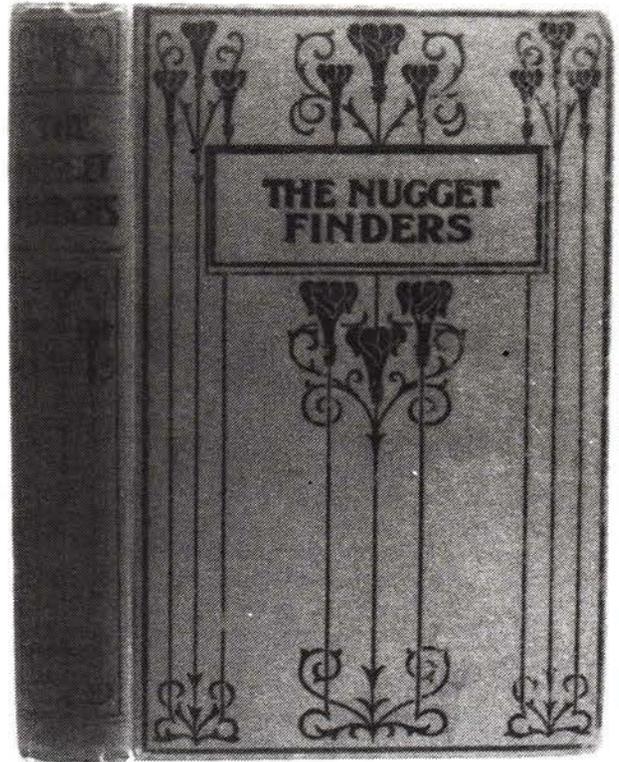
However, I have seen two other copies, with similar frontispieces, so it evidently was done by the publisher. Incidentally, the frontispiece used in format #1 is identical to the frontispiece found in the Porter & Coates edition. However, format #2 and #3 are simply copies of the illustration found facing pages 106 and 188, respectively, in the Porter & Coates edition. It seems strange that Shaw would "borrow" one illustration from the Porter & Coates edition and have two others painted from scratch by another artist.

On the verso of the title page appears a curious set of numbers. The following numbers, found in the lower right hand corner, have been noted: 569, 576, 667, 1220, and 1787. Obviously, the publisher had assigned a number to this title, as part of some unknown series, similar to a Medal Library #243 or a Leather-Clad #23. But I am perplexed as to why the numbers keep changing - it is different in almost every copy. Perhaps this is an indication of the number of different bindings used! All copies examined contain plain white endpapers, with one exception. Paul Miller informs me that he has a Pilgrim Street copy with a nice hunting scene of a dog flushing grouse from some nearby brush. Only two of the copies examined contain advertisements, one listing thirty-six titles and the other twenty-nine titles. There are only four titles that appear in both lists. The ad with thirty-six titles also lists "Obed's Nugget" by H. Alger which most likely was not printed.

I have made a cursory examination of the text and found no evidence of any type ware or damage. However, the word death is misspelled "deeah" on line 14 of page 64. This misprint occurs in one of my Paternoster editions and must have been quickly corrected since it was not present in any other Paternoster editions which I examined. Although it is nearly impossible to determine which edition Shaw printed first, it is logical to assume that the earliest state[s] will contain this error.

What can we conclude from this information? Unfortunately, not too much. As to the copious number of bindings extant, I can only speculate that Shaw designed and printed these bindings for other children's books and then used any leftover covers for a small printing of "The Nugget Finders" I imagine that three or four editions were promulgated every year for a period of up to ten years.

For more information on John F. Shaw and "The Nugget Finders" see Denis Rogers' article in the January 1972 issue of Dime Novel Round Up. Thanks go to Bill Russell, Paul Miller, Brad Chase and Jerry Friedland for providing information for this article.



BOOKBINDER ADDRESSES HAS CONVENTIONEERS

The HAS members present at this year's annual convention were privileged to hear a presentation by Nancy Missbach, a professional bookbinder. Ms. Missbach, whose studio is in Denver, Colorado, received her training in the craft at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and at Harvard. She has been in the bookbinding business for 15 years.

Convention participants were instructed in a variety of do-it-yourself methods they can apply at home. Among Ms. Missbach's tips:

* **CLEANING BOOK COVERS:**

Wipe cover with a BARELY damp cloth and Ivory soap to remove grime. Or, in place of water, Methyl Cellulose with Anhydrous Alcohol may be used.

* **REGLUING HINGES:**

Use a 50/50 mixture of wheat paste and Polyvinyl Acetate [PVA]. [Avoid Borden's White Glue -- too acid laden.] Begin by opening book so that covers are parallel to the spine. Dip a knitting needle in the glue, then run it down the spine at the inside edge of the endpaper, twisting the needle as you move it up and down. Close the book, placing a sheet of wax paper between the end sheet and the cover to catch any excess glue. Run a stylus down the outside hinge crack to ensure good contact. then place a weight on the closed book and leave overnight to dry. While you're at it, check for frayed cover edges. Apply a stingy dab of glue and press the edges back in place.

* **REGLUING A LOOSE PAGE:**

Using the same knitting needle and glue mixture, just BARELY coat the edge of the loose page with paste, line it up square in the book, and press gently [tip it in]. Again, place wax paper on either side of the glued in page before weighting the book and letting it dry overnight.

* **HUMIDITY DAMAGE CONTROL:**

After fanning pages gently, put the damp book in the freezer! Once frozen, remove book and use a soft artist's brush to brush the moisture off the pages. If the book thaws before you've finished the entire volume, mark your progress and return book to the freezer - then continue with the process. Once dry, pages may be ironed with a tacking iron. This method has been used successfully with flood-damaged books.

* **ACID STABILIZATION:**

Obtain a deacidification solution from a bookbinders supply house. Spray the solution onto the pages, then BLOT [don't rub] with a soft cotton cloth. Don't use paper towels, as they leave too much fuzz behind. Talk with your local bookbinder BEFORE trying this one.

* **WRAPPING BOOKS FOR STORAGE:**

Use wax paper or brown craft paper rather than plastic wrap, as the latter does not "breathe". An acid-free Japanese, mulberry-based paper is also good.

* **SHELVING BOOKS:**

DON'T stack books. Place them on shelves with a finger's width of space between books. If concerned about books sitting askew, place foam rubber between volumes. and remember NOT to pull a book out by its top edge or you risk ripping the spine off. Use the space between books to grasp a volume by the sides.

* **ERASING PENCIL MARKS:**

Use a Faber Castel white eraser or a draft-er's "scumbag". DON'T use that old favorite the Pink Pearl. or a gum eraser -- either is too abrasive and gum erasers often have chemicals in them. Be sure to try whatever you use in an unobtrusive spot before going to town.

* **TOUCHING UP COVER COLORS:**

Use acrylic paints in subtle colors [black, white, greens, ochres -- no reds]. Test color in an unobtrusive spot to ensure the shade is satisfactory when dry. Then dab paint SPARINGLY. If dried touch-up looks too "new" rub a little dirt over the restoration.

* **TO RESTORE OR NOT TO RESTORE?:**

Consult a book expert before undertaking the restoration of a volume. You may be decreasing the book's value significantly! On the other hand, if you're more concerned with having a usable volume than with its resale value, restoration may be what you want to do.

Ms. Missbach urged each HAS member to make the acquaintance of a qualified bookbinder in his/her area and suggested the listing published by the Guild of Book Workers as a good source of information for this purpose.

Besides the restoration and repair tips she provided, Ms. Missbach also displayed a number of the new books she has made. HAS members were impressed with her creative approach to the construction of "portfolio" books. All felt fortunate, indeed, to have had the opportunity to learn from such a well qualified and enthusiastic craftsman.

* * * *

Some long time friends have stayed that way by not visiting each other too often.

Minneapolis in June

A report on the Hess Symposium

Bill Gowen, PF-706

What better way to take a break from the day-to-day workplace than to spend a weekend meeting fellow series book researchers and collectors?

The first Hess Symposium on Dime Novels and Series Books, held at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis June 13-15, fulfilled that quest. It was an enjoyable weekend, one which provided an opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet old friends we'd previously known only through the mail or over the telephone.

The symposium attracted more than 20 attendees interested in learning more about the genres of series books and dime novels, including the following HAS members in addition to your editor: Eddie LeBlanc [PF-015], J.Randolph Cox [PF-598], Gil O'Gara [PF-627] and Deidre A. Johnson [PF-596], not to forget the host University of Minnesota Library [L-12].

The symposium was sponsored by the Saint Paul Foundation and was held in the Children's Literature Research Collections reading room located on the main floor of the University's Walter Library.

Registration and a reception were held Friday, with the symposium itself taking place all day Saturday.

The speakers covered all aspects of series book and dime novel research and collecting, with a few highlights as follows:

Welcoming remarks were given by Karen Nelson Hoyle, curator of the University's Children's Literature Research Collections [primarily the George H. Hess Jr. collection of series books and dime novels and the theme-related Kerlan Collection. Karen gave an overview of the Library's resources for the would-be researcher.

Following remarks by library director Thomas Shaughnessy, Austin McLean of the Special Collections presented a look at the late George Hess and how his collection came to be donated to the University.

It was on to the symposium speakers. Their topics were as follows:

+ "A Scholar Uses Special Collections for Research" by Profesor Anne S.MacLeod of Chevy Chase, Md

+ "Trends in Dime Novel Research" by J.Randolph Cox of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.



Hess Symposium participants and guests visit the Northfield, Minn. home of J. Randolph Cox. Front row: Lydia Schurman, Arlington, Va.; Deidre Johnson, Minneapolis; Kathleen Reuter Chamberlain, Emory, Va. Second row: Bill Gowen, Mundelein, Ill.; Edward T. LeBlanc, Fall River, Mass.; Paul Eugene Camp, Tampa, Fla.; J. Randolph Cox; and James D. Keeline, San Diego, Calif.

+ "The Stepchild in the Basement: Trends in Series Book Research," by Professor Fred Erisman of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

+ Following a lunch break, Paul Eugene Camp, special collections librarian at the University of South Florida in Tampa gave a presentation titled "Current Institutional Collection Patterns in Dime Novels and Series Books; Networking Among Special Collections; New and Possible Future Patterns."

The South Florida Library is the repository of the famous Harry K.Hudson collection of boys' books. In his talk, Camp noted that the USF collection is now expanding heavily into girls' books [not a big interest of Harry Hudson] and has built an extensive collection of anthropomorphic [animal story] children's books, for which the library is soon issuing a comprehensive bibliography.

+ Eddie LeBlanc and Gil O'Gara shared a session entitled "Future Editing Plans for Dime Novel Round up and Yellowback Library." Eddie outlined his intentions to remain as editor of Round-up for about five years before turning the publication over to a successor. Gil discussed the success his magazine has enjoyed in its 10-year history and plans for the future. Gil repeated his presentation at this past May's HAS convention in Indianapolis.

+ The symposium then brook into several discussion groups, during which topics heard earlier in the day were delved into more comprehensively.

Continued Page 10

1991 Hess Symposium revisited

From Page 9

+ The day concluded with summary reports from the discussion groups and general comments about the future of research and collecting.

On Sunday morning, Randy Cox invited the conference attendees to his house in Northfield for a look at his extensive dime novel and series book collection, definitely a major highlight of the weekend.

The weekend also afforded [in particular on Friday prior to registration], a chance to do some book-buying. A directory of Minneapolis-St. Paul used booksellers was sent to all attendees in advance, which helped in the search, resulting in some nice "finds" and the inevitable disappointment that there were too few hours in the day to do the kind of comprehensive "hunting" we like to do when visiting a new city.

Several things came out of the Hess Symposium. First, we all got a better understanding of why these special collections exist and how they can help the serious researcher; and second, we got to meet some old friends and make many new ones.

Two of the symposium's participants, Prof. Fred Erisman and J. Randolph Cox, have graciously consented to allow NEWSBOY to publish their presentations in future issues.

Also, Deidre Johnson, who since the symposium has moved from Minneapolis to accept a teaching position at West Chester [Pa.] College, has agreed to do a piece for a future issue of NEWSBOY explaining the benefits of leaving your personal collection to a University Library and why the growth of these collections is so important to future researchers.

Incidentally, Johnson's first book titled "Stratemeyer Pseudonyms and Series Books" is a recognized authority in its field. Her recently completed Ph.D dissertation also deals with Edward Stratemeyer. It is titled "Continued Success: The Early Boys' Fiction of Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate."

Throughout her work on her advanced degrees, Johnson was a staff member at the University of Minnesota Library's Children's Literature Research Collections. She was the person mainly responsible for organizing and expanding the Hess Collection of boys' books [a want list is available], as well as integrating into the largest single subsequent bequest, the Edward Ellis Collection from the estate of the late Denis Rogers.

Anyone wanting to visit the Hess Collection [or to obtain its want list of series books] should write:

Karen Nelson Hoyle, Curator
Children's Literature Research Collection
109 Walter Library
117 Pleasant St., S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

'Ragged Dick' — Was it the best?

Del Brandt, PF-494

When a Pulitzer-Prize winning literary critic named a list of 10 books that he believed contributed the most to American culture, it was a pleasant surprise to find a story by Horatio Alger, Jr. on this elite list.

The critic, Jonathan Yardley who compiled the list for American Heritage Magazine, named Ragged Dick, or Street Life in New York by Alger along with nine other books by American authors.

Was Ragged Dick the best Alger book ever written? What do Horatio Alger Society members and readers of Newsboy think?

Wouldn't it be interesting in coming issues of Newsboy if readers voted for their own favorite Alger title from among the books they have read? Perhaps no one in the membership has read every word of every book by Alger, which number around 118.

Ragged Dick was a fine story, one that perhaps exemplified the Alger philosophy the best of all his books. It was probably the most widely-read.

The Yardley list also included Henry David Thoreau's Walden and Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass That's fast company for Alger to be in, believe me. Others included, in addition to Ragged Dick, were such diversified titles as Fannie Farmer's Boston Cooking School Cook Book; The Theory of the Leisure Class by Thorstein; The Souls of Black Folks by W.E. B. DuBois; In Our Time by Ernest Hemingway; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain; The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care by Benjamin Spock, M.D., and How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie.

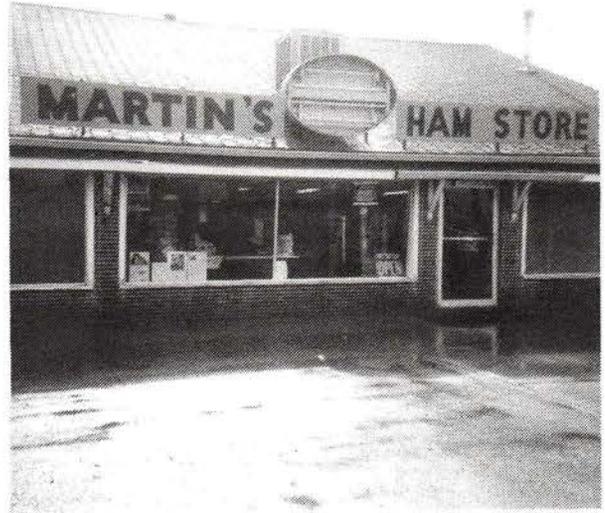
Of the list, Yardley commented: "I have no idea what sort of nation we would be, had these books never been published."

Out west with the Biberdorfs

Bernie & Marcy Biberdorf, PF-524

Shortly after our Indianapolis convention, we drove out to Rapid City, S.Dak. to visit Marcy's parents. Our ultimate goal was to take her parents to Choteau, Montana to visit Marcy's nephew, Arnie. Since Helena, Montana was on the return trip, we stopped at Floyd Martin's Ham Store. The store is located on the north side of Helena at 6025 N. Montana. We arrived there mid-morning on the 20th of May. Floyd was not in at the time. His son-in-law, Mike Schobel, said that Floyd works the afternoon shift baking hams. Mike gave us a nice tour of the store and described how the hams are processed. The photo shows the front view of the HAM STORE as you would see it from the street. HAS members might find it interesting to see the source of the hams that member Floyd Martin, PF-580 has been donating all these years at convention time.

Another stop was in Spencer, S.Dak. where Lucille Mone, the only S.Dak. Alger Society member, PF-431, lives. Spencer is located about midway between Sioux Falls and Mitchell just off Interstate 90 [about 5 miles north of exit #353]. After driving into the small Dakota town, we spotted the library on main street. We asked the librarian if she knew Lucille. She said, "Oh yes!, she is one of our best customers". The librarian was good enough to make a telephone call to Lucille who was attending a senior citizens meeting nearby. She came to the library and we had a mini-Alger convention right there in Spencer. She had read her Alger titles many times over. I am sure she would enjoy hearing from other HAS members. The photo shows Lucille and myself in front of the library.



Lucille Mone (PF-431) greets Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524) in front of the library in Spencer, S.D.



The ham store operated by Floyd Martin (PF-580) in Helena, Mont. Photo taken May 24 during a visit by 1991 convention hosts Marcy and Bernie Biberdorf.

Letters to the editor

Dear Sir,

Louis Bodnar, Jr. asked me [his sister Margaret] to write to you and ask you if the May-June issue of the Newsboy has been sent out. Louis received his March-April issue on March 25, 1991. Louis has been waiting so hard for the May-June issue, he thinks maybe his issue must be lost.

Louis can't write any more but he loves to get mail. I hope you can find time to write him an answer to this letter. Louis sends you his best regards.

Louis Bodnar, Jr., PF-490
% Sam Heath
3111 Hilburn Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Sorry Louis but the transition from one Editor to another has created some unusual logistics, these we hope will be worked out by the next issue and we will be back on-track. [In other words sorry Louis we goofed!]

* * * *

July 5, 1991

Dear Carl,

I'm soon leaving for the summer, but I want to offer this suggestion, based on my feeling that items we're offering at our annual auction are really worth more -- sometimes lots more -- than the HAS is getting for them [and we sure need the money!]

If it's workable, it would be great if members could just advise the editor [in some detail] what they are contributing to our next convention auction. In that way the item could be listed in every issue of Newsboy [prior to convention], and members who might not attend would be invited to mail in their bids. As it is only those attending our conventions get a chance to bid on some very fine items. And we could thereby realize higher prices.

Ralph D. Gardner, PF-053

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Editor;

Newsboy - May/June, Vastly improved!!

S. Percy Dean, PF-753
8010 Esperanza Bay
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

* * * *

July 15, 1991

Carl,

I do want to express my thanks to you for the kindness shown Gaylene and myself during our short visit together. It says a great deal about the organization but more importantly about yourself!

I have approximately seventy titles but many of them are not in good condition. I am always looking for new and better copies so if you can put us in touch with someone you know who might have copies to sell we are interested.

We are excited about being members of this outstanding society. We look forward to an exciting and fruitful relationship!

Thanks again for your kindness and sharing!

Sincerely,

Lee Switzer, PF-882
5870 7th. ST. N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432

* * * *

July 24, 1991

Gentlemen:

Hopefully I have found you. I have run down every lead that would result in me finding the Horatio Alger Society. I was a Horatio Alger Buff in the early 30's... In those days I made 1-1/2 cents on every Sat. Eve. Post, Liberty etc. that I sold.... Then, I would invest a dime in a used book store with a purchase of an Alger book.

When my mother passed on and her home was broken up - the Alger books were not to be found.

Recently I picked up about 15 in a swing thru New England - and as my wife goes antiquing I go Algering.... I think I have some 30-35 books now...

I would love to be a part of the Horatio Alger Society-Club or whatever-pay my dues and do some swapping etc-Mostly buy Alger books... Interestingly I do not know how many books he wrote-I have seen many listings-but as we all know some are the same story with different titles...

Last thought-lastly I feel that the Alger books read in my formative years contributed to a lasting set of benefits-a happy "work" life-reasonable prosperity, and a great family of 45 years of marriage and 4 children.

Send me what you may have that will enable me to be a part of the Alger Society-

Thanks,

Van Daele Mabrito, PF-883

**SEND YOUR NEWS
TO OUR
NEW EDITOR
WILLIAM R. GOWEN
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