



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

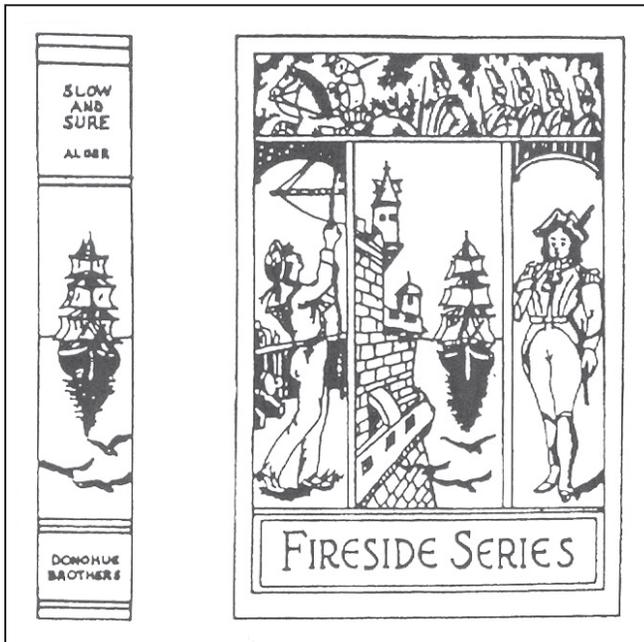
1832 - 1899

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

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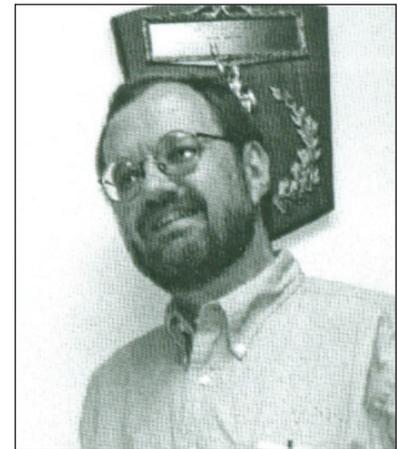
A new Donohue Alger format?

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Books in my baggage

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Former Newsboy editor Jack Bales

On the death of Horatio Alger?

A Social Science reflection

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President's column

This is my last presidential column. It has been a great pleasure and honor to serve as the president of the Horatio Alger Society. Working with, and visiting with, the members of this organization has been a lot of fun. Thanks especially to Rob Kasper and Bill Gowen for their many hours of work on our behalf as the Executive Director and **Newsboy** editor, respectively.

I have spoken recently with Arthur Young, our host for the upcoming convention, "Dash to DeKalb II," on May 13-16. Plans are all in place, and the attendees will have a great time meeting old friends and hopefully making new ones.

As one of the speakers, I am industriously digging up information on Radio Boys books and the development of radio. I also plan to bring a couple of my antique radios along for a demonstration. They are pretty old, so hopefully they will work when the time comes. I particularly look forward to the keynote address by Nicholas Basbanes, author of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and an Eternal Passion for Books*, and *A Splendor in Letters*, who spoke at the previous convention held in DeKalb in 1999.

In addition, there will be an election for officers, including president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and three board of directors members. My thanks to our outgoing officers and board members Bob Routhier, Chris DeHaan, Ed Mattson, Lee Allen, and Jeannette Routhier for their service over the last two years.

With luck, you will receive this issue before the convention. If you have not made your hotel reservation, please do so immediately by calling (815) 753-1444. A schedule of events is enclosed, with more information on the official H.A.S. Web site at www.ihot.com/~has/

As usual, book collecting for me has been rather slow. No great finds, nothing to brag about at the convention. Even my book sales have been slow. Since the convention is within driving distance, I can bring a few boxes of books for sale and possibly make my fortune!

I hope to see you in DeKalb on May 13-16.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Bob Huber
205 Ozark Trail
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-1298
E-mail: rhuber35@charter.net

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 — youngsters whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and inspired hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans for generations to come.

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Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255**.

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

You can visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.ihot.com/~has/

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send ads or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Horatio Alger Fellowship for the Study of American Popular Culture

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, invite applications for the Horatio Alger Fellowship for the Study of American Popular Culture. Funding is available to scholars who will be using materials from the Libraries' major holdings in American popular culture.

These holdings include the Albert Johanssen Collection of more than 50,000 dime novels, and the nation's preeminent collections related to Horatio Alger, Jr., and Edward Stratemeyer. Many other authors are represented. Topics which could draw on the collections' strengths might include the plight of urban

children, image of the American West in popular literature, widespread use of pseudonyms, and stereotypical portrayals. Preference will be given to applicants who signify an interest in conducting research related to Horatio Alger, Jr. The Fellowship award consists of a \$1,500 stipend, and may be used between July 1 and December 31, 2004.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, a brief proposal for their research, and two letters of recommendation to: Arthur P. Young, Dean, University Libraries, Horatio Alger Fellowship, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2868.

Deadline for applications is June 1, 2004.

Magnificent Chicago opens doors to visitors

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

An opportunity to visit Chicago, one of America's greatest cities, awaits H.A.S. members and their families when they arrive at Northern Illinois University for "Dash to DeKalb II" on May 13-16.

I sincerely hope as many Partic'ler Friends as possible decide to remain in the area a couple of extra days following the conclusion of the convention on Sunday morning, May 16. Another possibility is to check in at the University Guest room Hotel a day or two early (the special convention rate will be honored in either case) and drive the 60 miles into Chicago.

Chicago is known as "the city that works" (in other words, a city that functions efficiently rather than one with poor streets, inefficient trash pickup or snow removal). Whether Chicago "works" is in the eye of the beholder: Mayor Richard M. Daley has polished the political machine created by his famous mayor father, Richard J. Daley, who was first elected in 1955 and died Dec. 20, 1976, early in his sixth term in office.

"Richie," as current mayor Richard M. Daley is called by both his supporters and detractors, has held the office since April 1989, and has overseen a period of great economic growth in the city, even though many manufacturing jobs have gone elsewhere. A street beautification project (with thousands of new trees and flower gardens) has brightened the city; the \$450 million Millennium Park

will officially open this summer, and the revitalization of Navy Pier into a major tourist and entertainment center have all taken place during his administration.

Obviously, Richard M. Daley learned a lot at the feet of his famous father.

Chicago boasts a world-class symphony orchestra and opera company, the collections held by the Art Institute of Chicago are among the world's finest, and the Museum of Science and Industry, Field Museum of Natural History and Shedd Aquarium have been field-trip destinations for several generations of Chicago-area school children.

One of the amazing stories of the younger Daley's four terms in office has been the revitalization of Midway Airport. Built in 1927 and first called Chicago Municipal Airport, it was renamed Midway after the famous World War II naval battle against Japan. Located on the near southwest side, it was the nation's busiest airport from 1945 to 1958, but by the early 1980s it was virtually deserted, with a handful of flights each day. Of course, the rapid expansion of O'Hare International Airport into the world's busiest siphoned the majority of business away from Midway.

Then, thanks to start-up airlines such as Southwest, business began to pick up. Now, Midway has a busy flight schedule from numerous airlines and boasts a brand-new terminal complex, built at a cost in the hundreds of millions. The city has even extended one of its rapid transit lines right to the airport.

Conditions are now so crowded at O'Hare that United and American Airlines recently announced cutbacks in peak-hour flights. There is also a push for a third airport,
(Continued on Page 16)

Editor's notebook

Those of us who live in Illinois, as well as residents of other Midwest or Plains states, know the destructive power of a tornado.

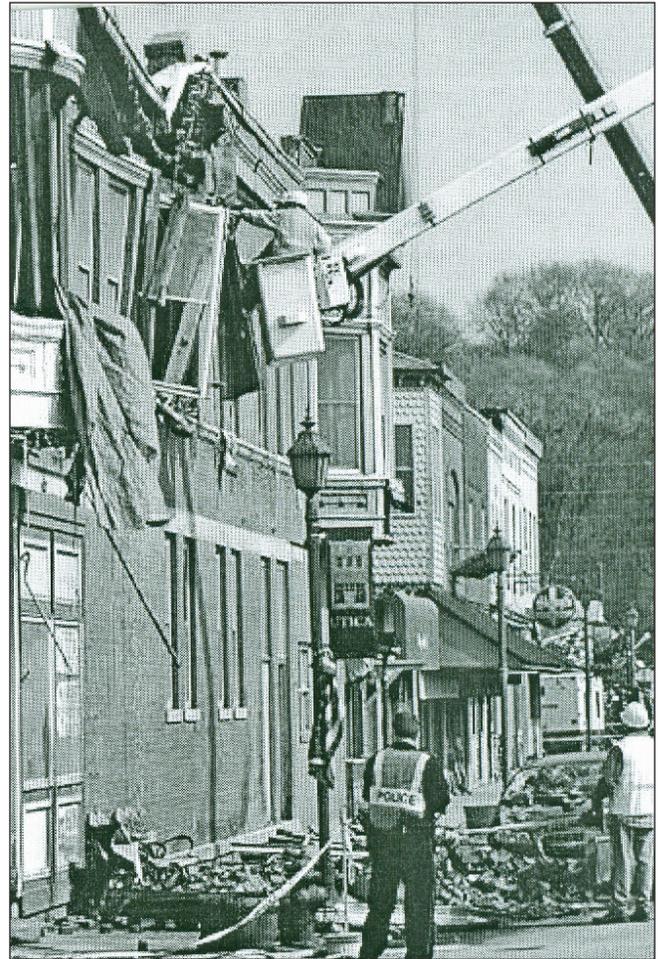
Those of us who admire and collect the books of Edward Edson Lee ("Leo Edwards") know the north-central Illinois town of Utica, chosen by Lee, using the fictional name of "Tutter," as the main setting (along with neighboring cities/towns of LaSalle, Ottawa and Marseilles) for the Jerry Todd and Poppy Ott books. If you look at the endpapers of the Jerry Todd books (the editions beginning in 1932), the map of Tutter is nearly a replica of Utica in layout and size. The main business street, barely three blocks long and running north and south, is Mill Street in the real Utica and "Hill Street" in the fictional Tutter.

At about dinnertime on April 20, Utica ceased to exist as we knew it, when a tornado hit the tiny community of 1,000, located on the Rock Island Railroad line and on the north side of the old Illinois & Michigan Canal, which parallels the Illinois River to the south. Utica is best known today as the town you must pass through on State Route 178 after exiting Interstate 80 en route to one of Illinois' most scenic tourist spots, Starved Rock State Park, located just across the Illinois River.

Most of the old buildings on Mill Street (and Church and Canal Streets, which run east-west), were in existence when the Jerry Todd and Poppy Ott stories were written in the 1920s and '30s. A great number of those buildings are now gone, or will have to be torn down because of the tornado's damage. Eight residents, ages 18 to 81, were killed when they took refuge in the basement of the Milestone Tap, only to become trapped when the three-story sandstone building collapsed.

"These buildings are so old, the roof goes and the whole thing is going to go. They might have been better off going outside, but then you'd be hit by debris," said Utica resident Greg Crabbe.

"You hear the typical freight train or jet engine sound," said Richard Little, 37, who sought shelter in the Milestone Tap's basement when he heard the tornado siren. He credited his survival to the fact he went to a corner of the basement and wedged himself next to a large cooler used by the restaurant. "Me and a guy next to me crouched down and put our hands over our heads, and it was over in a couple of seconds. You could hear kids screaming and adults screaming to let us know where they were buried."



Mill Street, location of most of the small businesses in Utica, Illinois, was devastated by the tornado of April 20, 2004, in which eight residents of the north-central Illinois town lost their lives. Utica, using the fictional name of "Tutter," was the setting of Edward Edson Lee's *Jerry Todd* and *Poppy Ott* books.

Incidentally, Little, a truck driver, lives in the nearby town of Troy Grove. Longtime Leo Edwards collectors may recall the name Ray Zorn, who operated the Cottage Bookshop in Troy Grove in the 1960s and early 70s. Zorn, who also served as Troy Grove's postmaster, always had plenty of Leo Edwards books for sale at the Utica flea market as well as at his store, and he helped many fans of the author complete their Jerry Todd and Poppy Ott collections. This was when you could buy one of the more common Jerry Todd titles for a buck or two, or \$4 or \$5 with a dust jacket!

The LaSalle County Museum is located in Utica, in the historic brick canal house on the southeast corner of Mill Street and the old, abandoned canal. Zorn helped the museum put together a Leo Edwards display, including

(Continued on Page 7)

A new Donohue Alger format? I think so ...

*Fireside Series Format No. 13A*¹

By Brad Chase (PF-412)

Recently I found an example of an Alger Donohue format for *Slow and Sure* that was likely published by two different publishers at two different times. This was surprising to me, but understandable, recognizing the wild and wacky world of children's book publishing in the 1900s, with widespread plate sharing, frequent company successions and bankruptcies.

However, it raises the basic question as to when does one know that a publisher of an Alger book is actually THE publisher? Or, put another way, how is the publisher of an Alger book actually determined? It sounds simple and easy to say that the name on the title page of a book, or at the bottom of the outside spine, is that of the publisher. Some observe, however, that these sometimes differ, which confuses the definition. So when they do differ, which firm should be considered the actual publisher?

I faced this question directly a few years ago at a Horatio Alger Society convention when I made a presentation on the progress I was making toward completing my last book on Alger publishers.² The following question was raised: "Which is the correct publisher if two different publisher names are shown on the same book?" what had raised this question, I think, were the H.T. Coates/Winston/Federal copies that the questioner had recently found, which contained different publisher names on the outside and inside.

My immediate reaction was that whatever publisher's name appears on the title page of the book is the publisher. Samuel T. Huang, rare book librarian then representing the Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University, agreed and indicated that in the publishing and library field such is considered standard practice. I subsequently found that others in the rare book field agreed. Further discussion of this issue and other references on this subject appear on Page 150 in my latest book.³

The reason I bring this up is because the new Donohue Alger format I have found has Donohue Brothers printed on the bottom (foot) of the spine in gold and W.L. Allison Company on the title page. Following standard practice, Allison would be considered the publisher of this book. However, I don't think that is true in this case, given what I know about the M.A. Donohue Co., its predecessors and its publishing activity.

As many of you are aware, in 1994 I published a book about Alger formats published by M.A. Donohue & Co. At that time, I set down all I knew about M.A. Donohue and his firms's Alger historical publishing pattern. These past



Donohue Format 13A: Fireside Series Format

10 years I have been pleased to find that other collectors have uncovered and brought to me new information about Donohue Alger books. For example, someone recently showed me a Donohue dust jacket that I wasn't aware existed and had not originally included in my book on the Donohue formats.

Other collectors have shown me copies of titles that were new to me for specific Donohue formats. As a matter of practice, I make notes of any new information received about Alger formats that may have not appeared in any of my books in anticipation that someday I will produce updated versions. This updating of material is expected, understandable and encouraged by me as we struggle to document what publishers actually produced well over 100 years ago.

In my book *Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, I include details concerning a firm called the Donohue Brothers company, which consisted of at least two of Michael A. Donohue's sons, who were in the publishing business for themselves in 1900, for about a year. They were working out of their father's building at 415 Dearborn St., in Chicago, publishing children's books under the Donohue Brothers imprint. It was a separate company from the Donohue and Henneberry printing and binding business in the same building, of which their father, Michael A. Donohue, was an owner.

One year later, in 1901, the firms merged and formed

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A new Donohue Alger format?

(Continued from Page 5)

the M.A. Donohue Company.⁴

On April 14, 1900, **Publisher's Weekly** noted that Donohue Brothers had purchased the stock and plates of the Allison company book firm.⁵ This provided Donohue Brothers with leftover texts (printed pages) and cover stock, plus plate capability to produce additional books, which is what I believe happened. It would certainly account for the Allison name appearing on the title page of the new format that I found. In the pages at the rear of the new format there is an advertisement for **Allison's Fireside Series for Boys**, which depicts the new format, except that it shows "W.L. Allison Co." at the bottom of the spine of the book as illustrated. However, in the ad itself, Donohue Brothers obviously changed the words there from "W.L. Allison Co." to "Donohue Brothers," thus making it their own book.

According to standard practice, this new format should be considered an Allison-published book because of the title page reference, but, in fact, the text pages and cover design were developed by Allison — then, the spine was slightly modified by the Donohue Brothers, who printed, marketed, distributed and sold it as their product. I think these latter activities make Donohue Brothers the publisher of this Alger book. (*Editor's note: John T. Dizer discusses this slice of Allison-Donohue history in "Merriam, Allison — and a little Alger," in the July-August 2002 Newsboy.*)

Now, many will say that under this particular set of circumstances, the standard practice rule does not apply. They would be absolutely right. So, knowing how the text and binding were developed, and understanding certain historical aspects of the publishing activity involved, the publisher of the Alger book I recently found is indeed the Donohue Brothers company, even though that conclusion flies in the face of the standard practice rule. I'm sure many other examples of this type of situation exist. However, in each case, specific circumstances surrounding a particular book's publication history must be researched and understood.

For historical clarity, it is important to bring to light new findings, for they have direct implications on existing printed references and help collectors have a more complete knowledge about their collections. For example, this finding means that Bob Bennett's 1999 *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* should be updated by adding Donohue Brothers as an Alger publisher.⁶

It also means that my book on Donohue Alger formats should be updated by adding another format, even though it is published by Donohue Brothers rather than by M.A. Donohue. It makes sense to me to include it as part of the Donohue family's effort in producing Alger. I suggest

numbering the new Format 13A and including it just after Format 13 (Pages 62 and 63) of my book, because the two formats (13 and 13A) have similar front covers and are obviously related.

This new format, No. 13A, is to be called the **Fireside Series** format, with *Slow and Sure* as the only Alger title found to date. (*Editor's note: This makes sense, because Slow and Sure is also the only known Alger reprint title published by W.L. Allison, originally appearing in 1897 as part of its Bound to Win Series, which included 12 Edward Stratemeyer titles. See John T. Dizer's article, noted above.*)

Details of this new format, shown in the illustration on Page 7, are as follows:

Donohue Format 13A Fireside Series Format

This high-quality clothbound format, published in 1900 by Donohue Brothers, essentially shows two shades of green with black outlines. It is similar in its cover design and is probably related to Donohue Format 13, Battle Format. The cover measures 7½ x 4 inches and is about seven-eighths of an inch thick.

The words "Fireside Series" on the front cover are in black ink, as are the outlines of the illustrations, which appear within four rectangles. Certain parts of the clothing on the figures shown are lime-green in color, as are the sails of the ship and the decks of the fort. The background color for the whole book is the medium green of the binding color. The spine depicts a black-outlined ship with lime-green sails set against the same medium-green background. The lettering on the spine is in gold. The lime and medium greens, gold and black lettering and black outlines make this a very attractive-looking, quality book.

There is a W.L. Allison Co. advertisement within the book depicting the same cover and spine illustration as described above as Donohue Format 13A, but is shown as an Allison-published book. The advertisement lists 64 titles as part of Allison's **Fireside Series for Boys**, only one of which is by Alger: No. 60, *Slow and Sure*. In the advertisement, the drawing of the book shows the W.L. Allison name at the bottom of the spine, not Donohue Brothers. I would conclude that Donohue Brothers changed the name at the bottom of the actual book's spine, then marketed and sold as their own after they purchased the Allison plates and stock. It seems very possible that Donohue Brothers produced at least some of the other 63 titles in Allison's **Fireside Series**, written by 11 other authors. My guess is that if they produced Alger's *Slow and Sure*, they produced others as well.

This Allison advertisement shows that these books sold for 75 cents each; I do not know what Donohue Brothers charged for its Alger title, but it would appear likely that since the 75-cent price was carried over from the original

Allison advertisement, that was what Donohue Brothers charged as well.

For the interest of collectors of various formats of books by other authors, these are the authors in addition to Alger listed in this advertisement, with the number of titles by each in parentheses: G.A. Henty (41), J.F. Cooper (12), Capt. Mayne Reid (2), Charles Illesley (1), Sir Samuel W. Baker (1), Samuel Lover (1), Jules Verne (1), D. DeFoe (1), R.L. Stevenson (1), Fred Gerstacker (1) and Felix L. Oswald (1).⁷

NOTES

1. Bradford S. Chase: *Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, pp. 62-63. Enfield, CT, 06082: Sandpiper Publishing, 1994.

2. Bradford S. Chase: *Horatio Alger Books Published by Twelve Small Alger Publishers*. Enfield, CT., 06082: Sand-

piper Publishing, 2001.

3. *Ibid.*, pp. 12 and 150, Part 1, Footnote 10.

4. Bradford S. Chase: *Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, page 6.

5. R.R. Bowker Co., New York: *Publisher's Weekly*, Vol. LVII, No. 15 (Whole No. 1472), April 14, 1900, page 808.

6. Bob Bennett: *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* Newark, Del., 1971: MAD Book Co., 1999.

7. Horatio Alger, Jr.: *Slow and Sure*. Chicago: Donohue Brothers, 1900. Note that the "Jr." was inadvertently left off Alger's name in the advertisement listing by Allison, found on page 249.

Note: Information on purchasing one or more of Brad Chase's books on Alger publishers' formats is available by writing him at 6 Sandpiper Road, Enfield, CT 06082.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

a near-complete set of the books (most in dust jackets). At this point I don't know how much damage the museum suffered in the tornado.

I visited Utica several times in the mid-1970s and early 1980s, and the late "Chief Mummy Inspector," Bob Chenu, stopped by in 1984 on his way home from the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, series book conference. Many other Leo Edwards fans from the Chicago area or Quad Cities made regular pilgrimages to Utica, visiting such sites as the waterfall on Clark's Creek, "Happy Hollow" and "Zulutown," along with Buffalo Rock, located on the canal east of town and immortalized in *Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure*.

Now, much of Utica is gone. Ron Sherman, a damage assessment leader from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), estimated 80 percent of the town's downtown was badly damaged. "It will take at least five years to rebuild," one resident said.

Said retired lock and dam operator Lee Bottomley, 66, of those who lost their lives: "I was born in this town. I know these people."

Utica was incorporated as North Utica in 1867, and was one of the main stops on the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Its residents vow to rebuild.

"They ain't going to take Utica away from us," said life-long resident Mike Payne, 62. "That's the way Utica is. You stick together."

* * *

In my Editor's Notebook last issue, I expressed hope that I'd turn up some biographical information on Paul G. Tomlinson, son of author Everett T. Tomlinson, the

subject of my article in the September-October, 2003 *Newsboy*.

Although Paul Tomlinson wrote many fewer books than his father, he was a valuable contributor to the boys' book field, with his two-volume **Princeton Boy Series** (1914-15), three-volume **Classmates Series** (1914-16) and five-volume **Bob Cook Series** (1917-1919), plus *The Trail of Black Hawk*, which he contributed to the three-volume **Great Indian Chiefs Series**, the other two titles written by his father. A list of these 11 books can be found at the end of my article.

A few weeks ago, former *Newsboy* editor Jack Bales (PF-258), whose reminiscence on his early years in the Horatio Alger Society can be found starting on Page 13, e-mailed me promising some assistance with Paul Tomlinson, and shortly thereafter the much-desired biographical information arrived in the mail. Jack, of course, had ready access to reference sources as Reference and Humanities Librarian at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va.

These sources included the following:

American Authors and Books, 1640 to the Present Day. W.J. Burke and Will D. Howe; revised by Irving Weiss and Anne Weiss; Third Revised Edition. New York: Crown Publishers, 1972.

Who Was Who in America, Volume 8, 1982-1985. Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, 1985.

Who Was Who among North American Authors, 1921-1939. Compiled from *Who's Who among North American Authors, Volumes 1-7, 1921-1939*. Two volumes. Gale Composite Biographical Dictionary Series, Number 1. Gale Research, 1976.

According to these sources, Paul Greene Tomlinson was born February 8, 1888, in New Brunswick, New
(Continued on Page 8)

Strive and Succeed Award

The Horatio Alger Society appreciates the generosity of its members in donating to the H.A.S. **Strive and Succeed Award** fund. The **Strive and Succeed Award** is presented each spring at the annual convention to a deserving high school senior to help defray his or her college expenses. These Partic'lar Friends made contributions during 2003:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lee T. Allen (PF-977) | Samuel T. Huang (PF-963) | Peter A. Scollo (PF-222) |
| Donald Arnold (PF-104) | Robert L. Kersch (PF-946) | Robert Sipes (PF-1067) |
| John D. Arnold (PF-1042) | Robert A. Jones (PF-904) | Arthur W. Smitter (PF-952) |
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| Egon Flad (PF-1069) | Gordon E. Rasmussen (PF-1010) | Arthur P. Young (PF-941) |
| John M. Glasgow (PF-1012) | Lawrence R. Rice (PF-757) | |
| Gordon W. Huber (PF-843) | | |

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 7)

Jersey, son of Everett T. and Ann (Greene) Tomlinson. During his adult life he lived in Princeton, N.J.

Unfortunately, the biographical sketches were written prior to Paul's death, so no date of death is available from these sources.

Paul Tomlinson received his secondary education at Newark Academy, and he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University in 1909. He received an L.L.B. degree from New York Law School in 1911.

In January 1917 Paul married the former Gabriella Prout, and they had two children, Henry Prout Tomlinson and Ann (Mrs. S.C.) Finnell.

Tomlinson was editor of several periodicals, including **McClure's Magazine** (1917-23), **The Outlook** (1919-24), **The Elks Magazine** (1923-31), **American Legion Weekly** (1924) and was Financial Editor of **Harper's Magazine** (1925-36). He also was director and secretary of Princeton University Press from 1918 to 1938.

In the public sector, Tomlinson was chief of the bureau

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Brian K. Twedt (PF-1079)
202 Rue St. Denis
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

of publicity for the New Jersey Department of Economic Development, sat on the Princeton Borough Common Council in 1923 and secretary of Princeton Hospital (1924-33). He was Director of Corporate Relations for Lawrence Portland Cement Co., starting in 1948.

In addition to his 11 known books for boys, Paul Tomlinson wrote histories of the Trenton Banking Company (1929) and Princeton Bank and Trust Co. (1934).

* * *

That's it for this issue. If you haven't made your reservations at the University Guest Rooms Hotel for "Dash to Dekalb II," do it today! The phone number is (815) 753-1444, and the double-occupancy rate is a real bargain at \$72.15, tax included. See you there!

On the death of Horatio Alger?

A Social Science reflection

By Carol Nackenoff, Swarthmore College
(PF 921)

A great deal of ink has been spilled in recent months in attempts to determine what is going on with the U.S. economy and what some of these changes portend. There have been announcements of (or calls for) the death of Alger in the process, and a good deal of reexamination of economic mobility and well being. Analysis has centered on the growing gap between rich and poor; the growing gap between lifetime earning power of those with four-year college degrees and those with only a high school diploma or some college; slow job growth and especially weak middle-class job creation; the relationship between globalization, technological development and outsourcing not just of blue-collar but increasing varieties of hi-tech white-collar work; pension plan health and health care costs; the plight of the working poor; and the number of Americans whose economic position is stagnant or downwardly mobile.

What does the recent invocation of Alger signify? What brings this new commentary about Alger's demise, and what is its import?

Princeton economics professor and *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman wrote a column at the beginning of this year titled "The Death of Horatio Alger" (*Nation*, January 5, 2004, 16-17). Krugman was elaborating on and seconding Aaron Bernstein's commentary in the December 1, 2003 issue of *Business Week* (54-58) on "Waking Up From the American Dream," in which Bernstein found the U.S. economy slowly stratifying along class lines. Bernstein, a Washington, D.C.-based senior writer at *Business Week*, specializes in workplace trends, incomes, unemployment, and labor issues.

One important contributing factor to this stratification, argues Bernstein, is the steeply escalating bill for a college education. The number of students from impoverished backgrounds who get the bachelor's degree — a degree that greatly expands lifetime income expectations — has been stagnant. According to the Economic Policy Institute, the premium employers pay for workers with B.A. and B.S. degrees over those with merely high school diplomas has risen over the last 20 years (David Wessel, *The Wall Street Journal*, 4/2/04, A1). (Community college tuition aid, which received attention in President Bush's 2004 State of the Union Address and which has also received support from former Democratic candidate John Edwards, generally



The wealthy young snob. (Anonymous [Horatio Alger, Jr.], *Nothing to Do: A Tilt at Our Best Society*. Boston: James French and Company, 1857).

does not lead to a bachelor's degree, but can lead to relatively well-remunerated specializations). As costs for college education escalate, not just at elite private colleges such as the one where I teach but especially at state institutions, where some states have had to cut higher education budgets in the face of deficits, federal financial aid dollars cover less of the bill for the poor. The Pell Grant program's maximum grant used to cover 84 percent of the cost at a public 4-year college for the poorest students, but now, it covers only 39 percent (*Newsweek*, 2/2/04, p. 49). Some schools have given up on need-blind admission. Jane Bryant Quinn quotes Tom Mortenson, a higher-education policy analyst, who terms this shifting of costs onto students at state schools "creeping privatization" (*Newsweek*, 2/2/04, p. 49). According to *Newsweek*, two-year public institu-

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tions have seen a 53 percent tuition increase in the last 10 years, and four-year public institutions have seen an 85 percent jump in the same 10-year period. These increases have run far ahead of inflation rates. Both the Horatio Alger Association and the Horatio Alger Society, of course, recognize the need to help students afford to realize their dreams of attaining an education, but the problem is quite extensive and deepening.

Another factor in the increasing class stratification of the U.S. economy, according to *Business Week's* Bernstein, is the proliferation of low-wage, dead-end jobs in the 1990s. Relatively well-paying manufacturing jobs continue to decline, and the Wal-Mart phenomenon continues to ruthlessly pressure competitors to cut labor costs. One statistic that I have seen often of late indicates 30 million Americans make less than \$8.70 per hour, and while this is the official poverty level for a family of four, many economists believe this is only half of what it would take for such a family to cover basic needs. The number of Americans without health insurance continues to escalate. As *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert notes, "One of the great achievements of the United States has been the high standard of living of the average American worker" ("Theory Vs. Reality," *New York Times* 2/23/04). There is significant reason to worry about the current and future state of that standard of living, and politicians on both sides of the aisle seem to recognize this in their election-year proposals.

A book that I have read and that has received considerable attention since its publication a couple of years ago (including a prominent place on the freshman summer reading list at many colleges), Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed in America*, provides a disturbing chronicle of the author's inability to make ends meet in several low-wage jobs she held in different regions of the nation. Relocating to Florida, Maine and Minnesota, Ehrenreich found employment at Wal-Mart, waitressing, as a nursing-home aide, and working for a maid service. Ehrenreich offers a window into the struggles of the people — mostly women — around her who cannot pick up and go back to Manhattan at the end of the author's social experiment.

Other recent books in similar vein include David K. Shipler's *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*, reviewed by Ron Suskind in *The New York Times Book Review* in February (Feb. 15, 2004), which explores the phenomenon of the large portion of the 35 million people in America living in poverty who work — including the many who work full-time. Shipler followed some of the people who figure in the book for as long as seven years, and, like Ehrenreich, conveys a rich sense of what

it means to be without a car, without health insurance, and without a bank account as one seeks work.

Another is *Low-Wage America: How Employers Are Reshaping Opportunity in the Workplace* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2003), by Eileen Appelbaum, Annette Bernhardt, Richard J. Murnane, *et al.*, a book that considers the employment effects of decisions by firms to restructure economically, especially the creation of dead-end jobs. This is based upon case studies of 464 enterprises in 25 industries, and the named authors point out that 29 percent of working families with children under age 12 had incomes below the basic family budget for their communities. Among the workers most at risk for falling below the poverty line are those with high school educations (42 percent of all U.S. workers have never attended college), but those workers with some college education are also found among those at or below poverty line earnings.

Middle class and high-skilled employees are also feeling the effects as companies choose to hire temporary rather than full-time workers and send software design and other technical jobs offshore. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, "jobs that can be reduced to a series of rules are likely to go — either to workers abroad or to computers" (Wessel, 4/2/04, p. A1). While this did not lead Wessel to predict massive unemployment rates, he described a more likely scenario as the "barbell effect," with the squeeze on jobs in the middle; thus the wage gap between those at the top and those at the bottom of the wage/salary hierarchy may well grow. Again, "it is clear that to be a successful middle-skilled worker in the U.S. takes increasingly more schooling" (Wessel, WSJ 4/2/04, A1, A5).

I can see the effects of employment instability in this high-tech sector in my own community, and among my own friends and acquaintances. If "high-quality employment is the cornerstone of the economic well-being of America's vast middle class," (Bob Herbert, "Theory Vs. Reality," *New York Times* 2/23/04) there is a great deal of anxiety about the future of such high-quality middle-class employment. Christopher (Sandy) Jencks, a Harvard sociologist, has found that immigrants, too, are finding fewer paths to the middle class than in the past; the income spread between immigrants and native-born Americans is about three-times greater now than it was a century ago (Jencks cited in Bernstein, *Business Week*, 12/1/03, 58).

Career ladders at work — the notion of advancing over time with a single employer — something I considered in my dissertation years ago — are among the casualties of restructuring. Fewer and fewer Americans can expect to rise through the ranks as they continue with a single employer, and fewer and fewer Americans can expect to spend their working lives with a single

employer even if they wish to. In part because of the pace of technological change and obsolescence of job-specific skills, fewer can expect to spend their working lives rising in a single career track with different employers, either.

The evidence is compelling that a great deal has changed in the last three decades. According to evidence in *Low-Wage America*, there is less evidence that a "rising tide lifts all boats" than there used to be. From 1979-2000, one-third of the increase in the mean household income went to the top one percent of households and another third went to the next 19 percent of households (Chapter 1). For more and more Americans, living as well or better than one's parents is elusive; for more and more Americans, the standard of living is at best stagnant. The percentage of Americans who believe they will equal or exceed their parents' earnings during their lifetimes is declining. And these responses are not unrealistic. Upward mobility has been slipping since the 1970s.

One recent study exploring how sons fared by contrast to the social and economic class of their fathers (measured by education, income, and occupation) found that while, in 1973, 23 percent of the sons whose fathers were in the lowest quartile on the socioeconomic scale had made it to the top quarter, only 10 percent had done so 25 years later. And while 63 percent of the sons of fathers in the second-highest socioeconomic quartile equaled or surpassed the economic standing of their fathers in the 1960s, only 51 percent of sons of fathers in the second-highest socioeconomic quartile equaled or surpassed the economic standing of their parents in the 1990s (David W. Wright and colleagues, cited in *Business Week*, 12/1/03, 58). Between 1973 and 2000, average real income for the bottom 90 percent of U.S. taxpayers fell 7 percent; real income for the top 1 percent rose 148 percent and the income of the top 0.1 percent rose 343 percent in this same period (according to economists Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez and confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office, cited in Krugman, *Nation*, January 5, 2004, 16). University of Chicago economist and Nobel laureate James J. Heckman says "the biggest finding in recent years is that the notion of America being a highly mobile society isn't as true as it used to be" (*Business Week*, 12/1/03, 56).

Yale Political Scientist Jacob S. Hacker has recently argued, moreover, that the volatility of family incomes has increased significantly since 1970 ("Call It the Family Risk Factor," *The New York Times* op-ed, 1/11/04). Hacker created an index of year-to-year volatility in family income from both government and private sector sources, controlling for family size (presented as a five-year moving average from 1970-1997). Families are, he argues, less secure than they were (reflecting erratic work experience, the fact that employer-provided benefits including pen-

sion plan contributions and social security contributions are increasingly pushed off onto employees, and the fact that government programs providing benefits to poor and middle-class families have shrunk in absolute and relative value). Economic anxieties ensue.

Alger has also been recently invoked in Michael Moore's new volume, *Dude, Where's My Country?* (Warner Books, 2003). Moore, always a hit with the 16-year-old set (among others), has a chapter titled "Horatio Alger Must Die," in the spirit of the 1970 record album by Traffic featuring the old ballad about John Barleycorn, who keeps sprouting up despite all efforts to do him in. I am never sure whether Moore's call to arms (I admit the image is a bit ironic in the context of "Bow-ling for Columbine") breeds more cynicism and anger or more depression, but the book does not generally offer many programmatic political suggestions. Moore wants us to realize that fairy tales are dysfunctional and dupe us — like Jim Jones' followers who, mostly willingly, drank Kool-Aid at Jonestown. For Moore, we are addicted to "the Horatio Alger fantasy drug" (144) while Enron, WorldCom, and similar scandals demonstrate that "we're being mugged by this lawless gang of CEOs" (138). Average Joes and Janes, in Moore's view, are, meanwhile, going far too quietly as they lose their jobs, their pensions invested in the stock market, and their savings, victims of corporate greed.

But corporate greed, though it may well have been hurting workers in ways that he describes, is insufficient to explain the larger patterns of social and economic mobility, stratification, declining access to higher education, and other issues that pose more of a threat to what is known as the American dream. Alger never argued that everyone could become rich, nor did he pretend for a moment that the rich were necessarily virtuous (remember all the greedy and unfeeling squires and their sons?). The promise seemed, rather, that there were predictable paths to middle-class comfort and sometimes more would follow — especially if one had the proper character, which was a kind of skill that didn't go away with changes in the labor market.

What, then, of Horatio Alger? It is true that income disparities in the Gilded Age were very substantial, then grew smaller beginning in the 1930s. The trend toward narrower income gaps has now been reversed. But the Alger story, honed during the Gilded Age, was not about income disparities but social and intergenerational mobility. The American dream was about rising through the ranks. And in Alger's arranged justice, sometimes this was accompanied by the rich being brought low — a potentially zero-sum arrangement if undeserving rich and deserving poor changed places. Now, upward mobility has fallen quite measurably. (Krugman mentions studies

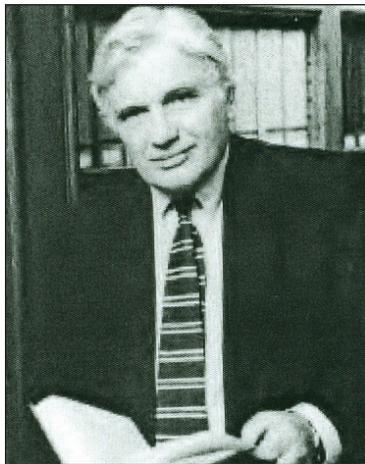
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Meet Nicholas Basbanes, convention keynote speaker

Those attending the 1999 centennial Horatio Alger Society convention in DeKalb, Illinois, will remember the entertaining talk presented by renowned author, journalist and bibliophile Nicholas A. Basbanes. By popular demand, Basbanes will return for "Dash to DeKalb II," to offer further insights into the "gentle madness" of book collecting, as keynote speaker during the annual H.A.S. banquet on May 15.

Here's some biographical background on Mr. Basbanes, derived from the author's official Web site:

A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Nicholas A. Basbanes graduated from Bates College (Lewiston, Maine) in 1965, received a master of arts degree from Penn State University in 1968, and served as a naval officer aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Oriskany in the Tonkin Gulf in 1969 and 1970.



Nicholas A. Basbanes

An award-winning investigative reporter during the early 1970s, Basbanes was literary editor of the **Worcester Sunday Telegram** from 1978 to 1991, and for eight years after that wrote a nationally syndicated column on books and authors. He is a former president of the Friends of the Robert H. Goddard Library of Clark University, which has established a student book collecting competition in his honor.

Now in its eighth edition with more than 80,000 copies in print, his first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* (Henry Holt), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle

Award in nonfiction for 1995, and was named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. The release in 2001 of a companion volume, *Patience & Fortitude: A Roving Chronicle of Book People, Book Places, and Book Culture* (HarperCollins) prompted the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and historian David McCullough to write that "Nicholas Basbanes has become our leading authority of books about books and this, his latest, is a jewel."

Basbanes' third book, *Among the Gently Mad: Perspectives and Strategies for the Book-Hunter of the 21st Century*, was issued by Henry Holt in November 2002, prompting **Publisher's Weekly** to observe that "this lively book will appeal to any book lover, as Basbanes' enthusiasm is infectious." His fourth book, *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World*, was published by HarperCollins last fall.

"I am obsessed with books in every imaginable sense and nuance of the word," Basbanes writes in the preface to his latest book. "I am fascinated by their history and composition, by the many shapes and forms they have assumed over time. I want to know everything I can about the people who write them, make them, preserve them, sell them, covet them, collect them, fear them, ban them, destroy them, and most of all, about those who are moved, entertained, instructed, awed, and inspired by them."

In addition to his books, Basbanes has written for numerous newspapers, magazines, and journals, **The New York Times**, **The Washington Post**, **Smithsonian**, **Civilization**, and **New England Quarterly** among them, and lectures widely on book-related subjects. He is a regular commentator on the nationally syndicated radio program, "The Book Guys," and with his wife, Constance Basbanes, writes a monthly review of children's books for Literary Features Syndicate, which they established in 1993. They are the parents of two daughters, Barbara and Nicole, and live in North Grafton, Mass.

On the death of Horatio Alger?

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that purport to show otherwise, and explains why they are not measuring the same things.) There are far fewer rags to riches stories today than there were in Alger's own lifetime — or even in most of our earlier years. For Krugman, it is "Goodbye, Horatio Alger. And goodbye, American Dream." Krugman's argument is that it does not have to be this way.

While competitive pressures in a global economy are quite real, governments and their actions matter. Public policies matter; responses to Wal-Martization and globalization matter. Policies to "grow" (a phrase I hate but which has been around at least since Clinton) good jobs — not just numbers of desultory jobs — matter. The changes of the past quarter of the 20th century and the first few years of the 21st are troublesome for the American workforce. Whatever one's political dispositions, we need vigorous discussion and exploration of alternatives to try to save the American Dream.

Books in my baggage

Or, A Horatio Alger Reminiscence

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

Newsboy Editor, 1974-1986

I am a librarian by vocation, but back in the 1970s and 1980s, Horatio Alger was certainly my avocation. I avidly collected Alger books and for quite a few years edited the Alger Society's *Newsboy*.

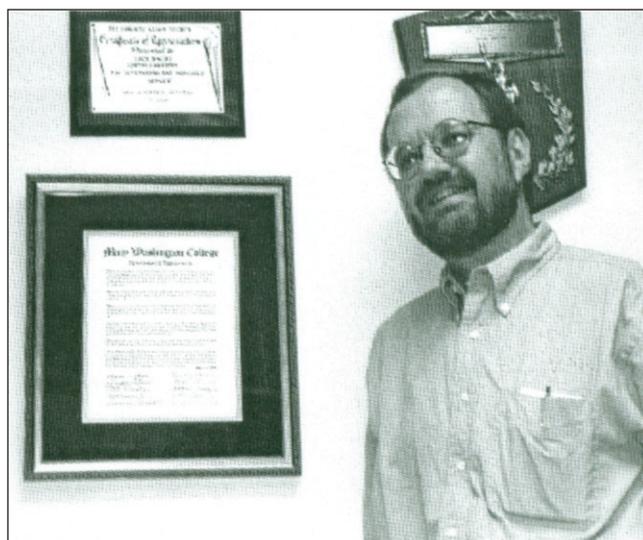
Recently, I got to thumbing through some of those old issues, and I came across an article that Ralph Gardner wrote about his experiences as a newspaper boy. Ralph occasionally wrote a column, "Notes from Ralph," back in the early days of the Society, and I thought this one was particularly good. I asked him if he would mind if *Newsboy* printed it again, and of course he was delighted that I had resurrected that article from almost twenty years ago. In my letter I reminded him of the good times we always had at conventions. He agreed with me, adding that "those were great days."

Right after I got Ralph's letter I received an e-mail from Carl Hartmann, with whom I've corresponded since early 1969. We reminisced a bit, and it suddenly occurred to me that Ralph was right; those were great days. I remember when I first joined the Alger Society. In the late 1960s, I had picked up an old Donohue edition of *Charlie Codman's Cruise* from my father's bookshelves and read it. A little bit of research tracked down Ralph's Alger biography, and I purchased a very nice copy from a used-book dealer. In the volume's acknowledgments, Ralph mentioned a Mr. Forrest Campbell of the Horatio Alger Society in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and on a whim I wrote Forrest a letter, addressed simply: "Forrest Campbell, Kalamazoo, Michigan."

I still have his reply, dated Dec. 30, 1968. He wrote: "Your letter directed to me without a street address under normal circumstances might not have reached me, except that I am postal employee and reasonably well known in the office. I am a letter carrier and your letter was handed to me by a postal clerk."

Back then, membership was, as Forrest noted, "\$5.00 annually for regular membership (adult), and \$3.00 for junior, or student membership." I was in high school, but I wanted full-fledged status, and I immediately sent him a check for five dollars. So proud was I of my PF number that for years I had "PF 258" as my vanity automobile license plate (now it's X LIBRIS, which is the Latin expression often used on bookplates).

Forrest hosted the 1969 convention in Kalamazoo, and naturally I made plans to attend. Earlier meetings had been held in May, but he wanted to attract mem-



Jack Bales, Reference and Humanities Librarian at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, stands in his office before his two Horatio Alger Society awards (top) and a "Resolution of Appreciation" awarded him by the college's history department.

(Photo courtesy of Jack Bales)

bers who could attend only in the summer months, so he scheduled the convention in July (despite warnings from others that attendance would be low). They were right; few people made the trip, but I didn't mind. I met some wonderful people, including some no longer with us, such as Herb Risteen (author of not only a few boys' books under the name H. L. Risteen but also syndicated crossword puzzles) and Les Langlois, who hosted the 1966 convention.

I picked up stacks of Algers for my growing collection; in fact, my mother still talks about how I stepped off the train upon my return trip with my clothes stuffed in a pillowcase and my books all neatly stacked in my suitcase. It was indeed a good trip.

H.A.S. co-founder Kenneth B. Butler didn't make that convention, but since he lived in Mendota, Illinois, near my hometown of Aurora, I soon made plans to visit him. Ken was, without question, one of the finest gentlemen I have ever met. If we didn't already have the Dick Seddon Award, we could take the same requirements and name it the Ken Butler Award. I suppose he was in semi-retirement when I met him. A lifelong collector of antiques, he turned his mammoth collection (including a dozen or so vintage automobiles) into the Time Was Village Museum, which featured, so the advertising went, six buildings on six acres. Every time I visited, he took great pleasure in showing me new acquisitions.

Ken wasn't the only person whom I visited back in Illinois. Gilbert K. Westgard II attended the first conven-

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Books in my baggage

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tion in Mendota (and as I heard later, was one of the few persons who successfully rode one of Ken's high-wheeler bicycles). Gil knows Chicago as well as any taxicab driver, and not only did we spend hours prowling through used book stores all over the city, but he showed me numerous local landmarks, such as Al Capone's house and the site of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

In the fall of 1969 I entered college. Forrest Campbell had retired from editing **Newsboy** by then, and Carl Hartmann was serving as guest editor. Carl was already our hard-working secretary (with more duties than all the other officers combined), and he told me later that he was just holding the position of editor until I could take over. I had guest-edited a few issues here and there, and every summer between academic semesters I'd do a couple more, usually on my battered old manual typewriter. Carl was always a good listener and sounding board; indeed, once during the drive to an Alger convention, we got to talking so much we ended up going 80 miles out of our way down an interstate (and it was another 80 miles back again).

After I assumed the editorship in August 1974, many was the time I'd receive a sympathetic, understanding letter from him.

And in these days before email I received lots of letters from Alger Society members, much of which I tried to incorporate in **Newsboy**. Ralph Gardner sent long, chatty letters, as did Bob Bennett, Irene Gurman, and Carl. I exchanged literary research experiences with fellow writers Randy Cox, Jack Dizer, Eddie LeBlanc, Gil O'Gara, Gary Scharnhorst and Peter Walther. Brad Chase and I still keep in touch, and I marveled at his tenacity in tracking down the various book formats issued by Alger's publishers. Louis Bodnar regaled **Newsboy** readers with his many Alger-related cartoons. Gene Hafner, Paul Miller, Bob Sawyer, and Dale Thomas were occasional correspondents. Jerry Friedland was never much for letter-writing, but he telephoned often, keeping me up to date with what was going on (and when I did Alger research in New York City, both Jerry and Ralph did much to make my visits comfortable).

When I received Ralph's recent note, he mentioned the 1978 Alger convention I hosted in Jacksonville, Illinois. The weather during those few days was horrendous (three days of cold rain), but as far as I was concerned, it was still a marvelous occasion. I was working at my alma mater, Illinois College, as a reference librarian, and the College President hosted a reception for us at his home. Although he is now retired, the two of us stay in touch, and during a telephone conversation a few months ago

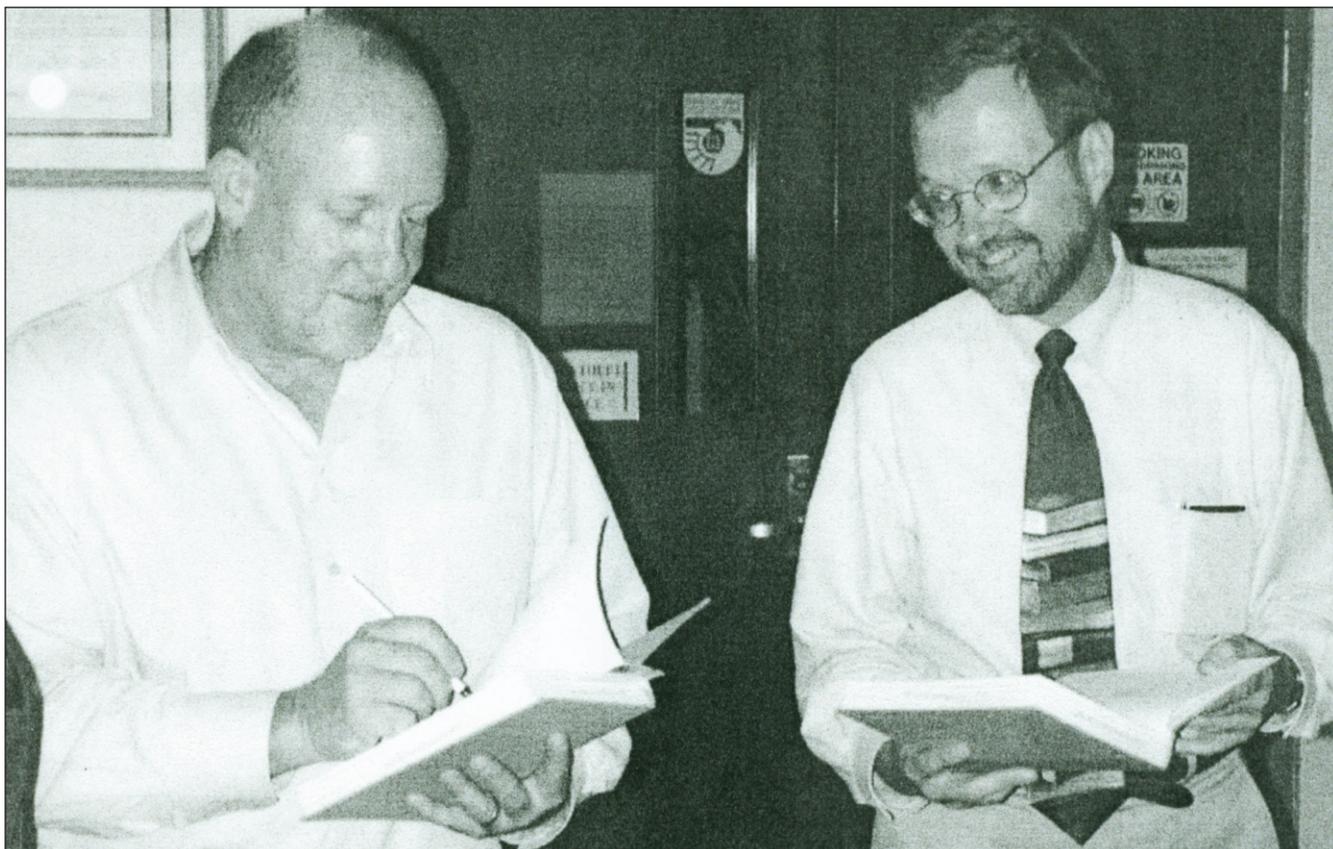
he commented that he thoroughly enjoyed the Society's "Jacksonville Jamboree."

Looking back on those halcyon days, I give the Society and its members much of the credit for the choices I later made in life. The word "passion" is overused nowadays, but I steadfastly believe that everyone — especially young people — should have some sort of overriding devotion in life. It's not easy growing up, and an outside interest can get you through the hard times. Alger was mine. From 1968 until 1986, when I gave up editing **Newsboy**, I lived for researching, writing, corresponding and collecting. Book dust was in my lungs and pencil graphite on my fingers.

It was Alger who helped cement my desire to become a reference librarian. I've been here at Mary Washington College in Virginia since 1980, and a recent copy of the alumni magazine featured a lengthy, more-than-generous profile of me, noting that for many students I was an "MVP" — a "most valuable person." I sent a copy of the article to a former graduate school professor, who wrote me a letter of congratulations. "You never knew this," he said, "but your Horatio Alger work helped secure your admission here." He told me that he saw the Dean of Admissions the day my application arrived. The Dean showed it to the professor and commented that with my Alger background I'd be an "excellent addition" to the University of Illinois' library science program.

I don't know if my tenure in graduate school could be termed "excellent," but that word certainly describes how I view my life. Besides helping students learn the ins and outs of library research, I've been able to keep on studying and chronicling the lives and works of various authors. I grew up reading the historical novels of Kenneth Roberts (*Northwest Passage*, *Oliver Wiswell*, *Arundel*), and in the mid-1980s I began collecting them in earnest (assisted in no small degree by Maine book dealer and H.A.S. member Hal Eastman). Reading led to researching, which in turn led to a dozen or so articles and two books. After reading *My Dog Skip* by southern author Willie Morris, I wrote him what can only be called a "fan letter," asking questions about his many books. His immediate reply initiated a warm friendship, in which we exchanged hundreds of letters, numerous phone calls, and several visits. In November 1998 he and his wife visited me here in Fredericksburg, where he charmed two audiences during public lectures and discussions at the college. I'm now hard at work on my third book on Morris.

I suppose my literary interests are somewhat eclectic. Actor Robert Stack (*a.k.a.* crime fighter Eliot Ness) and I corresponded off and on for years, and he signed my copy of *The Untouchables* with a warm, lengthy inscription. I corresponded with Helene Hanff for years (author of the delightful *84 Charing Cross Road*), and she inscribed



Jack Bales looks on as author Peter Jenkins (*A Walk Across China, Along the Edge of America, Looking for Alaska*) signs one of his books during a speaking engagement at Mary Washington College.

all her books for me. I've gotten to know best-selling author David McCullough and have a complete set of his signed first editions. I've helped him, presidential historian Michael Beschloss and *Newsweek* editor Jon Meacham with historical research, and I am gratified that all their books on which I worked reached the top rung of *The New York Times* bestseller list. I've long been a fan of the travel books of Peter Jenkins, who literally walked across America back in the mid-1970s. We've kept in touch for years, and awhile ago I invited him to campus to share some of his stories, collected during his two decades of traveling. Prior to his visit I wrote a cover story on him for the local newspaper's magazine section, and I was delighted when he electrified a packed auditorium with his exuberance and sheer presence.

Sometimes I acquire signed books through sheer luck and serendipity. Soon after I moved to Fredericksburg, I spent a pleasant afternoon visiting H.A.S. member George Owens. He gave me a marvelous tour of the Charlottesville area, including a stop in Schuyler, Virginia, the original home of television's family, "The Waltons." John-Boy Walton was really television producer Earl Hamner. George knew Hamner's mother, as I recall, and he asked her to sign my copy of Earl's *The Homecoming*,

the volume on which the series was based. I later was able to have not only Hamner and other family members sign the book, but also the actors who played the Waltons on television.

But I hasten to add that my life revolves around more than just bibliophilistic pursuits. On weekends I try to occupy my son Patrick (age 16) and daughter Laura (14) with various family activities, but now that they are teenagers I recognize that they have their own friends and interests. They're both great kids, whose first playground was the closed college library (stacks of bookshelves are great in which to play hide-and-seek), and I hope their youthful endeavors will eventually become fervent enthusiasms. I am indeed blessed.

And fortunate in so many ways. I keep in close touch with my mother and eight brothers and sisters. I spend pleasant hours with both colleagues and other companions. There's a woman in my life with whom I can share hopes and dreams. I seldom miss work due to illness. Therefore, with family, friends, and health, what else does one need? The 35 years since I sent Forrest Campbell a check for H.A.S. membership have been as rewarding as the career of a typical Alger hero. I hope the next 35 are equally as memorable.

Magnificent Chicago

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proposed for the far south suburbs, to ease the crunch.

Despite all this 21st century glitz, Chicago still has an image problem — that of being the home of Al Capone and organized crime during the era of prohibition.

When I have friends visit from other parts of the country, they don't care that much about driving along Lake Shore Drive and viewing the spectacular skyline, which features three of the world's tallest buildings. They don't care about the Art Institute. They want me to take them to the Biograph Theater, where the infamous John Dillinger spent his final hours watching "Manhattan Melodrama" in the company of the "lady in red." Moments after leaving the theater, Dillinger was gunned down by the FBI, led by special agent Melvin Purvis.

My out-of-town friends also want to drive past the S.M.C. Cartage Co. garage on North Clark Street, where the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in 1929.

Today, if you want to visit these so-called "historic" sites, you'll be half-successful. The Biograph Theater still is open for business, located on the east side of Lincoln Avenue, just north of Fullerton St., near the DePaul University campus. However, old garage on North Clark where the gangland "massacre" took place has long since been town down.

Here are a few Chicago historical highlights:

Chicago was discovered in 1673 by Father Jacques Marquette, a French-born Jesuit missionary; and by Louis Joliet, a Canadian explorer and mapmaker, who became the first non-natives to view the land along Lake Michigan where the city now stands.

The area remained little-known until 1779, when the first real settler, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, an African-American from Haiti, built the first permanent settlement at the mouth of the Illinois River, just east of the Michigan Avenue Bridge where the Wrigley Building and Tribune Tower now stand.

In the 1803-1812 period, the U.S. War Department built the first Fort Dearborn at the mouth of the Illinois River, but it was destroyed by an Indian massacre during the War of 1812. It was rebuilt in 1816, and occupied by United States troops until 1837. Illinois was granted statehood in 1818, and throughout this period, commercial development in the area grew quickly. The city officially became Chicago when it was formally incorporated as a town in 1833 and incorporated as a city in 1837, with a population at that time of 4,170.

"Chicago" is derived from the native American language, but it is not known which tribe came up with the name, or its exact meaning.

In his book, *Checagou*, author M.M. Quaipe asserts

that the Indian translation for Chicago means "great," or "powerful."

Chicago's reputation as a transportation center was born in 1848 with the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, connecting Lake Michigan with the town of LaSalle, 90 miles to the southwest. Also in 1848, the first train ran on the Galena and Union Railroad, the first rail line out of the city.

Chicago hosted the first national political convention in 1860, when Abraham Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Party.

Chicago officially became "hog butcher to the world," with the opening of the Union Stock Yard in 1865. The "yards" remained on the city's near south side for more than a century, finally closing down July 30, 1971.

The most cataclysmic event in the city's history took place on Oct. 8, 1871, when, according to legend, the Great Chicago Fire was started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in a barn on the west side. The entire eastern portion of the city, mainly wooden structures, was destroyed, reaching as far as Fullerton Avenue on the north side. One of the few structures near the lake to survive the fire was the city's sandstone Water tower, built in 1869. The disaster left 300 dead, 90,000 homeless and property loss of more than \$200 million.

In a way, the Great Chicago Fire proved a blessing, because the city quickly was rebuilt, with safer and more modern construction materials, leading the way to its becoming the home of the modern steel-framed skyscraper. The first such building was the Home Insurance Building, built in 1885 at LaSalle and Adams Streets, which eventually rose a modest 11 stories following a two-story addition in 1891.

Later, architects such as Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan refined the modern skyscraper, while the city's "Burnham Plan," named for architect Daniel Burnham, laid out the city's lakefront, with its large expanses of scenic parks extending for several miles, with the exclusion of commercial development.

Chicago became a major center for commerce during the post-fire rebuilding period, with the ongoing expansion of the railroads and the opening of the world's first mail-order house, Montgomery Ward & Co. Ward's was soon joined by Sears, Roebuck and other major retailers.

Chicago has also hosted two world's fairs, the World's Columbian Exhibition in 1893 near the University of Chicago; and the Century of Progress in 1933-34. The latter, located at the present location of Burnham Harbor, drew 39 million visitors, quite a feat for a depression-era event.

If any Partic'lar Friends want to visit Chicago following the convention, see me at DeKalb and I'll give you driving directions to various points of interest.