



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.
1888 - 1957

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

VOLUME XLIII

MARCH-JUNE 2005

NUMBERS 2-3

CONVENTION ISSUE

'Gathering in Grand Rapids'



Strive and Succeed Award recipient Kenneth Karl Henderson, right, is joined by H.A.S. President Robert R. Routhier and convention co-host Milton F. Ehlert at the annual banquet in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- ❖ *Convention report*
- ❖ *Auction results*
- ❖ *Treasurer's report*
- ❖ *Photos and more*

-- Full coverage
begins on Page 3

Ralph D. Gardner remembered

Members' tributes, photos -- Pages 17-24



Ralph Gardner and Horatio Alger Society Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann at the 1973 convention.

President's column

The convention is over and it was another success !!! Our convention hosts did a terrific job. Many thanks to: Milt & Carol Elhert, Art & Linda Smither, Doug & Chris DeHaan and Dave & Maybelle Yarrington for all their work. There were about 40 people there, but there were a few folks that we would really have liked to have seen.

As you know, we try very hard to have sites for the upcoming conventions ahead of time and this year we are very fortunate. Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg had some difficulty traveling through rough weather from Omaha, Nebraska, and did not make it to the convention and they were missed.

We were hoping that the Nybergs would be able to host the 2006 convention and that Wendy and Bob Sipes were going to host the 2007 convention in Indiana. With the Nybergs not in attendance, we had to ask the Sipes to provisionally host our next convention pending discussion with the Nybergs.

I am happy to inform you that after talking to Mary Ann and Bart, they will now be hosting the 2006 convention in Omaha with Bob and Wendy Sipes hosting the 2007 convention in Shelbyville, Indiana. The Nybergs have selected the weekend of April 27-30, 2005, due to the fact that a major corporate annual meeting/convention is set for Omaha the weekend of May 4-7, and hotels are already fully booked.

It is back to work and all the summer jobs need to be completed before winter sets in — of course, this is only for the people that live in the winter snow belt. I have a list that of course will never get completed, as it grows faster than the jobs are completed. Isn't that life? I really don't mind, but the 40 minute jobs, just don't seem to be 40 minutes anymore. A new sidewalk, front porch, some house painting etc. are in order this summer. Anyone wishing for employment please contact me, I don't pay much, but the work is enjoyable out on the farm.

I am in the process of getting ready to leave for Canada and my yearly fishing trip, and this will be my 20th year. Mostly the same guys, and it really is quite a lot of fun, and this way I have a chance to get away. Jeanette, as you know has taken up both the Mountain Dulcimer and the Hammered Dulcimer and will be going to a few weekend festivals playing with some of her friends. She is really doing well with the Mountain Dulcimer.

I am sure that when you receive this **Newsboy**, someone will have already sorted out the pictures from the
(Continued on Page 4)

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. E-mail: hasnewsboy@aol.com

2005 CONVENTION REPORT

'Gathering in Grand Rapids'

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Memories of the past were evident early in the second week of May 2005 when Western Michigan was visited by typical spring rain, the same kind of weather that plagued "In Search of Treasure," the 1994 Horatio Alger Society convention in Grand Rapids.

But it turned out quite different for "Gathering in Grand Rapids," the 2005 convention. By the time Thursday, May 12 had arrived, the rain had moved on to the East coast and Michigan was bathed in sunshine and ideal temperatures, allowing us to take in the annual Tulip Time Festival in nearby Holland, among other area outdoor events.

It seemed as though our hosts, Maybelle and Dave Yarrington, Linda and Art Smitter, Carol and Milt Ehlert, all from Grand Rapids; and Chris and Doug DeHaan from nearby Wayland, had painted the sky a perfect blue. The Ehlerts and DeHaans, co-hosts in 1994, vividly remembered the off-and-on inclement weather that put a damper on outdoor activities that year.

Several Partic'lar Friends had arrived earlier in the week, with Janice (PF-957) and Mike Morley (PF-934) making the journey from their California home by train, enjoying spectacular views of the Rocky Mountains and America's heartland along the way. Others arrived by car, or by convenient flights into Grand Rapids' Gerald R. Ford International Airport, a short distance from the Holiday Inn Select.

The official H.A.S. hospitality room started buzzing



2005 convention co-hosts, from left: Maybelle and Dave Yarrington, Linda and Art Smitter, Milt and Carol Ehlert. Not pictured: Chris and Doug DeHaan.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

with meet-and-greet activity by 1 p.m., with free refreshments to satisfy everyone.

As is traditional, Thursday night is a "dinner on your own" night, and a locator map of the more than two dozen restaurants within a mile or two of the hotel was handed out in the hospitality room.

The first official activity of each convention is the Board of Directors meeting, which got under way at 4:30 p.m. in our reserved meeting room at the Holiday Inn Select. A complete report of the meeting, along with the annual Treasurer's Report, can be found on Pages 8-9.

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Omaha and the Great Plains welcome all Partic'lar Friends in 2006

We are looking forward to hosting the convention in Omaha, Nebraska in 2006!

We hope that members of the Horatio Alger Society will enjoy themselves in Omaha and take in some of the sights, such as the Lied Jungle at the Henry Doorly Zoo, Boys Town, the old restored Union Pacific Depot, which now houses the Durham Western Heritage Museum, and the Joslyn Art Museum. The Strategic Air Command Museum is also just a short drive west of Omaha.

We also have a number of restaurant offering the finest steaks in the country. We hope to arrange a party room at one of our most famous steak houses for members to have dinner Friday night.

We are in the process of finalizing the hotel arrangements in a central location, convenient to Interstate 80, and with airport pickup service. We hope that everyone will be pleased!

There are several bookstores and antique malls in the area and we will provide a list and driving directions. Our store will be closed, but we have already taken all the good series books home for ourselves!

Complete convention details will available in the November-December 2005 issue of **Newsboy**.

See you in Omaha!

Bart (PF-879) & Mary Ann Nyberg (PF-861)

Editor's notebook

One convention is over, and another one is in the planning stages. Rest assured that Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg will host a wonderful convention in Omaha, and they've been progressing quickly with the hotel, which promises to be an excellent venue. Full details will be available in the November-December **Newsboy**.

Grand Rapids the second time around was just as fun as the first. With so many dedicated Partic'lar Friends living in and near Grand Rapids, how could it fail? Sincere thanks to Maybelle and Dave Yarrington, Linda and Art Smitter, Carol and Milt Ehlert and Chris and Doug DeHaan for making "Gathering in Grand Rapids" a memorable experience.

You will notice that this special expanded issue includes our members' tributes to the late Ralph Gardner. We were able to dig up several pictures from the 1970s (along with more recent photos) to highlight Ralph's contribution to Horatio Alger scholarship and his untiring work in support of the Horatio Alger Society.

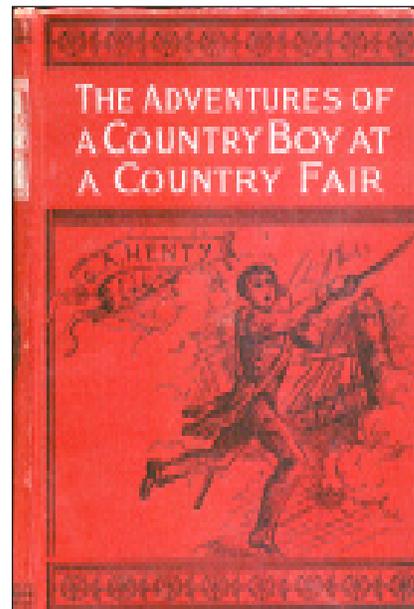
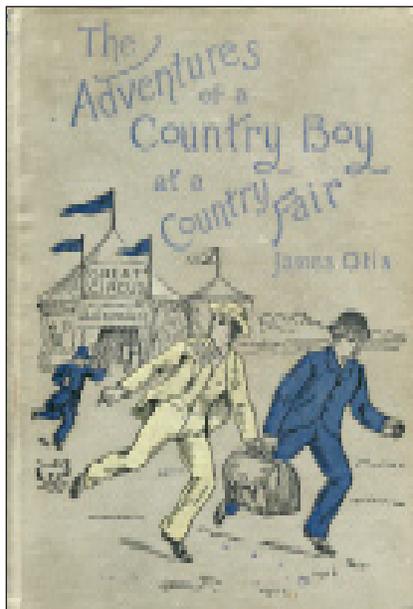
Of course, the core of this tribute are the written contributions from several of Ralph's longtime friends. Many thanks to those to sent them for publication here!

In the next issue, we will continue with our tribute with several of articles under the group title of "Ralph in his own words." In addition to his long-running "Notes from Ralph" column in **Newsboy**, he wrote articles for numerous publications, several of which we'll reprint.

- At the right, is a prime example of an uncommon event in book publishing: an error at the bindery.

The book at left is the cover of the first edition of *The Adventures of a Country Boy at a County Fair*, by James Otis, published in 1893 by Charles E. Brown & Co., of Boston. The cover is gray and depicts a scene from the book.

The book at the far right is a reprint in dark red cloth by Jordan Marsh of Boston, using the same illustrated title page with the new publisher listed at the bottom. But there's a slight problem: the front of the cover includes the name "G.A. Henty" (no author is listed on the spine). What has occurred is the use by Jordan Marsh of a "stock" cover for its Henty reprint series for its edition of the Otis title.



President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

convention and placed several of them on our Web site. If not, please visit our —your — Web site, as there are the 2004 convention pictures and many links to other Horatio Alger sites.

With that, we hope the your summer is enjoyable and safe, and we hope to see you at the next convention. Please do not forget, if you have "ANYTHING" to place in **Newsboy**, or would just like to advertise some books that you are selling, please send these items to Bill Gowen, as he is always looking for additional articles for **Newsboy**.

Your Partic'lar friend,
 Bob Routhier (PF-989)
 12186 W. Hill Rd.
 Swartz Creek, Mich 48473
 Home phone: (810) 621-3435
 Cell phone: (810) 287-8879
 Email: brr001@charter.net

This error is similar to Street & Smith's mixup in which *For Home and Honor* by "Victor St. Clair" (a George Waldo Browne pseudonym used by Street & Smith, appeared in the familiar Alger **Boys Own Library** cover (boy holding whip), with "Horatio Alger" printed on the front cover. This variant was shown on the cover of the January-February 1989 **Newsboy**.

If you have a similar error in your collection, let us know and we'll pass along the information.

'Gathering in Grand Rapids'

(Continued from Page 13)

The after-dinner hours on Thursday were devoted to the traditional renewal of acquaintances, trading of books and the organization of the many books and other items submitted for the annual consignment and donation auctions.

Friday, May 13

The Board of Directors re-convened at 7:30 a.m. for its annual breakfast meeting. The main item of business was an increase in the gift for the **Strive and Succeed Award** for this year's recipient to \$1,000, thanks to a matching gift

made to the **Strive and Succeed Award** fund from Vice President Mike Morley's employer, eBay, Inc. The directors voted to approve the presentation of a \$1,000 check to this year's recipient at Saturday's annual banquet.

The formal program for "Gathering in Grand Rapids" began promptly at 9 a.m. in our meeting room, conveniently located just off the hotel lobby on the first floor. President Bob Routhier made his welcoming remarks to the membership, and co-host Dave Yarrington followed with an introduction to the morning's lecture/discussion program.

The program was organized under Alger-like themes. The first group of presentations was titled "The Young Book Collector: Organizing Your Collection," and featured discussions (with visual aids) by Brad Chase, Dave Yarrington, Ken Broadie and Bob Sipes.

Chase's presentation covered the development of the matrix system which he set up for his five reference books covering all the editions produced by such Alger publishers as A.L. Burt, M.A. Donohue, New York Book, Whitman and 12 smaller publishers.

"To set up your matrix you first have to define three major areas," Chase said. "First is interest. What is it that you want to collect? Second is money. How much do you want to spend? The third area is access. Can I easily find these books?"

The key, according to Chase, is collecting interest, or more specifically, the focus of your collection.

"There are eight or 10 ways to express interest in your Alger collection," he said. "You can collect first editions, different titles including variants, dust jackets, different publishers, cover formats, paper editions, characters and locations, along with peripheral areas around Alger or having an Alger theme."

Chase then described how he manually organized his collection on a manual matrix ("I started this before home computers," he said). He began by studying the Alger books by A.L. Burt, listing the titles produced in the many formats produced by that publisher over the years on his handmade matrix grids. He noted that his re-

search over the years proved there are literally thousands of different Alger editions out there by various publishers, provided the collector is diligent enough.

Yarrington followed with how he got introduced to Alger collecting and how he organized his collection in notebooks, also using a matrix system.

Broadie discussed his sophisticated computerized collecting database, and how he structured his system for easy access



Brad Chase, who gave a presentation on the matrix system he devised for organizing his collection, inscribes for Tom Kline one of his five books on Alger publishers.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

to any information desired.

Sipes described his computerized matrix system, for which he said you should ask yourself the basic question "Why do we catalog our books?" In addition to personal convenience and enjoyment of your collection, reasons include the creation of listings for insurance riders, including photographs and an estimate of the value of each book, readily available to insurance adjusters in the event of a claim.

Sipes went on to discuss his system in greater detail, including how you can catalog your books by publisher, formats, etc., by using a software program such as "Book Tracker Pro."

Friday morning's session continued with a presentation titled "The Young Book Agent: Book Restoration, Repair and Conservation," by Vernon Wiering of Grand Rapids, a specialist in period-sensitive binding and

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'Gathering in Grand Rapids' — registration

Lee T. Allen (PF-977)
Stone Mountain, Ga.

Betsy Allen
Stone Mountain, Ga.

Kyoko Amano (PF-1049)
Greencastle, Ind.

Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)
Fishers, Ind.

Marcy Biberdorf
Fishers, Ind.

Ken Broadie (PF-1053)
Fort Worth, Texas

Ralph J. Carlson (PF-955)
Taylorsville, Utah

Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)
Enfield, Conn.

Ann Chase
Enfield, Conn.

Chris DeHaan (PF-773)
Wayland, Mich.

Milton F. Ehlert (PF-702)
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Carol Ehlert
Grand Rapids, Mich.

William R. Gowen (PF-706)
Lake Zurich, Ill.

Gordon Huber (PF-843)
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Jeanne Huber
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Robert G. Huber (PF-841)
Madison, Wisc.

John R. Juvinal (PF-537)
Hinsdale, Ill.

Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Richmond, Va.

Thomas P. Kline (PF-1054)
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Ivan McClymont (PF-722)
Clinton, Ontario Canada

Janice Morley (PF-957)
Fremont, Calif.

Michael Morley (PF-934)
Fremont, Calif.

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
Swarthmore, Pa.

Lawrence R. Rice (PF-757)
Maine, N.Y.

Vivian R. Rice
Maine, N.Y.

Robert R. Routhier (PF-889)
Swartz Creek, Mich.

Jeanette Routhier (PF- 1055)
Swartz Creek, Mich.

David A. Scott (PF-1085)
Philadelphia, Pa.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
Shelbyville, Ind.

Wendy Sipes
Shelbyville, Ind.

Arthur Smitter (PF-952)
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Linda Smitter
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Steven N. Sutton (PF-998)
S. Lancaster, Mass.

Joyce Sutton
S. Lancaster, Mass.

Lee Switzer (PF-882)
Fridley, Minn.

Gaylene Switzer
Fridley, Minn.

David Yarrington (PF-1050)
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Maybelle Yarrington
Grand Rapids, Mich.

TOTAL: 38
H..A.S. MEMBERS: 27

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Joseph K. Strang (PF-1090)
12 Mechanic St.
Huntington, NY 11743

(631) 351-7016

Change of address

James Irwin (PF-1073)
71 Lori Lee Drive
Lafayette, IN 47905

(765) 448-6320

E-mail: grasshopperace@insightbb.com

Moving?

Don't forget to update your address, phone number or e-mail address by writing to:

Horatio Alger Society
P.O. Box 70361
Richmond, VA 23255

'Gathering in Grand Rapids'

(Continued from Page 5)

restoration.

Wiering discussed the various elements that go into book restoration, including the challenges faced by dealing with paper and binding materials in many cases more than a century old. He brought color photos of books in various states of disrepair before restoration, and then let the audience examine the "after" restorations, the books themselves. Several were A.K. Loring Algers from Yarrington's collection that had been restored with stunning results.

Wiering said book restoration was a labor of love, that he started out doing it in his spare time, but once he found he had a special gift with his hands for this exacting, creative work, he decided to make Wiering Books a full-time business. He now has a Web site at www.wieringbooks.com and welcomed any Horatio Alger Society members to contact him.

Yarrington then presented Wiering with a complimentary engraved drinking glass commemorating "Gathering in Grand Rapids," as a souvenir of his visit.

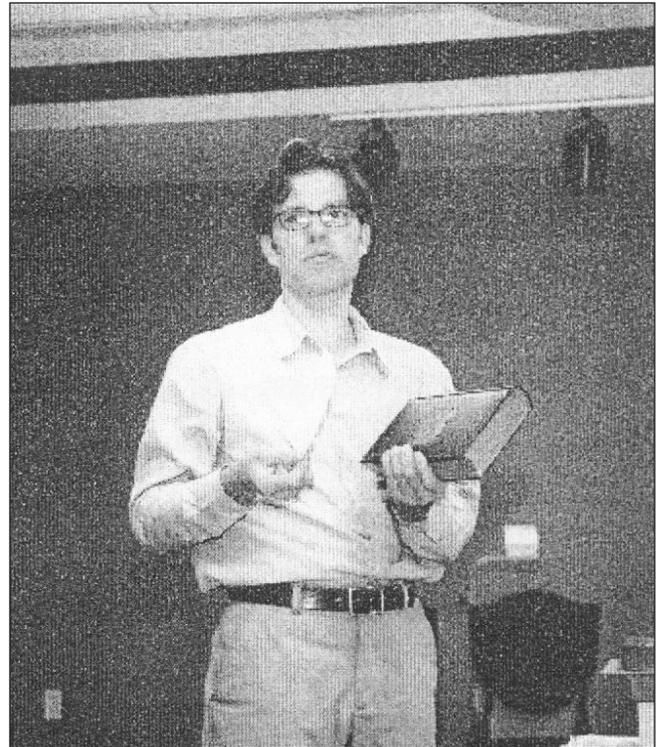
Following a brief break for a rearrangement of the room by the hotel staff, the annual buffet luncheon and business meeting began at about 11:30 a.m.

President Bob Routhier called the meeting to order, with the first order of business the report from the Board of Directors meeting, which included the Treasurer's report, **Newsboy** editor's report, noting the plan to continue publishing six issues per year beginning with the July-August 2005 issue; the Executive Director's report that listed current membership at 176, a net decrease of two members in the past year.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by committee chairman Milt Ehlert, who reported the committee's slate of three directors to fill three-year terms to serve from May 2005 through April 2008: Carol Nackenoff (PF-921), who respectfully asked to opt out of her nomination; Lee Switzer (PF-882), Thomas Kline (PF-1054) and himself. Milt noted that he had been nominated by Bernie Biberdorf and agreed to serve if another candidate were not available, so he agreed to join the slate once Nackenoff removed her name from consideration.

President Routhier asked if there were further nominations from the floor; there were none. A motion was made to elect the slate of Switzer, Kline and Ehlert for three-year terms as directors; the motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

President Routhier then thanked outgoing directors Jim Thorp, Steven Sutton and Bernie Biberdorf for their three years' service.



Book restoration expert Vernon Wiering discusses the intricacies of his profession in his presentation at the 2005 convention.

Photo by Dave Yarrington

President Routhier reported that the Board of Directors had approved an award of \$1,000 to this year's **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient, thanks to a generous matching corporate gift from Vice President Mike Morley's employer. Routhier encouraged all members present to check with their employers to see if they had similar matching-donation programs for not-for-profit organizations.

The last order of business was the site of the 2006 convention. President Routhier brought the group up to date on the situation involving Omaha, Nebraska, and Shelbyville, Indiana, and that he would personally contact Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg immediately after the convention to check on the availability of Omaha for next year. If the Nybergs accepted, Shelbyville would then be the site for 2007, hosted by Wendy and Bob Sipes — who had already expressed their preference for the 2007 convention.

Routhier said next year's convention location would be announced in the next issue of **Newsboy**.

(Editor's note: The 2006 convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska. See Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg's welcoming remarks on Page 3).

Following another break during which the meeting room was again re-arranged, the annual consignment

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Annual H.A.S. Board of Directors meeting

Horatio Alger Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 12, 2005

In Attendance:

Robert R. Routhier, President
Michael Morley, Vice President
William R. Gowen, Editor
Bernard A. Biberdorf, Director
David J. Yarrington, Director
Arthur W. Smitter, Director
Lawrence R. Rice, Director
Robert G. Sipes, Director
Kenneth Broadie, Director
Christine DeHaan, Treasurer
Robert G. Huber, Past President

Absent:

Robert E. Kasper, Executive Director
Bart W. Nyberg, Director
Jim Thorp, Director
Steven Sutton, Director

Robert R. Routhier, President, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. in Select Center Room 1 of the Holiday Inn Select, Grand Rapids.

Old business:

President Routhier presented the minutes of the 2004 Directors' meeting for ratification by the board. A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Last year's discussion of incentives for longtime members who have attended few, if any, conventions, was readdressed by President Routhier, including the possibility of a special registration fee for retirees.

Routhier said he will continue to contact longtime Partic'lar Friends, as well as correspond with our newest members, and encourage them all to attend future conventions.

New business:

Treasurer Chris DeHaan presented the **Annual Financial Report**, noting that the Society posted a net income of \$1,644.43 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2005, and that our total assets held steady at just under \$11,000. (The full report is presented on Page 9).

President Routhier passed out copies of the H.A.S. **Membership Report**, prepared by Executive Director

Robert E. Kasper, summarized as follows:

During the previous 12 months, the Horatio Alger Society gained 12 new members and lost 14, for a net loss of four members. In comparison, during the previous fiscal year ending in May 2004, the Society gained six new members and lost 16 members. As of May 12, 2005, the Society's membership was 176, broken down as follows:

	May 2005	May 2004	May 2003
Regular	143	141	150
Sustaining	1	1	1
Life*	13	13	13
Special/Honorary	11	12	13
Institutions	8	11	11
TOTAL	176	178	188

* One life member, Edna Banks, died in August 1998. Her son, Robert Banks (PF-253, also a life member) is continuing her membership through 2005.

Kasper reported that at least three of the Society's dropped members were due to death, and that we lost three library members. No reason was given for the latter, but it is usually due to libraries' budget cuts.

The **Newsboy Report** was given by editor Bill Gowen, who noted that laser technology has made the use of full color economically feasible, as shown by the November-December 2004 issue. While color won't be seen in every issue due to cost, it will be utilized when articles and related illustrations are appropriate.

The frequency of publication of **Newsboy** was again discussed, with editor Bill Gowen stating the number of issues was dependent upon the creation of a sufficient number of appropriate Alger-related articles, a major factor in only five issues coming out in the fiscal year ending April 30, 2005.

It was voted by the board of directors to continue to urge members to submit materials for the editor's approval, and that all efforts would be made to resume bimonthly publication following the March-June 2005 double issue, which would combine the full 2005 convention report, along with a tribute to Ralph Gardner. It was moved, seconded and voted that the frequency of publication of **Newsboy** be reviewed once again at the 2006 Board of Directors meeting.

Nominating Committee chairman Milt Ehlert gave his report on securing a slate of nominees for three-year terms to replace directors Bernie Biberdorf, Jim Thorp and Steven Sutton, whose terms were expiring with this convention. Ehlert reported that he wanted to confirm all three nominees' willingness to serve, and would officially report the slate at the annual business meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Auction proceeds	\$6,641.00
Membership dues	2,935.00
Interest.....	7.83
Strive & Succeed Award donations.....	1,540.00
H.A.S. merchandise:	
Back issues.....	40.00
Pin	5.00
Total H.A.S. merchandise.....	45.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,178.83

EXPENSES

Auction consignment payouts.....	\$5,010.05
Convention:	
Award plaques	135.00
Hotel advance (2005 conv.)	350.00
Total convention	485.00
Executive director's expenses	162.46
Friends of NIU Libraries	100.00
Newsboy expenses:	
Printing	\$2,068.00
Postage.....	833.21
Supplies (envelopes, etc.).....	120.68
Total Newsboy expenses.....	\$3,021.89
Illinois Secretary of State	5.00

Strive & Succeed Award	750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,534.40
NET INCOME	\$1,644.43

Balance sheet as of April 30, 2005

ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)

Certificate of deposit (CD)	\$7,560.03
Checking account	2,441.64
S&S Award	981.09
Total checking/savings accounts	\$10,982.76
Total current assets	\$10,982.76

TOTAL ASSETS **\$10,982.76**

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:

Opening balance, equity	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings	4,575.28
Net income.....	1,644.43
TOTAL EQUITY	\$10,982.76

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$10,982.76**

Submitted by Christine DeHaan, Treasurer
May 12, 2005

the following day. Biberdorf nominated Ehlert, a previous Board of Directors member, for another term, and Milt said he would be willing to do so in the absence of another person's availability for the position.

The next order of business was the selection of a site for the 2006 convention. President Routhier said possibilities included Omaha, Nebraska, to be hosted by Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg; or Shelbyville, Indiana, to be hosted by Wendy and Bob Sipes.

Bob Sipes noted that he and Wendy would be happy to host a convention, but preferred to wait until 2007 if at all possible. However, he said he would host in Indiana in 2006 if all other alternatives were exhausted.

Because the Nybergs were not present, it was decided to table this important decision until Routhier had per-

sonally talked with the Nybergs.

Convention host Dave Yarrington reported that it appeared the convention budget would post a deficit of up to \$300. The directors approved a payment from the Society to make up the difference once the final figures were tabulated by Yarrington after the convention.

An article on Horatio Alger for **Firsts** magazine was proposed by Vice President Mike Morley, who said he would be willing to do it unless another member the Society desired to do so. Mike said he'd discuss this with potential writers among our membership.

Bob Routhier adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
William R. Gowen

'Gathering in Grand Rapids'

(Continued from Page 7)

and fund-raising auction began shortly after 1 p.m. With auctioneers Bob Routhier, Bob Huber and Larry Rice moving the items along briskly, the auctions continued until about 4:30 p.m. The total bids for the 120 lots offered for bids that afternoon reached \$2,673, with the Society's share totaling \$1,108 (see complete auction report on Pages 14-15).

It was now time to get ready for one of the most eagerly awaited events of the weekend, the pig roast (on the agenda given the Alger title "From Farm to Fortune") at the dairy farm of Chris and Doug DeHaan, located at their dairy farm in Wayland, about a half-hour drive from the hotel.

Those attending the 1994 convention remembered this event fondly, although rain interfered and forced the dinner indoors. To ensure no weather interruption this time, they had the buffet line and tables set up inside their large equipment shop, adjacent to the dairy barns.

As if by miracle, the clouds had cleared by mid-afternoon, and by the time the car-pooling Partic'lar Friends had arrived, the sun was out, and we had free rein at the farm, visiting with the young calves, watching the actual milking process and getting up close with the DeHaans' horses.

The food was delicious, and as the dinner concluded, the entire group gave the DeHaans — Chris and Doug and their son Mike; and Doug's brother Harry DeHaan (who cooked the pig), Harry's wife Pat and their son Joe, for organizing a fantastic meal.

President Routhier concluded the dinner by passing out sheets containing a revival of Ralph Gardner's famous Alger Quiz, which Ralph had, in fact, hosted on the DeHaans' farm 11 years before. In taking the quiz, Bob asked all in attendance to keep memories of Ralph in their thoughts.

The remainder of the evening on Friday was spent hanging out in the hospitality room, visiting the ho-

tel swimming pool or just relaxing for the big day to come.

Saturday, May 14

Following breakfast at the location of choice of members and guests, it was time to set up the annual H.A.S. book sale in the hotel meeting room. This event, which also included fresh coffee and doughnuts, provided ample time for members to socialize. David Scott, president of Polyglot Press, had a full display of his books, including the complete Alger reprint series.

Because the auction had been completed Friday afternoon, there was no need for a continuation, which allowed members plenty of free time the remainder of the day, including lunch, visits to the Tulip festival in

Holland, the "Petra: Lost City of Stone" archeological exhibit at nearby Calvin College, the Gerald R. Ford Museum with its Winston Churchill-Franklin Roosevelt traveling exhibit, as well as visits to Michigan bookstores, not only in the two stores already well-visited in Grand Rapids, but those in East Lansing, Kalamazoo and several small towns in-between.

Linda and Art Smitter also invited members to visit their

home, just a short distance from the hotel.

The big event remaining for the weekend was the annual H.A.S. banquet at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting room converted into an intimate-sized banquet room.

Of course, one of the most anticipated events at each convention is the **Strive and Succeed Award**, with the recipient introduced by Milt Ehlert, head of the 2005 **Strive and Succeed Award** Committee.

"I am very proud to introduce our recipient, Kenneth Karl Henderson of Ottawa Hills High School," Ehlert said. "He has distinguished himself in school in many areas, including a 3.2-point grade-point average, Senior Class President, Key Club President, National Honor Society, the Principal's Leadership Award and a volunteer at the Lutheran Home for Retirement. He also volunteered to make Thanksgiving gift baskets for his church, the New Hope Baptist Church, where he also serves as assistant choir director," Ehlert added.



Janice Morley introduces herself to a young calf during the Friday evening pig roast hosted by Chris and Doug DeHaan at their Wayland, Michigan dairy farm.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

"Kenneth was also the recipient of the Inter-Alliance Ministerial Scholarship, and he plans to attend Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan," Ehlert said. "His goal is to get a B.S. degree, majoring in radiation therapy with a minor in music to expand his musical talents."

In accepting the award, Kenneth, who will be the first member of his family to attend college, thanked the Society, his family and support groups, including those in attendance — his brothers Casey and Sam, friend Tierra Massey and guidance counselor Melissa Eades "... and especially my father, Clarence Henderson," he said. "My two fathers are God, and you. Without you, none of this would be possible."

In addition to his check for \$1,000, Kenneth received a framed certificate and two books, the traditional copy of Alger's *Strive and Succeed*, as well as Ralph Carlson (PF-955) personally presenting a copy of his recent book, *Talent Unleashed: 101 Powerful Stories of Men and Women Whose Faith, Perseverance, Determination, Drive, Optimism and Ingenuity Triumphed Over All Obstacles*.

Ehlert then announced Henderson had something special to offer. "Kenneth is a very gifted vocalist, and he has agreed to sing 'God Bless America' for us tonight."

Following his stunningly beautiful *a cappella* rendition of Irving Berlin's famous anthem written about the USA and what it stands for, Kenneth received a standing ovation from the audience.

The other three awards followed. President Bob Routhier announced that the **Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award** was awarded to 2004 convention host Arthur P. Young (PF-941); the **President's Award** was given to Robert E. Kasper (PF-327); and the **Dick Seddon Award** to Mary Ann Nyberg (PF-861).

The guest speaker for the evening was Donald R. Gallo, retired English professor at Central Connecticut State University and editor of numerous collections of stories for teenagers. Convention co-host Dave Yarrington, in introducing Gallo, described him as "the godfather of the young-adult story," and noted that more information about Don and his prolific career was available on line by visiting on line at www.authors4teens.com.

Gallo's wide-ranging talk covered traditional stories for teen-agers, including the writings of Horatio Alger and other authors who made their names in the 19th century, and right up to the present. He used slides to illustrate his talk, discussing such key contemporary works in the field as Graham Salisbury's *The Eyes of the Emperor*, which is the story of Eddy Okubo, a young Japanese-American who lives in Honolulu and who lies about his age in order



Ralph Carlson presents a copy of his book *Talent Unleashed to Strive and Succeed* Award recipient Kenneth Karl Henderson.

to join the U.S. Army. Shortly thereafter, the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, and Okubo's American boyhood friends now see him as the enemy.

Gallo also discussed a collection of poetry by young survivors of the tragic 1944 Ringling Brothers circus fire in Hartford, Conn., as well as the most recent book for which he is editor, *First Crossing: Stories About Teen Immigrants*, published last October, and which relates 10 experiences of teens who faced many difficult challenges after moving to the United States. Nationalities of the teenagers in the book include Mexico, Cambodia, Haiti, South Korea, Sweden and Kazakhstan.

Another relevant teenage-oriented book discussed by Gallo was *Son of the Mob*, in which 17-year-old Vince Luca wants to live a normal life, but that proves difficult within his unusual "family."

Gallo closed his talk by stating that the spirit of Horatio Alger's stories relating life on the streets of New York is still alive in today's stories for teenagers, albeit in a different way.

The banquet then drew to a close, with many members sticking around to personally meet the guests of the evening, and discuss books in general. Bob Sipes had brought along the originals of his set of full-color proof covers for the Aldine Publishing Company's Garfield Library series of Alger titles, for members to examine. A number of these covers were reproduced in the January-February 2005 **Newsboy**.

The remainder of the evening was spent socializing in the hospitality room and elsewhere.

Sunday, May 15

The traditional farewell breakfast was set up in the hotel restaurant, which provided an opportunity for members to get together one last time until our next convention in 2006.



Bob Huber asks for bids on this first edition (with dust jacket) of Ralph Gardner's *Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era*.

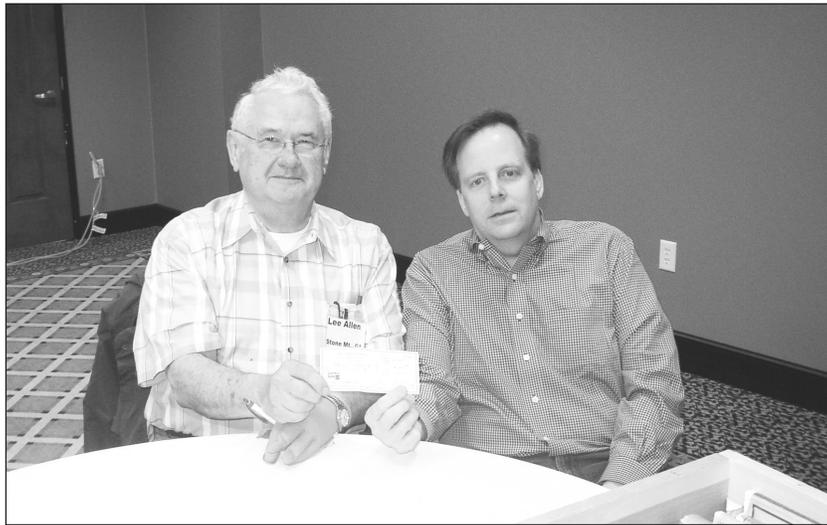
Grand Rapids memories



From left, John Juvinal, Ivan McClymont and Rob Kasper.



The pulled barbecued pork and wide selection of side dishes at the DeHaans' pig roast were a big hit on Friday evening.



Lee Allen (PF-977) presents a check for a Horatio Alger Society life membership to Executive Director Rob Kasper.



David Scott discusses Polyglot Press' Alger and Henty reprint editions with Ivan McClymont.

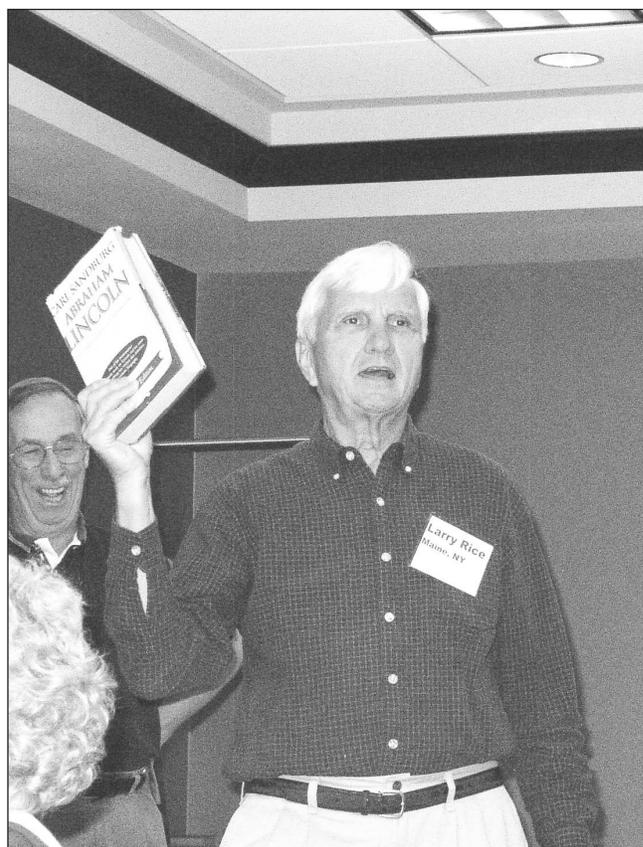
Photos by Bernie Biberdorf



Wendy and Bob Sipes pose with one of Bob's convention purchases.

Annual H.A.S. consignment auction results

Item	Consgr.	Buyer	Price
The Backwoods Boy (Anderson)	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	\$65.00
Young Acrobat (Linwood Ed.)	Brad Chase	Bob Sipes	65.00
Bob Burton (A.L. Burt, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	100.00
Ragged Dick (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	81.00
The Odds Against Him (Penn)	Mike Morley	Ken Broadie	35.00
Paul the Peddler (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Betsy Allen	2.00
The Young Outlaw (Coates)	Dave Yarrington	Steven Sutton	4.00
Slow and Sure (Allison)	Mike Morley	Ken Broadie	35.00
The Backwoods Boy (Oxford Ed.)	Brad Chase	Steven Sutton	2.00
Wait and Hope (A.I. Burt, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	100.00
Bertha's Christmas Vision (Hurst mini.)	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	70.00
Tom the Bootblack (F.B. Walker)	Brad Chase	Mike Morley	240.00
Helen Ford (P&C Alta ed.)	Dave Yarrington	Steven Sutton	2.00
Ralph Raymond's Heir (Stratford Ed.)	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	25.00
Ragged Dick (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	27.00
Young Captain Jack (G&D)	Brad Chase	Mike Morley	35.00
Mark the Matchboy (Porter & Coates)	Dave Yarrington	Lee Switzer	5.00
The \$500 Check (Berkeley Ed.)	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	51.00
The Sampler Story Book (Saalfield)	Milt Ehlert	Betsy Allen	5.00
Two Tom Swift books (G&D)	Milt Ehlert	David Scott	2.00
Two Tom Swift books (G&D)	Milt Ehlert	Bernie Biberdorf	2.00
Rough and Ready (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Kyoko Amano	7.00
Tom the Bootblack (A.L. Burt, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	80.00
Newsboy figurine	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	50.00
Framed Dick & Jane illustration	Dave Yarrington	Bill Gowen	60.00
Framed Dick & Jane illustration	Dave Yarrington	Carol Nackenoff	50.00
Great Seal of the U.S. (plate)	Dave Yarrington	Lee Switzer	5.00
Slow and Sure (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Carol Nackenoff	35.00
Charlie Codman's Cruise (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Milt Ehlert	68.00
Luck and Pluck (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Lee Allen	10.00
Ragged Dick (S&S Alger Series)	Dave Yarrington	Betsy Allen	5.00
Helping Himself (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	110.00
Two Tarzan books (Whitman)	Milt Ehlert	Betsy Allen	2.00
Three Tarzan books (G&D)	Milt Ehlert	Dave Yarrington	5.00
Tom the Bootblack (Mershon)	Milt Ehlert	Aert Smitter	22.00
Chase: Alger books pub. by A.L. Burt	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	7.00
Chase: Alger books pub. by Donohue	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	7.00
Chase: Alger books pub. by Whitman	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	7.00
Chase: Alger books pub. by N.Y. Book	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	7.00



Larry Rice offers for bids a copy of Carl Sandburg's biography of Abraham Lincoln during the annual H.A.S. fund-raising auction.

Chase: Twelve Small Alger Publishers	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	7.00
Dan the Newsboy (A.L. Burt)	Milt Ehlert	Lee Switzer	8.00
Paul the Peddler (Coates)	Dave Yarrington	David Scott	1.00
The Erie Train Boy (Caldwell)	Brad Chase	Mike Morley	75.00
Wait and Win (A.L. Burt, First Ed.)	Brad Chase	Lee Switzer	65.00
Frank and Fearless (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	105.00
Adrift in the City (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	90.00
Slow and Sure (Winston, d/j)	Brad Chase	Art Smitter	85.00
Paul Prescott's Charge (Loring)	Dave Yarrington	Ken Broadie	15.00
Teddy & the Mystery Monkey (Garis)	Milt Ehlert	Art Smitter	3.00
Frank Merriwell in Europe (S&S pb.)	Milt Ehlert	David Scott	2.00
Ben Bruce (A.L. Burt)	Mike Morley	Steven Sutton	10.00

Total lots: 51

Total bids: \$1,956.00

Commission to H.A.S.: \$391.00

Annual H.A.S. fund-raising auction results

Item	Donor	Buyer	Price	Item	Donor	Buyer	Price
Strong and Steady (Hurst mini.)	Bill Gowen	Lee Switzer	\$56.00	Two boys' books: Castlemon, Henty	Art Smitter	Mike Morley	25.00
Three misc. Algers (Lupton)	Bob Routhier	Lee Switzer	10.00	Ladies' Home Journal (8 issues)	Marcy Biberdorf	Dsvld Scott	10.00
Two Algers in d/j (Goldsmith)	Brad Chase	Kyoko Amano	7.00	Four souvenir pins, 2000 convention	Carol Nackenoff	Bob Sipes	1.00
Two U.S. Midshipman books (Penn)	Bob Routhier	Bob Sipes	35.00	Optic: In the Saddle (L&S)	Bill Gowen	David Scott	15.00
Three misc. Algers (Winston)	Bob Routhier	Ivan McClymont	4.00	Optic: Up and Down the Nile	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	10.00
Two Alger first day covers	John Juvinall	Brad Chase	3.00	Optic: Brother Against Brother	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	9.00
Two Ding-Dong School books	Milt Ehlert	Betsy Allen	2.00	Nelson the Newsboy (G&D)	Bill Gowen	Steven Sutton	3.00
Music CD from 1920s Edison cylinders	John Juvinall	Larry Rice	3.00	From Farm Boy to Senator (S&S)	Bill Gowen	Mike Morley	60.00
Music CD from 1920s Edison cylinders	John Juvinall	Bernie Biberdorf	3.00	Five Alger paperbacks (Westbrook)	Bob Routhier	Lee Allen	11.00
Gleason's Monthly, April 1873	Chris DeHaan	David Scott	11.00	Carl Sandburg: Abraham Lincoln	Bernie Biberdorf	Betsy Allen	6.00
Gleason's Monthly, Oct. 1874	Chris DeHaan	David Scott	7.00	Three various boys' books	Bob Routhier	David Scott	5.00
Gleason's Monthly, June 1875	Chris DeHaan	David Scott	11.00	Newsboy figurine	Brad Chase	Ivan McClymont	20.00
Sheet music	Larry Rice	Bernie Biberdorf	8.00	Ballou's Magazine, Vol. IV	Bob Routhier	Bob Sipes	8.00
Sheet music	Larry Rice	Betsy Allen	2.00	Six misc. Algers, various publishers	Brad Chase	Lee Switzer	6.00
Sheet music	Larry Rice	Carol Nackenoff	2.00	Student and Schoolmate (Alger story)	Chris DeHaan	David Scott	10.00
Sheet music	Larry Rice	Milt Ehlert	2.00	Harpers Magazine, 1864 (Alger Story)	Chris DeHaan	Bob Sipes	13.00
Sheet music	Larry Rice	Kyoko Amano	2.00	Good News: "A Boy's Fortune"	Bob Routhier	David Scott	15.00
Five misc. Algers (various publishers)	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	10.00	Pen and pencil set	Marcy Biberdorf	Bernie Biberdorf	1.00
From Canal Boy to Pres. (Anderson)	Bill Gowen	David Scott	12.00	Western Boy, or T. the Bootblack (T&T)	Bill Gowen	Kyoko Amano	15.00
Five misc. Algers (Hurst)	Bob Routhier	Ken Broadie	10.00	Three misc. Algers	Bob Routhier	Davis Scott	44.00
Fifty misc. Algers (reading copies)	Brad Chase	Lee Switzer	30.00	Bennett: Alger biblio. (MAD Book Co.)	Milt Ehlert	Lee Switzer	8.00
Three misc. Algers in d/j	Brad Chase	Milt Ehlert	20.00	Two E.R. Burroughs books (G&D)	Milt Ehlert	Bob Sipes	1.00
U.S. stamps (Apollo-Soyuz, 1975)	John Juvinall	Bob Sipes	4.00	Alger first day covers	Bob Routhier	Brad Chase	12.00
Sheet of 50 Alger 20¢ stamps	John Juvinall	Carol Nackenoff	11.00	Butterfly design fleece blanket	Gaylene Switzer	Art Smitter	25.00
Hoyt: Horatio's Boys (Chilton)	Brad Chase	Kyoko Amano	4.00	Snowman design fleece blanket	Gaylene Switzer	Vivian Rice	15.00
Five misc. Algers (A.L. Burt)	Bob Routhier	Betsy Allen	5.00	Five misc. Algers	Bob Routhier	Lee Switzer	5.00
Boys' Own Stories (John F. Shaw)	Bob Routhier	Betsy Allen	4.00	Three Algers in d/j (World, Goldsmith)	Milt Ehlert	David Scott	2.00
CD: 1982 Alger stamp ceremony	John Juvinall	Mike Morley	4.00	Three misc. children's books	Art Smitter	John Juvinall	6.00
CD: 1982 Alger stamp ceremony	John Juvinall	Bernie Biberdorf	4.00	Alger biblio. (Gardner, first. ed.)	Bill Gowen	Steven Sutton	5.00
CD: 1982 Alger stamp ceremony	John Juvinall	Brad Chase	4.00	Four misc. Algers	Bob Routhier	Steven Sutton	8.00
Four Algers in d/j (World)	Brad Chase	Bob Routhier	5.00				
Randy Starr book (Saalfeld)	Art Smitter	Milt Ehlert	3.00				
Five Little Peppers book (G&D)	Brad Chase	Milt Ehlert	4.00				
Five paperbacks (misc. authors)	Bob Routhier	Bob Sipes	7.00				
Young Captain Jack (Mershon)	Bill Gowen	Bob Routhier	2.00				
Canadian maple syrup	Ivan McClymont	Carol Nackenoff	8.00				
Bennett: Alger biblio. (MAD Book Co.)	Milt Ehlert	Steven Sutton	12.00				
Two baseball books	Art Smitter	Lee Switzer	4.00				
The Nancy Drew Scrapbook	Chris DeHaan	Lee Switzer	8.00				

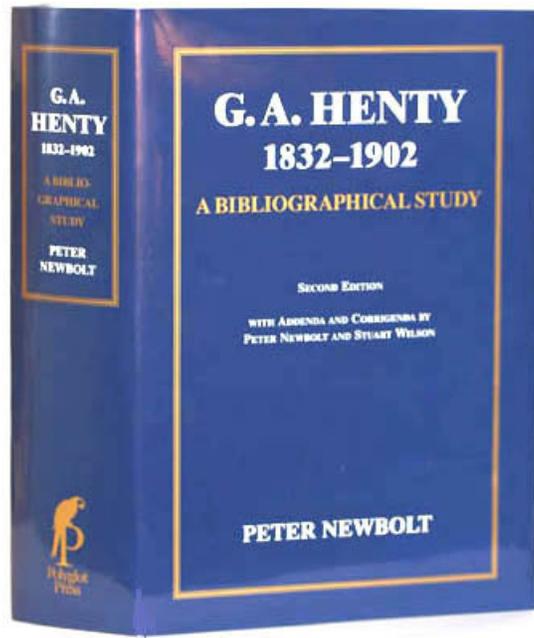
Total lots: 69

Total bids: \$717.00

Net proceeds to H.A.S.

from all auctions: \$1,108.00

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Ralph D. Gardner remembered

By Brad Chase (PF-412)
Past President

"Hello, I'm Ralph Gardner, and we are really pleased that you both could make it to our Alger meeting," said a pleasant, fiftyish man to my wife Ann and me as we entered the lobby of the Delphian Motor Inn. He was dressed casually, sported a big Sherlock Holmes-type pipe and smiled in a way that I knew that I would like him.

"The registration desk is over there," he said, motioning to his left, "and our Hospitality Room is on the second floor. Others have arrived and I know they'd love to meet you both." He shook our hands as we mentioned our names and told him where we were from. Later, Ann and I both agreed that a greeting like that was really special and both of us were immediately impressed with our introduction to the Horatio Alger Society.

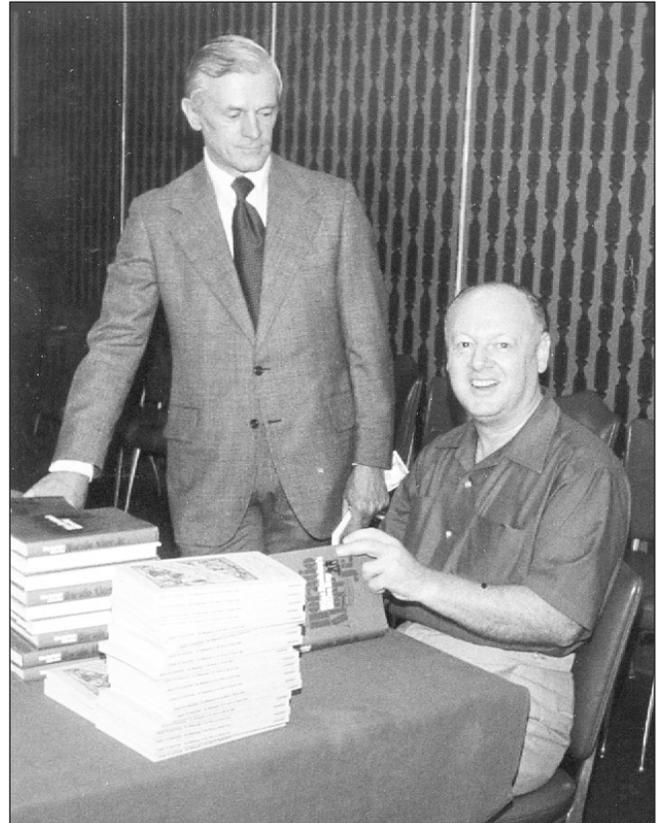
The year was 1974, and I as a rookie Alger enthusiast had just made the trip from Connecticut along with Ann to attend our first Horatio Alger Society convention in New Philadelphia, Ohio. After Ralph had greeted us he introduced us to others gathered there in the lobby: Rohima and John Walter, Ken and Doris Butler, Dan Fuller and Carl Hartmann. They all greeted us, and right away we felt at home.

For the next three days that group, especially Ralph and Ken, took us under their collective wings so when we left Sunday morning, we had an abundance of new and very special Alger friendships.

Wow, Ralph Gardner, the heralded Alger expert who wrote the 1964 biography and bibliography about Horatio Alger, Jr., making such an effort to ease my wife and me into this annual convention! I had recently found his book in the Hartford Public Library and had just finished reading it.

What a thrilling experience it was for me to actually now meet him. We were made to feel like equals immediately by all those in attendance, with interest in Alger being the great and common equalizer. Incidentally, at future conventions, Ralph always remembered our first names, knew where we were from and inquired about Ann the few times she couldn't attend a convention. He was a special guy, a multipurpose Society promoter, both within and outside the membership, a man who was a major part of the friendly glue that held the Society together.

Unfortunately, Ralph has left us now, but my images of him will always be fresh and alive because to me, he will always be The Alger Man: the guy who set down on



Ralph Gardner inscribes a copy of Horatio Alger's *Silas Snobden's Office Boy* for former H.A.S. President Jack Row during the 1973 convention in Indianapolis. Gardner wrote the foreword and was the force behind Doubleday & Co. in 1973 issuing the first hard-cover edition of this Alger story, originally appearing as a serial in *The Argosy*.

paper who Alger actually was in human terms, and who listed specific details about the books he wrote.

Alger experts may argue about first-edition minutiae or scoff at alleged fluff about the writer's life in Ralph's book, but no one can deny that Ralph established an initial credible, written standard of Alger knowledge.

Others such as Bennett, Scharnhorst and Bales some years later conducted further exhaustive research on Alger and his work, bringing to light much new information. Essentially, however, they were building upon Ralph's monumental 1964 baseline effort.

But to credit Ralph only with writing his significant book is truly shortchanging him. At conventions he was a gregarious and very approachable man; a Society booster

(Continued on Page 18)

Ralph D. Gardner remembered

(Continued from Page 17)

who reveled in sharing knowledge and experiences with anyone at any time about Alger, the Society or, for that matter, almost any other subject.

One of my favorite images of Ralph is seeing him dressed in his brown smoking jacket, his big curved pipe clenched in his teeth, providing all types of chatter while hand sketching caricatures of members in the Hospitality Room. The few bucks he charged for the sketches he always donated to the Society.

I also remember when he and Dale Thomas used to run



Brad Chase and Ralph Gardner pose in the hotel lobby during Ralph's final H.A.S. convention in 2000 at West Chester, Pa.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

the Kentucky Derby pool annually with Ralph drumming up bettors and Dale charting out the names and bets on a big piece of paper. How about the time Ralph surprisingly won the pool? We all called "foul," only to learn that he had donated his winnings to the Society. I also remember in one of my early conventions sitting with others in someone's room very late, watching and laughing hysterically as Ralph and (I think) Gilbert Westgard continued for several hours to top each other in reciting limericks from memory, one after the other; you know the ones that start: "There once was a man from Purdue, who ..." I never knew anyone who could recall so much information so quickly as Ralph and Gilbert and do it with an air of class, pretended dignity and raucous humor.

When I was first working on trying to get a postage stamp to honor Alger, Ralph called me several times, encouraging me and making suggestions about process and strategy. I don't think it is generally known that he made several critical phone calls for us at that time. One in particular was to Helen Gray of the Horatio Alger Association, introducing me so our two

organizations could coordinate and work together, which we did.

As it turned out, I believe that the Association was a major factor in getting the stamp as they had honored Ronald Reagan a year or so before he became President. Shortly after Reagan's inauguration, our Society got notice that an Alger stamp would be issued in the spring of 1982 at our annual convention.

Probably the most vivid image I have of Ralph is as the all-knowing Alger guru who made up Ralph's Alger Quiz each year. At the banquet he would pass out a list of 15 or so questions about Alger and his writings. After we all took the quiz he gave us the answers and we self-corrected our tests. Sometimes good-natured, reactive, banter would occur concerning some of Ralph's answers, which he always handled superbly and with grace and humor. When the quiz session concluded he gave everybody a ballpoint pen as a reward for taking the quiz.

His infamous quiz continued for several years, and we all eagerly looked forward to it. Later, the book auctions became more and more prominent and the quiz became less and less of a banquet feature. Ralph was the first and

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His infamous quiz continued for several years, and we all eagerly looked forward to it. Later, the book auctions became more and more prominent and the quiz became less and less of a banquet feature. Ralph was the first and

sole auctioneer during the early conventions when only about half of the auction items were books. This always prompted him to make funny comments about some of the very strange submitted items he was auctioning, much to our collective delight. One year in the 1970s he developed laryngitis just before the banquet and Bob Bennett substituted as auctioneer.

In subsequent conventions Ralph graciously stepped aside with Bob Bennett and Jerry Friedland handling the auctioneering chores. Incidentally, without fanfare, Ralph always brought something of his own which he donated to the auction to raise money for the Society.

My last association with Ralph was at the 2000 convention in West Chester, Pa., which turned out to be his last. I stopped in New York City and picked Ralph up on my way south. Ann couldn't make it that year, so it was only Ralph and me, to and from West Chester.

What fun that was! His depth of knowledge on a variety of subjects was amazing. He talked about the time each year he spent in Italy and about the many other places in the world he had lived. Offhandedly he would mention famous persons he had met and/or interviewed during his lifetime, not in a bragging way, but just to keep the conversation going. He asked about Ann, me, and my life and inquired about Alger Society members we both knew, and their collecting activities. He recalled with great fondness his early years in Maine and how he discovered Alger there as a boy.

The last thing he said to me as I dropped him off at his Central Park West home that day was: "Thank you so much for the ride; we had fun. Now take the first left which will get you to the West Side Drive and then go North. And remember to say hello to Ann for me and tell her how much we missed her."

With a nod and a wave I drove off, really happy that we had ridden together and was convinced then, and now, that he was one of the nicest and most impressive persons I have ever known.



Jerry Friedland and Ralph Gardner get together in 1997 at North Conway, N.H. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

'Thirty years of memories'

**By Jerry Friedland (PF-376)
Past President**

As Ralph would inscribe in many books to me, I will reciprocate:

"To my friend Ralph from his friend Jerry — thirty years of memories, good times and lots of laughs from one of the most unusual and entertaining people I have ever known. I'll take very good care of the books you passed on to me and will treasure them as I did your friendship."

'I will miss this fine man'

**By Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
Past President**

I was familiar with the kindly looking gentleman smoking his calabash, looking out at me from the dust jacket of the Arco edition (not a first) of *Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era* back in the mid-1980s.

I carried a photocopy of the "What are they worth?" section of the book with me as I began combing bookstores for my first Algers. I had been reading and very casually collecting Alger novels for several years when I found a treasure trove of Algers in New York City's

Academy Books and Music Store. No first editions — just many, many titles I had never seen before. I bought what I could afford, and what I could carry back to my home in New Jersey.

This large boost to my collection marked the beginning of my more serious efforts to acquire Algers. It was at least 10 years later that I learned my early treasure was Ralph's own surplus. So not only had I found some of Ralph's former books, but I could say that Ralph inadvertently sparked the collector's bug in me: now I was after every title!

By the time I met Ralph at my first Horatio Alger Society convention in 1994 in Grand Rapids, Michigan,
(Continued on Page 20)

Ralph D. Gardner remembered

(Continued from Page 19)

I was an Alger author, too, with the recent publication of *The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse*. I was delighted to meet him, and he made me feel welcome. I quickly found myself sitting for one of his hospitality room portraits, took his Alger quiz in Chris DeHaan's dairy barn, and came home completely charmed.

While we would meet again at subsequent conventions and exchange a few written notes, Ralph's last convention was the one I hosted with Tom Davis in West Chester in 2000. I was so pleased to be able to invite Ralph to my home, to share my own Alger treasures with him, and entertain him this one last time.

It is hard to believe that he won't be coming to another convention; I will miss this fine man who did so much to keep Horatio Alger in the public eye.

'A very special friend'

By George W. Owens (PF-576)
Past President

Ralph Gardner was a very special friend of mine, and I shall truly miss him.

I met Ralph at several conventions and also visited with him through letters and phone calls, and whenever I was in New York.

At our very first meeting, I told him of purchasing his book, *Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era*, and about a dozen Alger titles from a book store in Waynesboro, Va., that was going out of business. He signed my book and noted that it didn't have a dust jacket. Upon his return to New York he mailed a dust jacket to me.

He was a very gracious, friendly Alger lover, and the Horatio Alger Society has lost a true gentleman. I take this opportunity to offer my condolences to his family, and to his Alger family.

Farewell to a fellow New Yorker

By Angelo Sylvester (PF-928)

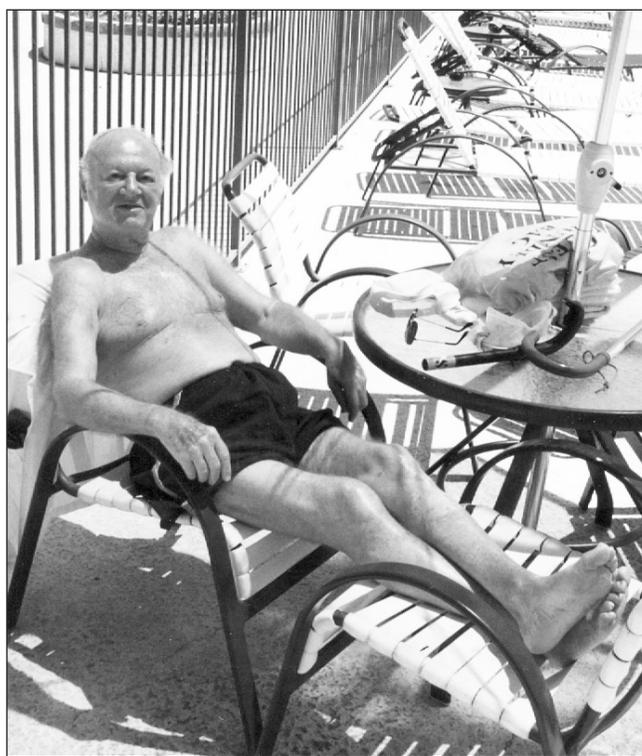
Mary and I first met Ralph in our first attendance of an Alger convention a dozen years ago. Since then, we have had friendly chats on Alger and other topics in subsequent conventions.

One of these that stands out most in our minds is the one we hosted in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the Pima Inn and Suites. It was one of the last conventions that Ralph attended. He had high praise for the gourmet food and tidbits we provided for this affair.

He just loved the warm Arizona sun in May, joining us every morning for the sumptuous complimentary hotel breakfasts, luxuriating in the huge swimming pool, savoring the rare yellow Hayden champagne mangos, laughing as we had champagne toasts, taking extra portions of Cathy's Rum Bhaba cake and other exotic desserts, biscuits and fruits, and many other trivial memories. During this trip he treated us to several meals, since he had come early before the convention opened. One such memorable luncheon was at the Pinion Grille on Scottsdale Road overlooking a tranquil pond with lush desert landscaping.

Three years ago we moved back to our home base where we were born, grew up and were married: Manhattan. Here each year we now spend half the time, with the other half in Phoenix, Arizona.

Our apartment in East Harlem on 104th Street and 2nd Avenue is on the 20th (top) floor and just like Ralph's apartment, we overlook gorgeous Central Park—a place



Ralph Gardner relaxes next to the pool in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the 1998 convention, "Valley of the Sun," hosted by Mary and Angelo Sylvester. Photo by Bill Gowen

the three of us loved dearly. Being such a short distance from Ralph's home, we kept contact.

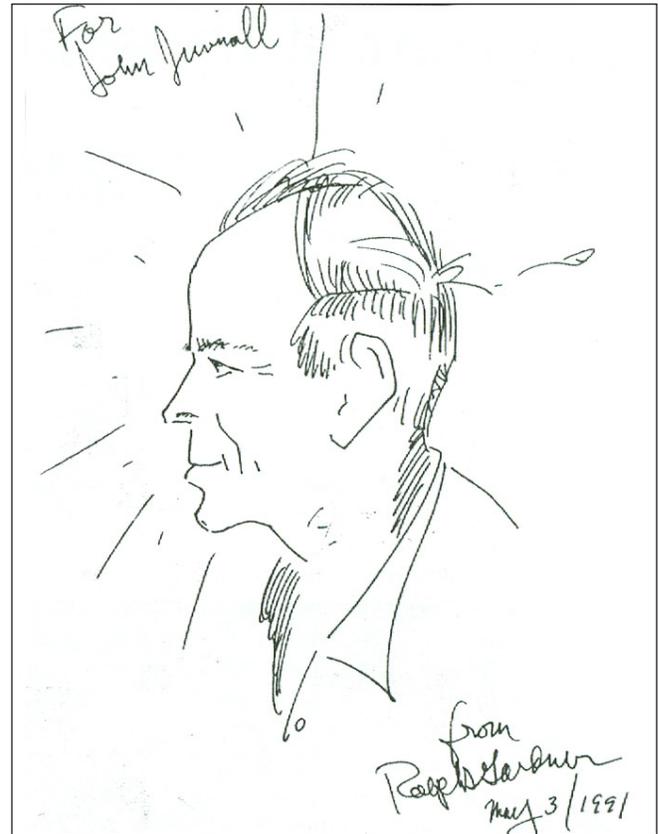
Also of note is that most of Alger's work revolved and was set in the heart of New York City—Manhattan.

Ralph, like us born and city-bred, loved the city.

Ralph and ourselves were the only Horatio Alger Society members making New York City our home, and now only Mary and I remain.

We spend much of our spare time in lower Manhattan; i.e., City Hall, Wall Street, Broadway, etc. all the places were Alger's heroes/heroines struggled and made their fortunes.

It was with sadness that we read in **Newsboy** of Ralph's passing. His generosity, kindness and values via his Alger research will remain with us forever.



One of Ralph Gardner's traditional activities at the annual conventions was his drawing of caricatures of Partic'lar Friends and members of their families, with all donations going to the Society. At left, he holds up a caricature of Paul Miller at the 1997 convention in North Conway, N.H. At right is Gardner's autographed portrait of John Juvinall from the 1991 convention in Indianapolis. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf; caricature courtesy of John Juvinall

'He valued your friendship'

By Ruth W. Miller (PF-894)

What great memories of have of Ralph! On one occasion, Paul and I visited him at his home on the Hudson. What a revelation that was! It was simply amazing viewing some of his mementos and realizing what great experiences he had over the years. And how he did value those associations!

Ralph had the capacity to make one feel special and let you know how much he valued your friendship. How very humble he was in spite of his accomplishments over the years.

The Horatio Alger Society has truly suffered a great loss. So many of our lives were enriched by knowing him.

Fond memories from Ohio

By Clyde E. Willis (PF-119)

We were very saddened to read about the passing of Ralph Gardner.

In a lighter vein, here are a couple of anecdotes you may or may not want to choose to print in the next issue of **Newsboy**, from Ralph Gardner's visit with Jeanne and Clyde Willis in Ohio in the early 1990s:

We stopped at a very remote location in Hocking County, Ohio. Ralph spotted a pay phone by the side

of the road and said, "Let's stop — I'll try to give Nellie a call."

Coming back to the car, Ralph remarked, "She wanted to know where I was calling from. How could I possibly tell her THAT!?"

In Lancaster, Ohio, Ralph was surprised to find a copy of **The New York Times** in a newspaper box. After purchasing a copy, Ralph exclaimed, "Maybe this town

(Tributes continued on Page 22)

A great storyteller ... a great friend

By Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

Executive Director and Past President

I recall quite fondly my visit with Ralph at his summer home in Kinderhook, New York, several years ago. This was a family property and, as far as I know, only one other Horatio Alger Society member ever received an invitation to this grand estate.

I'm not sure why I was selected for this auspicious opportunity, but I'm glad I accepted. We spent a long weekend together among the valuable antiques and thousands of books in the library, talking about Horatio Alger and book collecting. After a day of book hunting (and not finding anything worthwhile), Ralph treated me at his favorite restaurant.

One of the highlights of the house is a small room filled with pictures and other mementos of Ralph's long career. Signed photos of Albert Einstein and other luminaries lined the wall. Ralph's career as an advertising executive (among his clients were several Eastern Bloc countries) brought him in contact with many ambassadors, diplomats and other dignitaries. But his stories about these encounters were never regaled in a pretentious manner; they were "matter-of-fact" meetings with regular people to Ralph.

Another "matter-of-fact" story Ralph liked to tell was his connection with Marilyn Monroe. For some time during the late 1950s, Marilyn lived with her acting coach, Lee Strasberg, who happened to reside in Ralph's apartment building on Central Park West. Ralph would occasionally see Marilyn in the elevator or foyer, but these

meetings never produced anything more than small talk. Then, one day, Ralph was having a lunch meeting with a potential client at New York's fancy 21 Club, and in walked Marilyn. While she waited for her lunch date, she apparently became self-conscious as everyone in the room stopped eating and began staring at her. After a moment, she spied Ralph and ran up to speak with him in order to diffuse the awkward situation. After a few minutes her date arrived, and Ralph returned to his lunch meeting. Needless to say, his potential client was extremely impressed but to Ralph it was just another "matter-of-fact" encounter.

I will not dwell on Ralph's importance to the Horatio Alger Society and to our hobby in general. That is well documented and known to everyone reading this issue of *Newsboy*. But perhaps what is not so well known was Ralph's eagerness and desire to impart his Alger knowledge with neophyte collectors and help them with acquiring new items for their collections. I was the recipient of numerous books and letters from Ralph and these items are now proudly part of my Alger library.

Although Ralph was occasionally criticized (sometimes not unwarranted) for his misplaced facts and fabricated dialogue in his 1964 Alger biography, the fact that his pioneering efforts transformed Alger collecting cannot be overstated. His early work spawned a new generation of collectors, furnished in-depth information about Alger's publishers and first editions and provided a solid base for future Alger researchers.

We first met at Sioux Falls

By Jack Bales (PF-268)

Past Editor, Newsboy

I picked up a copy of Ralph's book in 1968 from a used-book dealer in Chicago (and joined the Horatio Alger Society right after I saw the mention of it in the Acknowledgments). I immediately sent the book to Ralph for signing, which he did with a generous, thoughtful inscription.

And there began a friendship that was to continue for decades. We first corresponded for years, and met face-to-face at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, convention in 1971. Carl Hartmann and I drove to the convention together, and I distinctly remember Ralph giving his old friend Carl a warm welcome, and then turning to me, smiling, and welcoming me in an equally warm fashion.

But I especially remember my own convention, the 1978 "Jacksonville Jamboree." I picked up Ralph at the airport in Springfield, Illinois, so we had a long time to

chat. And then every single morning of the convention we went to a local grocery store to stock up on items for the hospitality room.

Ralph was always in his element at such meetings, and every convention-goer basked in Ralph's conviviality and good cheer.

I was researching Alger in New York City once and stayed in a local YMCA; I remember it was the night that J. R. Ewing got shot on "Dallas" — or maybe it was the night that the killer was revealed. Anyway, Ralph met me there at the Y (he was intrigued with the whole concept) and he took me out to dinner at his favorite Chinese restaurant. The next day, he showed me his Alger collection at his beautiful New York apartment (and yes, he handed me his copy of *Timothy Crump's Ward* to examine).

As past editor of *Newsboy*, I could always count on Ralph to write a column for me. He was unique in that everyone in H.A.S. was his friend. When you were with Ralph, you always felt that you were with a wonderful friend, even if you had just met him 15 minutes earlier.



Ralph Gardner receives the Newsboy Award from outgoing H.A.S. President Judson S. Berry at the eighth annual convention in 1972 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, in recognition of his book *Road to Success: The Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* Ralph won this prestigious award a total of three times.

Photo by Jack Row

Ralph and Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann (PF-102) enjoy a light moment during the H.A.S. book sale at the '91 convention, "Indiana Bound, Hoosier Edition."

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



Ralph Gardner (PF-053) and Ralph Carlson (PF-955) at West Chester, Pa., in 2000. In a note to Bernie Biberdorf a few weeks later, Gardner said:

"Thanks a million for your fine photo of the '2 Ralphs!' Nellie says it's a good picture of me. I don't usually look great on photos, but I do like this one."

The Horatio Alger Awards Committee

recognizes

Ralph D. Gardner

for his continuing efforts over
many years through his writings
which encourage Horatio Alger's
principle of "strive and succeed"
in the

American Tradition of Free Enterprise.

31st Annual Awards

May 15, 1978

Norman Vincent Peale
Helen M. Gray

This certificate was awarded to Ralph D. Gardner for his contribution to Alger scholarship by the awards committee of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans at its 31st annual awards ceremony in 1978. It is signed by the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale and the association's executive director, Helen M.