



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME XL

MAY-JUNE 2002

NUMBER 3

Convention issue

Salt Lake City 2002: 'Crossroads of the West'



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- ❖ Annual treasurer's report
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Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

President's column

I wish to personally thank Ralph Carlson for a wonderful convention in Salt Lake City. It was a lot of fun and everything went smoothly. Even the weather was great, so we will give Ralph credit for that as well!

Brad Chase gave an excellent presentation on his new book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by Twelve Small Alger Publishers*. This is the last book in his five-book series about Alger reprint publishers, and as usual, it had an enormous amount of information that cannot be easily obtained anywhere else. His series is a major contribution to our knowledge about the innumerable Alger publishers.

Bill Gowen presented "Railroading as a Theme in Boys' Books." As usual, his excellent talk was illustrated with examples from his collection. As I sat in the audience, I couldn't help but wonder, "Where does he get all these things, and why do I never see them when I go book hunting?" Several of the series I never heard of, so now I have more to look for!

The auctions went very well, with many Alger books and ephemera finding new homes. Other events that contributed greatly to the conference included the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal, tours of Temple Square, and the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Even the book hunting was pretty good!

Next year's convention will be hosted by Marc Williams (PF-958) in the Houston/NASA Space Center area. Look for more information toward the end of the year.

As the incoming president, I would like to welcome the other new officers. Bob Routhier (PF-889) is the new vice president and Chris DeHaan (PF-773) continues as treasurer. The new members on the board of directors are Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524) Jim Thorp (PF-574) and Steven Sutton (PF-998).

I would like to personally thank our outgoing president, Carol Nackenoff, and retiring directors Doug Fleming, Ralph Carlson and Marc Williams for their much-appreciated contributions over the last two years.

On a sadder note, we have learned that Jim Thorp's wife, Mary Jane, passed away on Mothers' Day. Jim has been a Horatio Alger Society member since 1978, has been a true "partic'lar friend" at many conventions. Our sincere sympathies go out to Jim and his family. Brad Chase's tribute to Mary Jane Thorp appears on Page 5.

I hope the summer goes well for everyone, and that you find many books!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Bob Huber (PF-841)
205 Ozark Trail
Madison, WI 53705

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 — youths 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.

Convention report

Salt Lake City 2002: 'Crossroads of the West'

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The recipe was simple: if Salt Lake City in February could welcome the world for the Winter Olympics, why not successfully host the Horatio Alger Society in early May? Why not, indeed!

The 38th annual H.A.S. convention, "Crossroads of the West," officially got underway Thursday afternoon, May 2, with registration in the Zion room, which served as our hospitality room. It was conveniently located just off the main lobby of the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel.

Following longtime tradition, the early hours of registration gave members and their guests an opportunity to renew acquaintances as well as meet new friends. Convention host Ralph Carlson (PF-955) had the hospitality room well stocked with fresh fruit, soft drinks, bottles of natural spring water and other snacks. Each registrant was given a well-stocked bag of Salt Lake-area mementoes.

Several partic'lar friends arrived in Salt Lake City a day or two early and already had an opportunity to check out the local used bookstores — and there were some very good books available!

The first official event on the busy schedule was the annual Board of Directors meeting in the Aspen banquet rooms, located on the hotel's lower level. Executive Director Robert E. Kasper's full report on this meeting can be found on Page 8.

One of the joys of Salt Lake City is its compact geography. The convention hotel was just off historic Temple Square, so nearly all the main places of interest were within a short walk. For example, the Mormon Tabernacle and Maurice Abravanel Hall (home of the Utah Symphony Orchestra) were both within 200 yards of the hotel.

That made Thursday's "dinner on our own" especially convenient, with numerous restaurants close by.

The final event on the opening-day schedule was the weekly free Thursday night rehearsal by the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir — once again, just a minute or two by foot from the hotel.

Friday, May 3

The Salt Lake Plaza included an outstanding venue for a buffet-style breakfast — J.B.'s Restaurant, and early Friday morning it was filled with H.A.S. members and guests. The restaurant also had an area set aside for the annual Directors' Breakfast Meeting, during which unfinished business from the previous day's board meeting was conducted. Meanwhile, the hospitality



The 2002 H.A.S. awards (top): Dick Seddon Award winner Bob Routhier, Strive and Succeed Award winner Elizabeth Coleman and President's Award winner Doug Fleming. Bottom photo: Elizabeth Coleman reacts as she receives her Strive and Succeed Award check for \$1,000 from convention host Ralph Carlson. Photos by Doug Fleming (top) and Murray D. Levin

room was open to accommodate late registrations for the convention, as well as provide an informal place to get together and socialize.

Shortly after 9 a.m., the official program got under way in the Aspen Room, with President Carol Nackenoff making opening remarks, immediately followed by Brad
(Continued on Page 7)

Editor's notebook

Another convention is history, and from comments I've heard in the weeks since, it was among the best ever. Great weather, a fine program assembled by our host, Ralph Carlson (PF-955), and one of the nicest locations the Horatio Alger Society has ever visited. I don't think this will be the last time most of us decide to visit Salt Lake City! A full report is included in this, our annual convention issue.

Shortly following our return from Salt Lake City we learned of the news of the sudden death on Mother's Day of Mary Jane Thorp who, along with her husband Jim, were hosts of one of our best conventions ever — "Nostalgia in Nashua," the Society's 20th annual get-together in 1984 in southern New Hampshire.

That convention was highlighted by one of the most important Alger book auctions in history, that of the Dick Seddon collection. The total bids from this auction exceeded \$12,000, which is quite impressive especially when you remember this was in 1984 dollars. A first edition of *Seeking His Fortune* went for \$1,000, to cite one example. Because this was only my second H.A.S. convention, this auction really opened my eyes about the collectability and value of Alger first editions.

But better than that, it was the hospitality of the Thorps that made the 1984 convention so memorable. And now, within a short time period, Jim has lost both his daughter, Diana, and his wife. In a recent e-mail, he noted that he has been learning how to adapt to his changed lifestyle and that he has canceled plans for retirement because "I don't want to sit around and feel sorry for myself."

Mary Jane Thorp remains one of the most memorable of the "early friends" I made after joining the Society in 1983. A plain-talking Yankee who always said what was on her mind, she was not unlike my own mother in that regard (my family also hails from New England). A visit to southern New Hampshire was always an extra pleasure when it included a stop at the Thorps' home. And they also were frequent participants in our conventions, most recently in 2001 in Ottawa. Brad Chase's tribute to Mary Jane can be found on Page 5.

We have also learned of the news that Mildred Wirt Benson, perhaps the last true link to the golden age of the Stratemeyer Syndicate through her (then-anonymous) authorship of many of the early Nancy Drew books, passed away in Toledo, Ohio, on May 28 at age 96. She was born July 10, 1905.

Mrs. Benson had just completed her monthly column,

"Millie Benson's Notebook," for the **Toledo Blade**, a newspaper for which she had worked (along with the now-defunct **Toledo Times**) for nearly 60 years, when she was suddenly taken ill in her home, and died shortly thereafter at the local hospital.

I won't go into her professional career because others with much more knowledge on the subject have covered those details more thoroughly and accurately elsewhere.

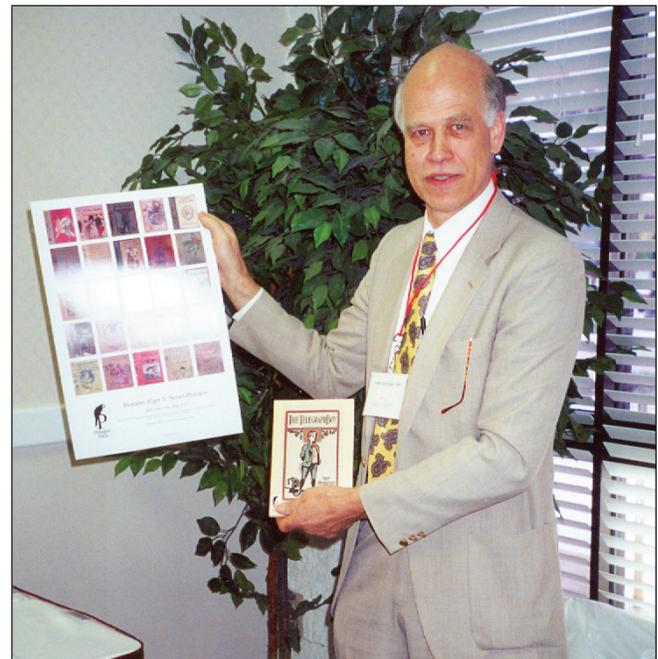
However, I want to thank the Partic'lar Friends who e-mailed me with the news of Mildred's passing, and most particularly, Bill Baab (PF-980), who mailed me a newspaper clipping originating in the **Toledo Blade** that was syndicated to newspapers throughout the country. This article included this comment from **Toledo Blade** publisher and editor-in-chief, John Robinson:

"She was gutsy and daring, a living embodiment of her Nancy Drew heroine. She influenced generations of **Blade** reporters. I will never forget her."

Alger's books to be republished!

Among the biggest news coming out of the recent convention was the projected republication of all of Horatio Alger, Jr.'s books by Polyglot Press, Inc., a company headquartered in Barcelona, Spain. Polyglot's vice president, Stephen Crane, made a presentation in Salt Lake City outlining the company's plans.

A recent meeting in Philadelphia between Crane
(Continued on Page 6)



Stephen Crane, vice president of Polyglot Press, Inc., makes a presentation at the recent Salt Lake City convention outlining his company's plans to reissue Horatio Alger's works. Photo by Doug Fleming

Mary Jane Thorp fondly remembered

By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

Mary Jane Thorp was one of those people you just looked forward to seeing when Alger people would get together. She and Jim always came to my September mini-bookmeet, often delighting us by bringing along their granddaughter, Amanda.

The Thorps attended many H.A.S. conventions, hosting the memorable 20th in 1984 ("Nostalgia in Nashua"), and most recently attending the 2001 convention in Ottawa, Ontario.

Jim called in May to let Ann and me know that Mary Jane passed away in her sleep of a heart attack on Mother's Day. He wanted all of their Alger friends to know.

Mary Jane had a really nice way about her, sort of confiding in you about the important aspects of her life: Jim and his collecting activities, her beloved and close family and her involvement in Nashua and New Hampshire politics.

Mary Jane loved telling about the wall in their downstairs library on which was pasted (like wallpaper) the entire story of *Phil the Fiddler*, using pages taken from two old Donohues. She talked with pride about their children and grandchildren. She and Jim were devastated this past year when their daughter Diana, once an Alger Society member and Alger collector herself, died of cancer.

Mary Jane also used to tell us about some of her



Mary Jane and Jim Thorp with their granddaughter, Amanda Demanche, at the 2001 H.A.S. convention in Ottawa, Ontario.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

conversations with staff at the White House, an administration ago. Long active on the local and state political scene, she was contacted to make sure the President or Vice President was properly received in Nashua.

Mary Jane Thorp was a busy person, an involved person and a nice person to be with. Our hearts go out to Jim and their family.

Ode to a Book Collector

"Neither borrower nor lender be"
Is advice I once ignored,
Until I lost — well, half the books
Which on my shelf were stored.
My friends with sincere intellects
Just "borrowed" my best tomes
And now my gleaming, cherished books
Adorn some other Holmes

I sometimes ask facetiously
When feeling like the Dickens.
If I can Borrow my books back
Their stride away just quickens.
My friends are Whittier then me,
A Whitman I am not,
If I dare suggest or hint
I hear their Bellow hot!

They Pound my bowed and Beaton head
'Til I think, "What the Hecht,"
I'll let them keep my lent-out books
Weil new ones I'll collect.
I Chekhov my list of absent books,
My collectibles, all rare,
My Bacon, Lamb and Rice are gone!
I Kant believe they'd dare.

I'm Fast to Grant them no reprieve
Now that I know Watts what,
But I get Wilde and Wilder still
At my unhappy lot.
Now do you think it Fair or Wright
My fury Wells in me,
That friends should take my precious books
And just get off Scott free?

So good friends all, from this Day forth
Marquis my words, I pray,
I'll Locke the door to one and all
Who carry books away.
And Swift and certain is their doom
And Sterne will be their Fate
I know DeFoe and further Moore,
I'll Barr them from my gate

L'Envoi

But what are Wordsworth when we deal
With people who are prone to Steele?

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'Crossroads of the West' — Registration list

Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524) Fishers, Ind.	Carol Ehlert Grand Rapids, Mich.	Janice Morley (PF-957) Fremont, Calif.	Linda Smitter Grand Rapids, Mich.
Marcy Biberdorf Fishers, Ind.	Douglas Fleming (PF-899) Pakenham, Ontario	Michael Morley (PF-934) Fremont, Calif.	Dilworth Strasser (PF-1061) Salt Lake City, Utah
Ken Broadie (PF-1053) Fort Worth, Texas	William R. Gowen (PF-706) Lake Zurich, Ill.	Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) Swarthmore, Pa.	Diane D. Strasser Salt Lake City, Utah
Kay Broadie Fort Worth, Texas	Richard Hoffman (PF-570) Washington, D.C.	Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879) Omaha, Neb.	Lee Switzer (PF-882) Fridley, Minn.
Ralph J. Carlson (PF-955) Taylorsville, Utah	Gordon Huber (PF-843) Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio	Mary Ann Nyberg (PF-861) Omaha, Neb.	Gaylene Switzer Fridley, Minn.
Bradford S. Chase (PF-412) Enfield, Conn.	Jeanne Huber Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio	George W. Owens (PF-586) Palmyra, Va.	Angelo Sylvester (PF-928) Phoenix, Ariz.
Ann Chase Enfield, Conn.	Robert G. Huber (PF-841) Madison, Wisc.	Lawrence R. Rice (PF-757) Maine, N.Y.	Mary Sylvester Phoenix, Ariz.
Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602) Prescott, Ariz.	John R. Juvinall (PF-537) Hinsdale, Ill.	Vivian R. Rice Maine, N.Y.	Marc C. Williams (PF-958) Houston, Texas
Kitty Chase Prescott, Ariz.	Robert E. Kasper (PF-327) Richmond, Va.	Robert R. Routhier (PF-889) Swartz Creek, Mich.	
Stephen Crane (PF-1068) Philadelphia, Pa.	Dennis Lamoreaux Hinsdale, Ill.	Jeanette Routhier (PF-1055) Swartz Creek, Mich.	
Milton F. Ehlert (PF-702) Grand Rapids, Mich.	Murray D. Levin (PF-851) Jenkintown, Pa.	Arthur Smitter (PF-952) Grand Rapids, Mich.	TOTAL REGISTRANTS: 41 H.A.S. MEMBERS: 28

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

(our newest H.A.S. member, by the way), Polyglot Press production manager David Scott and H.A.S. Executive Director Robert E. Kasper has resulted in even more details about this ambitious project. Polyglot Press, which mainly publishes books in Spanish for its native audience, is expanding into the United States by offering, in English, high-quality reprints of 19th century authors such as Alger, Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott. It is the firm's intention to publish all the known works of each author. In Alger's case, this will include the 120-plus novels, along with supplementary materials.

Each book will appear in four formats: trade paperback, hard cover with dust jacket, leather-bound and a paperback edition with large print. These will not be facsimile editions, but with new typesetting. Polyglot is

working closely with the Horatio Alger Society to ensure that the books accurately follow Alger's works.

The trade paperback editions are scheduled to be out in September with the other formats to follow. The books will be discounted 20 percent if ordered through Polyglot Press's Internet site, to be operational soon. Members of the Horatio Alger Society will receive a to-be-determined additional discount.

While many may regard this as an overly ambitious project, Polyglot Press believes it will succeed with this venture. Home schooling, for example, is one obvious market for republished books by Alger and other vintage authors. This fall, **Newsboy** will hopefully have a full report after the books are off the presses.

Devotion-to-accuracy department: In my article on author Mary P. Wells Smith in the November-December 2001 **Newsboy**, I incorrectly listed the final title in **The Summer Vacation Series** for Little, Brown as *Four in a Ford*. Obviously, the correct title is *Five in a Ford*.

'Crossroads of the West'

(Continued from Page 3)

Chase's talk on his new book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by Twelve Small Alger Publishers*. Because Chase had given previous presentations on specific Alger formats by several of these publishers, he decided this time to discuss how the book was put together and produced.

Because this is the fifth book in his series on Horatio Alger publishers (covering 187 different formats produced by 16 companies!), Chase had a gold-lettered slipcase custom-made by a small shop in Massachusetts, designed to hold all five of his books. Brad had the new slipcases available throughout the weekend, as well as copies of his new book.

Newsboy editor Bill Gowen then gave a presentation titled "Railroading as a Theme in Boys' Books," the talk following the birth of these stories during the dime novel era, through the growth of story papers in the 1890s to the evolution of hard-cover books. The talk was illustrated with color slides.

Following a short break, the group reconvened in the Salt Lake Room on the hotel's first floor for a buffet lunch, followed by the annual business meeting.

President Carol Nackenoff opened the meeting with general welcoming remarks, followed by an introduction of new members.

Executive Director Robert E. Kasper gave the Treasurer's Report prepared by H.A.S. treasurer Chris DeHaan, who was unable to attend the convention. (For the complete Treasurer's Report, see Page 12). Kasper

followed with the Executive Director's report, which included the current membership as of April 30, with 11 new members in the previous 12 months and 16 members dropped for a net loss of four (see the Board of Directors meeting minutes on Page 8 for the complete membership report).

John Juvinal (PF-537) of Hinsdale, Ill., was recognized by President Nackenoff for attending his 25th consecutive Horatio Alger Society convention.

In other business, it was announced that the Board of Directors had approved honorariums of \$50 for the Execu-

tive Director and **Newsboy** editor in recognition for their work during the past year.

President Nackenoff then thanked outgoing directors Doug Fleming, Ralph Carlson and Marc C. Williams for their service during the past three years.

A site for the 2003 convention was discussed, and Marc Williams gave a presentation on the League City/Clear Lake area near Houston, home of the NASA Space

Center. Projected dates are May 1-4, 2003. The location was approved by the membership, and Marc commented that additional information on hotels and transportation would be published in an upcoming issue of **Newsboy**.

Doug Fleming, host of the 2001 convention in Ottawa, Ontario, gave an update on the 2001 **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient, Ashley Phillips, now 17, who has been accepted at four colleges and plans to continue her education this fall.

Nominating committee chairman Brad Chase reported its slate of officers and directors to be voted on by the membership. Chase's fellow committee members were

(Continued on Page 9)



Strive and Succeed Award winner Elizabeth Coleman, second from left, poses with her grandmother Caroline Curran, mother Gail Coleman and Valley High School Principal Don Link.

Photo by Doug Fleming

Annual H.A.S. Board of Directors meeting

Horatio Alger Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah
May 2, 2002

In Attendance:

Carol Nackenoff, President
Robert G. Huber, Vice President
Robert E. Kasper, Executive Director
William R. Gowen, Editor
Ralph J. Carlson, Director
Janice Morley, Director
Richard B. Hoffman, Director
Jeanette Routhier, Director
Douglas E. Fleming, Director

Absent:

Ed Mattson, Director
Samuel T. Huang, Director
Lee T. Allen, Director
Marc C. Williams, Director
Chris DeHaan, Treasurer

Carol Nackenoff, President, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Brad Chase, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, which also included Larry Rice and Bart Nyberg, gave his report for selection of candidates. Nominations include Robert G. Huber for president, Robert R. Routhier for vice president and Chris DeHaan for treasurer. Nominees for the three directorships are Bernie Biberdorf, Jim Thorp and Steven Sutton. The officer positions are for two years and the directorships are for three years.

Robert E. Kasper, Executive Director, reported total membership at 199. This includes 163 Regular members, one Sustaining member, 13 Life, 11 Honorary and 11 Libraries. There were 11 new members added during the previous 12 months and 16 drops. This compares favorably to the 12-month period ending May 2001 when we gained 13 members and lost 40.

The Treasurer's report was given by Robert E. Kasper in Chris DeHaan's absence. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$10,074.23 and expenses were \$9,493.23 resulting in a net income of \$581.00 for the period. Total cash on hand includes \$2,337.24 in checking deposits and \$7,443.90 in money market funds for a total of \$9,781.14. The Executive Director reports \$45 in membership dues on hand to be deposited.

The amount of donations specified for the Strive and Succeed Award recipient was \$956.09. This amount included excess funds from previous years. The board voted to award \$1,000.00 to this year's recipient.

Doug Fleming reported excess 2001 convention funds

in the amount of \$391.32. He provided a check, which will be forwarded to the treasurer. **Editor's note:** Because this convention surplus occurred during the fiscal year ending April 30, 2002, this total is included in the Treasurer's Report reproduced on Page 18. This raises the net income for the reporting period to \$972.32.

Doug also reported that "Variety 2001," which he hosted on May 4, 2001, in Pakenham, Ontario, as a self-supporting event not included in the convention budget, produced a surplus of \$37.49 (U.S. dollars). A check for that amount was forwarded to Northern Illinois University for the Horatio Alger Society Repository Endowment.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, editor. He reported that **Newsboy** expenses have remained fairly consistent during the past 10 years, with only modest increases in printing expenses for the past two years. This was attributed to higher paper costs. The relationship with our printer, Lansing Printing, is excellent and is expected to continue unchanged. The board authorized the editor to expend up to \$1,500 to purchase new computer equipment and a 1200-dpi printer.

Janice Morley discussed the status of the Horatio Alger Society's Web site and reported that she is looking for a new internet service provider. The new provider will require a different URL address, but will offer an enhanced Web site.

Robert Huber, as chair of the Membership Committee, reported that three new members joined due to his letter-writing campaign. Other suggestions to increase membership included conducted regional one-day meetings, placing more articles and pictures on the Web site and adding keywords and other authors to our site.

Ralph Carlson made a suggestion that the language in our motto be revised slightly. This revision will appear on all stationery, future issues of **Newsboy** and the H.A.S. Web site.

Several future convention venues were discussed, with Director Marc Williams proffering the most practical location in the vicinity of Houston, Texas. Tentative dates are May 1-4, 2003.

Carol Nackenoff presented a proposition by Bill Roach (PF-978) to index **Newsboy**. Several options were discussed including placement of the index on the web site, software alternatives and potential candidates to assist with indexing. Robert Huber will contact NIU representatives to determine the feasibility of this project.

The board approved honorariums in the amount of \$50 each for the Executive Director and **Newsboy** Editor.

Carol Nackenoff, President, adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Executive Director
Horatio Alger Society

'Crossroads of the West'

(Continued from Page 7)

Bart Nyberg and Larry Rice.

The slate of nominees was as follows: President, Robert G. Huber (PF-841); Vice President, Robert R. Routhier (PF-889); Treasurer, Christine DeHaan (PF-773); Directors, Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524), Jim Thorp (PF-574) and Steven N. Sutton (PF-998).

The floor was opened for additional nominations; there were none, and the slate was elected by acclamation, and Nackenoff made the symbolic "passing of the gavel" to new president Bob Huber.

In new business, Stephen Crane, vice president of Polyglot Press, Inc., outlined his publishing firm's plans to reissue all of Horatio Alger's books, starting this fall.

"While Alger's books may be out of print, they are not out of mind or out of value," Crane said. "We hope to interest the Horatio Alger Society in this project and solicit your support."

For more on the Polyglot Press Alger project, see the *Editor's Notebook* on Page 4.

The main event early Friday afternoon was the special consignment auction of the Alger collection of Angelo Sylvester (PF-928). Most of the books were auctioned by the 3:15 p.m. stop time for other events. The remainder of the books were auctioned Saturday.

A short walk to Temple Square followed, which included a free tour of the Church of Latter Day Saints Conference Center and Little Theater.

Friday's dinner took place in the Salt Lake Room, the major event the presentation of the Society's annual awards. The **Dick Seddon Award**, presented to the member "who best emulates the qualities and comradeship possessed by Dick Seddon, and so admired by those who knew him," was presented by Ralph Carlson to Bob Routhier; and the **President's Award**, given to a member who has made untiring and unselfish contributions to the Horatio Alger Society during the previous year, was presented by Carol Nackenoff to 2001 convention host Doug Fleming.

The annual **Strive and Succeed Award** is given to a high school student who shows the qualities of Strive and Succeed as emulated by Alger's heroes, "lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and inspired hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans."

The winner is 2002 is Elizabeth Coleman of Valley High School. Elizabeth endured great difficulty adjusting to high school following a move to Salt Lake City from Buffalo, N.Y. in 1997. Told she wouldn't graduate, she enrolled in Valley High School, Salt Lake's alternative high school, and with a fresh start was able to turn her



Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) hands the gavel to new Horatio Alger Society president Bob Huber (PF-841) immediately following the election of officers during the 2002 H.A.S. business meeting. Photo by Doug Fleming

life around. An aspiring author, she writes for the school's literary magazine and newspaper and is a member of the Honor Roll. Recently, she was accepted to attend a second year of the Sawtooth Writer's Conference and she won the Exchange Club of Sandy's A.C.E. (Accepting the Challenge of Success) Award. She plans to continue her creative writing studies in college.

The final event on Friday's schedule was a concert by the Utah Symphony Orchestra, conducted by its principal guest conductor, Pavel Kogan. The guest artist was 33-year-old cellist Shauna Rolston, who played Camille Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 as a replacement for the previously announced Natalia Gutman, who was ill. The program also included Mendelssohn's First Symphony and Ottorino Respighi's "Roman Festivals."

Following the concert, there was ample opportunity to socialize in the hospitality room and enjoy a late-evening snack.

Saturday, May 4

The buffet line at J.B.'s Restaurant was again populated by particular friends early Saturday morning as the third day of the convention got underway.

The annual H.A.S. book sale began at 9 a.m. in the Aspen Room, with Brad Chase busy selling his new book and slipcase. Incidentally, anyone desiring to purchase *Horatio Alger Books Published by Twelve Small Alger Publishers* may do so by writing: Bradford S. Chase, 6 Sandpiper Road, Enfield, CT 06082. Copies of this soft-cover book

(Continued on Page 15)



It's check-in time at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza for Jeanette and Bob Routhier at the start of the 2002 Horatio Alger Society convention, "*Crossroads of the West.*"

Photo by Doug Fleming

2002 Convention caught by the camera

Angelo and Mary Sylvester prepare to go through the buffet line at the Salt Lake Plaza during the annual Sunday H.A.S. "farewell breakfast."

Photo by Doug Fleming



Bart and Mary Ann Nyberg get together with former Horatio Alger Society president George Owens in the hotel lobby.

Photo by Bernie Biberdorf



Bob Routhier asks for an opening bid for a copy of *Mabel Parker* during the special consignment auction. Photo by Doug Fleming



One of the Horatio Alger Society's newest members, Ken Broadie of Fort Worth, Texas, shows off a few of his purchases at the special consignment auction. Photo by Bernie Biberdorf

Brad and Ann Chase prepare to sell to Lee Switzer a copy of Brad's latest book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by Twelve Small Alger Publishers*.

Photo by Doug Fleming



TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Advertising.....	\$5.00
2001 auction proceeds	5,180.00
2001 convention surplus.....	391.32
Membership dues.....	4,055.00
Interest.....	116.23
Strive & Succeed Award donations	685.00
H.A.S. merchandise sales	33.00

TOTAL INCOME \$10,465.55

EXPENSES

Auction consignment payouts.....	\$3,564.80
Convention:	
Award plaques	101.92
Convention — other.....	112.38
Total convention	214.30
Executive director's expenses	469.97
Friends of NIU Libraries.....	100.00
Misc. expenses.....	108.00
Newsboy expenses:	
Printing.....	\$3,222.23
Postage.....	1,161.42
Supplies (envelopes, etc.).....	152.51
Total Newsboy expenses	4,536.16
Strive & Succeed Award.....	500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,493.23
NET INCOME	\$972.32

Balance sheet as of April 30, 2002

ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)

Checking account	\$1,381.15
Money market.....	7,443.90
S&S Award	956.09
Total checking/savings accounts	\$9,781.14

Total current assets \$9,781.14

TOTAL ASSETS \$9,781.14

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:

Opening balance, equity	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings.....	4,437.09
Net income.....	972.32

TOTAL EQUITY \$10,172.46

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$10,172.46

Submitted by Christine DeHaan, Treasurer

May 1, 2002



New member Dil Strasser (PF-1061) of Salt Lake City shows off his numerous acquisitions during the annual consignment and fund-raising auctions.

Photo by Doug Fleming

Annual H.A.S. convention consignment auction results

<u>Item</u>	<u>Consgr.</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Mayer Alger biography	Brad Chase	Bill Gowen	\$40.00
Gardner Alger biography (1st ed.)	Brad Chase	Carol Nackenoff	30.00
Maxfield Parrish (Watson-Guptill)	Brad Chase	Ken Broadie	62.00
Bennett Alger biblio. (MAD Book Co.)	Brad Chase	Marc Williams	27.00
Hand-crafted Michigan quilt	Jeanette Routhier	Ken Broadie	340.00

Total lots:	5
Total bids:	\$499.00
Commission to H.A.S.:	\$99.80
Proceeds to H.A.S., all auctions:	\$1,461.65

H.A.S. special consignment auction results

Title	Pub.	Buyer	Price	Title	Pub.	Buyer	Price
Mayes: Alger biography	Macy-Masius	Dil Strasser	\$6.00	Three misc. Alger books	Various	Ken Broadie	35.00
Bennett Alger bibliography	Mattson-Davis	Dil Strasser	25.00	The Young Outlaw	Mershon	Dil Strasser	3.00
A Fancy of Hers/Disag. Woman	Van Nostrand	Lee Switzer	12.00	Fame and Fortune	Porter & Coates	Marc Williams	15.00
Nackenoff: The Fictional Republic	Oxford	Dil Strasser	27.00	Paul the Peddler	H.T. Coates	Art Smitter	25.00
Gruber: Alger biography	Grover Jones	Ken Broadie	35.00	Nothing to Do	Westgard	Dil Strasser	30.00
Alger: Selected short stories	A. Sylvester	Larry Rice	9.00	Gardner: Alger bio./bibliography	Wayside Press	Dil Strasser	22.00
Shifting for Himself	Consolidated	Art Smitter	8.00	Strive and Succeed	1967 reissue	Dil Strasser	12.00
Making His Mark	Westgard	Lee Switzer	40.00	The Young Circue Rider	H.T. Coates	Dil Strasser	42.00
From Canal Boy to President	Caldwell	Ken Broadie	80.00	Three misc. Alger books	John C. Winston	Dil Strasser	10.00
Hugo, the Deformed	Westgard	Lee Switzer	35.00	Out for Business	Mershon(non-1st)	Ken Broadie	20.00
Timothy Crump's Ward	Westgard	Lee Switzer	16.00	Helping Himself/Ben's Nugget	John C. Winston	Dil Strasser	20.00
Bertha's Christmas Vision	Hurst	Ken Broadie	50.00	Three misc. Alger books	Hurst	Dil Strasser	16.00
Gardner: Alger bio./bibliography	Amereon	Doug Fleming	7.00	Ben's Nugget	H.T. Coates	Ken Broadie	25.00
Cast Upon the Breakers	Doubleday	Lee Switzer	10.00	The New Schoolma'am	Westgard	Dil Strasser	26.00
Adrift in the City	John C. Winston	Art Smitter	35.00	Four Alger paperbacks	Value Books	Dil Strasser	5.00
Hoyt: Horatio's Boys	Chilton	Dil Strasser	5.00	Frank and Fearless (with d/j)	John C. Winston	Brad Chase	60.00
Westgard: Alger Street	J.S. Canner	Bernie Biberdorf	23.00	Rev. Alger church dedication	-----	Dil Strasser	6.00
Mabel Parker	Archon	Lee Switzer	17.00	Luck and Pluck	John C. Winston	Ken Broadie	15.00
Scham./Bales: Comment & Crit.	Scarecrow	Dil Strasser	20.00	Three misc. Alger books	A.K. Loring	Ken Broadie	15.00
Number 91	Westgard	Lee Switzer	16.00	The Young Explorer	H.T. Coates	Art Smitter	35.00
Seeking His Fortune (booklet)	Wehman	Dil Strasser	2.00	Rufue and Rose (1st edition)	A.K. Loring	Ken Broadie	\$45.00
Silas Snobden's Office Boy	Doubleday	Lee Switzer	22.00	Rupert's Ambition	John C. Winston	Ken Broadie	26.00
Four misc. Alger books	M.A. Donohue	Dil Strasser	7.00	Four misc. Alger books	Various	Marc Williams	15.00
Five misc. Alger books	N.Y. Book Co.	Art Smitter	5.00	Harry Vane/W. Sherwood's Prob.	N.Y. Book/Superior	Richard Hoffman	8.00
Adrift in New York (2 copies)	M.A. Donohue	Dil Strasser	14.00	Four paperbacks (rebound in h/c)	Various	Dil Strasser	10.00
Charlie Codman's Cruise	H.T. Coates	Carol Nackenoff	45.00	Three paperbacks (rebound in h/c)	Various	Dil Strasser	10.00
Ben Bruce	A.L. Burt	Dil Strasser	7.00	The Telegraph Boy	H.T. Coates	Dil Strasser	11.00
R. Raymond's Heir/Cous. Consp.	Hurst	Richard Hoffman	22.00	Three misc. Alger books	John C. Winston	Ralph Carlson	15.00
Five Hundred Dollars	American	Ken Broadie	20.00	Three misc. Alger books	A.L. Burt	Dil Strasser	32.00
Dan the Newsboy	A.L. Burt	Ken Broadie	20.00	From Farm to Fortune	Grosset & Dunlap	Ken Broadie	30.00
The Errand Boy	A.L. Burt	Dil Strasser	22.00	Tattered Tom	H.T. Coates	Dil Strasser	24.00
Risen from the Ranks	Porter & Coates	Ken Broadie	40.00	Ragged Dick	A.K. Loring	Marc Williams	22.00
The Young Miner	Porter & Coates	Art Smitter	60.00	Fame and Fortune	A.K. Loring	Ken Broadie	32.00
M. Manning's Mission/T. Bootblack	A.L. Burt	Art Smitter	32.00	Walter Sherwood's Probation	John C. Winston	Art Smitter	40.00
Rufus and Rose	John C. Winston	Bob Routhier	20.00	Young Captain Jack	Aeonian press	Dil Strasser	10.00
Three misc. Alger books	A.L. Burt	Dil Strasser	12.00	J. Marlowe's Secret/Luke Walton	Our Boys Pub.	Ken Broadie	46.00
Tom Tracy	Street & Smith	Dil Strasser	72.00	Strong & Steady/Slow & Sure	Winston/T.-Thomas	Dil Strasser	47.00
Six misc. Alger books	Hurst	Brad Chase	25.00	B. Brook's Adv./Young Capt. Jack	Hurst/Mershon	Ken Broadie	15.00
Five misc. Alger books	Hurst	Ken Broadie	25.00	Jerry, the Backwoods Boy	Stitt	Ken Broadie	15.00
Helen Ford	Alta Edition	Dil Strasser	26.00	Four misc. Alger books	Various	Dil Strasser	4.00
Robert Coverdale's Struggle	Superior	Richard Hoffman	20.00	Three Alger books	A.L. Burt (fez eds.)	Dil Strasser	32.00

H.A.S. special consignment auction results

Title	Pub.	Buyer	Price	Title	Pub.	Buyer	Price
Jack's Ward/H. Carter's Legacy	Trade (misbound)	Dil Strasser	20.00	From Farm Boy to Senator (1st ed.)	J.S. Ogilvie	Ken Broadie	60.00
Rough and Ready	A.K. Loring	Ken Broadie	5.00	Four misc. Alger books	Hurst	Dil Strasser	13.00
Wren Winter's Triumph	M.A. Donohue	Steven Crane	28.00	Holy Horatio!	Capra Series	Brad Chase	22.00
Dean Dunham	Aeonian Press	Marc Williams	20.00	Five misc. Alger books	A.L. Burt	Art Smmitter	14.00
Joe, the Hotel Boy	Grosset & Dunlap	Ken Broadie	35.00	Erie Train Boy/Young Explorer	McLough./Winston	Art Smmitter	32.00
Bob Burton	Porter & Coates	Murray Levin	45.00	Three misc. Alger books	Various	Dil Strasser	16.00
Rough and Ready	Porter & Coates	Art Smmitter	45.00	The Backwoods Boy (paperback)	Street & Smith	Dil Strasser	16.00
Bob Burton	H.T. Coates	Dil Strasser	17.00	Mark Mason's Victory	A.L. Burt	Bernie Biberdorf	11.00
Three misc. Alger books	A.L. Burt	Brad Chase	25.00	F. Hunter's Peril/In a New World	John C. Winston	Dil Strasser	16.00
Four misc. Alger books	Hurst	Dil Strasser	20.00	Misc. H.A.S. conv. souvenirs	-----	Dil Strasser	8.00
A Debt of Honor/Young Miner	A.L. Burt	Art Smmitter	30.00				
A Debt of Honor (1st ed.)	A.L. Burt	Mike Morley	65.00				
Adventures of a Telegraph Boy	Caldwell	Bob Routhier	60.00	Total lots:			107
Three misc. Alger books	John C. Winston	Dil Strasser	16.00	Total bids:			\$2,599.00
Brave and Bold	H.T. Coates	Bob Routhier	40.00	Commission to H.A.S.:			\$514.85

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

Item	Donor	Buyer	Price	Item	Donor	Buyer	Price
"Argosy" Vol. 7, Nos. 1-26	Murray Levin	Bob Routhier	\$180.00	Misc. lot of four books	John Dizer	Dil Strasser	5.00
A New York Boy (S&S pb)	Murray Levin	Stephen Crane	55.00	The Story of Little Jakey	John Dizer	Mary Ann Nyberg	5.00
H.Carter's Legacy (Westbrook)	Murray Levin	Brad Chase	20.00	Misc. lot of five boys' books	John Dizer	Dil Strasser	2.00
Wooden doll	Lee Switzer	Marcy Biberdorf	10.00	Misc. lot of four boys' books	John Dizer	Dil Strasser	7.00
Wooden basket	Lee Switzer	Arthur Smmitter	20.00	Misc. lot of four boys' books	John Dizer	Dil Strasser	6.00
Slow and Sure (S&S pb)	Bill Gowen	Marc Williams	11.00	Misc. lot of four boys' books	John Dizer	Dil Strasser	5.00
Helping Himself (S&S pb)	Bill Gowen	Dil Strasser	15.00	Set of Double 15 dominoes	John Juvinal	Jeanette Routhier	27.00
Jerry, Backwoods Boy (S&S pb)	Bill Gowen	Ken Broadie	5.00	Good Housekeeping, Aug. 1917	John Juvinal	Milt Ehlert	25.00
Bound to be an Elect. (S&S pb)	Bill Gowen	Mike Morley	5.00	Sheet of 50 Alger stamps	John Juvinal	Ken Broadie	16.00
The Young Explorers (S&S pb)	Bill Gowen	Bart Nyberg	15.00	Dan Hyland, Police Reporter	Larry Rice	Dennis Lemoreaux	5.00
Canadian maple syrup	Doug Fleming	Carol Nackenoff	10.00	"If I Only had a Home Sweet Home"	Larry Rice	Brad Chase	20.00
From the Kitchens of Lanark Co.	Doug Fleming	Bob Routhier	20.00	Silver photo display tree	Larry Rice	Marc Williams	10.00
Alger character prints	Bernie Biberdorf	Dil Strasser	41.00	2000 Conv. souvenir pins	Carol Nackenoff	Rob Kasper	14.00
Four Winston Algers	Bernie Biberdorf	Arthur Smmitter	135.00	2001 Conv. Ottawa tote bag	Doug Fleming	Carol Ehlert	2.00
Eight misc. Algers (Superior pb)	Brad Chase	Dil Strasser	42.00	2001 Conv. Ottawa tote bag	Doug Fleming	Linda Smmitter	2.00
Three Algers in d/j (World Synd.)	Brad Chase	Dil Strasser	7.00	2001 Conv. Ottawa tote bags (3)	Doug Fleming	Dil Strasser	6.00
Three misc. juvenile books	Brad Chase	John Juvinal	5.00	2001 Conv. Ottawa tote bags (2)	Doug Fleming	Angelo Sylvester	4.00
Eight dime novels (Dover)	Brad Chase	Angelo Sylvester	8.00				
Burgess Bird Book for Children	Brad Chase	Lee Switzer	12.00	Total lots:			38
Cast Upon the Breakers (Doubleday)	Rolfe Chase	Ken Broadie	45.00	Total bids:			\$847.00
Mabel Parker/A Fancy of Hers	Rolfe Chase	Dil Strasser	25.00	(All proceeds to H.A.S.)			

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
1004 School St.

Shelbyville, IN 46176 (317) 398-0754
E-mail: bob.sipes@eds.com

Bob, a computer scientist and engineer, learned about the Horatio Alger Society through an Internet search. His other interests include computers, archeology, firearms, ancient history and travel.

Stephen Crane (PF-1068)

Polyglot Press, Inc.

1213 Vine St., Suite 220

Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 564-9223

Steve's firm is planning to reissue Alger's novels in trade paperback and hard-cover editions in the near future. He attended the 2002 H.A.S. convention in Salt Lake City and gave a presentation on this project.

Change of address

James P. Broderick (PF-912)
10179 Camelback Lane
Boca Raton, FL 33498

Kyoko Amano (PF-1049)
1026 B Eagle View Drive
Birmingham, AL 35212

New e-mail addresses

Milton F. Ehlert (PF-702)
mebks2@aol.com

Jim Thorp (PF-574)

jiminnh@lycos.com

New phone number

Rolfe B. Chase (PF-602)
(928) 771-9601

'Crossroads of the West'

(Continued from Page 9)

are \$15. The slipcase is \$10, and if you want a full set of his five books in the slipcase, the cost is \$60.

As soon as the book sale was wrapped up and following a coffee break, it was time to resume the special consignment auction. By the time the 107 lots had been sold, the gross receipts totaled \$2,599, with the Society's commission \$514.85.

Held in conjunction with the special consignment auction were the annual H.A.S. fund-raising auction and individual consignment auction. The fund-raising event, in which all money bid for these items goes to the Society, raised \$847 for 38 lots, while five lots in the individual consignment auction brought \$499, with just under \$100 the commission to the Society. Complete auction results can be found on Pages 12-14.

Following the auctions it was time for lunch on our own, shopping at bookstores, the Crossroads Mall and ZCMI Mall, or a ride by light rail a few blocks down South Temple Street to the Delta Center sports arena, which was hosting a huge sale of leftover official Winter Olympics sportswear (caps, sweatshirts, T-shirts, etc.).

The major scheduled event Saturday afternoon was a trip via car pools to the Kennicott copper mine in nearby Bingham Canyon, the largest open-pit mine in the world. As was the case throughout the weekend, the weather

was perfect for sightseeing. For horse racing fans, late afternoon was devoted to watching the Kentucky Derby, which always takes place the first Saturday in May.

At 6 p.m. sharp, our car pools were all set up for the 20-minute drive to the Chuck-a-Rama restaurant on South Highland Drive for the annual H.A.S. banquet. Lest you think Chuck-a-Rama is a burger joint, that couldn't be further from the truth. The restaurant offered one of the finest buffet-style dinners anyone could ask for, and we had a quiet, private dining room with linen table cloths and all the amenities.

The banquet was much more informal than usual, with president Bob Huber thanking everybody for making this one of the most memorable conventions ever.

After our return to the hospitality room at around 9 p.m., our next convention host, Marc Williams, had laid out color brochures for Clear Lake/League City, located just southeast of Houston. As you read this, Marc is researching the ideal convention hotel located near the NASA Space Center.

Sunday, May 5

One of the newer traditions at H.A.S. conventions is the "farewell breakfast," and J.B.'s was again ideal for this event because of its location just off the hotel lobby. While many particular friends took the free shuttle bus to the airport shortly following breakfast, several others attended the free weekly Sunday morning national broadcast concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

So now, it's countdown to Houston in 2003!

'D.T. Henty' and **Bright Days** revisited

By John T. Dizer (PF-511)

Most Henty collectors are aware of *Malcolm the Waterboy*. It is a spurious Henty but because of the Henty name and also because of the connection with Edward Stratemeyer it is a much sought-after book. Although it was published in hard-cover by Mershon in 1900 and was reprinted in different bindings by Mershon, Stitt and Chatterton-Peck, it is very difficult to find and is a highly desirable book. Copies usually sell for \$300 and up. \$500 is a common figure.

Even harder to find is the original version which appeared as a serial in **Bright Days**, a juvenile magazine published by Edward Stratemeyer. The story ran from Nov. 7, 1896, to Nov. 21, 1896, issues Nos. 15 to 22. The author of the story is unknown.

Since Stratemeyer owned the story, it has been attributed to him, but the contract with William Mershon to print the book in hard cover indicates that the story was purchased and edited by Stratemeyer rather than written by him.

The contract also notes that the story was "Americanized from some old English source." This has all been reported in some detail in my article in the July-August 2000 issue of **Newsboy**.

What has never been reported is that Stratemeyer published a second, shorter story by "D.T. Henty." Also in **Bright Days**, in Vol. 1, No. 4, July 1896, about four months before "Malcolm" appeared. The story, reproduced here for the first time, was called "The Human Owls of La Vendee: An Historical Tale." It starts out:

"On the rocky shore upon which leaped the waters of the Bay of Vannes, stood the Tower of Chateaubriant. The Chateaubriants of Vannes were an ancient and a noble race, proud of their blood and tenacious of their honor."

"At the time of which we write, the black cloud of war had burst over fair France. The neck of the bourbon had felt the keen edge of the steel, and Paris gutters had run red with noble blood."

The followers of the royal party were known as the Chouand (owls) of La Vendee. The lord of Chateaubriant was dying, and his son was just four years old. The Lord's cruel and despicable cousin was the son's guardian and would inherit if the son died. The son was thrown into the sea to die and all was well with the cousin for some years.

With the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy, as we might possibly have suspected, the son, now a

handsome young man, appears in the flesh. He "has fought ever against the men who killed his father" and his uncle shortly gets his comeuppance with a pistol-bullet through the brain.

The story ends with, "Young Raymond, who held the commission of captain in the royal service, claimed and got his ancestral tower. The human owls no longer haunted the forest of La Vendee."

As we read the purplish prose it is obvious the story was not penned by the same hand as that which wrote *Malcolm the Waterboy*. Whose hand it is we do not know and probably never will. It could be that of Edward Stratemeyer, although the style is certainly not typical. It is not deathless prose, although it is certainly dramatic and it moves swiftly. I expect many youthful readers would like it. This is its only appearance; it was never reprinted until now. Read it and see what you think.

One final point of interest. On the last page of the July 1896 issue of **Bright Days** is this announcement: "OUR EXCLUSIVE WRITERS: Among those who will WRITE EXCLUSIVELY FOR BRIGHT DAYS will be Edward Stratemeyer, Albert Lee Ford, Arthur M. Winfield, Roy Rockwood, T. Barnum, Capt. Ralph Bonehill, Ralph Harrington, D.T. Henty [my underlining], Clara A. Perry, Philip A. Alyer, and Alfred Armitage. Remember these celebrated authors will contribute to NO OTHER PUBLICATION, and their serials will be written expressly for Bright Days — nothing old, everything new!"

It is true that *Malcolm the Waterboy* did appear four months later, but these two stories are the only ones from the hand(s) of "D.T. Henty" appearing in this or any other magazine.

*Editor's note: The above-mentioned advertisement, reproduced on Page 19, announces the upcoming change for **Bright Days** from monthly to weekly publication, which evidently was not enough to save **Bright Days** from folding nearly six months later. **Bright Days** was launched by Edward Stratemeyer as a monthly in April 1896 and then published weekly starting September 5 of that year, ceasing publication with its 31st issue on Feb. 27, 1897. John Dizer is updating Capt. Chester G. Mayo's bibliographic listing for **Bright Days**, which will be published by **Dime Novel Round-Up**. His paper, "Young People of America, Bright Days and Edward Stratemeyer," was presented on March 14, 2002, at the annual conference of the Popular Culture Association in Toronto, Canada.*

The Human Owls of La Vendee

AN HISTORICAL TALE

By D.T. HENTY

On the rocky shore upon which leaped the waters of the Bay of Vannes, stood the Tower of Chateaubriant. The Chateaubriants of Vannes were an ancient and a noble race, proud of their blood and tenacious of their honor.

At the times of which we write the black cloud of war had burst over fair France.

The neck of the Bourbon had felt the keen edge of the steel, and Paris gutters had run red with noble blood.

Then came the sous-lieutenant, young Napoleon; first the servant of the Republic; then its master.

Beaten in the open field, the royalists had betaken themselves to the recesses of the hills.

By night attack and sudden surprise they strove to break the grip of iron that the republicans held on Brittany.

Amid the dense forests — disputing with the wolf for its rocky lair — the followers of the golden lilies found shelter.

At night the hoot of the owl — their chosen signal — called them forth to “desperate adventure and destruction.” And so the royal party were known as the Chouans (owls) of La Vendee.

In one of the chambers of the Tower that fronted on the sea lay a dying man.

Around him knelt a circle of weeping domestics.

A little boy, some four years of age, clung with streaming eyes to the breast of the expiring man.

The flickering candles — it was night — shed a dim light over the scene.

The man was Raymond, lord of Chateaubriant.

The boy that clung to his breast was his only son and heir, named Raymond, like his father.

Raymond of Chateaubriant was one of the most daring of all the Chouan leaders.

In a night attack upon a republican post he had been wounded.

The “Owls” had borne him home to die.

“Has he not come yet?” questioned the sufferer, feebly.

“Not yet, monsieur,” replied the old doctor, who stood by the head of the bed and gazed with an anxious eye upon the dying man.

The storm roared without, and the waves dashed with a sullen roar against the stones of the Tower.

And who was it that they waited for in the chamber of death?

Hercule St. George, cousin to the lord of Chateaubriant, his nearest kin, and the man whom he had selected as the guardian of his son.

Monsieur St. George was not a bluff and free-hearted soldier, like his cousin, but a cold and silent man; more lawyer than soldier.

At last the door opened and St. George entered the apartment.

Hastily he cast aside the wet cloak that covered him, and kneeling

by the side of the dying Raymond took his clammy hand in his.

“I am here, cousin,” he said.

The eyes of the lord brightened for a moment as he feebly tried to return the pressure of the other’s hand.

“Cousin, I have received my summons,” he said faintly. “A republican bullet has closed my account. My son Raymond — I confide him to your care. Bring him up to love his country and his king. He is weak and tender — a feeble scion of my tough race. If he should die, then, cousin, you are my heir.”

“Do not think of such a thing; under my fostering care he will live to be an honor to Brittany,” St. George said, earnestly. “I pledge my soul to rear him as if he were my own.”

Then, on the air — borne on the wings of the storm — came the shrill hoot of an owl; a second owl answered the first.

All within the chamber, except the dying lord, the cousin, and the child, shuddered.

The cry of the “obscure bird” seemed like an omen of evil.

A strange glare appeared in the dull eyes of Chateaubriant.

“Do you hear, cousin?” he cried, with strange energy for one so near death’s door; “ ’tis the cry of the owls. Their notes bode death to traitors. Never yet have they rung in republican ears but what the charge of the loyal sons of La Vendee followed. Cousin, if you prove false to your trust, may the vengeance of the Owls fall upon you!”

Again the lone and hollow hoot of the owls mingled with the wailing of the tempest’s blast.

Before the sound had died away the soul of the lord of Chateaubriant had winged its flight.

The boy flung himself sobbing upon the breast of the dead.

“Do not weep, little son,” said St. George, kindly, and he took the child in his arms as he spoke. “Heaven has taken away one father, but sent thee another in me. We will have grand times in the future. You are now the little lord of all around — see!”

With the boy in his arms he approached the casement, and threw it open.

The night was black as ink; far below, the surge of the billows rose upon the air.

“And on yonder water, when the sunlight plays upon it, you shall have a silver boat with a golden mast and sails of silk, like fairy land.”

For the third time, the owls cried.

St. George started in terror at the sound.

A cry of horror burst from his lips.

All within the room turned in alarm.

“By heaven! The Boy has sprung from my arms into the sea!” St. George exclaimed.

A shriek of terror rose on the air.

Quickly stout Pierre — once a fisherman, but lately the chosen henchman of the lord of Chateaubriant — sprang to the window, and leaping upon the low sill peered out into the darkness.

“What would you do?” cried St. George, in astonishment.

“Take a header into yonder surge; perchance I may find the boy.”

“But ’tis almost certain death!”

(Continued on Page 18)

The Human Owls of La Vendee

(Continued from Page 17)

"It's only fifty feet, and I'd risk it for the sake of my master's son, even if, instead of the ocean, it were a lake of flame!" the hardy Breton replied.

St. George extended his hand, as if to detain him, but the action came too late, for the faithful servant leaped into the darkness.

The storm howled wilder than ever, and the angry billows dashed their white spray high in the air.

With lighted torches, St. George and the servants of the household descended to the shore.

Their search was fruitless.

Time passed on. By the terms of the Chateaubriant's will Monsieur St. George took possession of the estate.

Unlike his cousin, he gave in his adherence to the usurper, as the Bretons called the Corsican, Napoleon.

The tenants of Chateaubriant found that there was a wonderful difference between the cousins.

The new master was hard and stern. He ground them to dust.

Twenty years passed away.

The Corsican Emperor went down and the Bourbon King came back.

Ever prompt to adopt the winning side, St. George now turned his coat again, and cried:

"God save the King!" as lustily as he had exclaimed, "Live the Republic!" or "Hail the Emperor!"

St. George, with many other of the leading gentlemen of the province, met the representative of the Bourbon at Rennes and assured him of his loyalty.

Behold him then, the conference done, riding home in the faint light of a new moon!

The forest is dark and drear.

The pines sway in the night breeze with a mournful sound.

St. George shivers, not with cold, for the summer air is warm, but with a silent terror that has crept over his soul.

Then on the breeze sounds the cry of the Owls.

Before, behind, on every side, the dread note resounds.

From the gloom of the forest springs a dark form; he catches the bridle of St. George's horse.

The steed starts in affright, for the dark form has the figure of a man and the head of an owl.

A score or more of dark shadows, wearing masks, surround the horsemen.

St. George was dragged from his seat and seated upon a fallen log that lay by the roadside. Around him, in a circle, gathered the masked men.

He that wore the head of an owl, apparently the chief of the rest, faced him.

"What is the meaning of this outrage?" demanded St. George, in an angry tone.

His courage had returned at finding that he had to deal with men rather than with specters.

"Hercule St. George, now falsely called the Lord of Chateaubriant!" said the Owl, in a deep voice, that was strangely familiar to the ear of St. George.

"Why do you say that?" cried St. George. "Who disputes my right to the estates of Chateaubriant?"

"Raymond, the son of the last lord of that tower," replied the Owl.

"He is dead."

"Hercule St. George, how did he die?" demanded the Owl, sternly.

"The story is known to all the province," replied St. George, in confusion.

"Perhaps I am a stranger, therefore, answer the question," cried the chief of the masked men, in a tone that told plainly that he was not to be trifled with.

"He sprang from my arms into the sea the night his father died, frightened by the cry of an owl," St. George said.

"'Tis false!" cried the Owl, in a stern voice. "he did not spring from your arms, but you, yourself, cast him into the sea that you might seize his estate."

"Who dares to make this charge against me?" exclaimed St. George.

"The Owls of La Vendee!" replied the stranger. "Look around you; all these men followed the lead of Raymond Chateaubriant. Do you remember the dying words of your cousin? — 'If you prove false to your trust, may the vengeance of the Owls fall upon you?'"

"Mercy, mercy!" gasped St. George.

"What mercy did you have upon your nephew when you cast him into the angry sea?" sternly demanded the Owl.

"Again, I say the charge is false! I did not do the deed!" St. George exclaimed.

"You lie, false-hearted traitor!" cried one of the masked men, in a deep voice that rang through the ears of St. George like a knell of doom.

"Merciful heaven!" he cried, in terror. "That voice! Who are you?"

"Raymond of Chateaubriant!" cried the masked man, removing the covering that hid his face, and showing to the startled eyes of St. George the living image of his dead cousin.

"Alive!" St. George gasped.

"Yes, thanks to me," cried the Owl, taking off his head-piece, and revealing the features of the Breton, Pierre. "I leaped into the ocean, rescued your victim, but evaded your search. I knew that you sought his life, and I determined to save him. In a foreign land he grew to manhood; has fought ever against the men who killed his father, but now the Bourbon has got his own again, and the heir to the Chateaubriant returns to claim his rights; but first, he witnesses the vengeance of the Owls!"

Hercule St. George never returned to the Tower of Chateaubriant. Search revealed his body in the forest, a pistol-bullet through the brain.

Young Raymond, who held the commission of captain in the royal service, claimed and got his ancestral tower. The human Owls no longer haunted the forest of La Vendee.

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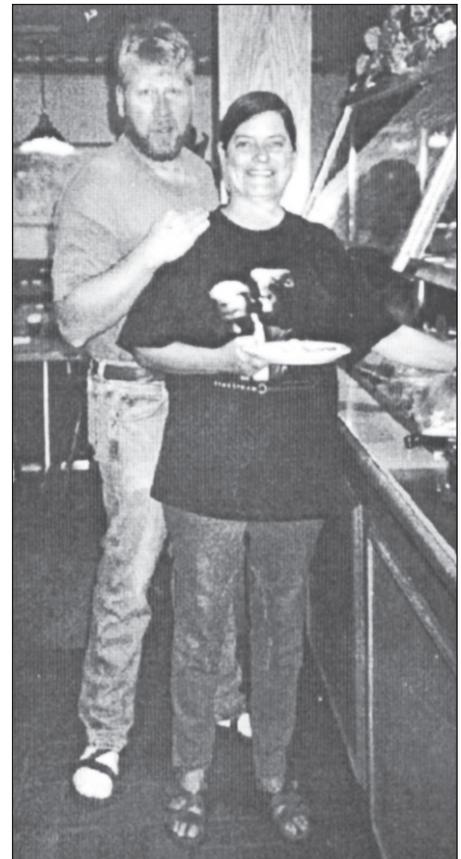
Photo by Doug Fleming

Salt Lake memories



The sun sets over Utah's Wasatch Mountains as the 2002 Horatio Alger Society convention draws to a close.

Photo by Murray D. Levin



Mike and Janice Morley are already excited about Houston in 2003 as they take part in the 2002 "farewell breakfast."

Photo by Doug Fleming