



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 – 1899

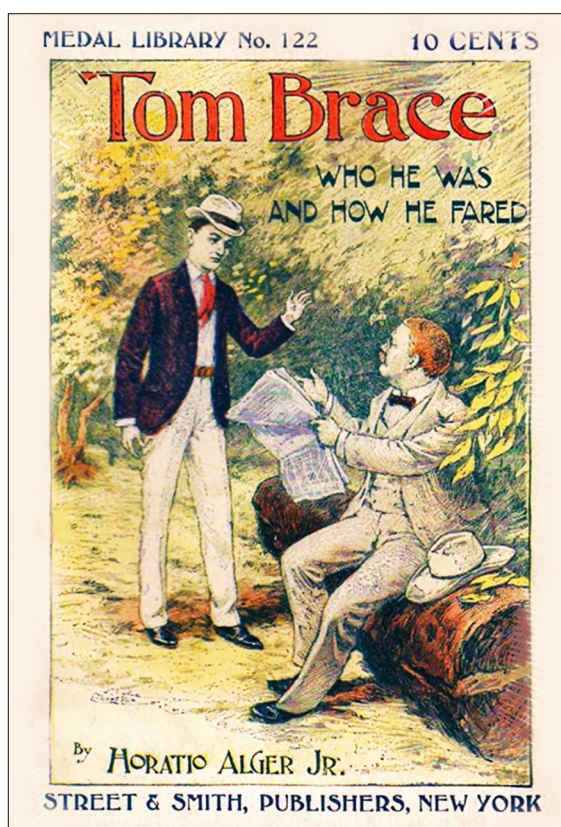
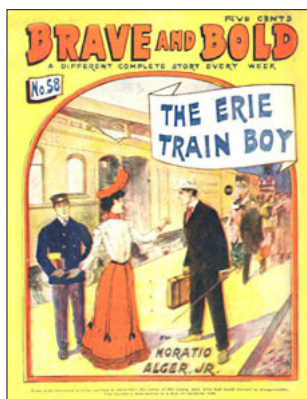
A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

VOLUME LIV

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

NUMBER 5

Alger writings published by Street & Smith



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Harold M. Sherman: Sports books and beyond

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President's column

Although a description of someone's life or career as an Horatio Alger story occasionally appears in newspapers, usually in obituaries of successful corporate types, we also hear that fewer and fewer younger folk know anything about Alger, or what the allusion to a life being an Alger story even means.

Our efforts at publicizing Alger cannot fairly be described as either significant or successful. Nor have anyone else's, although the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, a well-financed, active organization that honors corporate titans and gives out major scholarship assistance annually, does conduct quadrennial surveys of American youth:

Fielded and published every four years, the State of Our Nation's Youth survey analyzes important issues that impact young people and provides high school students and recent high school graduates with a channel by which to voice their opinions. Results will equip the Association, educators, policy makers, the media and others with valuable data that lends insights into the viewpoints and attitudes of American youth, many of whom are also first-time voters in a national election. (2015-2016 Annual Report of Horatio Alger Association, p. 26).

Despite the high level of activity and budget of the Association, our interests in the Horatio Alger Society are more focused on Alger and his works. While we do tend to discuss issues common to collectors when we meet, many of our members have read many of the books we collect and find our interest expand into the related world of other juvenile literature from Alger's time up into the 20th century.

Can the messages Alger sought to convey still be transmitted to young people growing up today, in the 21st century? One need not be a commencement speaker to emphasize that the values Alger promoted remain good ones in our times. Jobs and careers are not as readily obtained or achieved now as even a few decades ago. It may well be that what Alger espoused in his writing: honest dealing, telling the truth, working hard, and caring for the less fortunate have found a welcome among the millennial generation.

We read how the most successful of the new generation — those engaged in the hi-tech world — already feel

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive & Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series books, pulps and dime novels.

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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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**.

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at www.horatioalgersociety.net.

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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

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 advertisements 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

Alger writings published by Street & Smith

By Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)

Only one publisher, Street & Smith, issued Horatio Alger's works in multiple genres and formats. The New York-based publisher (1855-1960), produced (through 1899) weekly newspaper-like publications, paperback book series, dime novels, a magazine, and later (starting in 1902), clothbound books.¹

Francis Scott Street (1831-1883) and Francis Shubael Smith (1819-1887) took over the ownership of **The Sunday Dispatch**, newly named **The New York Weekly Dispatch**. In March 1858, an editorial announced that, because so many periodicals appeared under the title of "Dispatch," this word would be dropped and the periodical would henceforth be known as **The New York Weekly**.²

In 1864, the writings of Horatio Alger, Jr. were introduced in **The New York Weekly** with the serialization of "Marie Bertrand." Seventeen additional stories were serialized in that publication, along with three poems and six short stories:

Serializations:

Marie Bertrand	1864
Abner Holden's Office Boy	1871
Brave and Bold	1872
The Western Boy	1873
Only an Irish Boy	1874
The Cash Boy	1875
Tony, the Tramp	1876
Joe's Luck	1878
The Bully of the Village	1879
Dan, the Detective	1880
Tom Thatcher's Quest	1882
The Train Boy	1882-83
The Errand Boy	1993
Grit	1884
Frank and Fearless	1885
Mr. Craven's Stepson	1885-86
Oliver the Outcast	1887
A Boy's Fortune	1889

Short stories:

The Boy Scout	Feb. 6, 1882
A Brave Irish Boy	Feb. 13, 1882
The Boy Susbsitute	Feb. 20, 1882
The Boy Guide of Rich Mountain	Feb. 27, 1882
Johnny Wilson	Mar. 6, 1882
A Street Arab at the Seat of War	Mar. 13, 1882



Street & Smith's *New York Weekly* first published Horatio Alger's serials and stories in 1864 and continued to do so through the 1880s.

Poems:

Harvard Ode, 1872	Mar. 25, 1872
Friar Anselmo	Aug. 5, 1872
Harvard Ode, 1873	Feb. 24, 1873

Street & Smith used a new method in advertising to introduce these serializations. They prepublished the first few chapters of new stories appearing — or about to appear — in **The New York Weekly**. This installment advertising appeared in the **Dolly Varden Magazine**, the **Rosedale Library**³ and others.

"The term 'magazine' in this example is really a misnomer as this issue is simply one large sheet of paper (unfolded dimensions 13 by 20½ inches) folded twice to form an eight-page signature. The eight pages

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's notebook

As we head down the home stretch of 2016, it's almost time to start planning for the 2017 convention in Sacramento, California. In the next issue, our host, Barry Schoenborn, will offer his first thoughts on what he has planned next May 4-7. He also has some basic information up on our website, horatioalgersociety.net, if you can't wait a few weeks for his news in the November-December *Newsboy*.

This issue is led off with Bob Eastlack's overview of the wide range of Alger material appearing in various formats and genres of printed material produced by Street & Smith of New York. We've all taken this stuff for granted, but even I didn't appreciate the vastness of Street & Smith's work over some eight decades of Alger-related publishing.

I have chosen our annual color issue to present this article, and when you look at the various cover images you'll understand why. Street & Smith was a pioneer in color lithography when it came to dime novels and related mass-market fiction. **Tip Top Weekly** and **New Tip Top Weekly**, which accounted for 850 issues starting in 1896, is a prime example, and when the thick paperbacks such as the **Medal Library**, **New Medal Library**, **Bound to Win Library**, **Around the World Library** and the **Alger Series**, etc. came into being, the color covers were major selling points.

Also, S&S issued formats like the **Brave and Bold Weekly** and they even dipped their toes into comic books with Alger content (although those short graphic novels covering eight pages were far removed from the original Alger stories). Just don't count on finding these comic books in your local Goodwill store. On eBay, Shadow Comics from the 1940s with Alger content can cost several hundred dollars and up, with the higher condition grades well out of the reach of most of us.

In this issue I have also included my own article on the author and spiritualist Harold Morrow Sherman, who authored some three dozen sports novels for boys during his long writing career, which included numerous books on extra-sensory perception and related topics, about which he did lecture tours for decades. If you attended the 2015 H.A.S. convention in Columbus, Ohio, you had a chance to hear my presentation on this fascinating man, who lived for 89 years.

Have a happy and fruitful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

a need for something more than material success. Alger, of course, had received a degree in divinity from Harvard, so he quite naturally urged his readers to make room for spirituality in their lives. His own charity focused on the Newsboys' Lodging House, to which he contributed much of his income from writing, so much so that his estate upon his death was minuscule.

Even in Alger's America, which in some ways seemed to offer more opportunity for success than does ours, there was plenty of cynicism that now strikes us as a luxury less affordable or tolerable in these challenging times. H.L. Mencken's savage charm became less welcome once America fell into the Great Depression. To be sure, Alger's ability to design realistic plots had its limitations, yet our members know from their own lifetime reading experience as well as their collecting adventures that there remains a market for boys' and girls' books.

Series books still have a place in children's book rooms at libraries and bookstores. Indeed, several of the series that Edward Stratemeyer initiated continue to sell. The resistance of turn-of-the-20th century librarians to these books did not diminish their popularity. In Britain, despite years of Enid Blyton's delightful adventure stories for youth encountering severe criticism from many of "the great and the good," young people in the U.K. apparently still enjoy Blyton's engaging tales that, like Alger's, carry moral lessons.

So, young adults still gravitate to stories like the ones in the Stratemeyer series books, such as Tom Swift and Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys; perhaps part of their success lies in someone in authority at school or library denigrating their value. Think of young Richard Miller in Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness* plying his girlfriend with the then-scandalous words of Swinburne or Oscar Wilde.

Thus, it is to be hoped that we will continue to do what we can to encourage interest in Alger among the younger generations. We in the H.A.S. have seen various publishers seek to revive Alger's books for a youth market which has been made aware of their value. We should take advantage of opportunities to awaken awareness of Horatio, whether that takes the form of speaking or writing about the books.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Richard Hoffman (PF-570)
2925 28th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 667-6481
Email: derhoff@yahoo.com

Alger writings published by Street & Smith

(Continued from Page 3)

are in sequential order when folded, but appear upside down and backward when fully opened (known as signature imposition).”⁴

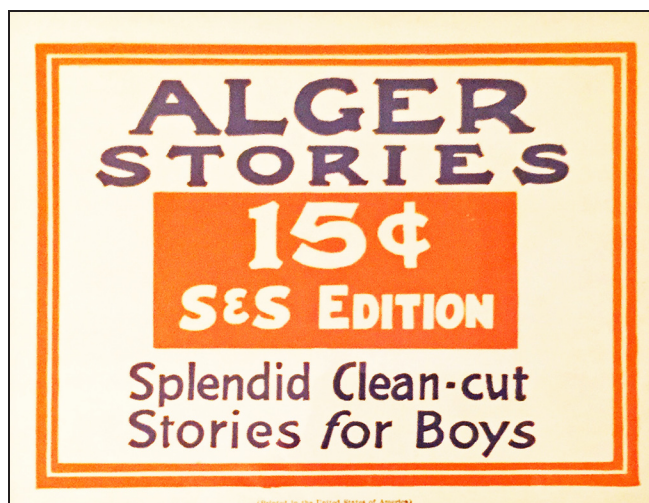
As only four examples of this type of advertising are known to date, it is difficult to ascertain how many and which Alger titles were used.

Several Alger serials and short stories were reprinted in **Good News**, a new tabloid-sized story paper that Street & Smith introduced 15 May 1890, which — before its demise seven years later — reached a circulation of 200,000. As editor of this new periodical, the publishers hired Edward Stratemeyer, a young writer of adventure tales for boys.⁵

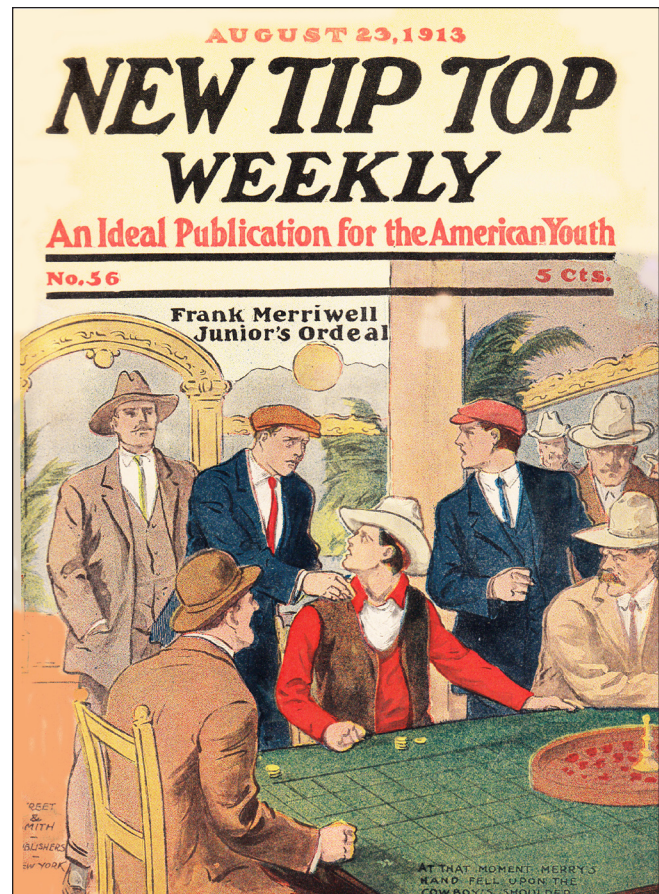
Serializations:

Grit, the Young Boatman of Pine Point	1890
Only an Irish Boy	1900
Dan, the Detective	1891
Frank and Fearless	1891
Plucky Paul Palmer	1891
Adrift in the City	1892
Frank Hunter's Peril	1891-92
A Boy's Fortune	1893
The \$500 Check	1897*

*Finished in Army and Navy Weekly



A Street & Smith point-of-sale advertising card.



Short stories:

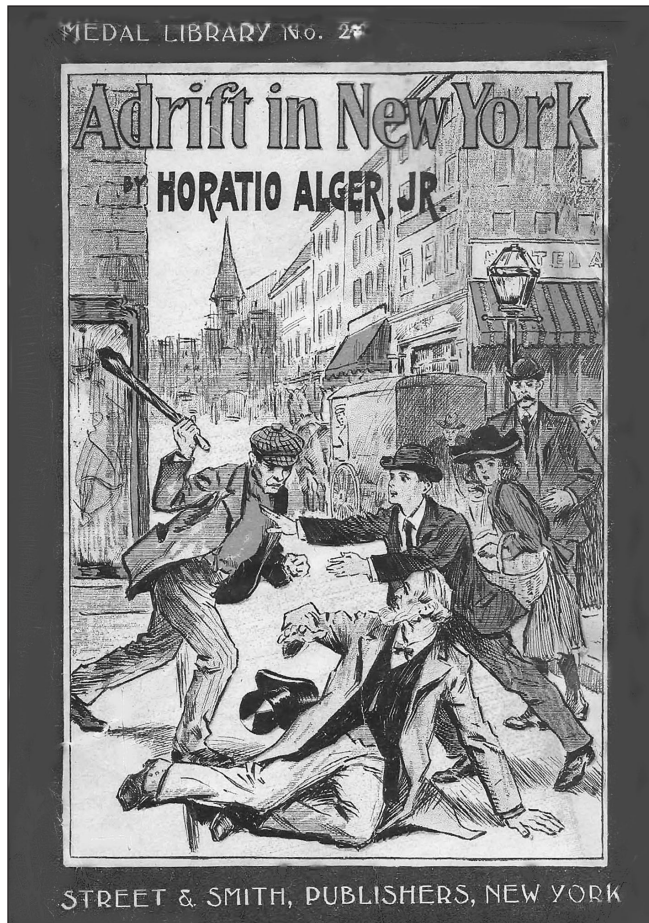
The Boy Guide of Rich Mountain	Aug. 7, 1890
The Little Drummer Boy	Aug. 14, 1890
A Brave Irish Boy	Aug. 28, 1890
The Boy Substitute	Nov. 27, 1890
Tommy's Adventure	Dec. 11, 1890
The Errand Boy	Dec. 20, 1890
The Boy Scout	Feb. 20, 1892
The Clifton Mortgage	July 9, 1892
The Brother's Return	Nov. 26, 1892

Later, five Alger short stories were published in the 7 x 10-inch dime novel format launched in 1896 as **Tip Top Weekly** and later, as **New Tip Top Weekly** (above), the latter beginning with issue No. 265 and increasing the size to 8 x 12 inches. These publications featured the adventures of Frank and Dick Merriwell, the great majority of them written by Gilbert Patten.

The following Alger stories filled out the issues noted:

- No. 627, "Tommy's Adventure" (April 18, 1908) by Horatio Alger, Jr.
- No. 767, "A Boy Scout, A tale of Virginia in 1863" (Dec. 24, 1910) by "Alton Horace" (pseudonym)

(Continued on Page 6)



The Medal Library's *Adrift in New York* and *Striving for Fortune*, along with *Tom Brace* (see Page 1), are considered first editions in this format. *Striving for Fortune* was titled "Walter Griffith" in its original *Golden Days* serial.

Alger writings published by Street & Smith

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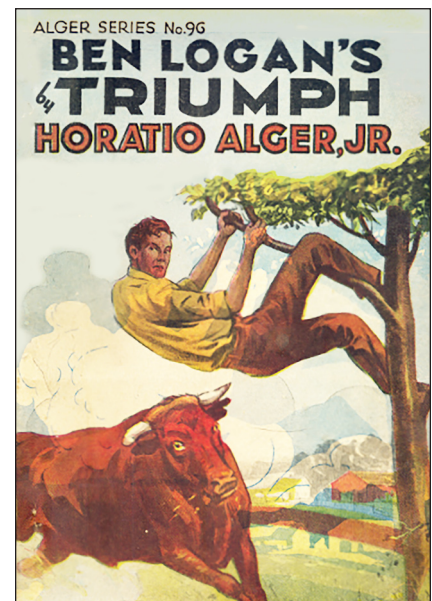
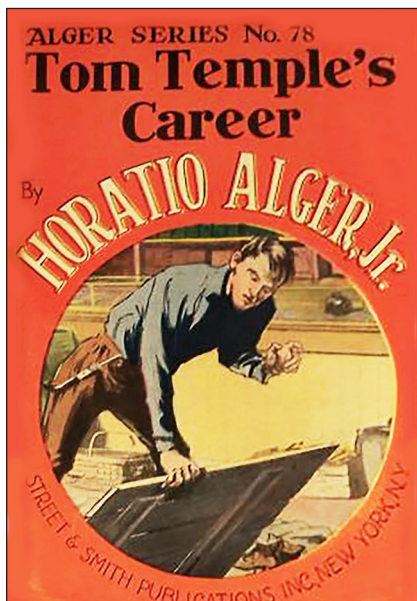
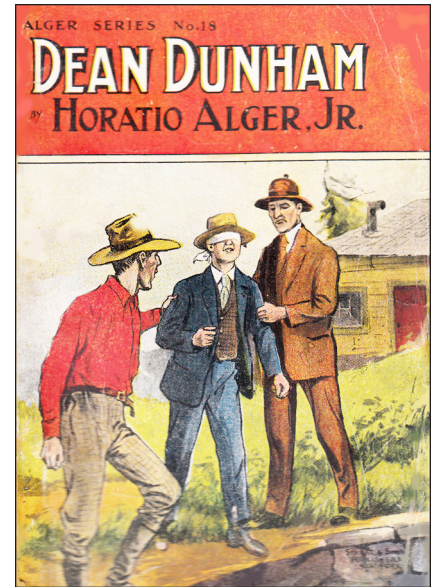
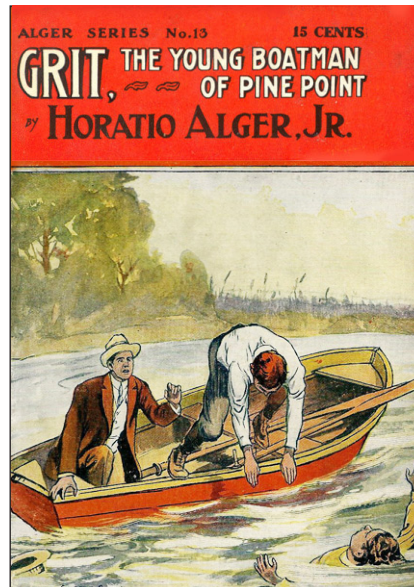
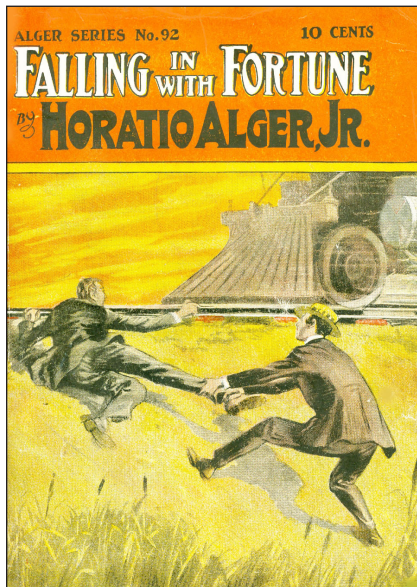
- No. 779, "The Boy Substitute" (March 18, 1911) by "T.E. Burr" (pseudonym)
- No. 812, "One Good Indian" (Nov. 4, 1911) by Horatio Alger, Jr.
- No. 56, "The Clifton Mortgage" (Aug. 23, 1913) by Rev. Horatio Alger, Jr. (Cover shown on Page 5).

Although by 1889 dime novels — perhaps the first uniquely American form of literature — had already passed their peak as fiction for mass entertainment, Street & Smith did not join the competition until the year Ormond Smith directed the publication of two series of dime novels. ... Within a year Street & Smith

published sixty dime novels under the Log Cabin Library heading and, according to Quentin Reynolds it became clear that revenues from this source were potentially greater than *The New York Weekly* could ever produce.⁶

For nearly 40 years, Street & Smith published paperback Algers (and books by other popular authors of the day) in seven distinct formats. Their initial offering of 57 Alger titles was published in the **Medal Library** format (1899-1905). The title page in these paperbacks shows "Street & Smith, Publishers." Three Alger titles, *Adrift in New York* (No. 243), *Striving for Fortune* (No. 138) and *Tom Brace* (No. 122) are considered first editions in this format. *Striving for Fortune* was issued about the same time in hard cover by Street & Smith, reverting to the original **Golden Argosy** serialization title of "Walter Griffith; or, The Adventures of a Young Street Salesman."

This was followed by the **Bound to Win Library** format, which contained only one Alger title (*The*



Street & Smith's *Alger Series* variations: Top row — Price 10 Cents; Price 15 Cents; No price indicated on cover. Second row — Illustration within circle; Modernized illustration; Exception with title printed directly on illustration. The *Alger Series*, offering books by several authors, appeared in two printings, the first running from November 1915 to December 1927, and the second from February 1928 to June 1933.

Backwoods Boy, No. 78) with a July 30, 1904 date.

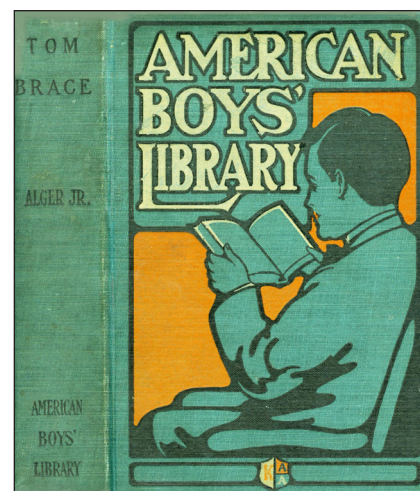
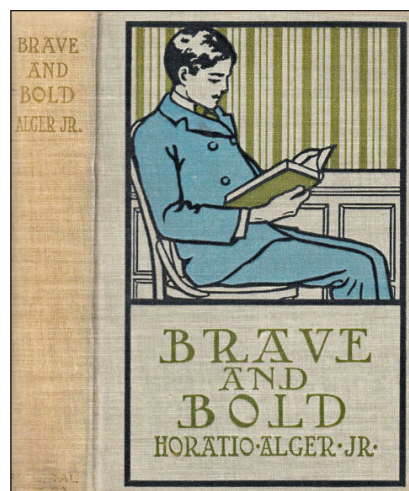
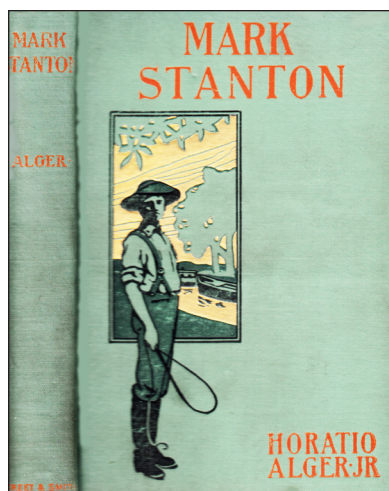
The **New Medal Library** format (1907-1911) carried only 29 Alger titles. "Street & Smith, Publisher" was on the title page. There is one Horatio Alger first edition in this series (*Robert Coverdale's Struggle*, No. 555).

Bob Bennett⁷ identified two printings of the Alger Series thick paperback format, again with many other authors also included. Evidence indicates that 104 Alger titles were used in five distinct printings, each having a

title page indicating "Street & Smith Publication, Inc." as the publisher. This author has identified those formats as the Price 10 Cents; Price 15 Cents; No Price; the Circle and the Modern format. The story title appeared in an orange, red or yellow box at the top of the cover (with one known exception in which the title is printed directly on the illustration without the box).

Costing only five cents, the **Brave and Bold Weekly**

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At left, the first format with red spine lettering used for Street & Smith's *Boys' Own Library* Alger titles. After Federal Book Co, leased the plates from S&S, it produced Algers in three formats: the "Boy with whip" replicating the S&S editions, plus these Reader formats with stock covers found on many of Federal's books.

Alger writings published by Street & Smith

(Continued from Page 7)

was printed in two 8 x 11-inch formats from 1902-1911, with varying colored covers covering many authors. Fourteen Alger titles were published, the Algers most common in yellow covers (see example on Page 1). These 14 stories were shortened from the originals by Street & Smith editors to fit the magazine format.

The Cash Boy (No. 53)	Sept. 19, 1903
Adrift in New York (No. 45)	Oct. 31, 1903
Dean Dunham (No. 54)	Jan. 2, 1904
Ned Newton (No. 57)	Jan. 23, 1904
The Erie Train Boy (No. 58)	Jan. 30, 1904
Paul, the Peddler (No. 59)	Feb. 6, 1904
The Five Hundred Dollar Check (No. 60)	Feb. 13, 1904
Phil, the Fiddler (No. 63)	Mar. 5, 1904
Slow and Sure (No. 65)	Mar. 19, 1904
The Young Acrobat (No. 68)	April 9, 1904
Only an Irish Boy (No. 88)	Aug. 27, 1904
The Young Outlaw (No. 94)	Oct. 8, 1904
Julius, the Street Boy (No. 100)	Nov. 19, 1904
Ben Barclay's Courage (No. 105)	Dec. 24, 1904

In 1937, Street & Smith began shrinking their line of pulp titles, ending that genre completely in 1949.

Among the last Alger stories they used appeared in the form of comic book adaptations in the early to mid-1940s. Eight confirmed titles in edited and modernized versions were published under the **Shadow Comics** banner, along with three stories appearing in **Doc Savage Comics** and one in **Super Magician Comics**. [Editor's note: Additional possible titles await discovery].

The following stories appeared in illustrated comics form, usually on eight pages (four leaves):

Shadow Comics:

"Bob Burton"	March 1940
"Mark, the Match Boy"	April 1940
"Dick's Luck"	May 1940
"Rough and Ready"	June 1940 *
"Brave and Bold"	July 1940
"Robert Coverdale's Luck and Pluck"	Aug. 1940 *
"Bound to Win"	Nov. 1940
"Frank and Fearless"	Jan. 1941

Doc Savage Comics:

"Making His Way"	Sept. 1942
"Facing the World"	Oct. 1942
"From Rags to Riches"	Jan. 1943

Super Magician Comics:

"The Will to Win"	March 1942 *
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* These titles have been published in *Newsboy*.

Hardcover formats

Street & Smith's publication of Alger's work in hardcover book form was limited. Initially, their efforts were in collaboration with G.W. Carleton and J. S. Ogilvie. In the G.W. Carleton books the title page shows "G.W. Carleton & Co., Publishers/Street



Street & Smith's *Shadow Comics*, June 1940, with Horatio Alger's "Rough and Ready."

& Smith, New York Weekly," while for J.S. Ogilvie's *Tony, the Hero* the copyright notice is by Street and Smith dated 1880.

Around 1900-1902, a format that has come to be known as the "Boy with whip" format as part of the S&S **Boys' Own Library** included 13 Alger titles. This format appeared in two forms; one had red lettering on the spine, the other had gold lettering on the spine. William R. Gowen⁸ established that the Algers with the red spine lettering came first. This distinction is important because three of the 13 titles appearing in this format are considered first hardcover editions (*Mark Stanton, Tom Brace* and *Walter Griffith*).

Around 1903, the plates for the **Boys' Own Library** were leased to the Federal Book Company, and in 1906 they were sold to David McKay of Philadelphia. The "Boy with whip" format Algers were carried over to the Federal and McKay editions. Transition copies have been identified for Street & Smith to Federal and Street & Smith to McKay. A 14th Alger title, *The*



Street & Smith's *Doc Savage Comics*, January 1943, with Alger's "From Rags to Riches."

Backwoods Boy, was added by David McKay.

The only other hardcover format using Alger titles came in what is known as the Reader format. Eighteen Alger titles were printed in collaboration with the Federal Book Company, whose name appears on the spine. These books were issued in two cover designs, both depicting a boy reading a book.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ben Bruce | Phil, the Fiddler * |
| Brave and Bold * | Risen From the Ranks |
| Charlie Codman's Cruise | Slow and Sure * |
| A Debt of Honor | Strive and Succeed * |
| The Erie Train Boy | Strong and Steady * |
| Facing the World | Tom Brace * |
| Tom, the Bootblack * | Only an Irish Boy * |
| Try and Trust * | Paul, the Peddler * |
| The Young Acrobat | From Farm Boy to Senator * |
- * Found to date.

In summary, Street & Smith published the works
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Alger writings published by Street & Smith

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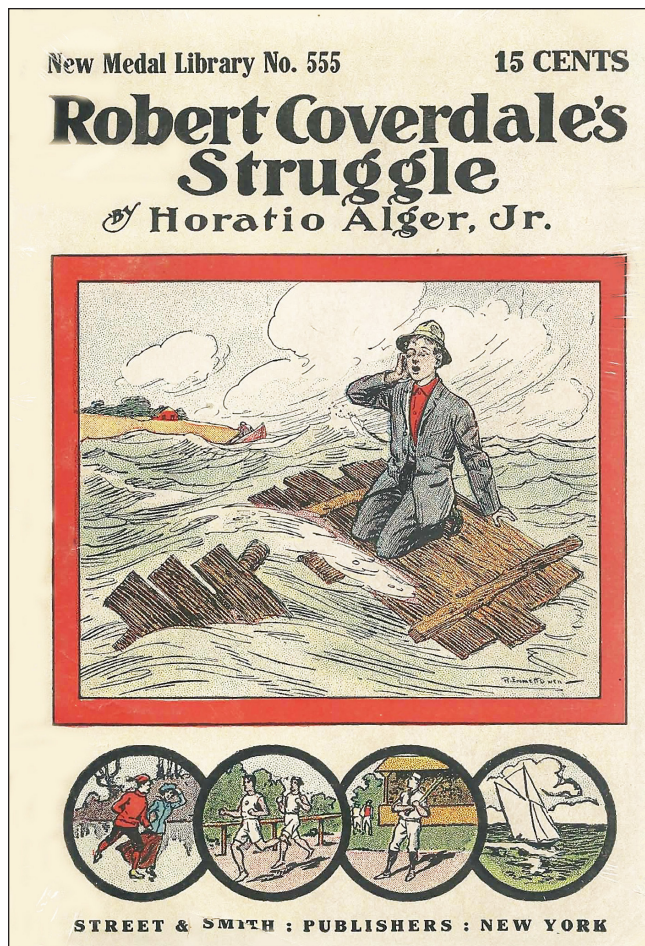
of Horatio Alger, Jr. in weekly serializations, in both hard and softcover and as a comic book. No other publisher printed with such diversity. It is because of such diversity that this author humbly acknowledges the possibility of error and/or omission in this attempt to piece together what Street & Smith published using Alger's name for almost a century.

NOTES:

1. Stern, Madeleine B. *Publishers for Mass Entertainment in Nineteenth Century America*, G. K. Hall & Co., 1980. p. 277.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 281.
3. Kasper, Robert E. "Street & Smith's Rosedale Library and other promotional material," *Newsboy*, March-April 2014.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 9.
5. Stern, Op. Cit., p. 288.
6. Stern, Op. Cit., pp. 283-284.
7. Bennett, Bob. *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, MAD Book Company, 1999, pp. 187-189.
8. Gowen, William R. "Alger and Beyond: The authors, cover formats for the Boys' Own Library." *Newsboy*, September-October 2013, p. 11.

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The first book edition of *Robert Coverdale's Struggle* was published in this *New Medal Library* softcover format by Street & Smith in 1910. The story was originally serialized in *Golden Days for Boys and Girls* from October 30, 1880 to January 15, 1881.

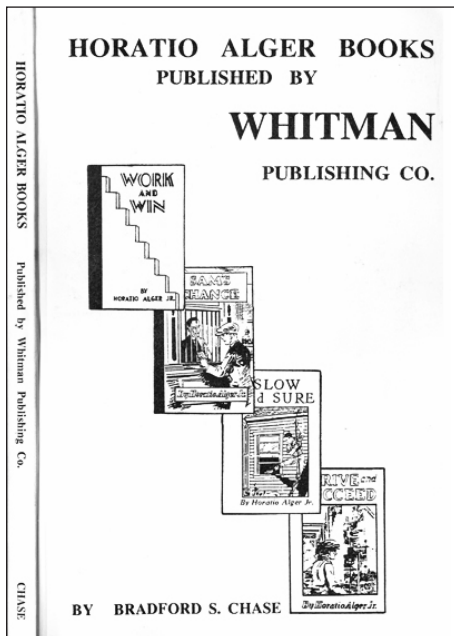
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- _____. "Alger at the Comics, Part II," *Newsboy*, November-December 1998.
- _____. "Alger at the Comics, Part IV," *Newsboy*, September-October 2010.
- <https://dimenovels.org>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street>
- <https://horatioalgerjr.com/STREETSMITHI>
- <https://library.syr.edu>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

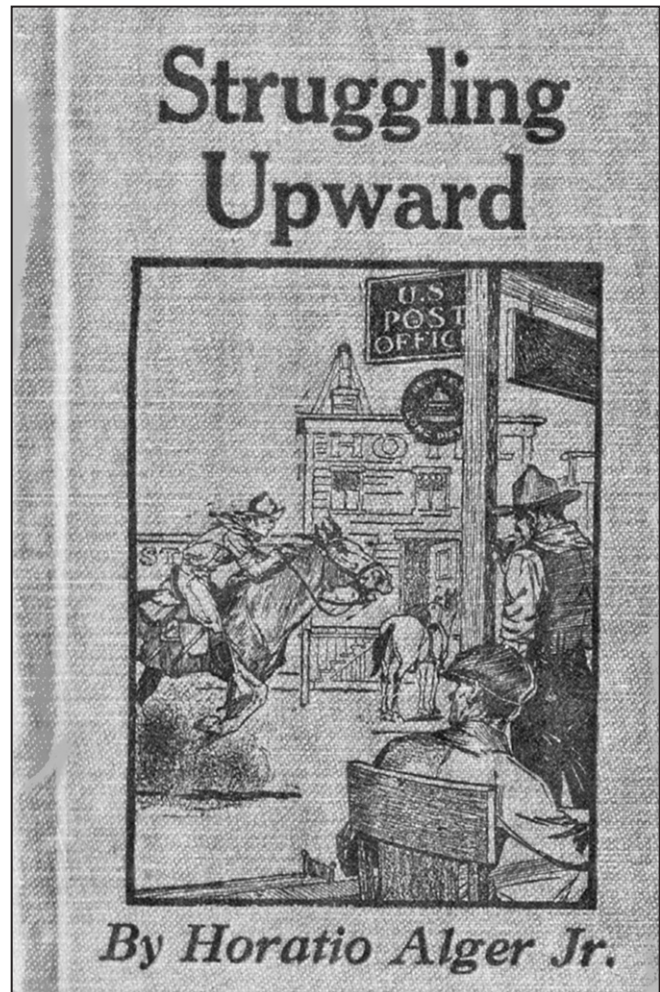
Dear Sir:

I am primarily a collector of young adult/adult series books published by the now-defunct Whitman Publishing Co./Western Printing & Lithographing Co. of Racine, Wisconsin. I became interested in Alger titles thanks to the excellent book by Bradford S. Chase, *Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing Co.* (1995). In that book he notes only one cover illustration which Whitman duplicated for a different title. That was the Dispatch Rider cover (Format 17) of the Series II printing of *Risen From the Ranks*.

Anyone familiar with Whitman "varieties" knows they are endless – colors, cover materials, endpapers, etc. It was "waste not, want not" with them. The 12 Type II Algers could, theoretically, be found in 296 combinations. When Whitman was purchased by Random House, they hired a group to sell off old stock on eBay.



For years, I checked their listings daily, looking for varieties and rare titles. Whitman had, for example, offered a movie-mystery title featuring Betty Hutton: *The Romance of Palmetto Island*. It appeared in the 1947 catalog, had an author, illustrator and book



Whitman's *Struggling Upward* with the rare Dispatch Rider illustration on the cover (in green linen cloth).

number ... except, it has never surfaced, even as a Ms. on eBay. What DID show up one week on eBay were a number of Dispatch Rider covers on a host of Alger titles, most not listed in Chase's book.

Here is a listing of those covers [in three materials, most commonly linen cloth (LC), smooth paper (SP) and pebbled paper (PP)] — *Do and Dare* (SP); *Erie Train Boy* (LC); *Making His Way* (LC); *Risen from the Ranks* (PP); *Sam's Chance* (LC); *Shifting for Himself* (LC); *Strive and Succeed* (LC); *Struggling Upward* (LC); and *Try and Trust* (LC). What about the remaining three titles (*Bound to Rise*; *Slow and Sure*; and *Strong and Steady*?) Anyone?

Sincerely,
 Ross Hartsough (PF-1135)
 210 Leeward Hills Lane
 Grand Forks, ND 58201
 Email: Hartsough3@gra.midco.net

MEMBERSHIP

Change of address

Arthur P. Young (PF-941)
 52 White Birch Way
 Manchester, NH 03102
 Email: apysammies@gmail.com

Harold M. Sherman: Sports books and beyond

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Harold M. Sherman was an amazing man who lived an amazing life — all 89 years of it. For readers and collectors of popular juvenile literature, the main interest in his career, of course, is the significant number of series and non-series books for young people he wrote from the mid-1920s to mid-30s — more than 40 — of which at least 31 have sports themes.

Interestingly, Sherman (1898-1987) made one of the most interesting U-turns in literary history when, in 1935, he authored a book titled *Your Key to Happiness*, generally categorized as a self-help book but one which opened the dominant second phase of his writing career, nearly

40 years' worth of books and lectures concerning metaphysics, extra-sensory perception (ESP) and other psychic phenomena, including reincarnation.

A discussion about Sherman's contributions to those subject areas could take hours, far more than space here allows. So, that's why the bulk of this article will concentrate on his books for young people, most of them sports-related.



Harold M. Sherman as a high-schooler in 1915.

Harold Morrow Sherman was born on July 13, 1898, in Traverse City, Michigan, the eldest of three sons of Thomas Henry Sherman and Alcinda Estelle Morrow Sherman. The elder Sherman was a partner in a men's clothing store in downtown Traverse City.

Harold Sherman's years through high school were spent in Traverse City, before he briefly attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His college days were interrupted by World War I, when he joined the Student Army Training Corps.

After the war, Sherman moved to Detroit for a clerical position with the Ford Motor Company. While there, he renewed acquaintances with former classmate Martha Bain, who was a nursing student. They dated, fell in love and were married on Sept. 26, 1920. Their life-long



The fourth of six titles in Harold Sherman's *Home Run Series* (Grosset & Dunlap, 1928-1932).

marriage produced two daughters, Mary Alcinda and Marcia Anne.

As was the case with many authors of dime novels and series books, Sherman began his career as a newspaper reporter, when in 1921 he joined the *Marion Chronicle* in Marion, Indiana. In 1924, the Sherman family moved to New York City, where Harold started writing boys' sports and adventure stories for magazines, most notably *Boys' Life*, and over the next 20 years he also wrote the source books for three short-running plays produced on Broadway, "The Little Black Book" and "Her Supporting Cast" in the late 1920s, and "The Girl from Nantucket" in 1945.

As mentioned, in the early 1930s, Sherman tried his hand at popular psychology. His first self-help book, *Your Key to Happiness*, published in 1935, led to his own personal-philosophy radio show on the Columbia Broadcasting System the following year, the program titled "All About You."

In 1937, Sherman — who believed he possessed a high degree of ESP — experimented in telepathic communication with renowned Arctic explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins. Wilkins, stationed near the North Pole to search for missing Russian aviators, sent thoughts each day at a prearranged time to Sherman, who received and recorded the impressions. When Sherman's transcripts were later compared to Wilkins' diary, Sherman scored 70 percent

accuracy. Their story is told in their jointly written book, *Thoughts Through Space* (1942).

In 1933, Sherman had been invited to Hollywood to write the screen play for "Are We Civilized?" and in 1936 he secured from the Mark Twain Estate the rights to dramatize the life of Samuel Clemens as a play, which failed to get commercial backing. However, five years later, Warner Brothers-First National Pictures became interested in the property, and Sherman co-wrote the screenplay for the successful film "The Adventures of Mark Twain," starring Fredric March and Alexis Smith.

The Sherman family decided to move to Chicago, but enroute there in 1942 they stopped in the Ozarks of Arkansas and fell in love with the region, buying a small dilapidated cabin on 120 wooded acres for \$800.

Sherman saw the isolated property — which he later named Ark Haven — as a place to develop his ESP abilities and do creative work free from urban distractions. In several of his later books, Sherman praised the Ozarks area for its "spiritually conducive qualities." In 1947, their daughters now grown, the Shermans moved permanently to their isolated cottage, despite the home having neither electricity nor indoor plumbing, with no paved roads in the vicinity. For the first three years, Sherman wrote his books by the light of a Coleman lantern.

The lack of paved highways, Sherman soon learned, was partly due to feuding between area political groups. In 1949, he wrote an editorial for the local paper inviting the citizens to attend a mass meeting to air their differences and unite on a program to submit to the governor and the State Highway Commission. He led a motor caravan five miles long to Little Rock to meet with the State Highway Commission. That led to the building of State Route 14 between Mountain View and Batesville, and other paved highways soon followed. Further using his political skills, Sherman was a major force in bringing electricity to Stone County, Arkansas, in 1950.

The popularity of *Thoughts Through Space* (1942) and *You Live After Death* (1949) led to Sherman's being in demand as a lecturer on the dinner circuit in Arkansas and neighboring states. As a member of the Lions Club, along with influential businessmen and politicians, Sherman organized local carnivals and beauty contests and was often called as master of ceremonies at those events.

By the early 1950s, Sherman was lecturing across the country to church, college and civic groups on ESP and personal development, also appearing in seminars with his friend, the pioneer televangelist The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, whose 1950s TV program, "Life is Worth Living," was watched by millions. Sherman's personal appearances continued well into the 1970s.

Harold Sherman, joined by Martha, spent the 1950s and 1960s in Hollywood, writing for television and



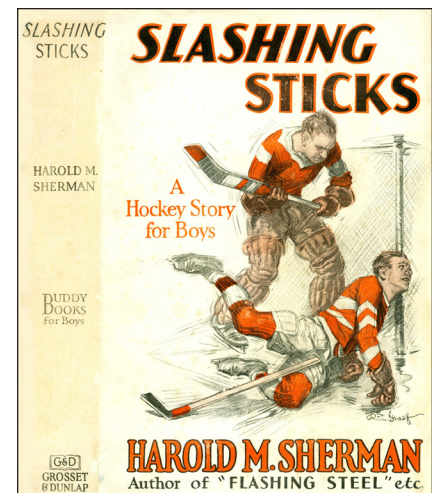
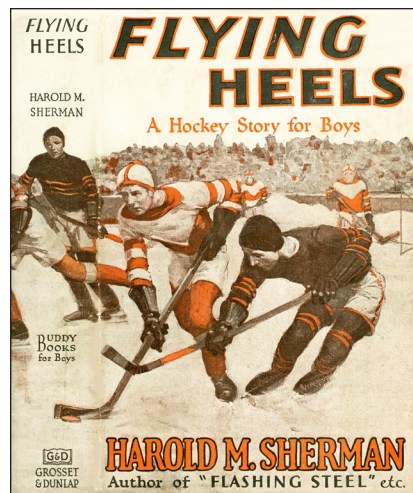
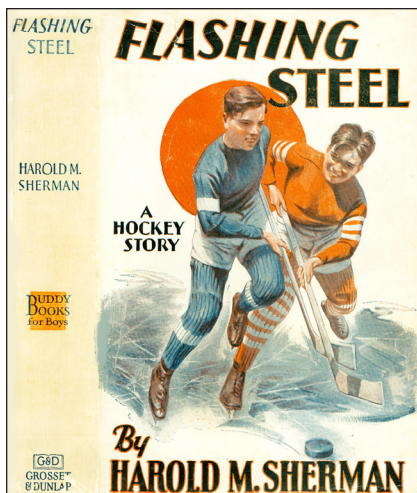
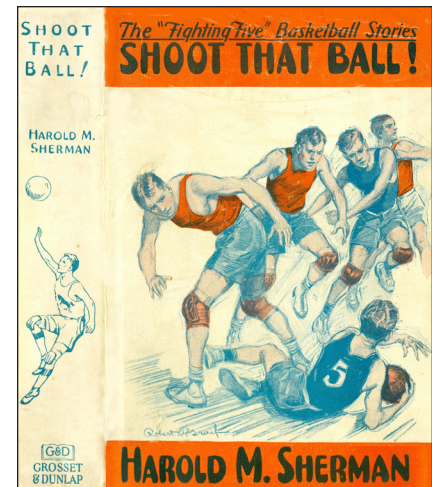
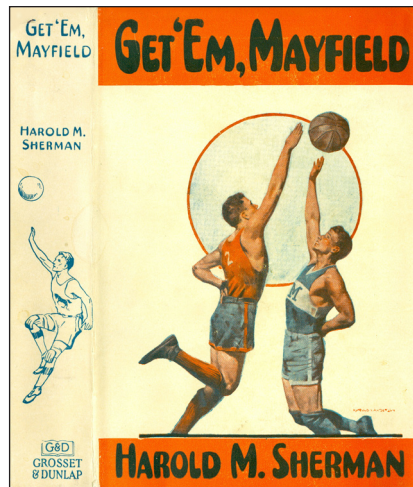
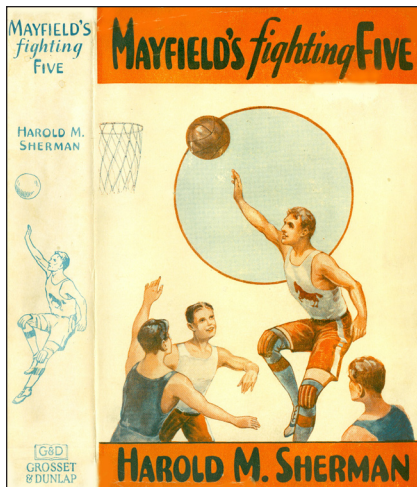
lecturing on the topics of his latest best-selling books, *TNT — The Power Within You* (1954) and *How to Make ESP Work For You* (1964). He also tried unsuccessfully to get several television projects sold and produced, including "The Amazing Adventures of My Dog Sheppy," a TV pilot produced with money raised from local Arkansas citizens, scripted by Sherman.

Sherman's latter years were spent quietly at Ark Haven preparing and distributing taped self-development courses and answering large volumes of mail. After surviving skin cancer in 1983 and a serious car accident the following year, he spent his final years quietly at home. He died on August 19, 1987, and is buried in the family plot in his home town of Traverse City, Michigan.

Harold Sherman's sports and adventure books

As noted earlier, Sherman started writing boys' fiction for the Boy Scouts of America-sanctioned magazine *Boys' Life*, in the mid-1920s. The great majority of these were sports stories. It is interesting to note that unlike many of his contemporaries who concentrated on football and baseball stories, Sherman took a serious look at basketball and ice hockey, which were just evolving as inter-school competitions in high schools

(Continued on Page 14)



The three-volume "Fighting Five" Basketball Stories (1925-1930) and Hockey Series (1929-1931).

Harold M. Sherman: Sports books and beyond

(Continued from Page 13)

and colleges. He even wrote about tennis.

As was common with boys' book authors of the day, Sherman's books usually began as serials or collections of similarly-themed short stories, in the tradition of Ralph Henry Barbour, William Heyliger, Leo Edwards and others. Appearance in book form was a natural outgrowth of magazine publication.

The first series we'll look at is The "Fighting Five" Basketball Stories, which first appeared in *Boys' Life* in the 1925-30 period under such titles as "The Dark-Horse Entry," "Mayfield Plays at Home," "Get 'em Mayfield," and the third title, *Shoot that Ball!* promoted as a short-story collection containing "Shoot That Ball!," "A Dizzy

Finish," "The Grudge," "The Pinch Shooter," "The Losing Victory," "The Great Little Skin Game" and "A Good Little Man." The methods by which these original serials and short stories were edited and organized into hard-cover books will require additional research.

The first two titles in the 'Fighting Five' Basketball Stories were published by D. Appleton & Co., with the final title issued by Grosset & Dunlap. Note that G&D (which it often did with series picked up from Appleton) used modified forms of the the original dust-jackets.

Very popular among young and old readers were the **Gridiron Stories**, some of which have also been linked to serials and short stories in *Boys' Life*, with the first title, *Fight 'em Big Three*, appearing as a serial in the January

THE ALL AMERICAN SPORT SERIES by Harold M. Sherman

New Books

Harold M. Sherman is today the greatest living writer of boys' sport stories. You are very fortunate in being able to present to your customers this outstanding series of Sherman's Books. Every boy knows this author. He writes regularly for such meritorious magazines as "Boys' Life" and "American Boy." In addition hundred of thousands of his books are sold annually at a much greater price than you will sell these specially written and exclusive titles. These books displayed on your counters will give your boys' and girls' book section prestige.

New Books

 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1000 OVER THE LINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1002 STRIKE HIM OUT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BASEBALL</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1003 THE TENNIS TERROR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TENNIS</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1004 DOWN THE ICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ICE HOCKEY</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1007 UNDER THE BASKET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BASKETBALL</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1008 INTERFERENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">NO. 1006 IT'S A PASS !!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOOTBALL</p>	

EACH BOOK IN THIS "ALL AMERICAN SPORT SERIES" HAS 256 PAGES

Goldsmith's advertisement for Sherman's All-American Sport Series, published between 1929 and 1933.

through March 1927 issues, and published in book form by D. Appleton in 1926, later reprinted by G&D.

The second title, *One Minute to Play*, has an interesting background. It appeared in both a regular edition and a G&D **Photoplay Edition**, with the billing on the dust jacket "*Byron Morgan's Great Photoplay novelized by Harold M. Sherman. The Complete Novel illustrated with scenes from the Photoplay.*"

The **Photoplay Edition** and regular editions likely appeared at about the same time. Both versions mention Byron Morgan's photoplay and the actual **Photoplay Edition** says on the jacket "The thrilling football picture starring Red Grange," the All-American halfback from the University of Illinois, though in the story itself the character is called Red Wade. It appears Sherman's so-called "novelization" is simply his regular story, with Red Grange used for the dust jacket, the screenplay and the movie, but with the book's text unchanged.

The third and likely most sought by collectors of the Harold Sherman sports series for Grosset & Dunlap is the **Home Run Series**, probably because of the books' very attractive dust jackets [example on Page 12]. Five of the six titles were reissued from **Boys' Life** material,

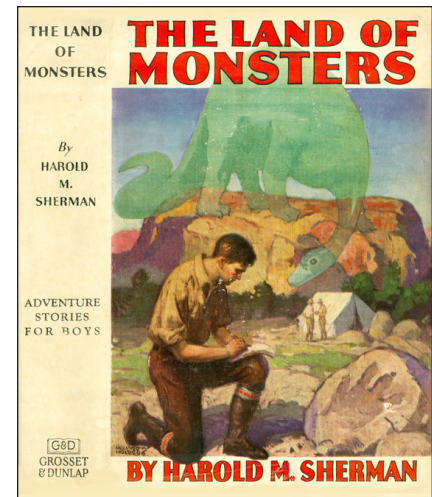
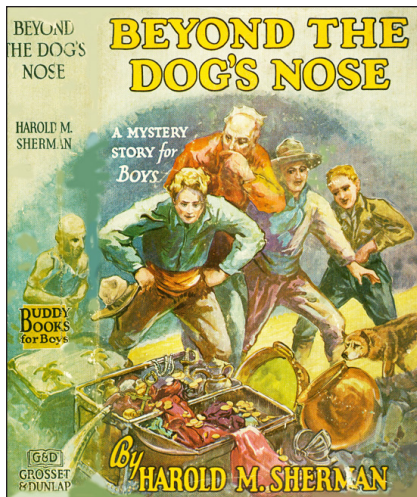
with *Safe!* from 1928 yet to be confirmed.

The three-volume **Hockey Series** (1929-1931) is interesting in that the first book's **Boys' Life** serial, "Flashing Steel" (the same as the book's title) was written for the magazine under one of Sherman's two confirmed pen names, "Vernon Quinn." The second and third volumes of the **Hockey Series** collect **Boys' Life** short stories under Sherman's own name, led in order by the books' respective title stories, *Flying Heels* and *Slashing Sticks*.

Now, we move on to one of Sherman's unjustly overlooked major sports series for boys: the **All-American Sport Series**, published by Goldsmith between 1929 and 1933. Goldsmith is best known as a reprint house, but in this case, these were first editions, written up to Sherman's usual high standards.

The stories continued the reissue of original Sherman **Boys' Life** stories, and were well-promoted by Goldsmith [advertisement reproduced above]. Four of the eight books are collections of short stories: *Interference* (football), *Down the Ice* (hockey and winter sports), *Under the Basket* (basketball) and *The Tennis Terror* (tennis). Goldsmith even packaged three of these titles randomly

(Continued on Page 16)



Grosset & Dunlap editions of three of Sherman's scarce non-sports books, derived from magazine serials.

Harold M. Sherman: Sports books and beyond

(Continued from Page 15)

in cardboard slipcases to sell for a discount.

We must mention a little-known adjunct to Harold Sherman's sports books for boys, the three titles (all 1937) he wrote for the Saalfield Sports Books series, a publisher's series using several authors. These books were Saalfield's answer to Whitman's low-priced **Big Little Books**, bound in similar paperboard covers and somewhat larger in height and width. The three Sherman titles are *The Winning Point* (football), *Last Man Out* (baseball) and *The Hockey Spare* (hockey).

Two non-sports series that Sherman wrote for Goldsmith were the well-known Tarzan-like **Tahara Series** (four volumes, all 1933) and the **Fun Loving Gang Series** (two volumes, both 1934). The latter series is so obscure



that even the official www.haroldsherman.com website omits it from its listing of the author's books.

We conclude with five scarce and highly collectible single non-sports books Harold Sherman wrote for young people. These titles were included in Grosset & Dunlap's **Buddy Books for Boys** or **Adventure Stories for Boys** omnibus publisher's series:

- *Beyond the Dog's Nose*, first issued by Appleton in 1927 and reprinted by G&D, was originally a **Boys' Life** serial written under Sherman's other known pen name, "Edward J. Morrow," from July 1926 to January 1927.

- *Cameron MacBain, Backwoodsman*, also published by Appleton in 1927 and reprinted by G&D, was co-authored by Hawthorne Daniel. Its original magazine source awaits further research.

- *Don Rader, Trailblazer* was published by Grosset & Dunlap in 1929. Its original magazine source also awaits further research.

- *Ding Palmer, Air Detective* (G&D, 1929), is likely derived from several "Air Detectives, Incorporated" short stories written for **Boys' Life** under the "Edward J. Morrow" pseudonym between July 1929 and August 1930.

- *The Land of Monsters* (G&D, 1931) was serialized in **Boys' Life** from September 1930 to February 1931 under the title "The Land of the Monsters." Written under his "Edward J. Morrow" pseudonym, it is one of Sherman's most interesting stories, relating the adventures of three boys on a horseback trek in a storm-swept Montana canyon and their discovery of fossilized dinosaur bones.

This article originally was presented as a paper at the annual Popular Culture Association conference on April 1, 2015, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and at the Horatio Alger Society's 2015 convention in Columbus, Ohio.