



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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

NUMBER 6

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The architecture of historic Old Town Sacramento.

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President's column

I'm fairly certain that I acquired some part of the collecting bug from my grandfather, who was a major collector of Lincolniana and wrote several books about A. Lincoln. This was an exciting (and less expensive) field back in the early 20th century when he was starting his collection, although from the number of books still published annually on Lincoln, it's still a lively scene, only different. There were many alive then who had known Lincoln, as well as eyewitnesses to events — recall the pics of the 75th reunion of Gettysburg vets in 1937 in Ken Burns' Civil War series on PBS.

My grandfather still did manage to spend a fortune on this endeavor and one major contribution he made was to be the first to examine microfilm the Library of Congress held of William H. Herndon's correspondence. Herndon was Lincoln's law partner who almost invented oral history when he set out after Lincoln's death to find and interview everyone who had known the 16th president in his early days in southern Indiana and Illinois.

Because of Herndon's notes from these interviews, partly utilized in the initial biography of Lincoln he worked on with Jesse Weik published in 1889, he has been the only source for just about all we know of Lincoln's early years — the time before the start of his legal career in Springfield, Illinois. Herndon tended to expand beyond his notes in some lectures he gave and this permitted some historians to discredit him, although no one has found any place in his massive record of his interviews where he misstated a fact.

My grandfather began the process of rescuing Herndon from the likes of J.G. Randall, a then-respected academic historian who attacked Herndon's credibility because of the stormy relationship Lincoln's law partner had with Mary Todd Lincoln, whom Randall and his wife idolized and chronicled. So in 1938, my grandfather edited and published *The Hidden Lincoln*, which was a compilation of Herndon's collection of Lincoln correspondence.

It was a revelation to many in the field, for it was the first time Herndon had been presented as an authoritative source in a half-century. There were disputes about what Herndon meant in places, mainly because his handwriting was not easily deciphered and the Library of Congress microfilm was hardly of the quality we expect of document storage today. But the work was cited repeatedly ever since its publication, even making it to the "100 Books You Must Read About Lincoln" listing.

Now the academic historians have come forth with a

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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

Introducing ... the 2017 convention!

By Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)

All the pieces are falling into place for the Horatio Alger Society's 2017 convention. "Strong and Steady in Sacramento" will take place Thursday, May 4, 2017 through Sunday, May 7, 2017. Convention registration will be \$130.00 per person. The registration forms and schedule of events will be included with the next issue of *Newsboy*, and they'll also be available online at www.horatioalgersociety.net.

The convention venue is Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham in Sacramento. We've got an excellent rate of \$89.00 per night for rooms with basic living accommodations. Of course, you can upgrade if you like, and you can come earlier and stay later at the same rate.

The hotel promises the availability of an airport shuttle, and the airport is only 10.1 miles away. The shuttle also goes to various Sacramento places of interest, including Old Town, the state capitol building and Sutter's Fort State Historic Park.

In addition to convention activities, our hotel is very close to Sacramento's Old Town district, which is on the Sacramento river and filled with restaurants, snack places, shops, clubs, and historical buildings. That's also where you'll find the California Railroad Museum, with its short-line operating railroad.

We have excellent places to eat, although keeping our group meals affordable is a challenge. They are within a reasonable driving (or rideshare) distance. In fact, the Friday lunch (order what you like) will be in a special reserved room at Denny's, just across the street from the hotel.



The California state capitol building in Sacramento was designed in 1860 by architect M. Frederic Butler and opened in 1874.

You can look forward to a fine auction and annual book sale, and as usual we'll have first-class presentations on Friday morning. As usual, our annual banquet on Saturday evening will feature the *Strive and Succeed Award* to a deserving area high school student, along with our yearly H.A.S. awards.

Overall, the 2017 convention should be a great event for all lovers of Alger, along with other series books, dime novels and related literature. We will present much additional information in the January-February *Newsboy*, including photos of places to visit in the Sacramento area.



*He's wishing all his
Partic'lar Friends a
happy holiday season!*

Editor's notebook

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas/Hanukkah/New Year's Day are nearly at our doorsteps. Here's hoping you and those close to you have an enjoyable and fulfilling holiday season.

This issue contains an interesting mix of contents, starting with 2017 host Barry Schoenborn's first article on the upcoming convention in Sacramento. Barry promises a lot more information in the January-February *Newsboy*, including the registration form and schedule of events, all of which will also be posted on the H.A.S. website.

On Pages 5-10 in this issue is the draft of the Horatio Alger Society's updated constitution and bylaws, the result of many months' work by a committee headed by Barry Schoenborn, created and tasked by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting last spring to update this important document for the first time in 16 years.

Starting on Page 13 is the first in a series of debut *Newsboy* appearances of Horatio Alger sketches first published in *The Yankee Blade*, a Boston literary weekly, in the mid-1850s. These brief stories (written under Alger's "Carl Cantab" pen name) were discovered by Gary Scharnhorst while doing research at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., in the early 1980s. He wrote about this discovery in the October-November 1982 *Newsboy*, making photocopies of the sketches for eventual use in this publication.

Well, 34 years later, that time has arrived, with the first of the 14 known *Yankee Blade* pieces appearing herein. Peter C. Walther (PF-548), as he has graciously done with a similar series of Alger sketches published during the same time period in the Boston *American Union*, writes an overview for the series, along with an introduction to this Sept. 24, 1853, sketch, "Selling an Antiquary," which appears on Pages 15-16.

I want to thank former *Newsboy* editor Jack Bales for retyping these stories from the faded early generation photocopies obtained by Scharnhorst in 1982. While these so-called "amusing sketches" may not represent Alger at his literary best, they offer a glance at his development as a writer during his early thirties, before he devoted his career to writing books for young people. We will run the stories periodically in future issues.

In this issue I have also included a brief article on author Hugh C. Weir, who wrote one juvenile series, the *Great American Industries Series*, for W.A. Wilde Co.

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President's column

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far more complete edition of Herndon's correspondence — Douglas Wilson & Rodney Davis, *Herndon on Lincoln* (2016). They acknowledge the service my grandfather rendered to the field but then take him over the coals for errors in transmission, unskillful editing, and his including only eight percent of the material in his book.

As we expect today, their work complies with current professional standards, though having legions of graduate students to go through the entire corpus of material requiring careful analysis certainly facilitated the editors' efforts.

This facet of Lincoln historiography makes me consider how, in far fewer volumes, Alger has been treated by historians. Things began badly with Herbert Mayes's fraudulent biography but proceeded to Ralph Gardner's pioneering effort and ultimately to the authoritative works by Jack Bales and Gary Scharnhorst, who presented the life story of Horatio, warts and all. Carol Nackenoff expanded the scope to survey Alger's broader cultural influence.

One of Lincoln's most famous biographers was the poet Carl Sandburg. He was no Mayes, but he apparently treated some facts loosely enough for the great critic Edmund Wilson to suggest "the cruellest thing that has happened to Lincoln since he was shot by Booth has been to fall into the hands of Carl Sandburg." While Herndon's reputation was successfully restored, the historians I met at the Lincoln bicentennial in 2009 doubted that Sandburg — as an historian — would ever recover that high regard.

Despite Sandburg's exaggerations or unsupported conclusions, his gifts as a poet did help him create prose that makes Lincoln live in a way that no other writer has. My grandfather had helped Sandburg and they were good friends until the inevitable falling-out came. Their respective contributions have been knocked about as standards evolve and we acquire better tools to assess the past. It should give us hope that over time even our current travail over the accuracy of what we read and hear will be resolved by similar judicious weighing and serious research

* * *

This issue contains the drafts of the revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Society, as well as some proposed Guidelines. Barry Schoenborn, Bob Sipes, Brad Chase, Bob Eastlack, and Joe Strang deserve all our thanks for reviewing these documents, bringing some up to date, and creating new provisions. I hope everyone now will surely review them as we will discuss and vote at the Convention in May.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Richard Hoffman (PF-570)
2925 28th St., NW
Washington, DC 20008

Constitution and Bylaws of the Horatio Alger Society

Part I: Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be Horatio Alger Society, a not-for profit corporation, incorporated in the State of Illinois on July 27, 1965.

The corporation's registered agent must be a resident of Illinois, and is listed in the bylaws.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

The purposes of the Horatio Alger Society are:

A. 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. "Strive and Succeed" is the concept that success is earned and character is developed by following principles of honesty, integrity, hard work, industry, and good sportsmanship.

B. To maintain a program of scholarships for promising young people who emulate the ideals of Horatio Alger, Jr.

C. To foster scholarly research devoted to Horatio Alger, Jr. and similar authors, and of the influence of their works on American culture, through face-to-face dialogue and electronic media exchange.

D. To serve as a comprehensive source for information about Horatio Alger, Jr. and his works, through social media, a website, and a newsletter.

E. To support institutions that maintain collections of the works of Horatio Alger, Jr. and similar authors.

F. To embrace collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series books, pulps, and dime novels.

G. To provide an estate service for members for the disposal of private collections devoted to Horatio Alger, Jr. and similar authors.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all individuals and organizations with an interest in the stories and philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. or similar authors.

Section 1. Becoming a member.

An individual or institution becomes a member by completing an application and paying the appropriate dues.

Section 2. Schedule of dues. A schedule of dues shall appear in the bylaws. The Horatio Alger Society may from time to time alter the schedule of dues.

Section 3. Membership year. Membership shall be on a yearly basis to start from the time dues are received.

Section 4. Classes of membership. The Horatio Alger Society may from time to time create, change, or delete

classes of membership. All members except honorary members may vote in the Horatio Alger Society elections and other matters. The classes of membership are:

A. Regular Membership. Regular membership is open to all individuals.

B. Senior Membership. Senior membership is open to all individuals 55 years or greater in age.

C. Sustaining Membership. Sustaining membership is open to all individuals. Such membership allows a member to contribute financial support greater than the cost of regular membership and receive additional benefits.

D. Institutional Membership. Institutional membership is open to all schools, libraries, municipalities, and similar public and private institutions.

E. Honorary Membership. Honorary membership recognizes individuals and organizations who have public notoriety and whose membership makes a contribution to the Horatio Alger Society.

Section 5. Benefits of Membership. The Horatio Alger Society has the following benefits of membership:

A. To vote in Horatio Alger Society elections.

B. To participate in general and special meetings.

C. To hold an elected or appointed office.

D. To receive Newsboy, the official publication of the Horatio Alger Society.

E. To receive private membership rosters.

F. To receive awards and honors.

G. To submit papers and articles for possible publication or distribution.

H. To be designated as a representative in matters of importance to the Horatio Alger Society.

I. Life members do not pay dues after one initial lifetime membership payment.

J. Sustaining members are recognized in Newsboy, on the website, and in meetings. Sustaining members receive a discount on convention registration fees.

K. To assist members in their search for information and resources pertaining to Horatio Alger, Jr. or similar authors, and to serve as a resource for non-member queries related to Horatio Alger, Jr. or similar authors.

Section 6. Termination. The Horatio Alger Society may terminate a member for non-payment of dues or other material causes.

A. For non-payment of dues. The Executive Director shall determine a reasonable grace period for members in arrears on dues. At the end of the grace period, the Executive Director will notify the member that he/she has been terminated.

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B. By member request. A member will be terminated as his/her request, or by a written request from his/her custodian or executor. There are no partial refunds of dues for early termination of membership.

C. For cause. A member may be terminated by the Board of Directors by unanimous vote, if the board determines that continuation of membership would be inconsistent with the philosophy and spirit of the Horatio Alger Society.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected officers. The elected officers of the Horatio Alger Society are:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Treasurer
- D. Directors (6)

Section 2. Appointed officers. The appointed officers of the Horatio Alger Society are:

- A. Executive Director
- B. Newsboy Editor
- C. Webmaster

The appointed officers are non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Appointments. The appointed officers are appointed by the Board of Directors. Such officers shall serve for the length of the President's term. However, appointed officers may be terminated by a majority of the Board of Directors at any time.

Section 4. Election of officers. Officers are elected by the general membership at the annual meeting.

Section 5. Removal of officers. An elected officer may be removed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, excepting the officer to be removed. Such action shall be confirmed, or not, at the next official meeting of the Society.

Section 6. Vacancies. In the event of the death, disability, resignation, or removal of an officer, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member to serve until the next election.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of officers may, from time to time, be changed via the bylaws.

Section 1. President. The President serves a two-year term. The President shall perform the usual duties of such an office. The President shall:

- A. Preside at the annual membership meeting and Board of Directors meetings.
- B. Approve reimbursements up to a limit set by the Board of Directors.
- C. Recommend to the Board of Directors candidates for the appointed positions — Executive Director, Newsboy Editor, and Webmaster.

D. Appoint chairpersons of the standing committees.

1. The Vice-President is chair of the *Membership Committee*.

2. Chairperson and two members of the *Nominating Committee*.

3. Chairperson and two members of the *Editorial Committee*.

E. Appoint chairpersons of ad hoc awards committees:

1. Chairperson of the *Strive and Succeed Award Committee*. By tradition, this award goes to an individual selected by the current year's convention host.

2. Chairperson of the *Newsboy Award Committee*.

3. Chairperson of the *Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award Committee*. By tradition, this award goes to the previous year's convention host.

4. Chairperson of the *Dick Seddon Award*. By tradition, this person is the current winner of the award.

F. Appoint chairpersons of any other ad hoc committees created by the Board of Directors.

G. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

H. Receive and report all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws to the Board of Directors.

I. At his/her discretion, name the winner of the President's Award.

Section 2. Vice-President. The Vice-President serves a two-year term, coterminous with the President. The Vice-President shall:

A. Serve as chair of the Membership committee and appoint other members to the committee.

B. Assist the President as needed.

C. Assume the office of President during his/her absence, at his/her written request, or in the event of his/ her death or incapacitation.

D. By tradition, run for and (if elected) serve as President.

Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer serves a two-year term, coterminous with the President. The Treasurer shall:

A. Account for Horatio Alger Society funds received and paid out.

B. Accept deposits and disburse payments.

C. Maintain and reconcile bank accounts.

D. Prepare printed financial reports for the Board of Directors for the annual meeting.

Section 4. Directors. There shall be six directors. Directors serve three-year terms, to be staggered so that two directors are elected each year. The directors serve on the Board of Directors, whose duties are described in Section 5.

Section 5. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and six directors. The Immediate Past President is a non-voting board member. The Executive Director, Newsboy Editor,

and Webmaster, being appointed officers, are non-voting members of the board.

The Board of Directors shall:

A. Establish written policies, procedures, and guidelines as needed. These are dated and confirmed at least once annually, by formal Board vote, usually at the annual meeting.

B. Hold a board meeting at the convention prior to the annual business meeting. Additional board meetings may be called at the request of a majority of the board.

C. Appoint the Executive Director, the Newsboy Editor, and the Webmaster.

D. Confirm committee appointments made by the President.

E. Approve a slate of candidates developed by the Nominating Committee.

F. Recommend the next convention city to the members.

G. Make recommendations to the members at the annual meeting.

H. Approve the maximum reimbursement for Horatio Alger Society expenses.

I. Decide the level of annual honorarium for the Executive Director and Newsboy Editor.

J. Receive, review, and act upon any proposed changes to the Constitution.

K. Decide matters pertaining to the incorporation of the Horatio Alger Society as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

L. Dissolve the Horatio Alger Society, should circumstances require it.

Section 6. Executive Director. The Executive Director is an appointed officer of the Horatio Alger Society and has no vote on the Board of Directors. The Executive Director acts under direction of the Board of Directors. The duties of the Executive Director include:

A. Conduct Horatio Alger Society business, such as processing membership applications and determining specific non-paying member grace periods, processing dues payments, and sending checks to auction consignors.

B. Keep minutes of the annual board meeting in conjunction with the annual membership meeting.

C. File required documents with the State of Illinois and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

D. Be a signer on Horatio Alger Society bank accounts.

E. Obtain awards to be distributed at the annual convention.

F. Issue a membership directory.

Section 7. Newsboy Editor. The Newsboy Editor is an appointed officer of the Horatio Alger Society and has no vote on the Board of Directors. The duties of the Newsboy Editor are:

A. Produce a newsletter/magazine titled Newsboy,

to be devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr., and his works; other authors of books for young readers, and their influence; dime novels, pulp magazines and story papers; and news of general interest about members and the annual convention.

B. Produce six bimonthly issues of Newsboy per year. The frequency of publication may be changed by the Board of Directors.

C. Solicit paid advertisements for publication in Newsboy. In addition, he/she will accept no-cost ads from members for the sale of Horatio Alger books and related ephemera.

D. Provide an annual report to the Board of Directors at its annual board meeting. The report will detail printing costs, mailing costs, and other expenses.

Section 8. Webmaster. The Webmaster is an appointed officer of the Society and has no vote on the Board of Directors. The duties of the Webmaster are:

A. Maintain a website for the Horatio Alger Society.

B. Manage hosting and domain name renewals.

C. Accept new content from members.

D. Report to the board of directors as needed.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. Convention. There shall be one annual convention, which shall be held between May and October of each year. The purpose of the convention is:

A. To conduct the Horatio Alger Society consignment auction and to conduct the Horatio Alger Society book sale.

B. To present Horatio Alger Society awards and the Strive & Succeed award and scholarship.

C. To hear scholarly and entertaining presentations.

D. To engage in fellowship with other members.

Section 2. Business meeting. There shall be an annual business meeting for the membership, held during the convention. There shall be direct and timely participation of the full membership in the annual meeting to include those choosing to use electronic means.

The purpose of the annual meeting is:

A. To elect and install officers for the following year.

B. To receive reports, including the status of membership, finances, and Newsboy, from the officers and committees, via the President.

C. To approve the city for the following year's convention.

Section 3. Annual board meeting. There shall be an annual board meeting, held in conjunction with the annual convention. The purpose of the meeting is:

A. To receive and review annual reports.

B. To determine a slate of candidates for election to submit to the members.

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C. To determine a convention city for the following year to submit to the members.

D. To discuss any matters pertaining to the Horatio Alger Society.

Board members may attend the annual board meeting through electronic means.

Members are welcome to attend the board meeting.

Section 4. Other board meetings. Other board meetings may be called by a majority of the board members. The meetings may be conducted by teleconferencing or email.

Section 5. Parliamentary authority. At meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not covered in the Constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 1. Eligibility. Only members in good standing (current dues paid) shall be entitled to vote on candidates or measures. The board shall create a system for including member notification and participation at all general meetings.

Section 2. Items eligible for voting. Members may vote in the election of candidates for office, selection of the convention site, amendments to the constitution, and changes to the bylaws.

Section 3. Majority. In the election of officers, the candidate receiving a simple majority of votes cast for an office shall be declared elected. In matters of convention site choice and changes to the bylaws, a simple majority of votes cast shall decide the issue.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A. A proposed Constitutional amendment shall be presented in writing to the President, who shall report it to the Board of Directors.

B. The members shall be provided with a written copy of proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to a vote on the proposed change. The information may be sent to the membership via Newsboy, email, or U.S. Mail.

C. Change in the Constitution or adaptation of a new one require a two-thirds majority vote of members in attendance, physically or by electronic means, at the annual business meeting.

D. Changes in the bylaws require a simple majority of members in attendance, physically or by electronic means, at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES

Three standing committees address operational aspects of the Horatio Alger Society.

Section 1. Membership Committee. The purpose of the Membership committee is to develop ways of increasing the membership in the Horatio Alger Society. The Vice-President is the chairperson of this committee. He/she may appoint

other members as needed. He/she shall report results of the committee's activities at the annual meeting. The Board of Directors shall develop a list of suggested opportunities and determine the level of membership outreach activity the committee should undertake.

Section 2. Nominating Committee. The purpose of the Nominating committee is to develop a slate of candidates for the Horatio Alger Society elective positions and to present this slate at the annual meeting for a vote. The committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President, one of which shall be designated as chairperson.

Section 3. Editorial Committee. The purpose of the Editorial committee is to offer editorial advice and assistance to the Newsboy Editor, who is responsible for final editorial content. The committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President, one of which shall be designated as chairperson. If the position of Newsboy Editor becomes vacant, the committee shall recommend a replacement to the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Replacement. The Board of Directors may replace the chair of any standing committee. The chair of any standing committee may replace a committee member who does not satisfactorily perform his/her duties.

ARTICLE X: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Section 1. Ad hoc awards committees. There are four ad hoc award committees, created each year: Strive and Succeed award committee, Newsboy award committee, Carl Hartman Luck and Pluck award committee, and Richard Seddon award committee.

Each award committee selects a recipient for its award. The awards are presented at the annual convention. The President or Board of Directors may make other ad hoc awards, when appropriate.

Section 2. Other ad hoc committees. The President may create ad hoc committees to address issues of concern to the Horatio Alger Society.

Section 3. Reporting. The President shall periodically report the activity of ad hoc committees to the Board of Directors and to the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 4. Replacement. The chair of any ad hoc committee may replace any member of his/her committee who does not satisfactorily perform his/her duties.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION OF HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

The Board of Directors may vote to recommend the dissolution of the Horatio Alger Society and shall arrange for a meeting of all members at which this recommendation is the primary agenda item. Prior to the dissolution vote, adequate notice of such intended action shall be provided to each current member to enhance full member participation.

In case a quorum for the dissolution meeting cannot be achieved, action by the Board of Directors to dissolve shall take effect.

In the event of the dissolution of the Horatio Alger Society, all Horatio Alger Society-owned property (excluding records, correspondence, original writings, computer files, past copies of Newsboy, and any other such ephemera) will be disposed of by the Board of Directors for cash.

Disposal will take place within three months of the decision by the Board to dissolve. After satisfying all outstanding obligations, any cash remaining will then be given to the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois, for use in the acquisition of new repository materials, with special emphasis on items related to the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr. and other boy's and girls' series book authors.

Upon dissolution of the Horatio Alger Society, all remaining non-cash materials shall become the property of the Horatio Alger Repository or any institutional member expressing interest therein as determined by the Board of Directors.

(End of Constitution)

Part II: Bylaws

BYLAW 1: Related to incorporation

Section 1. Agent. The Illinois Secretary of State recognizes the agent for Horatio Alger Society as:

Robert M. Petitto
874 Papoose Court
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Section 2. Executive office. The United States Internal Revenue Service recognizes the executive offices of Horatio Alger Society as:

Bob Sipes
Horatio Alger Society
1004 School Street
Shelbyville, IN 46176

BYLAW 2: Related to dues and membership

Section 1. Schedule of dues. The schedule of dues is:

- A. Regular membership is \$25 per year.
- B. Senior membership is \$20 per year, for members age 55 or older.
- C. Sustaining membership is \$50 per year.
- D. Life membership is twenty (20) times the regular annual dues if paid with the application. It is twenty-two (22) times the regular annual dues if paid in two annual installments.
- E. Institutional membership is \$25 per year. Foreign institutions are \$30 per year.
- F. Honorary membership is free and extends for one year.

BYLAW 3: Related to meetings, convention agenda, and auctions

Section 1. Annual convention. The Society will strive to hold its annual convention in a different location in North America each year in order to make it more accessible to a greater portion of the membership and to provide an opportunity for different members to host.

Section 2. Confirming the convention host. A member who volunteers to host the next annual convention shall either attend the meeting at which the choice of the site is to be made and confirm his/her intention to attendees, or, if absent at that meeting, shall be contacted directly by the President during that meeting to confirm his/her willingness to host.

Section 3. Electronic attendance. The Board of Directors shall create ways to obtain active participation in the annual business meeting by:

- A. Encouraging members to attend and participate in the annual convention.
- B. Providing all members who want to be electronically connected to the meeting with procedures, in order to participate in discussion and voting activities.

Section 4. Convention agenda. The convention host has primary responsibility for developing the agenda of the annual convention.

Section 5. Structure of auctions and sales. The Board of Directors shall decide the number, auctioneer, type, and financial arrangements for any auctions or sales to be held at the annual convention. The host shall assure space and time is provided for such auctions or sales.

Section 6. Auction consignment fees.

- A. Consignment fees for individual lots are 20% of realized auction price.
- B. The consignment fee for Estate Service consignments are a percentage of the gross revenues for the entire consignment: from \$1.00 to \$2,499.00 = 20% of auction price; from \$2,500.00 to \$4,999.00 = 15% of auction price; in excess of \$5,000.00 = 10% of auction price.

C. Auctions may contain donated items. 100% of the proceeds go to Horatio Alger Society.

BYLAW 4: Related to reimbursement and honoraria

Section 1. Reimbursement. Compensation received by any officer or staff person consists of reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the conduct of Horatio Alger Society business as approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Honoraria. An honorarium, in appreciation for services rendered, may be given to the Executive Director and Newsboy Editor, the specific amount of which is to be determined by the Board of Directors and is dependent upon the Society's financial condition.

(Continued on Page 10)

BYLAW 5: Related to promotion, Northern Illinois University, and the Horatio Alger Association.

Section 1. Advertising and promotion. The Board of Directors may develop and implement advertising programs to publicize Horatio Alger Society's function and activities and may develop resolutions to recognize or commemorate special individuals or events.

Section 2. Northern Illinois University. The Horatio Alger Society recognizes the Horatio Alger Repository at Northern Illinois University as the Society's official repository for all materials about, relating to, and written by Horatio Alger, Jr., as well as material pertinent to other boys' and series' books authors. Horatio Alger Society members are encouraged to provide copies of unique or special books written by Horatio Alger, Jr., and other related items to the Repository that are acceptable to the Repository. The Society shall be a member of the Friends of the Northern Illinois University Libraries.

Section 3. Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Horatio Alger Society recognizes and supports the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

BYLAW 6: Related to fiscal year

The fiscal year shall run from May 1 to April 30.

BYLAW 7: Related to Membership roster, 100 Club, and Super 100 Club

Section 1. Roster. A membership roster shall be created and distributed to the membership. The roster contains private member information, and will not be provided to the general public. A member may choose not to appear in the roster. The roster may be distributed in printed or electronic form.

Section 2. 100 Club. A member may apply for and be admitted to the 100 Club if he or she accumulates 100 different Horatio Alger titles. The board of directors shall establish guidelines for this award. The President shall issue a letter and a certificate attesting the fact to the applicant. The President shall inform the Board of Directors and the Editor of Newsboy.

Section 3. Super 100 Club. A member may apply for and be admitted to the Super 100 Club if he or she accumulates 100 Horatio Alger first editions as described in Bob Bennett's book, *Horatio Alger, Jr. A Comprehensive Bibliography*. The board of directors shall establish guidelines for this award.

The member informs the President in writing. Another member of Horatio Alger Society shall authenticate the first editions and report the results to the Board of Directors. The President shall issue a letter and a plaque attesting the fact to the applicant. The President shall notify the Editor of Newsboy.

(End of Bylaws)

Guidelines

Horatio Alger Society

In addition to the Constitution and bylaws, the H.A.S. Board of Directors has developed guidelines to carry out some of its basic responsibilities. These provide day-to-day guidance to members and officers in the administration of the Society's activities.

The Board, by a simple majority, can vote to change any of these guidelines procedures as changing situations warrant. The guidelines are valid for one year from May first to April 30th. These appear in no priority order and may be added to as needed.

ESTATE SERVICE

The purpose of the estate service is to provide a vehicle for members or their surviving family to dispose of a collection with Horatio Alger material. The service makes Alger items available to collectors most interested in the material, thus maximizing the return on the collection to the owner. In undertaking this service, the Board of Directors will follow the following principles:

1. Board of Directors may or may not accept a member's request for such an auction.
2. The Board of Directors may request a review of the items proposed for auction and ask another Horatio Alger Society member who lives in close proximity to the auction items for evaluation assistance.
3. Estate auction items are either commission or non-commission based, as defined in Bylaw 3, Section 6, Subsections B and C. This is to be agreed upon, preferably in writing, by both the Board of Directors and the consignor prior to the auction.
4. The items to be disposed of will be offered at an auction to be held at the annual convention.
5. Any delivery costs associated with estate auction items shall be borne by the consignor.
6. The sale description of the individual items will be determined by Horatio Alger Society members at auction preparation time.
7. The consignor and the convention host together will dispose of items left unsold.

100 CLUB

A member may apply for and be admitted to the 100 Club if he or she accumulates 100 different Horatio Alger titles [Bylaw 7, Section 2]. The member informs the President in writing. The President shall issue a letter and a certificate attesting that fact to the applicant. The President shall inform the Board of Directors and the Editor of **Newsboy**.

SUPER 100 CLUB

A member may apply for and be admitted to the Super 100 Club if he or she accumulates 100 Horatio Alger first

editions as described in Bob Bennett's book, *Horatio Alger, Jr. A Comprehensive Bibliography* [Bylaw 7, Section 3]. The member informs the President in writing.

Another member of the Horatio Alger Society shall authenticate the first editions and report the results to the Board of Directors. The President shall issue a letter and a plaque attesting that fact to the applicant. The President shall inform the Editor of **Newsboy**.

ENDOWMENTS AND GIFTS

The Board of Directors may receive cash gifts from anyone with any stipulations it deems appropriate. Such stipulations must be in writing at the time that the gift is given and must follow the following:

1. The purpose of the gift must be explicitly for the benefit of the Horatio Alger Society.
2. The Treasurer shall report the total amount of each official gift in an annual report, the amount spent each year since its inception, and the remaining cash available.
3. The President shall detail the nature of the annual expenditures for each gift.
4. The Board of Directors shall determine each year the amount to be spent during the year and its purpose as related to the original intent.
5. The basic purpose of any gift may be changed by vote at the convention and with the written agreement of the original donation source.
6. In case of dissolution of the Society, all gifts and endowments will be disbursed according to Article X of the constitution.

CONVENTION HOST GUIDELINES

A convention host is selected and voted upon each year at the annual convention. The host will strive to ensure that the registration cost per attendee equals the total of convention costs. The host will be responsible for the following:

1. Be a member of the Horatio Alger Society.
2. Work closely with the President and Executive Director to develop an agenda and a convention date (Thursday through Sunday) sometime between April 20th and May 20th.
3. Get informal approval from the President and Executive Director for the motel selection, panel speakers, agenda, and level of expenditures anticipated.
4. Negotiate for and secure hotel accommodations, reserving a block of guest rooms and a meeting room.
5. Set a registration fee per attendee appropriate to cover at least one lunch, two dinners, the activity room, an optional favor for each attendee, activity room refreshments, and incidentals.
6. Ensure time on the agenda is set aside for at an auction and a book sale, speakers, a Friday night dinner, and a Saturday night dinner, all paid for out of the registration fee.

The host is encouraged to include other activities as well that might reflect local attractions and be of general interest to the membership.

7. Be responsible for all convention costs incurred.
8. Select a student to receive the Society's Strive and Succeed award and potential scholarship.
9. Find and get commitments for at least one dinner speaker for Saturday night.
10. Find and get commitments for at least three panel presentations.
11. Prepare at least two written articles to be published in **Newsboy** describing the agenda and local attractions.
12. Generate as much publicity as possible to attract attendees.
13. Make a registration form and schedule available to members through **Newsboy** in a timely fashion.

PROMOTING THE SOCIETY NATIONALLY

Opportunities for promoting the Horatio Alger Society nationally include:

1. Become more aggressive in expanding our support to other series book and related organizations, particularly in sharing common interests (i.e., similar author collecting opportunities, such as book auctions or book sales held jointly, joint speakers, or conventions held together or sequentially).
2. Establish a formal Society committee to find new ways to aggressively promote the Society's activities. The committee shall report to the Board of Directors and members at the annual convention as to specific activities undertaken during the past year.
3. Buy national advertising promoting the Society (and its annual convention activities) in national journals and collector publications.
4. Write articles for **Yellowback Library, Dime Novel Round-Up**, and other collector publications (which sometimes feature Alger-related articles) but related to their focus (e.g., series books or dime novels).
5. Examine the Horatio Alger Association of Famous Americans to see if we could assist them in any way and involve ourselves in their activities. Perhaps we could become the collector part of that organization, providing them a dimension of Horatio Alger they have never had.
6. See if our collecting interests and skills would be of any value in the world of academia. Are universities that have sizeable Alger collections interested in having them organized, evaluated, and added to in number of titles carried, number of first editions, number of different publishers, or more of a certain Alger publisher that is local to them?
7. Undertake an inventory of collections (university, private, local public) to see where Alger books are, what

(Continued on Page 12)

they are, and see if the Society can help bolster them. We know there are a bunch of Alger books none of us want every year — at our auctions — and we could place them where they might help enhance a collection someplace.

8. We could have an agenda item at the next speaker panel at our convention as to how the Society might relate better to organizations and institutions in helping them gather and better understand Alger books. We know where extras are. How could we get them to a place that could use them? The whole world of home schooling comes to mind? How can we help them?

STANDING COMMITTEES AND AD HOC AWARDS COMMITTEES

The Horatio Alger Society has three standing committees:

1. The Membership Committee. Its purpose is to develop programs to grow membership in the Society. The Vice-President is chair of the Membership Committee.

2. The Nominating Committee. Its purpose is to provide to the annual convention names of members who will run for elected office. Every two years the three elected offices need to be filled and every year two vacancies occur on the Board of Directors. The chairperson works with the President, Executive Director, and his/her committee to develop a slate of candidates. It is this committee's responsibility to decide upon and present the slate.

3. The Editorial Committee. Its purpose to offer editorial advice and assistance to the Newsboy Editor, who is responsible for final editorial content. The committee shall consist of three members appointed by the President, one of which shall be designated as chairperson. If the position of Newsboy Editor becomes vacant, the committee shall recommend a replacement to the Board of Directors.

The Society has four additional ad hoc award committees, created each year:

1. Strive and Succeed Award Committee. The

convention host is automatically the chair of this committee and usually acts alone in deciding upon the recipient of the Strive and Succeed award. However, he/she may wish to consult with local school staff to assist in the selection process. The selection is student oriented and usually carries with it a cash scholarship award, the amount of which is decided by the Board of Directors. The recipient may or may not be an H.A.S. member. The recipient is usually invited with family and teacher to accept the award in person at the annual HAS banquet. Recent recipients of this award have been: Isaac Trolinder, law student and H.A.S. member (2016); Susan Hagos, high school student (2015); and Sandrita Borckhardt, high school student (2014).

2. The Newsboy Award Committee. The Newsboy award is usually given to the member who has demonstrated significant or outstanding efforts in researching and presenting written analyses about Horatio Alger, Jr. and his works or those of other boys' and girls' books during the previous year. The President appoints a chairperson for this committee, who may or may not choose an award recipient. Recent recipients include: James Keeline (2016); Bob Eastlack (2015); and none (2014).

3. The Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award Committee. The President presents the Carl Hartman Luck and Pluck award to the previous year's convention host in recognition of his/her effort. Recent recipients include Bob and Wendy Sipes (2016 convention); Bob Huber (2015 convention); and Dick Hoffman (2014 convention).

4. The Richard Seddon Award Committee. The chairperson of this committee is usually the person who received the Richard Seddon Award the previous year. The chairperson either acts alone or chooses other members to help. The award recognizes a member of the Society who has consistently demonstrated the warmth, companionship, and camaraderie of the late Dick Seddon, who graced many Society activities over the years. Recent recipients include: Brad Chase (2016); Bill Gowen (2015); and Betsy and Lee Allen (2014).

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Sean Glasgow (PF-1138)

9 Hildurcrest Drive

Simsbury, CT 06070 (860) 658-9955

Email: seantglasgow@aol.com

Sean, an information technology service project manager, is the son of 18-year H.A.S. member John M.

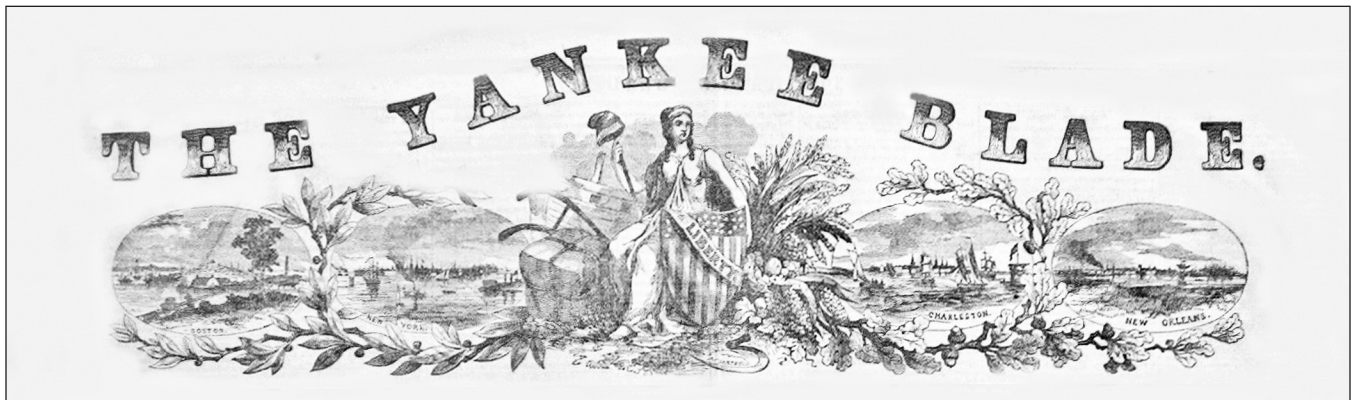
Glasgow (PF-1012), who passed away earlier this year. Sean intends to maintain his father's Alger collection and pass it on to future generations of his family.

Brandon James (PF-1139)

1189 Route 68

New Brighton, PA 15066

Email: james57@comcast.net



Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

By Peter C. Walther (PF-548)

In times past it was often said that people were judged by the company they kept. It may be true up to a point and may in fact hold some contemporary relevance. I suppose we could advance this premise somewhat further and note that authors were often judged by the readership they kept, or at the very least, by the markets they supplied.

For many years Alger scholarship (and that for Oliver Optic as well, I should add) was straight jacketed by pursuits covering the books alone, a hundred of them give or take a handful. It has only been in recent times that much more attention has been given to his journalistic work of the 1850s. I don't think I am wrong when I state that by 1860 only two actual books by Alger had been published: *Bertha's Christmas Vision* and *Nothing To Do*, neither of them juveniles. Does this then represent Alger's sole literary effort during this decade? Hardly.

The Yankee Blade, The Star Spangled Banner, The Flag of Our Union, Gleason's Pictorial, The American Union and True Flag proved lucrative markets for these burgeoning authors. By "these" I refer to Horatio Alger, Oliver Optic, Paul Creyton, Sylvanus Cobb, Ned Buntline and William H. Thomes to name just a few. The literary weeklies of the day offered ample opportunities for these authors to hone their craft, and issue after issue, column after column, contained manifold examples of their skill at story writing. History has chained most of this material as fugitive pieces, and very few of them had ever been graced within the respectability of hard covers. Fortunately that oversight is beginning to be corrected; at least a vigorous beginning is afoot to identify them and opportunities offered in print to savor their distinctive qualities.

For those of you engaged in ephemera research, you know that this type of academic discipline is much more labor intensive than merely finding an Alger book on a shelf and adding it to your collection. The late Stanley

Pachon reminded me these many years ago that dealing with the bibliographic challenges of newspaper and magazine work poses its own problems and frustrations. The tools that bibliographers have are often lacking and negligible decisions often have to be made when actively dealing with this material.

Very little factual data can be marshaled to prove or disprove a hypothesis, and so much of our end results can only be subjective conclusions, sagely informed, perhaps, but merely informed nonetheless. I myself was once proved in error based on some rather diligent research and I have never forgotten it. We guardedly have to traverse a treacherous academic quagmire to reach safety on the other side. It is difficult some of the time not to take some risk-taking, but we must never "assume" anything. That creates more problems than it solves.

Some years ago I persuaded our erstwhile editor to run in *Newsboy* the sequence of the **American Union** sketches by Alger. I had unearthed a total of nine examples: one by Alger and eight by "Carl Cantab" (a favored personal pseudonym it would appear) covering the period May 21, 1853 to July 1, 1854, a span of little more than 13 months.

They ultimately did run as a series with the exception of two that remained missing. One of them, "The Misses Skaggs" sketch, has subsequently been discovered and found its way into *Newsboy*. I hope someday the final title, "Who Rung The Bell?" which ran in the December 10, 1853 issue, will be located. Keener eyes than mine are on the hunt for it, including: Didi Johnson and James Keeline, who have proven invaluable colleagues. But I, too, am always eagerly ferreting out sympathetic Alger sightings, besides, of course, the massive output of Oliver Optic, not to mention Paul Creyton and Louisa May Alcott as well. Among the three of us I hope someday to close the

(Continued on Page 14)

Horatio Alger, Jr. and **The Yankee Blade**

(Continued from Page 13)

circle of Alger's **American Union** sketches.

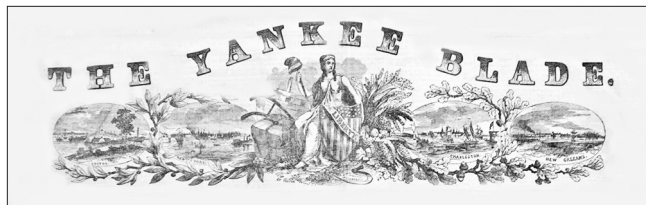
Incidentally I am not sure whether you enjoyed the run of them or not, but I certainly did and am glad editor Bill Gowen took a chance with them. I certainly felt, and still feel, that in the true spirit of Alger scholarship, these early sketches deserve an airing. Why can't they eventually be reprinted in a collection?

Which brings me now to **The Yankee Blade**. Almost a year ago it was our editor, who, in turn, importuned me to labor over a similar project, this time the **Yankee Blade** material, based on original research by Gary Scharnhorst in the early 1980s. I was unfamiliar with **The Yankee Blade**, because Oliver Optic did not actively contribute to it, and so it was something of uncharted territory for me, an unplowed field. It is my understanding, based on the material presented to me by Bill Gowen (see **Newsboy** for example, October-November 1982) that there exist a total of 14 identifiable items covering September 24, 1853 to March 10, 1855, apparently once again all under the "Carl Cantab" pseudonym.

There may be more examples yet to discover, because the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., where Gary Scharnhorst's **Yankee Blade** research was done, was lacking quite a few issues in its archives during that period. Well, of course, I can see it coming: I will just have to crack the whip on myself and add this **Blade** material to my list of research projects during my periodic visits to Worcester, where the A.A.S. may have added additional **Yankee Blade** issues during the intervening three-plus decades. If at some point I can even find one unknown Alger tale, I will be amply repaid.

We will run these stories in chronological order in selected issues of **Newsboy**, beginning with "Selling an Antiquary," herein appended. Occasionally, I may have to grab some key plot points so the reader is advised of a "spoiler alert." I would recommend reading the story first and then the attached notes. I want to express my appreciation to former **Newsboy** editor Jack Bales, who has kindly offered his time to re-type these stories from the original (often faded) photocopies of A.A.S. holdings obtained by Gary Scharnhorst in 1982.

This Alger material is akin to the **American Union** and **True Flag** sketches with which many of you are familiar. I will leave it up to you individually to decide upon the merits of each story as it is unfolded before our eyes.



'Selling an Antiquary'

Introduction

This initial **Yankee Blade** sketch, reproduced at right, was first published on September 24, 1853, under the common heading "Amusing Sketches." Many such were indeed of this jocular variety, but personally, I found very little of this story "amusing." It was an enjoyable read to be sure but darker in my estimation than what I was led to expect.

Jack Herries finds himself stranded in a small town on the Ohio River with only one dollar to his name. He decides that spot cash is easier to acquire by dunning a local antiquary (i.e. an antique collector, perhaps after the word "reliquary," meaning a repository for such *objects d'art*) rather than earning it by legal means. He palms off worthless junk as collectables, thereby victimizing an innocent pawn in this shady transaction. Maybe contemporary readers chuckled over such a heartless prospect (would Alger, we wonder?) but I found Herries' actions reprehensible and inhuman, and my sympathies were entirely with the old man.

Oliver Optic, Paul Creyton and Sylvanus Cobb also wrote these briefest of stories, sketches really, of little more than one column in length. They were merely anecdotes, topical incidents with very little in the way of plot evolution to recommend them. William T. Adams ("Oliver Optic") got paid by the column, as did Kirk Munroe years later. It was more than likely an ingrained business policy of these literary weeklies.

If taking advantage of another individual's innocent passion is "amusing," then I guess this title fits the bill. "Selling an Antiquary" begins pleasantly enough but soon becomes a bit disturbing. The subtitle, "A new way to raise the wind," can be interpreted as taking unfair advantage of a credulous individual. Mr. Parchment is something of a fool, we must admit (after all "a fool and his money are soon parted") yet our manipulator is not portrayed in a very favorable light ... as is our narrator as well, who at the conclusion looks upon his friend Jack "with a species of admiration."

Lot's wife indeed!

Peter C. Walther
18 November 2016

Amusing Sketches.

[Written for the Yankee Blade.]

SELLING AN ANTIQUARY.

A NEW WAY TO RAISE THE WIND.

—
BY CARL CANTAB
—

My friend, Jack Herries, was one of those restless spirits of whose whereabouts you can never be entirely certain. If you see him in Boston to-day, ten to one he will be in New York to-morrow, and in less than a month may be perambulating the streets of the Crescent city.

There is an old proverb, "A rolling stone gathers no moss." However that may be, it is certain that Jack had stored away a large fund of amusing stories with which he would enliven you if you could only keep him long enough.

We were seated one evening in my room, lazily inhaling the fragrance of some choice Havanas, when Jack inquired,

"Harry, did I ever tell you how I raised the wind on one occasion by 'selling' an old gentleman in the antiquary line?"

"Never," said I; "let me hear it."

"It so happened," commenced Jack, "no matter how or why, that I found myself about a year ago in a small town on the Ohio river, with but a single dollar in my possession. Very awkward of course. I came to the conclusion that I must raise the wind somehow, but how I could not in the least imagine. As to working, Harry, you will bear me witness that it is not a weakness of mine. I felt myself in a tight place decidedly, and this feeling was in no way weakened by the knowledge that the landlady would bring in the next morning the bill for a week's board.

"Luckily just at this time I heard of a very zealous antiquary living at a distance of some five miles, who, being wealthy and a bachelor, spent no inconsiderable portion of his income on objects of curiosity.

"I at once determined to take advantage of this gentleman's antiquarian zeal I will own that I had some few qualms of conscience about imposing upon the old gentleman, but the fact was I didn't know of any other way of procuring money, and money I must have. There was no doubt about that.

"Having made some preparations which will appear in the sequel, I set off for Mr. Parchment's house. I had, I may remark, arrayed myself in a pair of green goggles, which, I believe, gave a sufficiently cadaverous and antiquarian expression to disarm all suspicion.

"I have understood, Mr. Parchment," said I, "that you are in the habit of collecting curiosities?"

"Quite right, sir. I believe I have got together some few," said he, gazing with an air of pride at the nondescript medley which surrounded him.

"I have in my possession," I proceeded, "two or three of great value, which I had hoped to retain, but poverty places it out of my power. Sir, you are a distinguished antiquarian," (the old man's smile of gratified pride convinced me that my flattering had reached the right spot,) "and can understand my feelings when I assure you that nothing but the sternest necessity would induce me to part with these invaluable relics."

"Pray show them to me at once," said the old man eagerly. "Sir, I appreciate your regret, but be assured that though lost to you they will not be lost to science. I will take care of that."

"If I were not convinced of that I would not sell them at any price. But not to delay. I have been a traveller in many lands, and a pilgrim to many climes. I have wandered along the banks of the Euphrates, and dipped my feet in the fertilizing current of the Nile. I have gazed upon ruined cities, and dilapidated fanes with a feeling which — which — in short, which only an antiquary can experience. Here, sir, in a small compass," said I, unrolling a paper and displaying a piece of salt about the size of an egg, "you see a curiosity of the very highest order. This is a portion of the famous statue of salt into which Lot's wife was turned."

"Is it possible?" said the antiquary, taking the salt into his hands, and gazing on it with deep veneration. "Are you quite sure of it?"

"Sir, I have no doubt. This piece is a portion of the wrist. I myself broke it off. The hand was already gone."

"What do you ask for it?" asked Mr. Parchment somewhat anxiously.

"If I were not in need of money," I returned, "nothing would purchase it. As it is, you have it for fifty dollars."

"The antiquary paused a moment, but as he wisely reflected, such an opportunity might not return again.

"I will take it," said he shortly. "What more have you?"

"You see this walking stick," said I, holding up a rough stick which I had cut in a Connecticut forest not long before.

"Well, to look at it, you would not be inclined to set much value upon it, yet, sir, you will judge differently when I tell you that it was cut from the famous *banian* tree, and that it grew on the banks of the Nile. You may observe these hieroglyphics which were traced upon it by a native Egyptian to whom I had done a favor."

("The hieroglyphics, as I called them, I had myself cut before starting that same morning.)

"Wonderful!" said the old gentleman, taking the cane, and examining it. "How closely it resembles the wood of an oak as found in our own forests?"

"Very true," said I gravely; "the resemblance is indeed striking. You can judge of the cane, and whether ten dollars is too high a price."

"On the contrary, I find it quite reasonable, and will willingly pay it."

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SELLING AN ANTIQUARY

(Continued from Page 15)

“‘The next curiosity,’ said I, exhibiting a snuff-box, ‘was a present to me from the Bashaw of Tripoli. I chanced to save a child of that monarch from being run over in the street, and the monarch with royal generosity presented me with this. It is not, I confess, a very handsome one, but considering the associations connected with it, I do violence to my own feelings’ (here I endeavored to look pathetic) ‘when I offer it for twenty-five dollars.’

“‘Tripoli,’ murmured the gentleman. ‘A snuff-box once in the possession of the Bashaw of Tripoli. I really must have it. Sir, I will take it at your price.’

“‘Sir,’ I resumed, ‘I shall show you but one more curiosity, and that perhaps as remarkable as any.’

“Here I exhibited a pair of very dilapidated white kids, which had done me considerable service.

“‘While travelling in Scotland some five years since I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of an old lady, who, to my surprise and delight, I found was a direct descendant of a female attendant on Mary, Queen of Scots during her confinement in the castle of Lady Douglas. In a moment of condescension she presented the maid with this pair of gloves, a pair she had herself worn. You perceive they bear the marks of age. Well, sir, this pair of gloves has been handed down as an heir-loom, not to be parted with on any consideration.’

“‘How did you obtain them?’ inquired Mr. Parchment.

“I was a little staggered at this inquiry, but mustering my forces promptly replied,

“‘The fact is, the old lady died, and I was appointed her executor. She had outlived all her family, and her property went to a stranger. He was not aware of the peculiar value of these gloves, and gave them to me with no little wonder at my wanting them at all. You shall have them — the last article in my collection — for fifteen dollars.’

“‘Agreed!’ said the antiquary joyfully, for he had anticipated a higher price.

“He paid me the sums I have mentioned, amounting in all to one hundred dollars, and very hospitably entreated me to stop to dinner. But business prevented. I thought it best to get out of that region of country as soon as possible, though I don’t think even now the credulous old antiquary has found out the cheat I put upon him. I should not wonder if he was poring this very moment over the fragment of Lot’s wife which I bought in an Ohio grocery store for six and a quarter cents. — Well, I’m satisfied if he is, as I made a cool hundred by the operation.”

When Jack had concluded, I looked at him with a species of admiration. “‘Surely,’ thought I, ‘Jack, thou art the prince of imposters, and the Emperor of charlatans!’”

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|---|--|
| 19. <i>The Life Boat.</i> Ballantyne. | 26. <i>Lost on Volcano Island.</i> Marline. |
| 20. <i>The Cave in the Mountains.</i> Jayne. | 27. <i>The Luck of a Castaway.</i> Marline. |
| 21. <i>Through Apache Land.</i> Jayne. | 28. <i>A Schoolboy's Pluck.</i> Rockwood. |
| 22. <i>Two: A Story of English School-Boy Life.</i> Pain. | 29. <i>The Wizard of the Sea.</i> Rockwood. |
| 23. <i>Wild Kitty.</i> Meade. | 30. <i>Bound to Rise.</i> Chapman. |
| 24. <i>The Land of Fire.</i> Charles. | 31. <i>Malcolm the Waterboy.</i> Henty. |
| 25. <i>Fortune Hunters of the Philippines.</i> Charles. | 32. <i>Away in the Wilderness.</i> Ballantyne. |
| | 33. <i>Chasing the Sun.</i> Ballantyne. |
| | 34. <i>Fast in the Ice.</i> Ballantyne. |
| | 35. <i>Fighting the Whales.</i> Ballantyne. |

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

between 1911 and 1917. The five volumes in the series are very well written and worth seeking out. This article is one in an ongoing series I have written about authors other than Horatio Alger; some have been quite lengthy and others short, such as this one. That is likely in this case because Weir died in 1934 at 49, an age when most authors are just hitting their stride.

James Keeline has just sent me this image of an advertisement for books published by William Mershon. The list of 35 titles shows numerous books by foreign-born authors. Of interest to Edward Stratemeyer collectors are the eight books in this group which he either wrote or controlled the rights. Those first hard-cover editions (shown above) are the two books by “Louis Charles,” two by “Mark Marline,” two by “Roy Rockwood” and one apiece by “Allen Chapman” and “D.T. Henty,” the latter the scarce *Malcolm the Waterboy*.

Those books are detailed in John T. Dizer’s article, “Eight Mysterious Mershons or, The Boys’ Own Series,” in *Dime Novel Round-Up*, (Vol. 72, No. 5, October 2003) and republished as Chapter 9 in Dizer’s book *American Children’s Literature, 1890-1940; Heroic Tales That Shaped Our Lives* (2005, Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press).

Keeline notes that this 1900 **Boys’ Own Series** cover format (boy reading in front of a window, familiar to Stratemeyer collectors) is promoted here as part of a publisher’s series called the **Wide-Awake Library**. Some of these titles apparently were part of Mershon taking over certain book plates as part of a receivership deal with fellow publisher Cassell.

Hugh C. Weir's *Great American Industries Series*

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Those who read these pages likely are familiar with the series of articles I have written over the past two decades describing the life and work of authors of books for young people *not* named Horatio Alger, Jr. Some of those articles have been lengthy and others covered just a few pages.

The latter is the case when an author is less well known and his/her literary output of books for young people is limited. Recent examples include articles covering the work of Egerton Ryerson Young (1840-1909) and Sara Ware Bassett. (1872-1968), authors of the **Three**

Boys Series and **The Invention Series**, respectively.

This time we will discuss Hugh C. Weir, author of a single series, the **Great American Industries Series**, published by W.A. Wilde between 1911 and 1917.

Biographical information about Weir is not as documented

as that of most of the authors I have written about, but what little we know is fascinating.

Hugh Cosgro Weir was born on May 1, 1884, in the small Illinois town of Vergennes, and he died on March 16, 1934, in New York City, six weeks shy of his 50th birthday. Like so many authors of series books, he got his start as a newspaper reporter, taking his first job at age 16 with the **Springfield (Ohio) Sun**, later joining the **Dayton Herald** and the **Erie (Pa.) Times**.

Weir moved to Hollywood where he wrote a reported 300 scenarios for the nascent silent film industry, starting with the fledgling Universal-International Pictures at the invitation of studio head Carl Laemmle. In a letter written at age 20 to Laemmle, Weir wrote:

"As you read this you will note the name of one man in America whom you need to write scenarios for you. I



The Young Shipper of the Great Lakes, frontispiece

would very much like to come to Hollywood and tell you more in detail about my abundant qualifications."

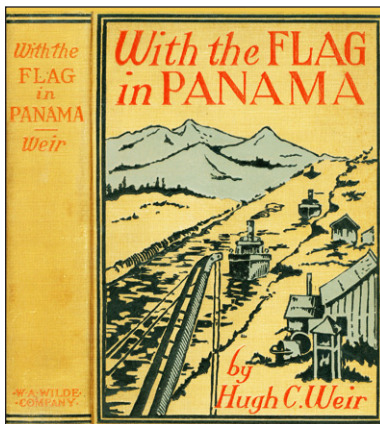
Weir's scenarios (and the silent films themselves) are mostly lost today, although the following titles have emerged from the dust of history: "The Riddle of the Green Umbrella" (1914), "Graft" (1915), "The Wolf of Debt" (1915) and "Dolly's Scoop" (1916).

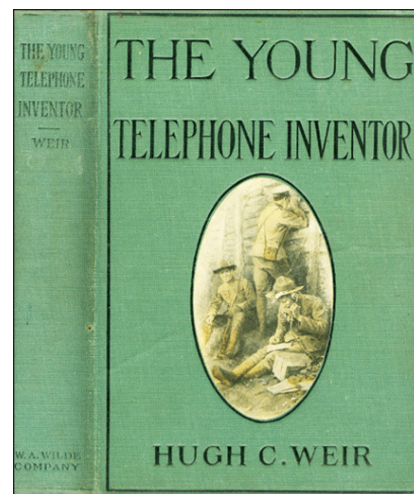
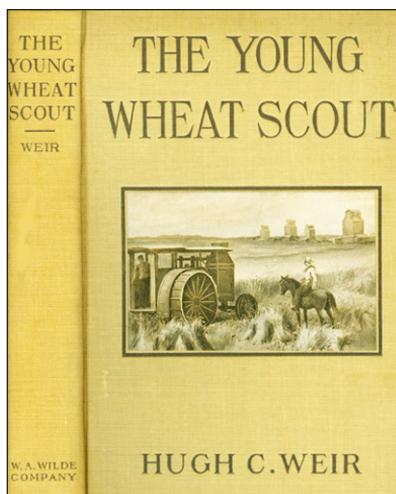
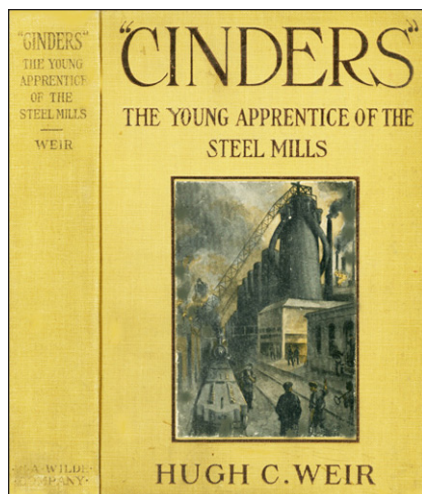
Weir later moved to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where in 1927 he met future business partner Catherine McNelis, who had built a reputation as "one of the keenest advertising writers in the profession," according to the **Wilkes-Barre Record**. They soon formed the McNelis-Weir Advertising Agency, which soon gained national attention by becoming the lead ad agency for the rapidly growing F.W. Woolworth Company.

The Great American Industries Series

Weir's book-writing career began in 1909 with the publication by G.P. Putnam's Sons of *The Conquest of the Isthmus*, a nonfiction account of the building of the Pa-

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Hugh C. Weir's *Great American Industries Series*

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nana Canal (sold today as a print-on-demand edition).

Two years later, he wrote a fictionalized account of the same events with W.A. Wilde's *With the Flag in Panama*. The boy hero of the book is Rod Standish, and he is joined in this adventure by a man named Shanton, modeled after the real-life Col. Shanton, chief of the police of Porto Rico. Weir credited Shanton by stating "most of the camp-fire yarns of my book were the true stories told me by Shanton in our wanderings through Panana." The real Shanton's heroic deeds included being one of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders colleagues, a U.S. Marshal, and hunting guide for Roosevelt.

With the Flag in Panana (the title page mistakenly lists the title as *With the Flag at Panana*) was such a success that the editors at Wilde suggested Weir make it the start of a series, and the other four books followed.

In *The Young Shipper of the Great Lakes*, Weir tells the story of commerce on the largest inland waterway system in the U.S., seen partly through the eyes of fictional character "Billy" Burnside, a construction superintendent with the Great Lakes United Shipping Company.

"*Cinders*," *The Young Apprentice of the Steel Mills*, covers the career of Eric Raymond, working in the steel town of Benton, Illinois. The leading characters are drawn from real life, with John Radcliff, young superintendent of the American Steel Co., the model for the book's title hero.

The Young Wheat Scout takes us to the Great Midwest, where the author draws upon the cooperation of the International Harvester Company to build his story of the vital contribution the wheat industry made to the

Great American Industries Series

1. *With the Flag in Panama: A Story of the Building of the Panama Canal* — Illustrated by W. F. Stecher. 1911, W.C. Wilde Co.

2. *The Young Shipper of the Great Lakes: A Story of Commerce of the Great Lakes* — Illustrated by John Goss. 1912, W.C. Wilde Co.

3. "*Cinders*," *The Young Apprentice of the Steel Mills* — Illustrated by Frank T. Merrill. 1914, W.C. Wilde Co.

4. *The Young Wheat Scout: Being the Story of the Growth, Harvesting, and Distribution of the Great Wheat Crop of the United States* — illustrated by Frank Merrill. 1915, W.C. Wilde Co.

5. *The Young Telephone Inventor; or, Winning with the Wire* — illustrated by Frank T. Merrill. 1917, W.C. Wilde Co.

American economy in the early 20th century. The lead character's name is Billy Paxton, the "general trouble scout" of the fictional Consolidated Grain Company.

The final volume of the series, *The Young Telephone Inventor*, covers the emerging communications industry, with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company providing Weir with the factual background for the story. This time, the boy hero of the book is one Horace Bromley, an Ohio native who heads to New York City to make his fortune, and once there, encounters numerous obstacles (both natural and man-made) before ultimately triumphing by developing a telephone network covering thousands of miles.

These books are worth seeking out and reading, for although they describe an era long past, Hugh C. Weir's resourceful young heroes would be proud contributors to today's high-tech industrial world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

I was searching for digitized volumes of *Publishers' Tradelist Annual* (PTLA) on HathiTrust.com. As you know, these are bound publisher catalogs and they have interesting information and author and book cover photos that are sometimes available nowhere else.

The L.C. Page Company catalog for 1917 talked about James Otis' "Stories of Newsboy Life." They are reprints



from old stories originally published by Estes & Lauriat, etc. Recalling how Alger readers like to read similar kinds of stories from other authors, I thought you might want to look at these for a future article. Reproduced below are promotional blurbs from the ad page mentioned (which also includes this cover illustration). Some of these stories are

available on sources like Google Books, Archive.org, and Project Gutenberg as electronic texts.

Mr. Otis' many years' experience as a newspaper man in Boston and New York has given him a remarkable insight into the lives and characters of the street waifs of whom he writes. It is safe to say that no person living today could write more intelligently and interestingly of these most interesting little people. The stories are fresh, clean, and wholesome, and cannot fail to be eagerly read by all children.

Jenny Wren's Boarding-house: A Story of Newsboy Life in New York (Estes & Lauriat, 1893). 173 pages. WorldCat — Serialized in *St. Nicholas*, Feb. 1887-Aug. 1887.

"Distinctively a story of newsboy in New York, and Mr. Otis very quickly finds his way to the sensitive and loving heart that beats under the ragged and torn coat of the little boy who is untiring in his efforts to sell his papers and thereby earn a mere pittance to sustain life. His newsboys are real and very wide-awake." — **Boston Herald.**

Teddy and Carrots: Two Merchants of Newspaper Row (Estes & Lauriat, 1896). 225 pages. WorldCat. Archive. Gutenberg — Serialized in *St. Nicholas Magazine*, May 1895-April 1896.

His newsboys are real and wide-awake, and his story abounds with many exciting scenes and graphic incidents.

"The work is interesting to the highest degree, captivating the reader at the beginning of the work,

and holding his interest until the very last page has been reached. The most striking characteristic of the work and the one which makes it the most valuable in its simplicity." — **Chillicothe Gazette.**

The Boys' Revolt: A Story of the Street Arabs of New York (Estes & Lauriat, 1894). 193 pages. WorldCat. Archive.

"This is the story of a strike of bootblack boys in the city of New York and it contains stirring scenes and incidents." — **The Christian Register.**

Jerry's Family: A Story of a Street Waif of New York (Estes & Lauriat, 1895). 195 pages. WorldCat. Archive.

It is written in the author's best vein, the scene being one in which he has won many brilliant successes; i.e., picturing life among the street arabs of New York.

"The book is delightfully written, and contains lots of exciting incidents." — **Portland Press.**

The Princess and Joe Potter (Estes & Lauriat, 1898). 249 pages. WorldCat. Archive. Gutenberg.

An excellent story of newsboy life in New York City, in the delineation of which the author is best known.

"The secret of the author's success lies in his wonderful sympathy with the aspirations of child-life, his truthful delineation of life among the children who act as his object lessons." — **New York Sun.**

Larry Hudson's Ambition (L.C. Page, 1901). 261 pages. WorldCat.

Larry is a bootblack born to shine in other spheres; for he is not only capable of holding his own and coming out with flying colors in the amusing adventures wherein he befriends the family of good Deacon Doak; he also has the signal ability to know what he wants and to understand that hard work is necessary to win. Larry Hudson's ambition and its realization cannot fail to interest other aspiring youngsters.

"The book is written with brisk and deft cleverness." — **New York Sun.**

Someone who is familiar with Alger's treatment of the topic should look at this. Perhaps John Kaler (grandson of James Otis Kaler) could do it, but I think he's more associated with Otis research than that of Alger.

Sincerely,
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Nov. 20, 2016

Dear Bill,

As a lifelong Chicago Cubs baseball fan (and researcher/writer about the Cubs), I am pleased to say that I and others will no longer have to “wait till next year.” The late Cubs broadcaster Jack Brickhouse often sighed that “any team can have a bad century.” It was too bad that he was not around in the early morning of November 3, when the Cubs finally ended their 108-year championship drought by beating the Cleveland Indians and clinching the 2016 World Series.

The Cubs, though, didn’t make it easy — not for them nor for millions of their anxious fans. I was off in the Shenandoah Mountains with my daughter on the week-end of October 29-30 (we had reservations to tour Herbert Hoover’s famed Camp Rapidan — sort of the predecessor to the modern-day Camp David). The Cubs lost Game 4 of the Series that Saturday, and on the way home on Sunday I called a friend and lamented, “They’re down, 3 games to 1. There’s no way they can come back and win three in a row, especially with the last two being away games in Cleveland.” My friend didn’t improve my frame of mind, telling me only five teams had ever come back from 3-1 deficits to win the best-of-seven Series.

But the Cubs pulled through — in dramatic fashion, I might add. I thought they had Game 7 wrapped up early on with a 5-1 lead, but in seemingly Cub-like fashion, the Indians rallied and tied it in the eighth inning, 6-6. When the game went into extra innings I turned the sound off of my television, put my hands over my face, and just peered at the screen through my fingers. The rain delay made things worse. I said over and over again out loud, “I don’t care what happens next year, or the year after that, or the year after that. Just let them win this game.”

Anyway, the rest, as they say, is history. The Cubs scored twice in the top of the 10th inning. I live in a condominium, and I was afraid my yelling was going to wake my neighbor, but it turns out she was watching the game, and *she* was screaming, too. In the bottom of the 10th inning the Indians came back to score a run, but the Cubs held on for the 8-7 win in one of the most thrilling games in World Series history.

My work day begins at 8 a.m., but I stayed up for at least another hour, watching all the post-game celebrations. I read somewhere that the crowd at Cleveland’s Progressive Field was about half Cubs fans. I can believe it, for the cheering was *way* louder than normal for a game not played at home (by this time I had turned the sound up on my television).

I went to work at my usual time, clad in a Chicago Cubs jersey and cap, and found out that my colleagues had decked out my work area with white Cubs “W” signs (the “Win” flag is flown at Wrigley Field after



Jack Bales in his office at the University of Mary Washington the morning after the Chicago Cubs won their first World Series title in 108 years.

every Cubs victory). I have to admit that I didn’t get much work done that day. I received dozens of emails and text messages just in the morning alone, and friends and colleagues dropped by all day long.

“Tumble, Oh cubs — to-morrow belongs to you,” Carl Sandburg wrote in the poem “For You,” published in his book *Smoke and Steel* in 1920. Although Sandburg wasn’t referring to the baseball Cubs, the team certainly has fallen and tumbled a bit since 1908, the year of its last World Series title (Theodore Roosevelt then occupied the White House). But “to-morrow” finally belonged to the Cubs in 2016, a point hitting home for me when I saw the front page of **The Chicago Tribune** on November 3. The bold headline, emblazoned beneath a photograph of raucous, celebrating players, said it all: “At last!”

Sincerely,
 Jack Bales (PF-258)
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 Fredericksburg, VA 22401
 Email: jbales@umw.edu

P.S.: My article, “The Show Girl and the Shortstop: The Strange Saga of Violet Popovich and Her Shooting of Cub Billy Jurgens,” was recently published in the fall 2016 issue of the **Baseball Research Journal**. I spoke about Popovich and the shooting while attending the March Spring Training Conference of **NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture**, in Tempe, Arizona.

During the last few years I’ve written other Cubs articles, including the first detailed study of Cubs President William Louis Veeck (father of flamboyant baseball executive Bill Veeck). I am now back to working on my early history of the team, tentatively titled *Before They Were the Cubs: A Documentary History of the Chicago White Stockings, 1868-1902* (to be published by McFarland & Company).