



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.

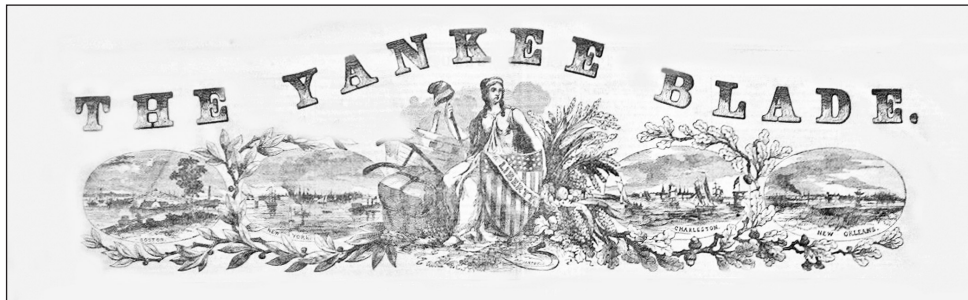
VOLUME LIV

JULY-AUGUST 2017

NUMBER 4

NIU's Thomas heading to University of Illinois

-- See Page 3



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

Second in a series: *An Elopement in High Life*

-- See Page 3

Our editor's reflections on Partic'lar Friend Jack Dizer

-- See Page 4

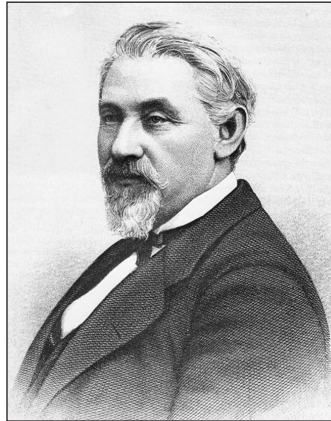
More convention photos!

-- Pages 12-14

President's column

Horatio Alger tutored children of some well-off New York families in the 1870s and 1880s. As with many of the various directions his life took, Alger's career as an educator seems to have been a limited success, although "[h]e fitted a great many young men for college — his partiality being for classical studies." Although he ostensibly came to New York to focus on his writing and develop contacts with publishers, Carol Nackenoff, in *The Fictional Republic* (1994) at p. 21, observes, "He supplemented his income by tutoring wealthy children such as the Seligmans and Cardozos." The experience appears to have had its ups and downs.

He lived with the family of banker Joseph Seligman in New York City for several years while tutoring Seligman's five sons. According to the sources reviewed by Gary Scharnhorst in *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (1985), Alger was able



Joseph Seligman

to produce sufficiently positive results that he was kept on by the Seligmans for several years. Nevertheless, the boys apparently treated him to some degree as a figure of fun, taking advantage of his short stature to toss him about.

On the positive side, Alger used his time with both families, especially during their summer sojourns in Long Branch, N.J., then an upscale vacation place, to mix with the rich and famous. Ralph Gardner, in *Horatio Alger, or the American Hero Era* (1964), refers to Alger's encounters there with such notables as former President Ulysses S. Grant and Philadelphia **Public Ledger** publisher George W. Childs, although he gives no source for the stories.

Alger's hiring by Justice Benjamin Cardozo's father to prepare the then-13-year-old boy for entrance examinations to Columbia College occurred after Joseph Seligman referred him to the future Supreme Court justice's father, Judge Albert Cardozo (who had quit the New York state bench in scandal). He was also retained to

(Continued on Page 8)

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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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

A new challenge

NIU's Lynne Thomas named head of Rare Book & Manuscript Library at University of Illinois

Lynne M. Thomas, the curator of rare books and special collections at Northern Illinois University, has been named head of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She will also assume the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Rare Book & Manuscript Library Professorship.

Thomas, who will begin her new appointment September 1, is a four-time Hugo Award winner, and has served in her current position at NIU since 2004, and as head of distinctive collections there since 2014.

"It is a delight and an honor to be returning to the University of Illinois as the head of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library," Thomas said in a statement released by the U of I in late July announcing her appointment. "Just about 20 years ago, I began my first day there as a graduate assistant. These collections, and the people who care for them, shaped the librarian I have become today. I'm thrilled to be coming back to my alma mater to continue the tradition of excellent stewardship of this library's renowned collections."

This is the end of an era for those of us in the Horatio Alger Society, who've become close friends with Lynne Thomas and her NIU colleagues over the years in their management of the Society's Horatio Alger, Jr. repository. This special collection was created in 1994 under the leadership of then Dean of Libraries Arthur P. Young and rare books and special collections curator Samuel T. Huang. Young is now living in retirement

(Continued on Page 6)



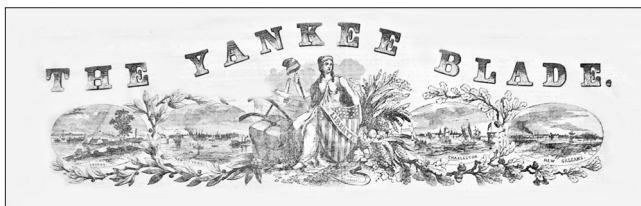
Lynne M. Thomas

Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

(Second in a series)

"An Elopement in High Life," published on Nov. 20, 1853 as the second of Horatio Alger's known contributions to **The Yankee Blade**, appeared some two months after "Selling an Antiquary," which we presented in the November-December 2016 **Newsboy**. Although it, too, was an "Amusing Sketch," it was not so designated. The theme of Person A elaborating on the credulity of Person B appeared to be a constant in these humorous columns.

The trick in this instance does not seem quite as disturbing to my mind as the former, yet our unfortunate protagonist is nevertheless made miserable by story's end. Being jilted (or tricked here) at the altar is a common enough theme in literature. Indeed, I am listening to a Viennese operetta just now in which that is a significant item upon which the story hinges. One has only to recall poor Lady Edith Crawley in a recent segment of



"Downton Abbey," to see it played out in a more recent framework.

I think Alger's designate "High Life" is something of a joke in and of itself. Perhaps Kate Marvin moves within

the milieu of high-toned society, but certainly none of the other characters do. If Alger's coded theme here is that there is no moral distinction between high and low brows, and that ethical behavior can be marginalized in any strata of society, then the actions of Kate become comprehensible and the idea that she is passing merely an innocent flirtation makes perfect sense.

I think it interesting that the author refers to himself in this sketch as both "Carl" and "Mr. Cantab." It almost makes it seem more personal for us the reader. I wonder if Carl's friend Charlie Freeman was based on a personal acquaintance. Those of us who are familiar with Alger's biography know that some 10 years later

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's notebook

Reflections on a special friend

The founding of the Horatio Alger Society came about because two collectors, Forrest Campbell of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Kenneth Butler of Mendota, Illinois, in 1961 discovered each had an interest in Alger and had on their own built collections of his books. This friendship grew, a year later Campbell started the newsletter that became **Newsboy**, other collectors came on board and annual conventions began in the spring of 1965 when Butler hosted "The Mendota Affair."

But there's a reason why I'm telling a story most Partic'lar Friends know well. Our hobby was built on friendships among collectors, going way back to 1931 when **Dime Novel Round-Up** was founded by Ralph Cummings, with the editorship passed to Eddie LeBlanc in 1952, to Randy Cox in 1994, with Marlena Bremseth assuming the editor's chair in 2012.

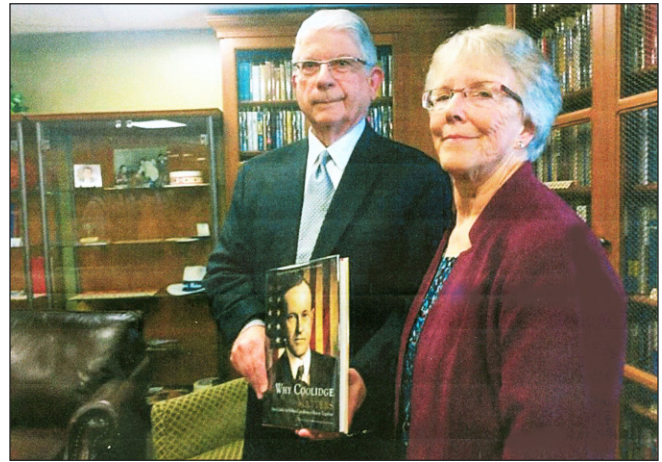
But I knew nothing of this when I started collecting Tom Swift books in the mid-1950s. Two of my school friends also read Tom Swifts and the three of us built nice collections, but that was as far as it got. We just enjoyed reading them and didn't think of them as collectibles.

Attending college, my Tom Swifts were forgotten, until late my senior year at Syracuse I decided to drive home for the weekend by using State Route 5 instead of the New York Thruway and discovered a nice storefront used-book store in the tiny town of Fonda. I found three nice Tom Swifts in dust jackets, bought them, and asked the shop's owner if he could find more. He soon sent me a postal card, saying yes, he had, so the following week I stopped by and found literally a wall of Tom Swifts, more than two dozen in dust jackets. I spent around \$40 (that was \$1.25 a book) and my mother was appalled at such extravagance. A few years earlier, my father had found a boxful for about 40 cents apiece.

Anyway, that burst of collecting interest was again placed on the back shelf because in the fall of 1967 I entered the Navy. Believe me, there are no Tom Swift books in Da Nang, Vietnam!

But the final two years of my service were spent at Great Lakes, Illinois, near Chicago. In 1971 I saw an ad in the paper for the Lake County Chaplaincy Service book sale at a shopping mall in nearby Waukegan, and that's where I learned the No. 1 rule of book collecting

(Continued on Page 15)



Arthur and Patricia Young during the June 9 dedication ceremony for his U.S. presidency book collection, donated to the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. Associated Press Photo

Young's U.S. presidency collection finds new home

A wide-ranging book and ephemera collection on the United States presidency has been doanated by former Horatio Alger Society President Arthur P. Young, Ph.D., to the New Hampshire Political Library at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics (NHIOP) on the campus of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

A dedication ceremony for the 2,724-book collection and related documents was held June 9 in the library's reading room, recently renovated with custom bookcases to accommodate the collection, titled "The Presidency Unfurled: Context, Landmarks, Legacy."

"This special collection adds a crown jewel to New Hampshire Institute of Politics," said NHIOP executive director Neil Levesque. "The Institute at Saint Anselm College is already known world-wide as a political focal point for our state's first-in-the nation primary. Dr. Young's collection provides valuable research opportunities and reinforces the value of the NHIOP to the many presidential candidates who regularly visit our campus, as well as scholars, journalists and the public. We are honored to be the caretakers of this comprehensive and important resource."

The dedication ceremony was attended by college president Steven R. DiSalvo, Ph.D., college trustees, executive director Levesque and his staff, along with Patricia and Arthur Young. "I grew up in a home with thousands of books and have spent my professional life

(Continued on Page 11)

Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

(Continued from Page 3)

one Solomon Freeman would rear his ugly head at Brewster; just a coincidence I have no doubt, but it can be remarked upon.

We spend a pleasant enough few minutes with this elopement sketch and wonder if such deceit really agitated the risibles of an 1853 audience. Perhaps. I expect this is what **The Yankee Blade** required from Alger and to which he heartily responded. The Oliver Optic sketches, for example, played more off of the foibles and shortcomings of human character, albeit in a similarly light hearted fashion. And there were so many more authors from which to choose, authors who wrote yards of columns for the Boston weeklies. I guess it was *multum in parvo* in those days: “parvo” in this case referring to a quantitative assessment, the very slightest of length. How lucky readers were in former times that the popular press could feed so many individuals on so many levels ... and so consistently.

— Peter C. Walther (PF-548)
18 May 2017

[Written for the Yankee Blade.]

AN ELOPEMENT IN HIGH LIFE.

A REMINISCENCE.

BY CARL CANTAB

Were you ever in love, friendly reader? If you have attained the mature age of twenty, I am very sure you will answer in the affirmative. — First love — it is an experience we must all pass through. There is my aunt — a prime, precise old maid, and yet she once half confessed to me that she had been in love.

When I was eighteen, and but just emerged from the school-room into the counting-room, I felt a touch of the tender passion. At once I cast aside boyish things, and felt myself infinitely above those who but a three-months since had been my companions.

“Carl,” one day said my friend Charlie Freeman, who had a year the advantage of me in age and mercantile experience, “Carl, you will never be a man till you have learned two things.”

“Indeed,” said I, “let me know what they are.”

“It is absolutely necessary,” he resumed, “that you should

learn to smoke cigars, and fall in love.”

“Fall in love,” said I, “but how is that to be done?”

“O, you will learn fast enough,” said he carelessly. “It’s the easiest thing in the world. Why, I’ve been in love four times myself.”

“You have?” echoed I, in profound astonishment not unmixed with deference for one whose experience had been so extensive and varied.

“To be sure, and so can you.”

I had a great deal of confidence in my friend Charlie’s knowledge of the world, and endeavored to follow his advice.

“Soon after, I became acquainted with a young lady, Kate Marvin, the daughter of a retired merchant, to whom I lost my heart, not because I thought I must fall in love with somebody, but because I really loved her, or thought I did, which sometimes amounts to the same thing.

Kate was an arch, fun-loving damsel, very pretty and lively withal, and quite well calculated to take the hearts of the beaux by storm.

She was not very long in discovering my love, and from some whim, or because she thought it would afford her some amusement, she added fresh fuel to the flame by treating me very graciously.

When we met at parties and social entertainments, she would set me half mad with delight, and my rivals with jealousy, by accepting my hand for the dance, and coolly excusing herself to other suitors for the same honor, by saying —

“Thank you, sir, I should be happy to accept your invitation, but am engaged to Mr. Cantab.”

I thought she was in love with me, and indeed her manner was such as to make such a supposition not altogether a piece of vanity on my part. One evening I called to see her. By good luck, I found her at home and alone.

“Kate — Miss Marvin,” I commenced, “you must have observed — you must have noticed lately my affection for you. I love you, I cannot tell you how dearly. Will you be mine?”

Kate cast down her eyes, and if I had not been intent on other things, I might have seen them twinkling with merriment.

“And if I did return your affection,” she said, hesitatingly, “to what purpose would it be? You are too young to marry, and my father would never consent.”

“Only say that you love me, and I will clear away all obstructions,” I exclaimed, fervently. “If I am old enough to love, I am old enough to marry. Fly with me, dear Kate; we will distance pursuit, and live happy in each other.”

“But how should we live?” asked Kate, demurely. “Have you enough to support us?”

“When we are fairly married,” said I, “we shall be forgiven and recalled. Your father could not live without you.”

“But if not — if he should not relent?”

“Then,” said I, theatrically, “these hands shall procure food

(Continued on Page 7)

Lynne M. Thomas

(Continued from Page 3)

in Manchester, New Hampshire, and Huang is curator of rare books and special collections at the University of Florida at Gainesville. Young and Huang also organized “Dash to DeKalb,” the Society’s 35th annual convention, hosted by the NIU Special Collections Department in 1999. Young, along with Thomas, hosted an encore convention, “Dash to DeKalb II,” in 2004.

Thomas and her current colleagues also served as hosts for “Dash to DeKalb III” in 2012.

The Horatio Alger collection at NIU has grown steadily under Thomas’ stewardship to become the largest and most comprehensive holding of Alger first editions and publishers’ reprint collections, along with letters, original artwork and related materials,

of any college or public library in the United States. An endowment has been created to support the collection and fund annual research fellowships.

“It is a bittersweet thing to be leaving the Alger Collection, because I’ve always felt like a bit of a boot-strapper myself, as a first-generation college student who became a rare books librarian,” Thomas said. “It’s been a pleasure to work with the Horatio Alger Society, and I’m certain that whomever follows me in this role will continue in the grand tradition of a close working relationship with the Society. We’ve built a wonderful collection, and a wonderful community, and I look forward to watching it continue to develop under my successor.

“The collections that I’ve built and stewarded will remain here, supported through an interim person taking over as curator (A ‘Curator to be Named Later,’ for baseball fans), with a national search to replace me in my role at NIU in the nearish future,” Thomas said. “I am confident that my successor(s) will be in a good position to keep stewarding these collections in an admirable manner. In the meantime, the rest of the RBSC staff — including Angie Schroeder and Annie Oelschlagel — remain to keep things running smoothly. I will be reachable through my other email address, lynnemthomas@gmail.com during the transition.”

In addition to managing the Horatio Alger collection, Thomas has been responsible for several other popular culture special collections, including the Albert Johannsen and Edward LeBlanc dime novel collections

and the literary papers of more than 75 science fiction and fantasy authors, along with the official archives of Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA). She co-authored *Special Collections 2.0* (2009), and co-edited *New Directions for Special Collections* (2016), both with Beth Whittaker of the University of Kansas, and is a founding member of the Digital POWRR project.

“Please rest assured that the team here in DeKalb will do everything they can to make this transition easy for everyone involved,” Thomas said. “I have been very, very happy at NIU, and I am incredibly proud of the work that I’ve accomplished here, alongside truly excellent colleagues. It has been a really good place to work, and to raise Caitlin. It has been an absolute pleasure

working with each and every one of you. Thank you for your contributions to NIU, and to the history of our shared field.”

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois is one of the

“It’s been a pleasure to work with the Horatio Alger Society, and I’m certain that whomever follows me in this role will continue in the grand tradition of a close working relationship with the Society.”

— *Lynne M. Thomas, NIU*

largest repositories for rare books and manuscripts in the United States. The collections — nearly half a million volumes and three kilometers of manuscript material — are strong in the broad areas of literature, history, art, theology, philosophy, technology, and the natural sciences. Thomas will be developing and leading projects involving rare books and special collections collaboratively within the campus community and beyond. She will work toward making the collections known, accessible, and used through print, exhibition, and digital means, and engage in and promote scholarship on materials in the collections. Her responsibilities will include establishing a continuing mission and strategic direction for a preeminent rare book and manuscript program and leading rich instructional and public outreach efforts.

Thomas is the co-editor-in-chief and publisher of **Uncanny Magazine** with her husband, Michael Damian Thomas. The former editor-in-chief of **Apex Magazine** (2011-2013), she co-edited the Hugo Award-winning *Chicks Dig Time Lords*, as well as *Whedonistas* and *Chicks Dig Comics*. She moderated the Hugo-Award-winning SF Squeecast and contributes to the Verity! Podcast.

In addition to a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature and French Literature from Smith College, Thomas holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and a Master of Arts in English and American Literature from Northern Illinois University.

— **Bill Gowen (PF-706)**

Horatio Alger, Jr. and The Yankee Blade

AN ELOPEMENT IN HIGH LIFE.

A REMINISCENCE.

(Continued from Page 5)

for the one that is dearest to me in the world."

Kate made no more objections, and we proceeded to make arrangements for the elopement. There was to be a masked ball the next week, at which we were both to be present. It was arranged that Kate should take the disguise of a gipsy girl, and I of a black domino, that we might distinguish each other. I was to have a carriage ready, and as we might meet and promenade without incurring the least suspicion, we might make our way out unobserved, and ride away to the border town of a neighboring State, where we could be united by any justice, without being forced to answer any troublesome questions.

I wonder that my conduct during the week that intervened did not create suspicion. I was so transported with excess of joy that I hardly knew what I was about. My inattention and blunders cost me many a severe reprimand which under other circumstances would have troubled me, but, in my present state of mind, they "passed by me like the idle wind which I regard not."

The evening arrived. I looked around the crowded rooms, and at the upper end espied the gipsy girl. How my heart beat! I forced my way towards her, and whispered,

"My darling Kate, everything is arranged. Let us go without delay."

She placed her hand in mine. We got into the carriage unobserved, and the horse sped rapidly on. I spoke to Kate, but she answered only in monosyllables.

"It is a weighty step she has taken," thought I, "no wonder she is silent," and I too relapsed into silence.

After riding about fifteen miles, we came to a Justice's. He looked a little surprised at our late visit, but signified his willingness to proceed with the ceremony.

Kate, for some unaccountable reason would not raise her veil, and I could not urge her at such a moment.

All went well till the Justice came to the question —

"And you, Miss Marvin, on your part, do you take the man whom you hold by the right hand to be your lawful and wedded husband?"

At this moment the bride elect replied in a loud, bold voice, —

"Lor, yes, ob course I does. That's jest what I cum for."

At the same time she lifted her veil, and disclosed to my petrified gaze the sable countenance of Minerva, the black servant maid at Mr. Marvin's.

It burst upon me in a moment. Kate had deceived me. Oh the traitress!

I hurried down stairs, and jumped into the chaise, unheeding the exclamations of Minerva, who followed me, calling out, —

"Lor, Mister, don't leave your own lawful wedded wife behind you."

How Minerva got home I don't know — I never inquired. As for Kate, I never went to see her again. My anger overcame my love. Kate is married now, and I — have been in love several times since.

MEMBERSHIP

Reinstated member

William L. Leitner (PF-381)
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Delray Beach, FL 33484-4013
(561) 498-7141

Bill, who first joined the Horatio Alger Society in 1973 and has attended many conventions over the years, looks forward to joining us next May in Fort Lauderdale. In addition to Alger, his collecting interests include Burroughs, Stratemeyer and Frank Merriwell.

Change of address

Kyoko Amano (PF-1049)
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Marlena E. Bremseth (PF-1123)
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Harvard College Library
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625 Massachusetts Ave., LL
Cambridge, MA 02139

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

tutor the future Justice Cardozo's sister, Elizabeth.

Reflecting on this stage of his education, Justice Cardozo wrote many years later, "My education was the work of Horatio Alger. He did not do as successful a job for me as he did with the careers of his newsboy heroes." [Andrew L. Kaufman, *Cardozo* (1998), p. 25, citing a letter from Cardozo to Milton Halsey Thomas referenced in George Hellman, *Benjamin N. Cardozo, American Judge* (1940) at p. 15].

No one has been able to identify what underlay Cardozo's wry recollection. E.R.A. Seligman, who became a political economist and taught Cardozo at Columbia, "reported his own indebtedness to Alger 'for a sense of good literature and a solid grounding in the classical languages.'" (Kaufman, p. 26, citing Scharnhorst & Bales, *Horatio Alger*, translating from Seligman's autobiography in German). Cardozo had apparently not experienced any schooling outside his home, where he had likely been educated by either his mother, before she became seriously ill, or other tutors. (Kaufman, pp. 22-3)

Once again, Ralph Gardner presents a far more positive view of Alger's tutoring of Cardozo:

From their first session, Horatio and the boy became devoted to each other, and the daily lessons were considered more of a period of recreation than work.... There was never anything forceful about Horatio's instruction. He still was as easy-going and soft-spoken as during his professional teaching days, years earlier, and represented to Ben Cardozo the same entertaining companion known to students at Potowome and the academy at Deerfield, and to those he tutored at Cambridge. (Gardner, p. 272-3).

That Alger, who had a lifelong love of the classics, especially from ancient Greece, succeeded in preparing Cardozo for the Columbia exams is not surprising given that in those days, the university emphasized Latin and Greek in both its entrance exams and its pedagogy.

What makes this admittedly limited inquiry worth pursuing, especially to the legal profession, is Justice

Cardozo's incredible reputation as not only a model jurist — both during his 18 years on New York's highest court, most of that time as chief judge, and then during his service on the U.S. Supreme Court—but as one who possessed a superb and enduring writing style.

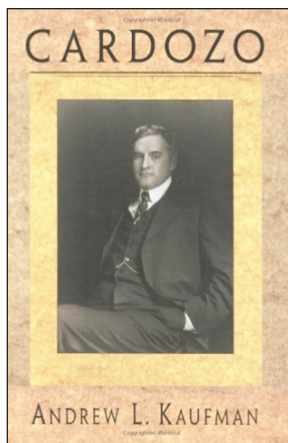
Some of the phrasing that made him so respected include the following:

- "The criminal is to go free because the constable has blundered." (*People v. Defore*, 242 N.Y. 13 (1926))
- "Not honesty alone, but the punctilio of an honor the most sensitive, is then the standard of behavior." (*Meinhard v. Salmon*, 249 N.Y. 458 (1928))
- "The law has outgrown its primitive stage of formalism when the precise word was the sovereign talisman, and every slip was fatal. It takes a broader view to-day. A promise may be lacking, and yet the whole writing may be 'instinct with an obligation,' imperfectly expressed. If that is so, there is a contract." (*Wood v. Lucy Duff-Gordon*, 222 N.Y. 88, 91 (1917)). And at the start of that same opinion, he seems to employ a different, simpler stylistic approach: "The defendant styles herself 'a creator of fashions.' Her favor helps a sale. Manufacturers of dresses, millinery and like articles are glad to pay for a certificate of her approval. The things which she designs, fabrics, parasols and what not, have a new value in the public mind when issued in her name. She employed the plaintiff to help her to turn this vogue into money."

One might conclude that in both the immediately previous quotation and in his remark about Alger's not doing as much for him as for the fictional newsboys displays a gentle, somewhat wistful sense of humor as practiced by a true gentleman, which Justice Cardozo was. Also, while the offices he held were immensely prestigious, especially at that time, and his own standing as a judge was the highest, material success was clearly less than had he remained in law practice. I don't think that especially bothered him, but in his letter he may have in his subtle way demonstrated his familiarity with Alger's then-celebrity as well as engaging in a bit of self-deprecation.

"In an unprecedented action in 1939," Professor Kaufman notes, "the law reviews at Columbia, Harvard, and Yale published a joint issue devoted to an examination of his work" as a jurist and legal philosopher.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Richard B. Hoffman (PF-570)
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BOOK REVIEW

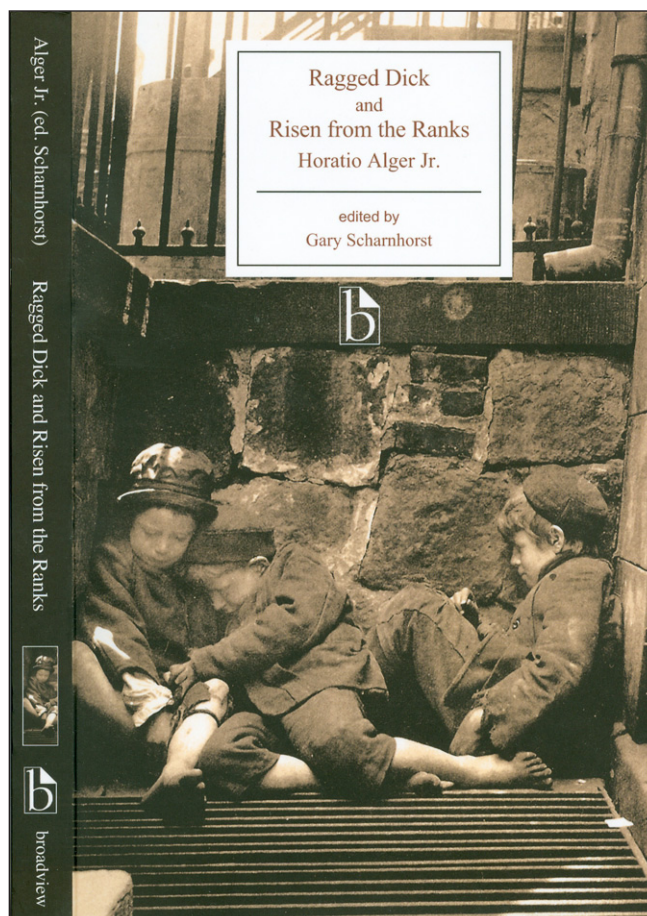
Ragged Dick and *Risen from the Ranks*, edited by Gary Scharnhorst. (Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2017) 400 pp. ISBN 978-1-55481-236-3 paper (\$16.95); also available as a digital edition [PDF] (\$11.95) from www.broadviewpress.com. The book is also available in several formats from www.Amazon.com.

Reviewed by Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)

Broadview Press, “open to a broad range of academic approaches and political viewpoints,” founded in 1985, aims to appeal to a broad readership. At the end of May 2017, Broadview released an extremely nice edition of two Alger novels, edited and with an introduction by Gary Scharnhorst. Scharnhorst, known to our members for his past excellent biographical and bibliographical work on Alger (often with collaborator and co-author Jack Bales), is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico. Scharnhorst chose to juxtapose one of Alger’s New York stories with one written 6-7 years later, in which the hero, who modeled his life on Benjamin Franklin and who came from the country, becomes a small-town editor and subsequently, a New Hampshire legislator and a member of Congress. Scharnhorst chose *Risen from the Ranks* as a variation on the street-boy success narrative and probes the meaning of similarities and differences between the two stories in a superb introductory essay. While there are some common plot points, Scharnhorst argues that there are significant differences that undermine, if subtly, the coherence of Alger’s formula and suggest that the author implicitly admits that the formula is “unrealistically fanciful”; heroes may deserve good fortune, but they do not entirely earn it (pp. 20-21).

Scharnhorst adds textual footnotes to both novels, providing valuable information about not only places and personages, but also to colloquialisms used in the text that have fallen out of use. He explains references to poetry, novels, and hymns. The edition includes a brief chronology and appendices that reproduce some of Alger’s own reflections on children and literature; historical documents on children and the success myth; contemporary reviews of both novels (some less than flattering); early Alger parodies (quite delightful, and one, never before reprinted); and a select bibliography. As Jack Bales notes in his blurb that appears along with mine on the back cover, among all the modern Alger reprints, “... no edition comes even close to providing the wealth of resources available in Scharnhorst’s fine book.”

Scharnhorst’s terrific introductory essay provides a very helpful exploration of transformations in Alger’s



reputation — “from didactic writer for juvenile readers to Progressive moralist, economic mythmaker, and political ideologue” (p. 40) — which he traces to changes in the cultural context in which Alger’s tales were read or remembered. “Each generation between the Civil War and World War II discovered its own usable past in Alger by reinventing him according to the milieu of the moment” (p. 40). By 1947, he argues, Alger had become an organized symbol and a political icon, remaining relatively fixed. In this iconography, Alger became “a victim of mistaken identity” (41).

The editor’s aim is to reintroduce readers to Alger so that they will not see only the ideological invention of the modern era. Scharnhorst briefly examines Alger’s influence on other American writers, including some on the left, who saw something of Alger’s humanitarian and progressive impulses. Each of these literary figures reinvented and appropriated Alger, contributing to the morphing of his moral tracts. Looking at these subsequent appropriations proves important to understanding why an author who was more popular in 1869 than in 1899 became so popular, his name widely known, and associated with the American dream much later.

Longtime H.A.S. member Gordon Huber dies

Gordon W. Huber (PF-843) of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, who joined the Horatio Alger Society in 1989 and for some 20 years was a regular attendee at the Society's annual conventions, died on June 26 at age 90.

The father of former H.A.S. President Robert Huber (PF-841), Gordon Huber was born on Nov. 1, 1926 and was raised in Akron, Ohio, graduating from West High School. In 1945, he was called by the U.S. Army to serve in occupied Japan for almost two years.

When he returned home from the service, he attended the University of Akron on the G.I. Bill, and graduated with majors in chemistry and Spanish. His chemistry career started at General Tire Company, he then moved to PPG Industries, and he retired from The Oak Rubber Company in Ravenna.

He met his future wife, Jeanne Case, at a college sorority picnic, and they were married six months later after they had both finished college. In addition to his interest in books, in their younger years Gordon and Jeanne were avid hikers, and he also enjoyed golf and photography. Jeanne Huber passed away in 2012 in their 63rd year of marriage.

Huber's membership in the Horatio Alger Society only scratched the surface of his wide-ranging passion for books and literature, as he developed a love of reading while a young boy. His main collecting interests included



Gordon W. Huber

early children's series books, and throughout his adult life he built a large personal collection in addition to buying and selling books as an avocation. A member of the Northern Ohio Bibliographic Society, for many years he was involved with the Akron Antiquarian Book Fair.

Along with the H.A.S., he was a member of Zane Grey's West Society, the Burroughs Bibliophiles and the Sherlock Holmes Society. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Akron, serving on the building and grounds committee, volunteering in their food bank, and serving as Boy Scout leader for Troop 14 for many years. He was also a member of the Summit County Historical Society and a long-time volunteer at the John Brown House.

In addition to Bob Huber of Uniontown, Ohio, Gordon is survived by Dr. Thomas Huber of Macon, Georgia, and Nancy Coerver (Timothy) of Hartville, Ohio.

Anyone desiring to make a remembrance gift can donate to the Summit County Historical Society, 550 Copley Road, Akron, OH 44320.

Call for papers: 2018 PCA/ACA conference

The **Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association** Children's/Young Adult Series Books and Dime Novels division is accepting proposals for presentations at the next PCA/ACA annual conference, to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from March 28-31, 2018. Please visit www.pcaaca.org for more information on the conference.

Papers may cover (but are not limited to) any aspect of the following topics: authors, publishers, major characters, themes, readership, bibliography or research methods, social commentary, early genre forms, print culture, special collections, and representation of gender, race, class, etc.

The division has two distinct but related areas of interest: juvenile series books of all types and eras, including 20th-century publications such as those of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and its imitators (*Nancy Drew*, *Hardy Boys*, *Tom Swift*, etc.) as well as recent and ongoing series (*Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, *Choose Your Own Adventure*, etc.); and the

series books' precursors: early popular publications for mass audiences of all ages (dime novels, nickel weeklies, story papers, etc.). Papers addressing either or both of these areas will be considered.

Participants do not need to be PCA/ACA members, academics, or professional writers to submit proposals; however, membership in either PCA or ACA and conference registration are required in order to make a presentation.

All prospective participants are requested to submit a 250-word abstract with title. First-time participants with this division are encouraged to submit a 1-2 page proposal, including a bibliography, along with the abstract.

The deadline for paper proposals is October 1, 2017. Early submission is strongly encouraged.

Please send all inquiries to:

Demian Katz, Villanova University
demian.katz@villanova.edu

Meet our 2017 Strive & Succeed Award recipient!

Partic'lar Friends attending the 2017 convention in Sacramento were disappointed to learn that our **Strive & Succeed Award** recipient, Shreya Kumar, was unable to attend the Saturday night banquet because she had taken ill the week of the convention and was restricted to home by her doctor.

Shreya's email of regret was sent to Norma Jean Thornton, communications director for the Northern California Publishers and Authors (NCPA) and convention host Barry Schoenborn, which he read at the banquet. Her comments included the following:

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am to both of you for offering me this scholarship, and I was looking forward to expressing that in my thank-you speech tonight. Your support for my education and college expenses is truly invaluable, and both of your organizations are filled with such wonderful people who represent the



Shreya Kumar is joined at home by her parents, Shinjan (left) and Atull Shrivastav, while holding the 2017 *Strive & Succeed* Award.

incredible world of literature and writing."

A few weeks following the convention, Schoenborn visited Shreya at her home and took the photo (above) of her with her parents, along with the S&S Award certificate and a copy of Horatio Alger's *Strive and Succeed*.

This fall, Shreya will be entering her second year at the University of California at Davis, majoring in psychology with a biology emphasis, along with additional courses in literature and fiction writing.

New Hampshire Institute of Politics receives Young's presidency collection

(Continued from Page 4)

concerned with their care, preservation and dissemination. It is not surprising that collecting them became a passion," Young said.

Young is the retired Dean of Libraries at Northern Illinois University, where he oversaw the creation of NIU's Horatio Alger, Jr. repository collection in 1994.

He amassed his personal collection on the U.S. presidency over a 25-year span. The books feature biographies, memoirs, and monographs. He also added books on vice presidents, Supreme Court justices and the founding fathers to round out the collection. He placed a high value on the condition of the books, selecting ones with original dust jackets and reputable publishers, including many first editions. The comprehensive nature of the Young collection is exemplified by titles, including *Woodrow Wilson, a Psychological Study*; *The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson*; *Martyr for the Union* (Franklin Pierce);

Guns & Butter: The Presidency of LBJ; *George Washington in New Hampshire*; *The Last of the Crooked Hats*; and *The Hidden Hand Presidency* (Dwight D. Eisenhower).

Young received his undergraduate degree in political science from Tufts University and his Ph.D. in library science from the University of Illinois. In addition to Northern Illinois, he served as the director of several libraries, including the University of Rhode Island and the University of South Carolina.

New Hampshire is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its "first-in-the-nation" presidential primary, while Saint Anselm College marks 50 years of recognition as the nearly mandatory campaign stop every four years of aspirants for the country's highest office.

In 2010, the New Hampshire Political Library relocated to the Institute, merging two of New Hampshire's great political organizations. A number of the Political Library's board members joined the Institute's board.

Editor's note: This article was derived from information published on the official New Hampshire Institute of Politics website at www.anselm.edu/Academics/Institutes-Centers-and-the-Arts/NH-Institute-of-Politics.htm.

More '17 convention memories



Carol Nackenoff chats with Art and Linda Smitter.
Photo by Bill Gowen



Mike Morley and Irene Belenkey at the Saturday awards banquet.
Photo by Carol Nackenoff



Bob Huber and Rob Kasper.
Photo by Bill Gowen



Bob Huber asks for an opening bid for a first edition of *Helen Ford*.
Photo by Bill Gowen



Cary Sternick shows his approval during Friday's lunch at Denny's Restaurant.
Photo by Barry Schoenborn



Ann and Brad Chase, along with Bob Eastlack, listen attentively to Keith Thompson during Saturday's annual H.A.S. banquet. Photo by Bill Gowen



Kiyo Sato makes her keynote presentation during the H.A.S. awards banquet. Photo by Barry Schoenborn



Lynda Straus and Bob Petitto during the Friday dinner and *Cinco de Mayo* celebration at the Florez Mexican Bar and Grill. Photo by Barry Schoenborn



The California State Railroad Museum workshop. Photo by James D. Keeline



The Delta King riverboat hotel in Old Sacramento. Photo by Bill Gowen

2017 H.A.S. award winners



The *Carl Hartmann Luck & Pluck Award* is presented by President Dick Hoffman to 2016 convention host Bob Sipes, who with his wife, Wendy, have hosted three conventions.

Photo by Barry Schoenborn



Keith Thompson receives the *Richard Seddon Award* from 2016 recipient Brad Chase.

Photo by Bill Gowen



President Hoffman holds the *Newsboy Award*, presented to Peter C. Walther (PF-548).

Photo by Bill Gowen



Norma Jean Thornton, communications director for the Northern California Publishers and Authors (NCPA) receives the *President's Award* in recognition for her assistance to host Barry Schoenborn in the planning and organization of the Sacramento convention.

Photo by Barry Schoenborn

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

— never be late to a show or sale! As I was walking in, a gentleman and his teen-aged son were leaving with a carton overflowing with about a dozen Tom Swifts in nice jackets.

My appetite was again whetted, and soon after beginning my newspaper career in Chicago's northwest suburbs, I started placing want ads for Tom Swifts in various antique trade papers. In July 1973, I received a letter from George Holmes of Milford, New Hampshire, a retired power plant worker from New York who was living on Social Security and a disability pension. He said he had seen my ad and he told me his doctor had advised him to get a hobby. George decided to collect "the boy's books of yester-year," as he called them.

Enter Jack Dizer

George and I started to correspond regularly over the next couple of years, suggesting I subscribe to **The Tutter Bugle**, a "fanzine" for collectors of Leo Edwards' books. He also told me about Bob Chenu, the **Bugle's** co-editor (with Bob Johnson from Arizona). Chenu, from Merrick, Long Island, had a massive series book collection with an emphasis on the Edwards series.

George tipped me off to Harry Hudson, publisher of the first boy's series book bibliography. I wrote to both he and Chenu, and our letters back and forth were numerous. Harry said his old bibliography (out of print) was being updated and that he'd keep me up to date. I bought books from Chenu's huge sale lists, found out that despite living on Long Island, he worked for the N.Y. State Department of Labor in Albany and commuted home on weekends. Since the Albany area is where I grew up, on my next vacation trip to that area I stopped by his office for a visit.

Meanwhile, George mailed me a pivotal letter on Sept. 24, 1973, strongly suggesting that I write to John Dizer in Utica, New York, since "... he is the world's leading authority of Stratemeyer, which includes Tom Swift." George had met Dizer during a book-hunting trip (a "safari," he called it) to Arlington, Vermont that June, which was also attended by Chenu, Owen Cobb from New Jersey (he soon joined the H.A.S.) and Leo Edwards fan Jack Deveny from Minnesota. George gave me Dizer's address, and I wrote immediately.

His first letter to me is reproduced on this page.

Because Jack lived just a few miles north of Exit 31 of the New York Thruway, I easily accepted his invitation to visit, which I did for the first time the following August. He was standing in his driveway when I pulled



10332 Ridgcrest Road
Utica, New York 13502
October 12, 1973

Dear Mr. Goven,

George is more enthusiastic than accurate in his estimate of my ability in Stratemeyer material! I am, however, most interested in Stratemeyer, Garis and the Syndicate operations and have visited the Syndicate and corresponded with Mr. Svenson and Mrs. Adams (Stratemeyer's daughter) for about 10 years. Mrs. Adams is currently doing a biography of her father which I am looking forward to reading.

I enclose my letter to Yankee which George mentioned. I will gladly send any information I have with no reservations but I don't know what you have. For instance do you have or want the article Tom Swift and His Magic Typewriter (Concept, 1963) Shopton, Home of the Swifts (Dime Novel Roundup) Fortune article of April 1924 on Stratemeyer, Readers Digest article of 1930 of Stratemeyer, etc. etc. The books "My Father was Uncle Wiggily" by Roger Garis and "The Fiction Factory" by Quentin Reynolds, as well as The House of Beadle and Adams by Johannsen are most helpful.

I presume you have Hudson's bibliography which lists the T. Swifts and the reprints etc. It is not possible to talk about reprints in the original series since no record was printed in the books of printings and the only clues are the other books advertised. Whitman did some reprinting earlier than Hudson states according to a letter I have from the Syndicate. Anyway, I will be glad to tell you more about what I have than you really want to know!

Am currently doing a paper on Stratemeyer and the Blacks, Stratemeyer and Science Fiction and researching the S & S files at Syracuse for his story paper serials in the 1890's. Fun but not profitable.

Would like to see you at any time.

Cordially
Jack
John T. Dizer, Jr.
Victor Appleton IV

Jack Dizer's first letter to this writer in 1973 after he was enthusiastically introduced by New Hampshire collector George Holmes as "...the world's leading authority on Stratemeyer, which includes Tom Swift." Note that the letter is topped with an embossed stamp for the "T. Swift Boat & Engine Works — Shopton," which includes an image of the *Arrow*. Dizer used this whimsical letterhead for many years.

up to his ranch-style home with its huge garage and workshop. Jack and his wife, Marie, were perfect hosts, his collection of thousands of boys' and girls' books was incredible — I had never seen anything like it. When I told him I was just a Tom Swift collector, he gave me this advice: "Don't just collect Tom Swift. Broaden your interests with Stratemeyer and the Syndicate and other authors. It's a waste of gasoline driving to out-of-the-way book stores looking for one thing."

So, on that same trip I stopped at Country Lane Books in Collinsville, Connecticut, less than a half-hour from my mother's home. From shop owner Ed Myers I bought my first three Stratemeyers for \$8.50 apiece and I remember the titles like it was yesterday: *Under MacArthur in Luzon*,

(Continued on Page 16)

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 15)

Under the Mikado's Flag, and *Two Young Lumbermen*.

When I got back to Illinois I couldn't wait to tell Jack I had officially become a Stratemeyer collector.

The following summer when I made my next visit to Jack, just as I was leaving, he handed me a nice Wessels first edition of *Lost in the Land of Ice*. I offered to pay, but he insisted that it was gift for a budding Stratemeyer collector. The previous year he had found two copies and decided to part with one. In 40-plus years since, I have never seen another Wessels edition of that title for sale.

Jack, who joined the Horatio Alger Society in 1977 as PF-511, insisted that I contact Eddie LeBlanc and subscribe to **Dime Novel Round-Up**, which I did immediately. Later, he introduced me to the Popular Culture Association, which I joined in the 1980s and have since been a regular presenter at its annual conferences.

When I became editor of **Newsboy** in 1991, I decided that although Alger was the main focus, other authors should be represented. In 1992, Jack sent me a two-part article titled "Mershon and Stitt Alger Printings." In between the publication of those two parts, he wrote "So Who Wrote Tom, Swiftly" (March-April 1992).

Early that year, Jack phoned and said he was scheduled to talk on "How Tom Swift Invented Everything" at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in June 1992 in Chicago. I picked him up at O'Hare, we stopped for dinner near the airport and I drove him to the Chicago Hyatt. The following day, I ran the slide projector for his 30-minute presentation.

Visits to his Utica-area home became nearly annual events on vacation trips east, as were the annual PCA conferences. Jack was diplomatic in sharing the publication of his presentations among **Newsboy**, **Dime Novel Round-Up** and **Yellowback Library**, which made its debut in 1981. His topics for **Newsboy** included articles on Howard R. Garis, Percy K. Fitzhugh, early publishers of Stratemeyer's books and many other subjects. A list of his approximately 100 published articles in various print media appeared in the May-June issue, compiled by James D. Keeline (PF-898).

Some of our most pleasant memories of the annual Popular Culture Association conferences were spent away from the presentations themselves, but in large group gatherings at nearby restaurants or in hotel rooms discussing authors, their books and publishers. Jack was nearly always the center of attention.

Jack was an amazing man — knowledgeable about myriad subjects, as Brad Chase detailed in his tribute published last issue. In addition to Triumph sports cars



Ralph Gardner and NIU curator of rare books and special collections Samuel Huang pose with Jack Dizer during the 1997 convention in North Conway, N.H.

and classic bicycles, he also restored a Ford Model T, which he housed for many years in the now-defunct Bridgewater (N.Y.) Auto Museum. Over the years he rebuilt more than 30 foot-pedal reed organs, for which he belonged to a club not unlike the Horatio Alger Society. I owned such an organ, which was stored in my mother's basement in suburban Hartford.

Following her death in 1994, I mentioned to Jack that I was bringing a truckload of her belongings back to Illinois, including the organ, which had been damaged in a basement flood, among other problems.

"Since you're driving right past here, just leave it and I'll see what I can do," he said.

In 1995, my friend from Illinois, who drove the truck full of furniture, was skeptical (he still calls the organ a piano) but we loaded it last, next to the liftgate. Jack said he would not be home that day, but told me where to find the hidden switch for his garage door.

"Just back in and drop it off," he said.

A few months later, I saw the organ in pieces in his garage, and he explained (as an engineer would) how it worked, about the mouse nests in the worn-out bellows and numerous other mechanical issues. A place in Texas supplied missing vintage brass reeds and other parts.

When I picked it up several months later in like-new condition (the decorative walnut case refinished and the pedals upholstered with red carpeting), I was ready to pay the going rate for such a perfect restoration. "Pay me \$135," he said. "That's for the parts. I'm not charging labor. I never have, and I'm not starting now."

He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I wrote him a check, we slid the organ into my U-Haul trailer, and I was off to Illinois, still with a guilty conscience.

But that was Jack Dizer's nature, a true Vermont Yankee and as fair and honest as they come.