



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.

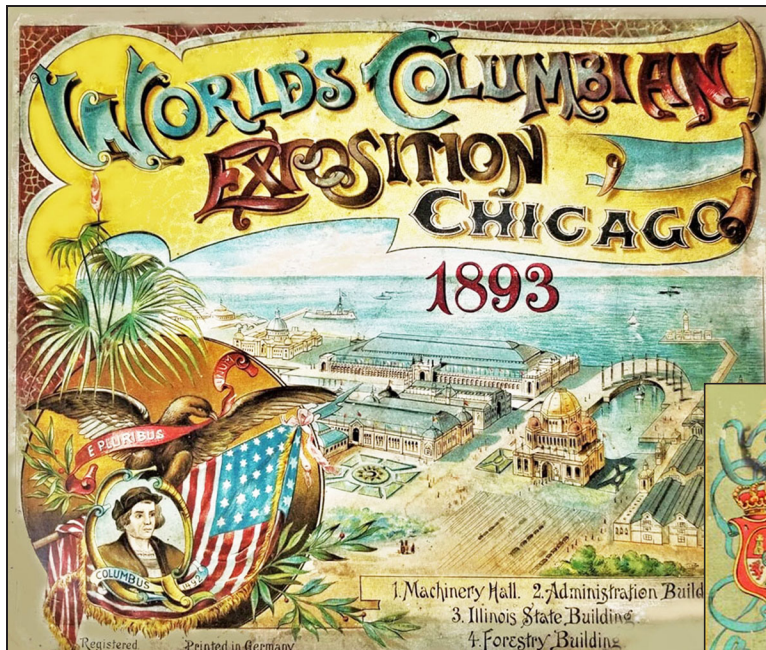
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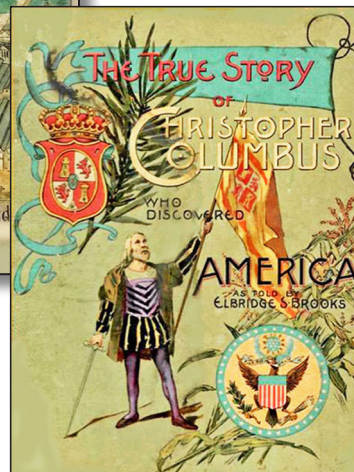
Plans underway for 'Gettysburg Campaign'

-- See Page 3



D. Lothrop Company and the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition

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Tom Swift is back – again!

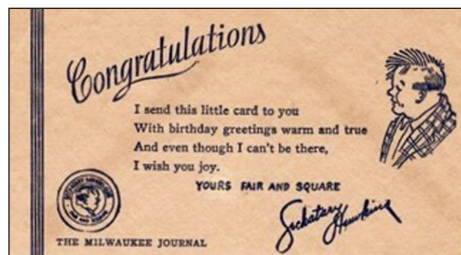
-- See Page 14

President's column

Good morning from Houston,

The unfortunate increase in traffic with the not so coincidental presence of school buses tells me that the summer is nearing its end. It seems to me that school starts much too early nowadays. Way back when in Milwaukee we started after Labor Day. Perhaps there is just more to learn in the twenty-first century.

On a personal note, my 70th birthday was quite wonderful. Now, maybe I did not receive a personal card like this from Seckatary Hawkins, but my three kids flew in and surprised me at a local restaurant. I could n't have been moreshocked. Even better, they paid for the meal.



They had also collected video birthday greetings from a number of my friends and put together a nice little movie. Special thanks to Bob Petitto, who struggled but managed to say a few nice things about me.

The 19th century bibliography continues to progress. I suspect that there are as many series/libraries on the site now as there were in the entire 2003 book and only a fraction of the publishers have been completed. Presently I am working on the Dodd & Mead / Dodd, Mead & Co. section. It has been quite a challenge.



Let me explain: In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Dodd, Mead & Co. published numerous libraries of little 4"x6" books with various cover designs and non-book specific cover appliques. Here is an example (three more covers are shown on Page 8).

All of these little volumes were originally sold in boxed sets. The box identified the li-

(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

Plans underway for ‘Gettysburg Campaign’

By Robert D. Eastlack (PF-557)

What do Gettysburg College and Horatio Alger, Jr. have in common? Believe it or not, they were both spawned by men of the cloth (ordained ministers) in the same year, 1832!

“Tensions that threatened to tear America apart were already simmering in 1832, when anti-slavery theologian Samuel Simon Schmucker founded what would become Gettysburg College.

“Five years later, the Lutheran-affiliated institution — then known as Pennsylvania College — moved into Pennsylvania Hall, built on land provided by abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, whose illustrious career in Congress included authorship of the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed full civil rights to citizens of all states.”¹

* * *

“Horatio Alger, Jr. was born on January 13, 1832, in Chelsea (now Revere) Massachusetts, the oldest of five children. His father, Reverend Horatio Alger, was a Unitarian minister and his mother, Olive (Fenno) Alger, was from a prominent local business family. His early schooling was conducted at home but was constantly



Gettysburg College has made available its Paxton Hall housing facilities for attendees at the 2020 H.A.S. convention, “Gettysburg Campaign.”

interrupted by his father’s other activities, which included teaching, farming and politics. Despite these interruptions, Alger was a voracious reader and was well versed in Latin and algebra by the age of ten.

“In December 1844, after business reversals and bankruptcy, Alger’s father moved the family to Marlborough, Massachusetts where Horatio entered Gates Academy. He finished his preparatory studies in 1847 and entered Harvard the following year. He graduated

(Continued on Page 5)

D. Lothrop Company and the Columbian Exposition



The iconic Ferris Wheel made its debut at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

By Cary Sternick (PF-933)

The World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893 must have been quite an event to witness. From George Ferris’ classic Ferris Wheel overlooking Chicago (“I will build an Eifel Tower that spins”) to the “Clasp Locker” (later named the zipper), to Cracker Jacks, there was clearly something for everyone. The fair attracted more than 27 million visitors and 46 nations were represented.

Yes, there was even something for bibliophiles. The publishers of various countries had exhibits throughout the fair. In the German Pavilion more than 300 publishers were represented. Bernhard Tauchnitz alone exhibited more than 2,000 volumes.

In the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building the
(Continued on Page 6)

Editor's notebook

In this issue we begin our buildup to the 2020 H.A.S. convention, "Gettysburg Campaign" with host Bob Eastlack's article on Pages 3 and 5. He has already done a great amount of planning, with more still to come and eventually to be published in the next several issues of *Newsboy*. I'm sure Bob will have several nice additions and tweaks along the way, but in this first installment, you can learn about our housing and meal plans for the weekend of June 4-7, 2020 at Gettysburg College.

We want to emphasize that when you receive your registration form with the January-February issue, the registration fee covers both the housing arrangements on campus, along with meals that include dinners for both Friday and Saturday, plus box lunches for both days. I took out my calculator and crunched numbers and found that our registration cost will be lower than that of most recent years, when our three- or four-night hotel stays have usually run more than \$100 per night (with taxes). We are hoping this savings will be incentive enough to attract greater attendance than in the past few years.

The great American game of baseball

As a longtime baseball fan, I greatly enjoyed Keith Thompson's recent letter (see Page 13) about one of the several trips he and his son, Nathan and his grandchildren have taken to games (usually Boston or the two New York ballparks). This was a trip to Fenway Park in late July.

I did not have room for the full names in the caption, so here they are (left to right): Thaddeus Hoadley Thompson, Nathan Hoadley Thompson, Samantha Jeanne Thompson and Keith Hoadley Thompson. Keith notes in his letter that, "I know the middle names are redundant, but I wanted to point out that Thaddeus is the fourth consecutive descendant to carry the middle name of Hoadley. My father's name was Maurice Hoadley Thompson. The name comes from William Jefferson Hoadley, a pioneer physician in Hendricks County, Indiana, whose daughter Eva was my father's mother."

Keith's description of his trip to Fenway Park reminded me of the Kevin Costner film "Field of Dreams," which I saw in 1989 when it first came out. I enjoyed it, although I remember the "Siskel & Ebert" review show that saw Roger give the film an enthusiastic "Thumbs Up" while Gene simply said, "Sorry, Roger, but I just can't buy into it."

The film is a fantasy in which Ray Kinsella (Costner's character) is working his Iowa farmland one day when he



Keith Thompson and family members outside Fenway Park prior to the Red Sox-Yankees game on July 26. Son Nathan and Keith are standing in back, joined by grandson Thaddeus and granddaughter Samantha.

Photo courtesy of Keith Thompson

hears a voice whisper "If you build it, he will come." The "he" is Shoeless Joe Jackson, the late, disgraced Chicago White Sox player accused of helping his team throw the 1919 World Series to Cincinnati. Kinsella carves a full-sized baseball field (including lights) out of his cornfield and then, like magic late in the film, Jackson (played by Ray Liotta) and teammates emerge from among the cornstalks. Joe "plays catch" with Kinsella in this classic symbol of what a father-son relationship is all about.

As word spreads (and the end credits start to roll), fans from around the country stream in their cars to Iowa to experience this miracle for themselves.

The key character in the movie is a reclusive New England writer named Terence Mann (played by James Earl Jones and supposedly based on J.D. Salinger), who gives a monologue (written by the director, Phil Alden Robinson), which Ebert describes thusly:

"There is a speech by Mann about baseball that is so simple and true that it is heartbreaking." And that

(Continued on Page 16)

'Gettysburg Campaign'

(Continued from Page 3)

in 1852 near the top of his class and was elected to the prestigious academic society, Phi Beta Kappa.”²

* * *

The above information becomes noteworthy because the 56th Annual Convention of the Horatio Alger Society will be held at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa., June 4-7, 2020.

Instead of presenting the attributes of the town and/or the college, following is a description of the intimate details of where participants will be staying and what will be offered for the special meals to be served:

Housing: Gettysburg College has made available housing at a reasonable rate, but housekeeping will not be provided ... meaning participants will have to make their own beds!

Guest housing at Paxton Hall is located within two blocks of the H.A.S. hospitality room and dining area in the College Union Building (CUB). Since housing is included in the overall convention registration fee, you **do not** need to make separate hotel reservations.

Formerly a motel, Paxton Hall holds 32 rooms on two levels, with parking. Each room has dedicated heating and air conditioning and tiled floors, with one bathroom, at least one window with blinds, along with dresser, desk with chair, and closet space.

Negotiations are taking place to have daytime parking available near the College Union Building for commuters to the convention. So far, at least three have indicated their intention to commute.

Dining: Breakfasts each day will be available in the College Union Building.

- Friday's lunch will be a bagged lunch offered by the College.

- Friday evening's dinner will be buffet-style at

General Pickett's Buffets. Here are a few details:

The General's Dinner Buffet begins at 4 p.m. daily, Monday through Saturday and is served exclusively on Sundays beginning at 11a.m. Enjoy all-you-can-eat dining, including carved top round of beef and ham, Southern-style fried tilapia, barbecued spare ribs, baked chicken, spicy shrimp Creole and a variety of fresh vegetables and casseroles. Begin your feast with the salad bar and complete your dinner with selections of homemade pies and cakes. Cocktails are available for your dining enhancement.

- Saturday's lunch will be a boxed lunch offered by the College. Negotiations are taking place to arrange for a two-hour battlefield bus tour on Saturday afternoon, and the boxed lunch can be taken on the bus.

- Saturday's dinner (the annual awards banquet) will be at The Inn at Herr Ridge:

Salad: Mixed Baby Greens, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Raspberry Vinaigrette.

Entree: A choice of either a Grilled 6-ounce "Choice" Filet, Port Wine, Demi-Glace, Twice Baked Potato; OR Maryland Style Crab Cake, Maryland Style Remoulade, Toasted Barley Pilaf.

Dessert: Chocolate Truffle Torte, Raspberry Puree.

As noted above, convention registration includes housing costs and it must be completed no later than April 30th. The registration form and schedule of events will be enclosed with the January-February and March-April 2020 issues of **Newsboy**. A place to make your selection for the Saturday dinner entrée will be included on the registration form.



The recently expanded College Union Building, location of the H.A.S. hospitality and meeting rooms, is about two blocks from Paxton Hall.

Editor's note: This is the first major installment of our preview coverage for the 2020 convention, "Gettysburg Campaign." Additional information will appear in each Newsboy issue leading up to the convention.

NOTES

1. <<https://www.gettysburg.edu/about-the-college/college-history>>
2. Kasper, Robert E., <http://horatioalgersociety.net/131_algerbykasper.html>

D. Lothrop Company and the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition

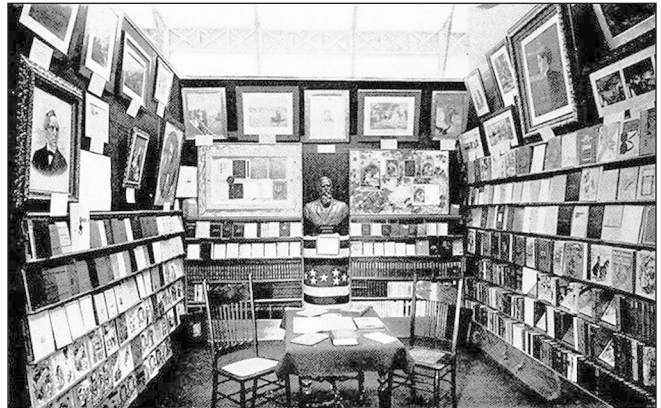
(Continued from Page 3)

American publishers held court. Estes & Lauriat, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., D. Appleton & Co., The Methodist Book Concern and D. Lothrop Company among others had displays.


In addition to the publishers' areas there were also numerous libraries scattered throughout the park. The Woman's Library in the Woman's Building, shown at right, is an example.

Of particular interest to me is D. Lothrop Company's exhibit. In addition to showcasing its magazines and books, the Lothrop firm also showed the process for making ornamental book covers. A bronze bust of Daniel Lothrop is displayed prominently in the photo at right.

It was here that interested patrons could order books. Flyers were available which advertised the titles of some of the favorite Lothrop authors. Shown on these pages are examples from Lothrop's series of four-sided 5½



D. Lothrop Company's booth (top) was one of numerous publishers' promotional displays in the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building. The woman's library (above) in the Woman's Building.



The Lion City of Africa.
Profusely illustrated by Bridgman and others. 8vo, cloth, \$2.25.

The adventures of two young Harvard students in the jungles of the Dark Continent.

A good story, well and vigorously written. — *London (Eng.) Standard.*

The subject is made as entertainingly instructive as it can well be made, by the combination of fancy and fact. — *Boston Globe.*

To an adventurous boy it will be a mine of delight. — *Baltimore Sun.*

Thoroughly fascinating. — *Boston Gazette.*


The style is captivating, the scenes dramatic, the pictures and the paper excellent. Its reading can be recommended to any boy or girl. — *African News.*

A grand book for boys. — *Yorkshire (Eng.) Weekly Post.*

Will keep any healthy, wondering boy on the keen edge of interest till the last page is turned. — *Chicago Times.*

“Mr. Allen is a peculiarly fascinating writer of juvenile literature. He has a thorough sympathy with young people, and has not got so far away from his boyhood as to look back upon it with indifference. His stories are not made up of improbable or impossible adventures, but are genuine records of boy and girl life, consisting of just such things as might easily and naturally happen; and therein lies their great charm.” — *Christian At Work.*

NOTE. — The sales of the “Pine Cone” books have passed their twelfth thousand, and are constantly increasing. The six volumes are now ready, completing the series, and can be supplied in a box. Price \$6.00.



The Pine Cone Stories.

In six volumes, 12mo, \$1.00 each.

“Cheerful, brisk stories.” — *Atlantic Monthly.*

“Good, wholesome reading, that will make boys nobler and girls gentler.” — *Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

I. PINE CONES.

Admirably written and liberally illustrated. One of the most attractive books of the year. — *Youth's Companion.*

Sweet and pure as the pine woods themselves. — *Golden Rule.*

II. SILVER RAGS.

A capital example of a thoroughly good juvenile book. — *Congregationalist.*

The work of one of our finest writers of juvenile fiction. Mr. Allen has interwoven historic tales of adventures and brave deeds very dexterously in his story. — *Boston Herald.*

III. THE NORTHERN CROSS.

An advance upon this writer's previous work. — *Atlantic Monthly.*

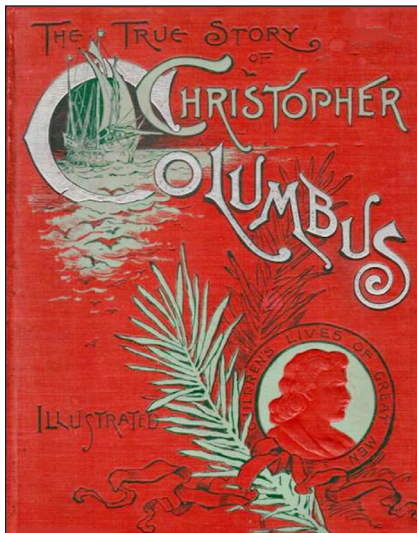
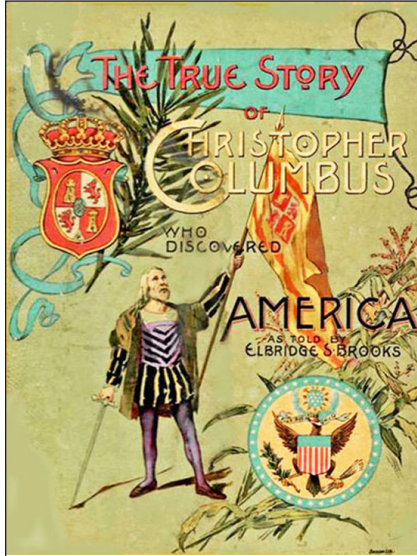
A wholesome, high-minded story of the struggles of a manly boy bent on self-conquest. — *Boston Courier.*

by 3¼-inch advertising pieces which displayed a photo of the author and a description/list of some of his or her works.

On this example for Elbridge S. Brooks on Page 7, note that under the picture of the author is a blurb which states “Orders for these books may be left at D. Lothrop Company's exhibit...in the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building, where examples are shown.”

It was obviously appropriate for the occasion that the Lothrop Company included in this flyer a promotional blurb for Brooks' *The True Story of Christopher Columbus*, along with other titles by that well-known writer of stories for young people.

It was not until I saw these items that I appreciated any significant nexus between the Columbian Exposition and the book-publishing industry.



Two editions of Elbridge S. Brooks' *The True Story of Christopher Columbus*, advertised in the Lothrop promotional flyer at the right.

THE BEST HISTORIES AND FICTION


STORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN (THE). 8vo, illustrated by Bridgman, cloth, \$2.25.
The first and only complete and consecutive story of the red men of America.

STORY OF THE AMERICAN SAILOR (THE). 8vo, illustrated by Bridgman, cloth, \$2.25.
"The fresh, scintillating, lusty narrative," says the *Brooklyn Times*, "gives the book an immediate charm and a permanent usefulness."

STORY OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER (THE). 8vo, illustrated by Bridgman, cloth, \$2.25.
Tells all about the American fighting men from the days of the Mound-builders to Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

STORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE). 4to, cloth, profusely illustrated, \$1.50; boards, \$1.25.
A perpetual charm to young readers whether they like history or not.

Orders can also be filled for the other popular books of Mr. Brooks: "A Son of Issachar," \$1.25; "Historic Boys," "Historic Girls," and "Chivalric Days," illustrated by Birch and others, \$2.00 per volume.



ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS.

Orders for these books may be left at D. Lothrop Company's exhibit, "An American Book Corner," in the North Gallery, Section E, manufactures and Liberal Arts Building, where samples are shown.

The True Story of Christopher Columbus

Called the Admiral

Told for Youngest Readers by **ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS**, author of "Historic Boys," "The Story of the American Sailor," "The Story of the United States," etc.

Bound in elegant illuminated cover, with coat of arms of Spain and the United States, together with elaborate decorations.

PRICE, \$1.25; EXTRA CLOTH, \$1.50

It is with the desire to picture for younger readers the real Columbus, that Mr. Brooks has prepared for the children his "True Story of Christopher Columbus." There is so much of interest, so much that is stirring, striking, absorbing and dramatic in the real story of the adventures, the trials and the success of the great Italian who found a New World, that it does not need the time-worn fables or the hectic over-statements of an earlier day to emphasize the story or halo the life of the great Admiral.

The book is profusely illustrated, is attractive in make-up, and its brilliant and artistic cover will draw the children first into looking at it and then into reading it.

The above is the initial volume of the new *True Story Series of Lives of Great Men*. Other volumes in preparation.

D. LOTHROP COMPANY, . . Boston, Mass.

THE WORKS OF ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS

"Mr. Brooks has the rare faculty of combining history and fiction so that each shall happily play into the hands of the other. The story makes the history interesting and the history makes the story interesting. Mr. Brooks does this deliberately, because it is his aim to do this very thing; and we know of no writer of stories for young people (or for old people either, for that matter) who understands better how to mix these two elements so that they shall not seek to instruct too much or to entertain too little." — *Brooklyn Times*.

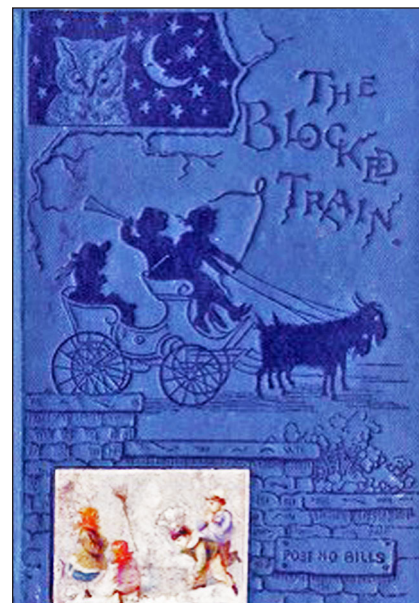
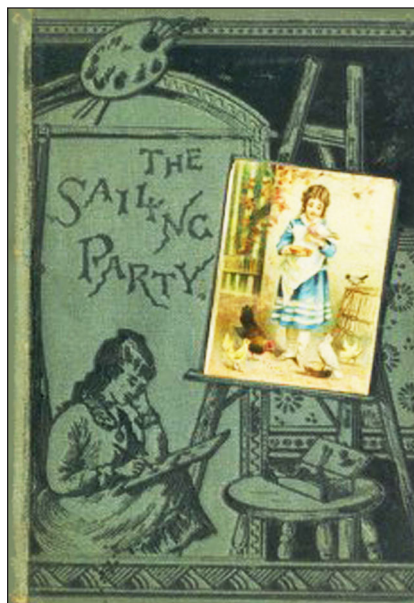
IN LEISLER'S TIMES. 12mo, illustrated by Smedley, \$1.50.
A spirited historical story of a stirring period in the history of old New York.

IN NO MAN'S LAND. With seventy-two pen-and-ink character drawings by Hassam. 12mo, \$1.25.
A wonder story full of fun and fancy that, so says the *Dial*, "sparkles all over with glee."

STORIED HOLIDAYS. 12mo, illustrated by Howard Pyle, \$1.50.
Delightful stories of historic happenings on the year's twelve holidays.

STORY OF NEW YORK (THE). 8vo, illustrated, \$1.50. (Vol. I. of "The Story of the States" series.)
This initial volume to *The Story of the States*, of which Mr. Brooks is editor, reads, says the *Critic*, "like a charming fireside legend told by a grandfather to eager children, rather than a dry and prosaic history."

These pages from D. Lothrop's advertising flyer for books by Elbridge S. Brooks promote his *The True Story of Christopher Columbus* and other titles. Additional authors featured in these flyers included Willis Boyd Allen and Mrs. G. R. Alden, author of the popular "Pansy" books.



President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

brary/series, whereas the book has no identifying features with the exception of the title and copyright. The title page only stated Dodd, Mead & Co.

The difficulty lies in placing a particular cover format into a library.

Note the exact 10 books below were part of three series in three consecutive years:

- Picture and Story Series, 1882
- Uncle Jack's Series, 1883
- Trot Series, 1884
 1. Christmas at Grandpapa's
 2. Sailing Party
 3. Trot
 4. Uncle Jack's Medicine

5. How They Found Pussy
6. Ralfe's Repentance
7. Tom and His Monkey
8. Blocked Train
9. Miss Estelle
10. Hugh Giles

Thus, it is impossible to place a cover format into its rightful series unless you have the original labeled boxes (which are exceedingly hard to find) or you get lucky with an inscription date. And so it goes with 19th-century series.

I wish you all a great autumn and don't forget that those leaves will not rake themselves.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Cary Sternick (PF-933)
26 Chestnut Hill Ct.
The Woodlands, TX 773780
(713) 444-3181
Email: css3@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP

Change of address

Barry J. Schoenborn (PF-1087)
618 Hummingbird Drive
Lodi, CA 95240-7893
(530) 265-4705
Email: barry@wvswrite.com

Official H.A.S. address

Direct all correspondence to:
Horatio Alger Society
1004 School St.
Shelbyville, IN 46176

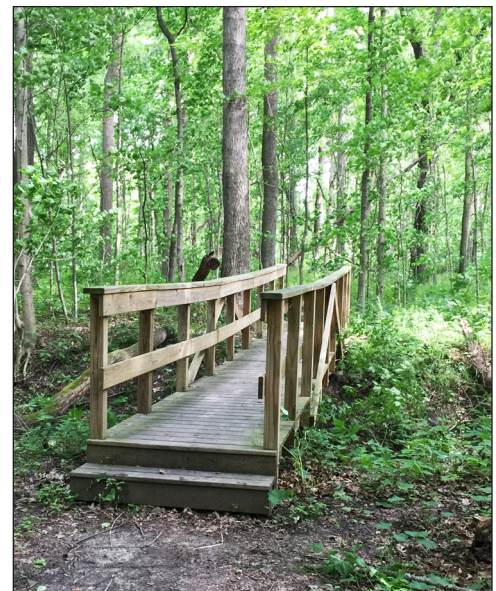
A look back at the 2019 convention



Convention host Bob Sipes visits with several of his Partic'lar Friends during the annual awards banquet. Photo by James King



The annual H.A.S. Board of Directors meeting. Photo by Bill Gowen



The Meltzer Woods Natural Preserve near Shelbyville, designated a National Natural Landmark. Photo by Carol Nackenoff



Cary Sternick and Bob Petitto during dinner at the Kopper Kettle Inn. Photo by James King



Bob Huber seeks bids on an early edition of Alger's *The Backwoods Boy*. Photo by Bill Gowen

(More photos on Page 10)



A small portion of Bob Sipes' Horatio Alger collection.

Photo by Bill Gowen



Bob Sipes and Keith Thompson engage in "the lively art of conversation" in the meeting room.

Photo by Bill Gowen



Matthew Short, Northern Illinois University's Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian, discusses NIU's ongoing project (in collaboration with Villanova University) to digitize its Albert Johannsen and Edward LeBlanc dime novel collections.

Photo by Bill Gowen

The Kopper Kettle Inn in Morristown, Ind. Photo by James King



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

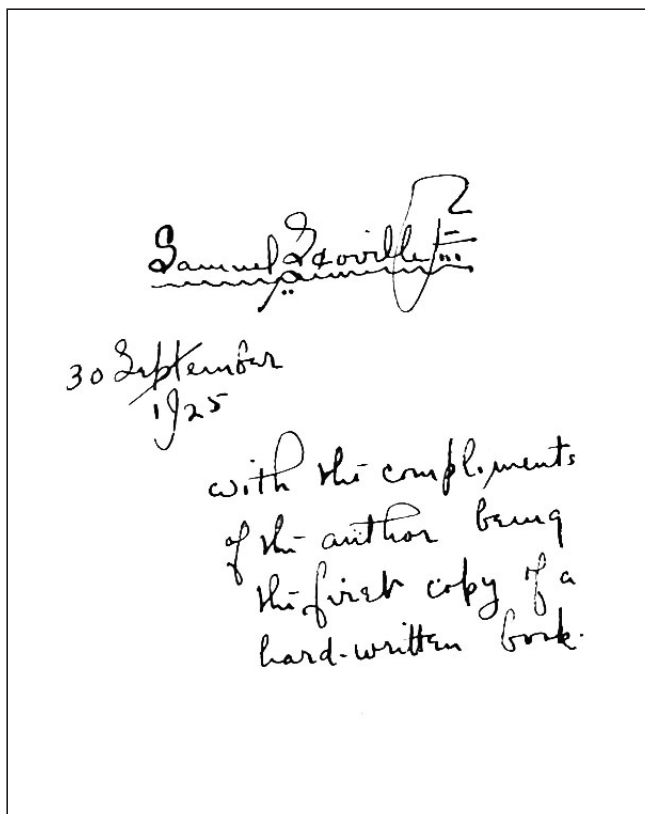
Dear Bill:

I was particularly intrigued by Cary Sternick's mention of an author marking a book as a "first copy" in his President's Column for the May-June issue of *Newsboy*. I had some correspondence with Cary about 10 years ago concerning his signed *Optic*, as I also have a book signed to George W. White (*Snug Harbor*). That correspondence can be seen on Cary's website Thoughts of a Bibliomaven.

After reading the column, I began one of my periodic eBay searches for signed books. I have been interested in signed material for many years, and now own over 200 examples of author's signatures, most of them by juvenile authors. While searching recently, I located a group of four books by Samuel Scoville, Jr., all signed, and dated in the mid-1920s. The collection was comprised of copies of *The Red Diamond*, *More Wild Folk* and two copies of *Man and Beast*. *The Red Diamond* was signed and dated "with the compliments of the author," but no one is mentioned as the recipient, and Scoville follows the above statement with "being the first copy of a hard-written book" [see image]. It's not clear whether he was planning to gift this copy, or simply marking it for his own collection. Other than Cary's *Optic*, I had never seen this statement made in any inscription. The other titles are inscribed to his wife, Katharine, his sister-in-law (who he designates as his sister), Alice Sparhawk, his wife's sister, in the inscription (which caused me some research problems), and his son Gurdon.

This collection also helps confirm my premise that The Century Company did not date its title pages from 1924 through 1927, something I believe I mentioned in some previous correspondence. I have examined numerous copies, including a number of non-fiction titles, and with only one exception — and that being a reprint of a non-fiction title — I have not seen any books with dated title pages for the above years. This makes first edition identification nearly impossible, unless there are clues that only appear in the form of advertising on the dust jackets, which are very difficult to find (I have two in jacket by Ralph Henry Barbour from this era; neither has any advertising on the jacket listing books published at a later date than the title in hand). And just for clarification, I have never seen a Century title with a printing history listed on the copyright page, prior the first printing designation begun in 1928.

However, two of the signed Scovilles seem to offer some proof that Century just dropped this designation that it had been using for first editions (corresponding dates to the title and copyright pages) for some unknown



Author Samuel Scoville's inscription to an unnamed recipient of his *The Red Diamond*, with the added notation "... being the first copy of a hard-written book"

reason in 1924. I know for sure that they began marking new issues with "first printing" by August of 1928, but it may have begun earlier in the year.

As for the Scoville examples' dates, he signed *More Wild Folk* (1924) to his son Gurdon on April 16, 1924 and *The Red Diamond* (1925) on September 30, 1925. The **Cumulative Book Index** is not helpful here, as it does not list the month of publication, but the Library of Congress catalogue numbers seem to fit, with a 9000 number for the April book and a 19000 number for the September book. These titles, with the one marked as a "first book," would seemingly increase the odds that Century simply decided to end the title page dating in 1924. We will likely never know why.

And a final note on Scoville's writings. I had thought that I had added Scoville's five-book series to my MAD Guide update at some point, but I have obviously been remiss, as that series does not appear on my list. I have had copies of all five titles in my collection for more than 20 years, and they are a series, with the primary characters appearing in all five books. The publishers (Century for books one through four and Dodd, Mead

(Continued on Page 12)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 11)

for volume five) do not indicate a series name, but all five titles concern adventures in the wild (a major theme in Scoville's writing), so we can simply designate them "World Exploration Series" for the present. Here are the five titles:

Boy Scouts in the Wilderness (1919)

The Blue Pearl (1920)

The Inca Emerald (1922)

The Red Diamond (1924)

The Snake-Blood Ruby (1932)

Samuel Scoville, Jr. was the grandson of Henry Ward Beecher. He keeps the name in the family with his son William Beecher Scoville. I wonder what happened to the books that were signed to him?

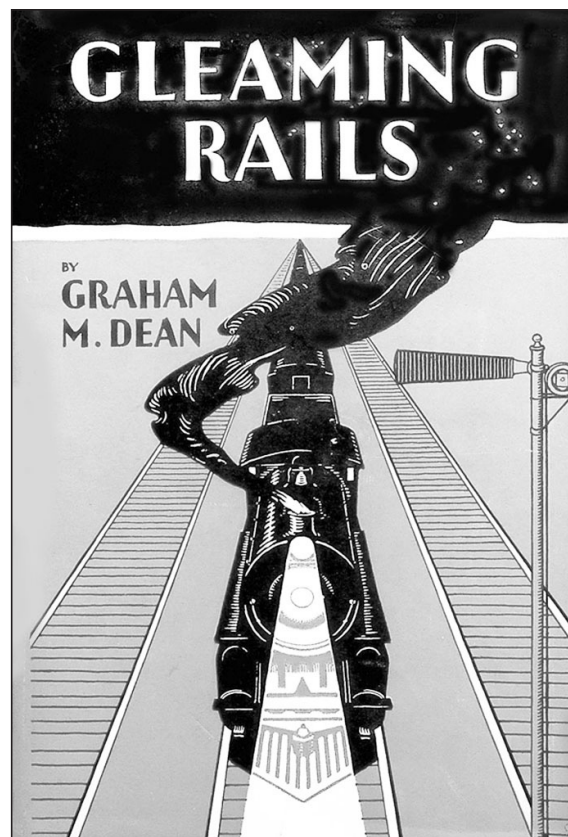
Sincerely,
Bart Nyberg (PF-879)
4657 Mason St.
Omaha, NE 68106
Email: lewarcher@aol.com

Dear Bill:

One of the more interesting and advanced areas of collecting involves locating, purchasing, and researching association copies, as Cary Sternick described in his May-June President's Column. Usually, this is a work that is signed by the author and presented to a person who had a connection with the book. The Caxton Club bibliophile society of Chicago put together an exhibit of notable examples and published an exhibition catalog called *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell* (2011).

For example, I have a 1965-era copy of *Tom Swift and His Outpost in Space* that was signed by author Jim Lawrence as "Victor Appleton II" and presented to Dr. Fred L. Whipple, an astronomer and expert on comets. The Stratemeyer Syndicate was working on *Tom Swift and the Mystery Comet* (1966) at the time and this book was sent in thanks for the help Whipple was providing. It is likely that a copy of the completed book was sent to Dr. Whipple as well, when it was published.

Jim Lawrence met fellow series book author Margaret Sutton at the 1986 Corning, New York series book conference. He presented a paperback copy of one of the books he had worked on in the Nancy Drew series, *The Bluebeard Room* (1985). I have this copy, the inscription which reads: "With admiration and respect to Margaret Sutton in happy recollection of the Corning Conference from Jim Lawrence (ex-Stratemeyer) 12/16/86." It might be argued that Margaret had nothing to do with the Nancy



Drew book, so the association aspect is limited.

A couple years ago we bought some items from the Peg Wirt estate auction that were originally owned by Mildred Wirt Benson. One was a book called *Gleaming Rails* (Appleton, 1930) by series book author Graham M. Dean [see illustrations]. Dean and Wirt were both attending the University of Iowa school of journalism. Dean had recently become managing editor of the Iowa City **Press-Citizen**, the youngest person at 19 to hold that position in 1925. He later went on to edit and/or own a succession of small newspapers in the western states. In presenting the first printing copy of the book, he inscribed it: "To Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Wirt whom I envy for their writing ability. Sincerely Graham Dean." Wirt had been writing books for Stratemeyer since 1926 and she likely shared these publications with Dean.

Sometimes people see any writing in a book and pass on it, preferring a like-new, unmarked copy. Last year I bought an early copy of Edward Stratemeyer's *Between Boer and Briton*. As I opened it, I noticed that several pages had writings in the margins. This is called "marginalia" among collectors and booksellers. When I read the notes, I saw that the reader was interacting with the text and critiquing Stratemeyer's account of the Boer War. On the front free endpaper I saw indications of a past institution and a bookstore that held the book.

GLEAMING RAILS

TO
 Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Witt
 whom I envy for their
 writing ability.
 Sincerely
 Graham Dean



There was also a rubber stamp for a Don Weinstock.

I bought the \$6.00 book from The Last Bookstore in downtown Los Angeles. Before I had returned home I had been able to learn that Donald Jay Weinstock (1934-2016) had received his Ph.D. in 1968 from UCLA, with his dissertation titled *The Boer War in the Novel in English, 1884-1966: A Descriptive and Critical Bibliography*. This work doesn't mention the Stratemeyer volume so he probably bought it from Bertrand Smith's Acres of Books in Long Beach years later.

Weinstock was on the faculty of Cal State Long Beach and continued his interest in the Boer War representations in literature throughout his career. It would have been interesting to learn from him which sources Stratemeyer likely used in preparing his manuscript. At least we can see Weinstock's notes preserved in the margins.

As always, it is a matter of being in the right place at the right time and being willing to take a chance. Sometimes a copy with some writing in it is more interesting than a pristine copy. These are just a few association copies and books with marginalia in our collection.

Sincerely,
 James D. Keeline (PF-898)
 5707 Spartan Drive
 San Diego, CA 92115
 Email: james@keeline.com

Dear Bill:

I accompanied my son, one granddaughter and grandson to Fenway on Friday to catch a pretty good Red Sox beat-up on the Bronx Crew.

Every baseball game is different and offers some opportunities for a record or two. Mookie Betts hit 3 consecutive home runs in the first, third and fourth innings to get the home team off to a good start. All went over the Left Field Wall, but even so a good effort.

These are one day marathon trips for us, and there is no escaping the increasing construction and traffic conditions which make for a miserable drive. For example, it took us seven hours up from Long Island to Boston. Then a mile hike to Fenway Park and back, and the five-hour drive back all making for a long day.

Mookie, of course, had a chance to tie the major-league record of 4 home runs, but we were pulling for J.D. Martinez to hit for the cycle. His first at bat he hit a HR, second at-bat a triple, third at-bat he sliced a ball to right field that bounced into the stands for a sure ground-rule double, except it was foul by about three inches.

The first 13 Red Sox batters either hit safely or struck out, and I thought it might be the game that would be one of those truly rare events, in which the first baseman records no outs and no assists, but it was not to be when Michael Chavis grounded out in the fourth. I know that Norm Cash was one of the record holders.

I have an invitation and ticket for the game and the Aaron Boone press conference this coming Wednesday at the Stadium. This Yankees' pitching staff is showing some serious cracks. It will be interesting to see what happens before the trade deadline. A month ago, Yankees GM Brian Cashman could laugh at teams (like the Tigers and Blue Jays) who are holding out for Glyber Torres vs. Clint Frazier. He still should, plus the fact that there really aren't any certifiable good pitchers available, in my opinion.

Attending the game with us was a family friend, Chris Isador, who is the lead financial news writer for CNN and a deeply knowledgeable baseball fan. We think Cashman should stand pat.

Sincerely,
 Keith Thompson (PF-035)
 P.O. Box 67
 Bellport, NY 11713

Editor's note: This letter was sent just after Keith and his family returned from their trip to Boston on Friday, July 26, when the Red Sox won 10-5 in the second of a four-game Fenway Park series described above [see photo on Page 4]. The Sox went on to win three out of four games, with the Yankees salvaging the Sunday finale. But the first-place Yankees got their revenge the following weekend when the Red Sox were swept at Yankee Stadium in another four-game series.

Tom Swift is back – again!

By James D. Keeline (PF-898)

There is a new Tom Swift series, the sixth since 1910. It is called the **Tom Swift Inventors' Academy** and is published by the Aladdin imprint of Simon & Schuster. Two volumes were published on July 2 and the next two are scheduled for release on October 22 and March 17, respectively. All four are by the same ghostwriter, Michael Anthony Steel, who has already written four recent books in the **Hardy Boys Adventures** series.

These are the titles for the first four volumes:

1. *The Drone Pursuit* (2019)
2. *The Sonic Breach* (2019)
3. *Restricted Access* (2019)
4. *The Virtual Vandal* (2020)

The series name refers to a middle-school level academy that was funded by Tom Swift Jr.'s father's company, Swift Enterprises. Indeed, it is adjacent to the company's compound and it is said that some of the students get help or internship with the firm. The academy is said to have students of 12 and 13 years of age.

The first volume features a drone with artificial intelligence. The mystery involves a question about whether the academy's groundskeeper is possibly a long uncaptured hacker on the FBI wanted list.

The second story includes robot battles like one might see on television in "Battlebots." The challenge concerns a new app that has been sweeping the students of the academy. Faced with multiple random pop quizzes in nearly every subject, the app warns when a class has been subject to a quiz, so the later class periods can be prepared. The warning comes in the form of a high-pitched tone that is audible to young people but far less so among adults. Indeed, the draft title of the story was "The Mosquito Frequency."

In both published volumes, the technology represented is realistic and plausible. It is even within the scope of very bright young people with access to the right kinds of resources. This returns to the traditions of the first five Tom Swift senior books from 1910.

As with the fifth series, **Tom Swift Young Inventor**, also published under the Aladdin imprint between 2006 and 2007, the stories are told in the first person. In the new series the narration is more natural than it was in



The new Tom Swift Inventors' Academy Series is targeted at readers ages 12-13, the same ages as the student protagonists in the books.

the **Young Inventor** series. In that older series Tom Swift seems to keep secrets from himself when talking about the way one of his inventions works.

In general, the six generations of the Tom Swift series have had fewer volumes and shorter publishing durations over time:

- Tom Swift series, 38 volumes produced by the Stratemeyer Syndicate and published by Grosset & Dunlap, 1910-1935, with two "Better Little Books" volumes published by Whitman in 1939 and 1941, respectively.
- Tom Swift Jr. series, 33 volumes produced by the Stratemeyer Syndicate and published by Grosset & Dunlap, 1954-1971.
- Tom Swift series, 11 volumes (plus two unpublished stories) produced by the Stratemeyer Syndicate and published by the Wanderer imprint of Simon & Schuster, 1981-1984.
- Tom Swift series, 13 volumes (plus two adventures combined with the Hardy Boys called "Ultra Thrill-

Popular Culture Association proposal deadline Nov. 1

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 Philadelphia, Pa., from April 15-18, 2020. See <http://pcaaca.org> for more overall information on the conference.

The deadline for paper proposals is Nov. 1, 2019. Early submission is strongly encouraged.

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 or noteworthy 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 like 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.). Presentations 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 the PCA or ACA, along with and conference registration, are required in order to present a paper.

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

Please send all inquiries to:

Demian Katz
Villanova University
Email: demian.katz@villanova.edu

This boxed set of the first four volumes of the new Tom Swift Inventors' Academy Series is scheduled for release by Simon & Schuster's Aladdin books division in 2020.



ers") produced by Byron Preiss Visual Publications and published by the Archway imprint of Simon & Schuster, 1991-1993.

- Tom Swift Young Inventor series, 6 volumes produced internally by Simon & Schuster and published under the Aladdin imprint, 2006-2007.

The new series is available in paperback generally and hardcover with dust jackets via special order from the online sellers. Next year a boxed set of the first four volumes in paperback will be available (see illustration).

Will the Tom Swift Inventors' Academy be a success? It is possible that the new series will connect with teachers and students of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) programs, which are fashionable in charter schools and are now moving into traditional high schools nationwide, through expanded curricula and modern teaching and lab facilities.

The first two volumes have proven interesting reading and maybe there is new hope for Tom Swift with this new series. Try them for yourself.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

is the moment of the movie I still remember best, three decades later:

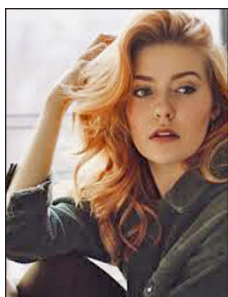
“People will come, Ray. They’ll come to Iowa for reasons they can’t even fathom. They’ll turn into your driveway, not knowing for sure why they’re doing it. They’ll arrive at your door, as innocent as children, longing for the past. . . . And they’ll walk off to the bleachers and sit in their short sleeves on a perfect afternoon. And find they have reserved seats somewhere along the baselines where they sat when they were children. And cheer their heroes. And they’ll watch the game, and it’ll be as they’d dipped themselves in magic waters. The memories will be so thick, they’ll have to brush them away from their faces.

“People will come, Ray. The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It’s been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game, is a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and that could be again. Oh, people will come, Ray. People will most definitely come.”

And in the film, Terence Mann and Ray Kinsella (like Keith Thompson and his family) attend a game at Fenway Park, where one of the “big reveals” takes place.

Nancy Drew returns to the small screen

On October 9, the latest incarnation of Nancy Drew on television will take place when Kennedy McMann gives



Kennedy McMann

her take on the teenage sleuth in a new series on The CW Network at 9 p.m. eastern time. This series (just picked up for the full 2019-20 season, apparently) is set in the town of Horseshoe Bay, Maine.

Here is a brief summary of how Nancy has appeared through the years on screens large and small:

- The first foray into movies for Nancy Drew took place in 1938-39 when Bonita Granville starred as the hyperactive young sleuth driving her spiffy blue roadster (only you couldn’t tell, since the films were black-and-white!) and solving these cases: “Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase,” “Nancy Drew, Detective,” “Nancy Drew – Reporter” and “Nancy Drew – Troubleshooter.” These four films, directed by William Clemens, each play a little over an hour. They were released in a two-disc bargain-priced boxed set by www.warnervideo.com in 2007.

- The Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Mysteries was the



The Leo Edwards book display at the LaSalle County Historical Society museum in Utica, Illinois. Author Edward Edson Lee (Edwards) chose his boyhood home of Utica as the model for Tutter, the fictional setting for Jerry Todd, Poppy Ott and their pals.

Photo courtesy of Jack Bales, during a visit to Illinois in early August

first major network TV series based on the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books. The 1977-79 series was produced by Universal Television for ABC. Parker Stevenson and Shaun Cassidy starred as Frank and Joe Hardy, respectively, while Pamela Sue Martin was Nancy Drew.

- A Canadian-produced Nancy Drew TV series came and went in 1995, with just 13 episodes filmed. It starred Trace Ryan as Nancy as a criminology student who solves mysteries in her spare time. It is currently available on the lesser-known streaming service TuBi.

- In 2007, Nancy returned to the big screen for the first time since the Bonita Granville days, when Emma Roberts starred in “Nancy Drew,” the 98-minute movie from Warner Brothers receiving a split national critics’ Tomatometer rating (50 per cent) on www.rottentomatoes.com but still earning \$25.5 million at the box office.

- Earlier this year, HBO produced a Nancy Drew movie with the familiar title “Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase,” the 89-minute made-for-cable film stars Sophia Lillis in the title role. It is available on pay-per-view.