



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 LX

JULY-AUGUST 2022

NUMBER 4

Convention issue

'Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg'



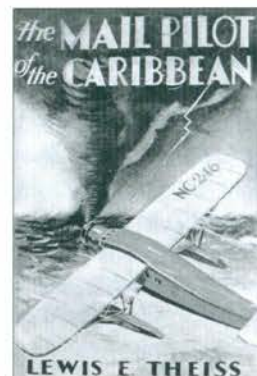
H.A.S. members and guests tour the studio and gallery
of artist Gari Melchers' Belmont estate in Falmouth, Va.

Photo by Carol Nackenoff

- Convention report
-- Page 3
- Convention host's message
-- Page 3
- Directors meeting report
-- Page 8
- Strive & Succeed Award
-- Page 11
- Annual auction summary
-- Pages 14-16

*The 'Ginger' Hale aviation
series by Lewis E. Theiss*

-- Page 17



President's column

"Thank God for air conditioning!" is what anyone would say who could avail himself of this marvelous convenience during the record-breaking heat wave that has swept across our land. Nor are we alone, for Europe is enduring historic temperatures and wildfires. The Chinese are seeding clouds for rain, while we are experiencing catastrophic flooding in Texas and Arizona.

How idyllic things must have been in Alger's day. Blessed with predictable, temperate weather, those of the Gilded Age needed only an umbrella, parasol or oriental fan to maintain summer comfort. And floods? Just a few and nothing like today, right? The Victorian world was a Shangri-La compared to our present hell of climate change and global warming. Or was it?

Alger would have heard of the Great Flood of 1844, which to this day remains the largest in terms of discharge ever recorded for the Missouri and upper Mississippi rivers. It's still the highest on record at St. Louis and it significantly altered Kansas City's history when countless western settlers were re-routed there by the flood's devastation at Independence, Missouri.

Alger, a literate gentleman of his time, no doubt read of the heat wave affecting London in the summer of 1858. Dubbed "The Great Stink," with temperatures in the 90's (reaching 118° in the sun), and no rainfall, the level of the River Thames dropped precipitously, concentrating the raw sewage that flowed into it daily. The bubbling stench made news world-wide and the cholera epidemic that followed killed over 6,000 Londoners and roughly 20,000 nationally. The story and its players are recounted in Stephen Halliday's *The Great Stink of London*, published by Sutton in 1999.

In 1851, over 74 inches of rain fell in Iowa, a record still today. The town of Dudley was utterly destroyed by flood and today remains a ghost-town. The town of Fort Des Moines was nearly destroyed as well when the spring freshets caused the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers to overflow their banks, inundating the entire countryside, destroying farms and crops.

The Great Flood of 1862 remains the largest ever recorded in Oregon, Nevada and California. Weeks of continuous rain created a mega-flood that extended from Oregon down through California to San Diego and inland to modern-day Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. In 43 days, it dumped 10 feet of precipitation in

(Continued on Page 6)

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.

OFFICERS

JAMES KING	PRESIDENT
CAROL NACKENOFF	VICE-PRESIDENT
ROBERT E. KASPER	TREASURER
ROBERT G. SIPES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROBERT PETITTO	(2023) DIRECTOR
SCOTT CHASE	(2023) DIRECTOR
DEBBY JONES	(2024) DIRECTOR
JAMES D. KEELINE	(2024) DIRECTOR
KEITH THOMPSON	(2025) DIRECTOR
LIANE HOUGHTALIN	(2025) DIRECTOR
LEO "BOB" BENNETT (1932-2004)	EMERITUS
RALPH D. GARDNER (1923-2005)	EMERITUS

PAST PRESIDENTS

KENNETH B. BUTLER	MARY ANN DITCH
JACK ROW	JOHN CADICK
DR. MAX GOLDBERG	CARL T. HARTMANN
STEVE PRESS	ARTHUR P. YOUNG
JUDSON S. BERRY	CAROL NACKENOFF
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	ROBERT G. HUBER
JERRY B. FRIEDLAND	ROBERT R. ROUTHIER
BRADFORD S. CHASE	MICHAEL MORLEY
ROBERT E. SAWYER	LAWRENCE R. RICE
EUGENE H. HAFNER	ROBERT G. SIPES
D. JAMES RYBERG	BARRY SCHOENBORN
GEORGE W. OWENS	JEFF LOONEY
WILLIAM R. WRIGHT	RICHARD B. HOFFMAN
ROBERT E. KASPER	CARY S. STERNICK

Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to **Horatio Alger Society, 4940 Old Main St., Unit 402, Henrico, VA 23231**.

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," to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

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 those free "Alger for sale" ads to the editor at the above address, where you can also send "Letters to the Editor" by regular mail or by e-mail to hasnewsboy@aol.com.

2022 convention report

'Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg'

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The return by the Horatio Alger Society to Fredericksburg, Virginia, resulted in another memorable weekend, despite its much later than usual schedule. The weather was perfect and old friends got to renew acquaintances over the weekend of June 23-26, 2022.

Of course, the late June weekend resulted in several Partic'lar Friends having conflicts with long-standing personal schedules, and we hope to have them back with us when we return to Fredericksburg for a third time on May 4-7, 2023.

After circumstances beyond his control the past two years (the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and lack of hotel availability this year), host Jack Bales is happy to report that next year we will be going back to our longtime

first weekend of May, a tradition that dates back many decades. He has already named next year's convention "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg," continuing his aliterative titles of the last two years.

The only bad weather encountered took place on Wednesday evening, when a line of thunderstorms and high wind moved through the area, causing a pair of brief power outages at Jack's home during his reception for early arrivals, the unofficial curtain-raiser for the weekend. See Jack's convention host report for additional details.

"Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg" officially got underway at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 23, with the opening of registration in the Spotsylvania Room on the lower

(Continued on Page 5)

Last year's experience pays off the second time around

By Jack Bales (PF-258)

Convention host

I wouldn't exactly say that I am an old hand at hosting Horatio Alger Society conventions, but my experience putting together last year's get-together certainly helped as I coordinated all the details for this year's "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg." One of the details I did not have to worry about was the choice of convention hotel. Hampton Inn Director of Sales Chris Jones and I worked well last year and he immediately agreed to host us again in 2022. We stayed in touch throughout the year, emailing quite a bit and occasionally meeting for lunch at the "Legends" restaurant across the street from the hotel.

I think that the constant communication paid off, for I can't think of anything that went awry during the convention. The staff knew all about us, and whenever I stopped at the front desk, a cheerful hotel employee was there to address my concerns and answer questions. There was coffee and tea set up every morning, and the two refrigerators were liberally supplied with bottled water. I had various drinks and snacks on hand, too.

Also on hand, throughout the year, were seasoned H.A.S. members to whom I could ask questions and bounce off ideas. I chose Castiglia's Italian restaurant for the Friday night meal, and one day Rob Kasper drove up from Richmond to have lunch there with me. I was also contemplating the Golden Corral that was right around the corner from the Hampton Inn, and we stopped in for



Jack Bales and James King present the 2022 President's Award to the Hampton Inn's Chris Jones. Photo by Bill Gowen

a late breakfast one day. The food was fine, but we both thought a local restaurant like Castiglia's, rather than a chain establishment, would be a better choice.

Rob was also instrumental in ensuring that each convention packet would include a special souvenir: a copy of the well-written, attractively illustrated biography of Horatio Alger, Jr. produced by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. Several H.A.S. members provided input toward the completion of this 28-page biography, and as I noted in the last issue of **Newsboy**, Association Executive Director Terrence J.

(Continued on Page 12)

Editor's notebook

As autumn approaches and a very hot and humid summer finally ends, we can look back fondly at another successful convention. Because "Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg" took place in late June, the convention wrapup is appearing in this issue. But don't fear, in 2023 we'll be back to our traditional early May dates as we hope the past two years of a non-traditional weekend are behind us.

Yes, we are returning to Fredericksburg again on May 4-7, 2023, and the reasons are logical. First, Jack Bales has volunteered to host again now that he is in retirement (like so many of us), he has more free time and welcomes the challenge.

Jack has built a cordial relationship with the Hampton Inn & Suites, which for the third straight year will be offering us a very reasonable room rate of \$89 (plus tax) for the early May dates. That is much less than half the typical charge at a hotel of the Hampton Inn's stature. In fact, I just returned from a one-week vacation to New England and my charges at budget hotels were significantly higher than \$89, which is no surprise in light of the inflationary surge nationwide (and also the world).

This issue contains our report of the annual H.A.S. auction, and the most pleasant surprise is that it was almost 100 percent donations, most likely because we did not have a large consigned collection like that offered by the late Jim Thorp's family the previous two years. In 2022, we depended on individuals shipping books to Jack from near and far, as well as those of us bringing them with us to the convention. No, I'm not going to risk spraining my shoulder by patting myself on the back; I simply decided to start cleaning out my garage of duplicate books (sorry, no Algers), and make them a donation rather than consignment. In previous Editor's Notebooks, I urged members to donate, as did President James King in several of his columns, and we were rewarded with significant donations from Bart and Mary Ann Nyberg, Scott Chase, Carol Nackenoff and Michael Nabholz, plus the family of the late Bob Bennett.

Please read Jack's article summarizing the convention from the host's viewpoint (starting on Page 3), along with his article covering his presentation remarks honoring our **Strive & Succeed Award** recipient, on Page 11.

Some bad aerial surveillance

As you are probably aware, Bart Nyberg and I were two of the major contributors and editors of the 1997 update



These books are *not* part of the "Ginger" Hale Series, See David Kirk Vaughan's article on Page 17.

and expansion of Harry Hudson's groundbreaking bibliography of boys' series books, compiled by Ed Mattson and the late Tom Davis. Nicknamed "the big red book," it contains 578 pages and was published in 1997 out of Davis' office in Newark, Delaware (he was an engineer). It was an amazing undertaking, given that computer-based desktop publishing was in its early years.

Well, both Bart and I overlooked something that is related to David Kirk Vaughan's article (part 1 in this issue) regarding Lewis E. Theiss' Joseph "Ginger" Hale Series, published by W.A. Wilde of Boston. The Mattson-Davis guide lists this series as containing 12 titles, published between 1933 and 1944. However, when I was preparing Vaughan's article (see Page 17), I was confused to see it included only seven titles. Upon phoning Vaughan, he explained that the guide's list incorporated two series, the first seven titles comprising the aviation adventures of the title character, "Ginger" Hale, and several of his flying colleagues.

The last five listed titles, starting with *Flying with the C.A.A.* (1941) and continuing with *Flying for Uncle Sam* (1942), *Flying with the Coastal Patrol* (1943), *Flying with the Air Sea Rescue Service* (1944) and *Flying with the Air Transport Command* (1944) were, in fact, a different series with different main characters. Because neither Hudson nor Mattson-Davis noted this, the 12 books were listed as a single series.

Why did this happen? Theiss used the "overlapping characters" literary technique in most of his aviation books, starting with the **Jimmy Donnelly Series** (1927-1932), which introduced "Ginger" Hale as a character in several titles before the latter was given his own series (1933-1939). Likewise, the "**Ginger**" Hale Series books introduce two new characters, "Peewee" Dewire and Colvin "Cris" Criswell, as supporting characters, before

(Continued on Page 10)



Dick Hoffman and Carol Nackenoff check out the selection of auction books.

Photo by Bill Gowen

Convention report

(Continued from Page 3)

level of the Hampton Inn and Suites. This room (as in the previous year) served as our hospitality/meeting room as well as the location of the annual banquet.

The first official event of the weekend was the annual Board of Directors meeting in the nearby Washington Room. Executive Director Bob Sipes' full report on the meeting is on Pages 8-9. Following the meeting, the annual ritual of organizing the fund-raising auction took place in the meeting room, which involved sorting and logging the various bid lots onto Bob's computer. While other members enjoyed dinner on their own at area restaurants, Bob and this writer took advantage of take-out Chick fil-A chicken sandwiches from a recently established location across the street from the hotel. By late in the evening, most of the approximately 160 auction lots had been recorded.

Friday, June 24

The Hampton Inn has an excellent self-service hot breakfast, and most of our members took advantage. Although the breakfast room was open the previous year, the self-service function was curtailed due to the pandemic, with the hotel passing our orders through a

"socially distanced" window. Only the coffee and tea remained self-service, but we all survived the inconvenience. It was nice to be back to "near normal" in 2022!

Following breakfast, registration remained open for late arrivals, with the first session of the conference starting at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks by H.A.S. President James King and convention host Jack Bales. Following immediately were the three presentations, with Jeff Looney opening with a talk titled "'But I wrote it:' Some Revelations from Autographed Books."

Bales followed with "No Shrinking Violet: Violet Popovich and the Chicago Cub Shot for Love," a PowerPoint talk on the historic event described in his book on the subject, published last year. Bill Gowen wrapped up the session with "James A. Braden — A Son of Ohio," the story of the Akron author of juvenile books about Native Americans living in his region of the Midwest, plus a more traditional boys' series, *The Auto Boys*. All were published by Saalfeld of Akron.

Following a short break, King brought annual H.A.S. business meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Major subjects covered included:

- Two items of unfinished business from the previous day's board meeting, i.e., the vote of honoraria of \$100 each to the Executive Director, **Newsboy** Editor and Webmaster; and a proposition to maintain the current \$1,000 stipend for the **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient, all carried by voice vote.

- Clarification by Executive Director Bob Sipes concerning the \$5,000 stipend from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., recognizing several H.A.S. members' contributions to the new full-color Horatio Alger Association biography booklet. Since this transaction occurred very late in the previous fiscal year, it was posted in the current board-approved Treasurer's Report, published in the May-June 2022 **Newsboy** listed as "H.A.A. consulting fee."

- Editor Bill Gowen reported that the financial situation of **Newsboy** remains stable, but due to continuing declining enrollment, the print run for each issue will immediately be reduced from 125 to 120 copies.

- Sipes reported that in the past year, the Society gained two new members and lost eight members, and our current membership list of 100 includes 10 libraries. Most of the decline from 137 members from 10 years ago to 2022 is due to deceased members.

- Next year's convention will go back to its early May dates, and host Jack Bales reported he told the board on Thursday that he would be happy to host again in 2023, and he has already secured the same \$89 per night rate from the Hampton Inn of the past two years for the dates of May 4-7, 2023. A vote on returning to Fredericksburg

(Continued on Page 7)

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

California alone. An intense warm storm then unleashed unprecedented snow-melt flooding and swept away towns, dams, houses and farms. At least 4,000 people, or roughly 1 per cent of California's population at the time, were killed, and the damage was estimated at 100 million dollars at the time, or more than \$3 billion today. It is still referred to as the worst disaster ever to strike California, and that's saying something!

One of the 19th century's worst dam disasters occurred in Massachusetts in 1874. The Mill River Flood was caused by the failure of a shoddy earthen dam built by mill owners to create a reservoir. The 40-foot-high wall of water careened through the valley, taking everything in its path, killing 139 people and razing four towns within an hour. It led to the first dam safety laws. Though man-made, it was one of the greatest disasters to strike Massachusetts in Alger's lifetime. A prime book on the subject, *In the Shadow of the Dam* by Elizabeth M. Sharpe, was just updated earlier this year.

The Great Flood of 1881 resulted from the Missouri River breaching its banks from Pierre, South Dakota down to Kansas City, Missouri in the spring after a long winter of heavy snowfall. The flood produced a swath five miles wide, submerging much of Omaha and Council Bluffs. All of Omaha's shipping industry was damaged, some of it totally destroyed. Eventually, all Iowan lowlands were under water and the river rose to its highest point in the history of Nebraska City and Fremont County, Iowa. The Elkhorn River valley flooded and the entire town of Waterloo, Nebraska was abandoned. The flood changed the course of the river considerably and created Lake Manawa. Losses were in the millions in 1881 dollars.

Even greater than the Mill River Flood was the Johnstown Flood of 1889. Record rainfall caused the catastrophic failure of a dam on the Little Conemaugh River, used to maintain a reservoir for a wealthy fishing and hunting retreat. Over 14 million cubic feet of water cascaded through the gorge. The wall of water effortlessly took out the towns of South Fork, Mineral Point and East Conemaugh before slamming into Johnstown. More than 2,200 people died, the largest U.S. civilian death toll at the time. The disaster became the first major relief effort for the American Red Cross under Clara Barton, and it led to the adoption of strict-liability principles in American jurisprudence. The most prominent of several books on the subject is *The Johnstown Flood* by noted historian and author David McCullough in 1968.

The most notorious heat wave of the era occurred in New York in the summer of 1896. Ten days of round-the-

clock 90's with 90 per cent humidity killed nearly 1,500 tenement-dwellers, many of them in the Lower East Side. Sleeping outside, some of them fell to their deaths from rooftops or fire-escapes. The city did virtually nothing until the end when the police commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt, toured the neighborhood and ordered the distribution of free ice. The heat wave is chronicled in *Hot Time in the Old Town* by professor of American history, Edward Kohn.

Three years later, Alger would be gone, just a couple years shy of the infamous 1901 heat wave, the most destructive in U.S. history, which claimed over 9,500 lives.

I had a memorable time at our convention this year, as I trust did all other attendees. I leave in the capable hands of our esteemed editor, Bill Gowen, host Jack Bales and Executive Director Bob Sipes the convention coverage in this issue and bid you all good reading!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
James King (PF-1126)
711 East Plantation Circle
Plantation, FL 33324
(954) 473-6927
Email: jamesreed9@gmx.com

INTERESTED PARTIES: OLIVER OPTIC

I have just completed a Bibliographic Listing of the first volume, 1867, of Oliver Optic's magazine OUR BOYS AND GIRLS, comprising Volumes 1 and 2. I have identified 128 Optic items that were written by our editor for his magazine.

Also, there is much information of a personal nature not found anywhere else: his favorite magazine, his favorite dessert, the name of his dog, two awful diseases that almost laid him low, something about his domestic arrangements, recollections from his youth, and etc.

I will offer this listing to any interested parties free of charge. Just contact me as to the format desired. I have canvassed 52 separate weekly issues, a total of 728 pages. Included, of course, are the original serializations of his first three STARRY FLAG volumes: "The Starry Flag," "Breaking Away" and "Seek And Find." Plus editorials, dialogues, and much other miscellaneous information.



Peter C. Walther (PF-548)
1625 Black River Blvd., Apt. 702-B
Rome, NY 13440
Email: obie4799@gmail.com

Convention report

(Continued from Page 5)

in May 2023 was passed by voice vote, and Bales added that from his experience the past two years, he plans to update the “guidelines for future convention hosts” in order to help smooth the way for future hosts.

- The slate of members was presented to fill current officers’ and directors’ slots, with Carol Nackenoff agreeing to fill the vacant Vice President opening (through 2023) and Keith Thompson and Liane Houghtalin were put forward as nominees for the two upcoming vacancies on the board, three-year terms ending in 2025. No other nominations were made from the floor, and the slate was carried by voice vote.

President King adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m., to allow for an early start to the annual auction prior to our noon box lunch provided by Sodexo Catering Services of the University of Mary Washington.

During the break before the start of the auction, the annual H.A.S. President’s Award was made by King and Bales to the Hampton Inn’s Director of Marketing Chris Jones for his “above and beyond” contributions to the success of our 2021 and 2022 conventions.

The auction resumed while lunch was being served, and auctioneers James King and Jeff Looney helped the Society net an impressive total of \$1,722.20 for their efforts (complete auction results on Pages 14-16).

After a short break, attendees left by car pools for Castiglia’s Italian Restaurant for a buffet dinner including lasagna, chicken with pasta and pesto sauce, along with a vegetable salad. Following dinner, the hospitality room remained open for further conversation among attendees.

Saturday, June 25

Following breakfast, the meeting room was set up for the annual book sale, which began at about 8:30 a.m., with coffee and refreshments available.

At about 11 a.m., the attendees dispersed for lunch on their own and made arrangements for car transportation for the 1 p.m. tour at Belmont, the home and studio of famed artist Gari Melchers in nearly Falmouth, Virginia. Jack Bales offers further comments on the excellent presentation of this tour in his convention host’s report.

By late afternoon, the meeting room was being set up by the Hampton Inn staff for the annual H.A.S. awards banquet, which kicked off at 6 p.m.

The annual awards presentations were led off by the presentation of the **Strive and Succeed Award**, this year’s honor going to Michael “Mikey” Harper, who attended with his mother, Christine. The presentation included a certificate, a check for \$1,000 and a copy of



Terry Booth is presented the 2022 Newsboy Award from editor Bill Gowen.

Photo by Bob Sipes

Alger’s *Strive and Succeed*, all presented by convention host Jack Bales, whose separate article on Harper’s background and his award can be read on Page 11.

The annual Horatio Alger Society awards followed, with Bales a double winner — the **Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award** (going to the previous year’s convention host), and the **Richard R. Seddon Award**, which is given to the Partic’lar Friend who personifies the comradeship of the late Waltham, Massachusetts, member Richard Seddon. **Newsboy** editor Bill Gowen presented the **Newsboy Award** to one of the Society’s newest members, Terry Booth, whose debut article, “Hugh McAlister’s ‘Worth While Books’ Series,” was an impressive achievement — and he has another article coming up at the end of the year!

Banquet keynote speaker Scott H. Harris, executive director of the University of Mary Washington’s museums, including the President James Monroe Museum, made an encore presentation from his 2021 talk, this time comparing the lives of Gari Melchers, the artist whose home and studio we visited earlier in the day, with Horatio Alger’s Chester Rand (also an artist). Harris’s PowerPoint presentation demonstrated how a real-life career and that of a fictional Alger hero can often intersect.

Again this year, Partic’lar Friend Liane Houghtalin prepared a gift basket of Fredericksburg-area food and beverage items. Last year, the winner of the drawing was new member Melissa Givey; this year the lucky name drawn was that of Scott Chase.

Now, it’s on to “Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg,” and remember the dates: May 4 to 7, 2023.

Membership	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Individual	79	85	85	91	94	101	104	112	114	115
Sustaining	13	16	13	11	13	15	11	11	13	14
Life*	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	7	7	8
Honorary	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	4
Institutions	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10
Total	100	106	107	113	116	123	124	134	135	137

Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

Fredericksburg, Virginia — June 23, 2022

In Attendance:

James King, President

Carol Nackenoff, Vice President

Robert G. Sipes, Executive Director

William R. Gowen, Editor

Robert Kasper, Treasurer

Scott B. Chase, Director

Jack Bales, Director; host

Debby Jones, Director

James D. Keeline, Director*

*Attended via digital presence

Absent:

Robert Petitto, Director

Robert G. Huber, Webmaster

James King, President, called the meeting to order at 1600.

James opened with old business regarding the ratification of the Editor and Executive Director. This was overlooked in 2021, and James motioned to accept the current Editor, Bill Gowen, and Executive Director, Bob Sipes, for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The motion carried.

James King presented the following committee appointments. The standing Nominating Committee consists of Jerry Friedland (Chair), Bill Leitner, and Keith Thompson. Bill Gowen is the Chair of the *ad hoc* Newsboy Award Committee, and he can add members as necessary. The standing Editorial Committee consists of Bill Gowen (Chair), Jack Bales and Jeff Looney. Carol Nackenoff will chair the standing Membership Committee. There was much discussion regarding the need for committees and their place in helping conduct H.A.S. business.

James King presented the Nominating Committee Report, recommending Liane Houghtalin and Keith Thompson as nominees for the Board. There was also discussion regarding the open VP position and while we had multiple potential candidates, Carol Nackenoff was selected as the nominee with her caveat that she would not confirm at this time that she would accept the role of President next year. All nominations were approved by the H.A.S. Board and the nominations were ratified by the membership during the Business Meeting Friday morning.

Following much discussion regarding the lack of a formal H.A.S. Historian and the various items we possess as an organization, Robert Sipes was accepted as the Historian/archivist for the Society. He will work with Bill Gowen and Jack Bales to create an inventory of current historical items.

The website content was discussed, and it was approved to

post **Newsboy** issues to the website on a rolling 2-year monthly instead of yearly cadence. Other items such as the **Newsboy** Index posted to the website will be reviewed for currency and updated by Robert Sipes and Scott Chase.

The Bob Bennett family donated a large number of Bennett bibliographies to the H.A.S. The Board approved advertising and selling them via various methods, including eBay, Facebook, the H.A.S. website and **Newsboy** advertisement. Robert Sipes will provide listings on eBay and Facebook and will manage payments received via PayPal.

Jack Bales, Convention host, reported that the current registered attendance was 15 and that he would cover any additional conference expense. Jack presented some of the issues he experienced hosting this year and offered to update the Convention Host Guidelines. James motioned to create an *ad hoc* committee to update the guidelines consisting of Jack Bales, Rob Kasper and Bob Sipes. The Board approved the committee.

Robert Kasper presented the annual financial report (published in the previous issue of **Newsboy**). Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$17, 877.26 and expenses were \$9,761.33 resulting in a net income of \$8,115.93 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022. This is a substantial increase from the income of \$1,256.61 realized for fiscal year ending April 30, 2021. The increase can be attributed to the auction proceeds from the remainder of the Jim Thorp collection, a \$5,000 donation from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. for the updating of their Alger biography by H.A.S. members Rob Kasper, Brad Chase and Jack Bales; and an anonymous grant of \$2,500. There were no 2021 convention expenses as Jack Bales covered any deficiency. Financial assets as of 30 April 2022 equal \$24,102.58.

While our year-over-year losses have normally been small, with a few slight gains, we need to promote our annual convention and auction to ensure our convention breaks even and the auction proceeds result in gains rather than losses. In support of this we must concentrate on increasing membership, promoting the Sustaining membership option and continuing to solicit high quality auction material for future conventions.

The regular *Strive & Succeed Award* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$1,125. This is an increase over the previous year; however, the stipend to the recipient selected by the convention host remained at \$1,000. It was noted that there were no separate *Strive & Succeed* donations made online; however, a couple of online dues renewals contained *Strive & Succeed* donations.

Robert Sipes, Executive Director, reported total membership at 100. This includes 79 individual members, 13 of which are

NIU HAS Endowment Net Principal	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-19	May-18	May-17	May-16	May-15	May-14
	\$77,991.92	\$61,406.13	\$59,334.66	\$49,513.38	\$45,752.93	\$50,764.39	\$52,667.43	\$45,790.37

Sustaining members, 8 Life, 4 Honorary and 9 Libraries. There were 2 new members and 8 drops during the previous 12 months for a net loss of 6 members. The drop in membership is primarily due to the passing of some of our aging members. As greater than 75 per cent of our membership are seniors, this problem will continue without membership growth. Total membership by category is presented in the table on page 8.

Robert Sipes commented that we carry members who are past due on membership dues for months before dropping them. Most end up catching up their dues; however, we currently have 5 members who are greater than 6 months in arrears. This can skew the membership numbers and affects the overall cash flow.

Sipes also reviewed our online social media presence. The H.A.S. Facebook page is slowly growing in membership. However, due to low level of membership activity on the page, our overall reach is very limited. We currently have 201 Facebook members that have liked the H.A.S. page and receive updates. This is up 4 from 2021. Many of these Facebook members are not H.A.S. members. The level of activity on the H.A.S. page is low; however, when a member posts some content, there is a small level of activity, implying that increased content would result in increased activity. Increased activity requires increased posts that are interesting and thought provoking. The **Newsboy** teaser posts have resulted in a small amount of activity and possibly one new member.

Robert also discussed our relationship with EBSCO. (You can locate additional information regarding our relationship in past H.A.S. Board meeting minutes). To date, we have not received any income from EBSCO. However, we continue to upload current issues as they are released. Robert contacted EBSCO regarding the status of any income and what we should expect when EBSCO subscribers purchased bulk access. The answer was that this new service is still in development and has not yet been released. We will be notified once the new service has been released. EBSCO also reached out to Robert and asked if the H.A.S. was interested in including their **Newsboy** content in a new global search feature. This was approved by the Board.

The H.A.S. repository remains robust. NIU continues to provide scans and other reproductions to our members upon request. The table, above, shows the endowment net principal for the past few years. The minor fluctuations are due to the

financial markets and the number of fellowships provided during fiscal year.

There was a fellowship was awarded in 2020, but due to COVID the researcher did not feel comfortable traveling to NIU to perform her research. Due to the unique circumstances concerning the pandemic, she was awarded an extension year and expected to complete her research before May 2022. However, due to changing circumstances brought on by the pandemic and other factors she backed out. There were no applicants for 2021 and one applicant and awardee for 2022, a doctoral student from the University of Michigan.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 125 copies. Due to the declining membership a reduction to 120 copies was approved. The total annual expense for producing **Newsboy** has remained relatively stable during the past decade (see table, below). The primary reason is managing the print run based on membership to balance increases in postage and printing costs. Total cost per issue decreased slightly in FY 2021-22 due to minimal editor's expenses and no bi-annual envelope purchase.

Jack Bales offered to host the 2023 H.A.S. Convention again in Fredericksburg, VA. The HAS 2023 convention will be held at the same venue on 4 to 7 May 2023. Jack already has the convention well in hand with logistics, hotel pricing and more. Potential locations for 2024 — NIU hosted by Bob Petitto, and 2025 (San Diego) hosted by James Keeline — were proposed and discussed without decision.

Robert Sipes stated that all necessary business filings were completed.

Vice-President King adjourned the meeting at 1800.

On 24 June 2022, just prior to the H.A.S. Business Meeting, the same Board members met with the exception of James Keeline and approved the *Strive and Succeed Award* in the amount of \$1,000, and \$100 honorariums for the **Newsboy** Editor and Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Sipes

Robert G. Sipes

Executive Director

Horatio Alger Society

Category	May '21 - Apr '22	May '20 - Apr '21	May '19 - Apr '20	May '18 - Apr '19	May '17 - Apr '18	May '16 - Apr '17	May '15 - Apr '16	May '14 - Apr '15	May '13 - Apr '14	May '12 - Apr '13
Print Run	125	130	130	130	140	140	155	160	160	160
Number of Color Issues	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	1
Print Cost per Issue (each)	\$3.09	\$2.65	\$2.78	\$2.53	\$2.78	\$2.81	\$3.22	\$2.23	\$2.82	\$2.36
Total Cost per Issue (each)	\$4.49	\$5.08	\$4.25	\$4.25	\$4.20	\$4.31	\$4.55	\$3.67	\$4.21	\$3.74

Additions to the Horatio Alger, Jr. bibliography

By Scott B. Chase (PF-1106)

Every now and then while searching for books for my collections, I stumble across a source that I am not familiar with that contains an Alger. Today I share four such sources that have five of Alger's works. Three of the sources have "John Maynard," which was originally published in *Student and Schoolmate*, January, 1868.¹ The other source has two of Alger's known poems.

The first of the three sources that has "John Maynard" is *The Science and Art of Elocution* by Frank H. Fenno.² This book is interesting because in addition to Alger's poem, which is published anonymously, it contains works by Edgar Allan Poe, Longfellow, John H. Yates, Byron and others, but it also has works listed by both Mark Twain and Samuel Clemens. I had not seen a publication that had one work listed by an author and another work listed by the same author's pseudonym. An interesting edition indeed.

The second source with "John Maynard" is *The Webster-Franklin Fifth Reader* by G. S. Hillard.³ In addition to Alger's poem, also published anonymously, this reader has works by Harriet B. Stowe, Dickens, Louisa M. Alcott, Longfellow, Oliver W. Holmes, and others.

The third source with "John Maynard" is *Perfect Pearls of Poetry and Prose* edited by O. H. Tiffany.⁴ Unlike the first two sources which I own, I only saw this source online and confirmed that it included "John Maynard"

via online information.

The last two additions to the bibliography are in the 1863 edition of *Poetical Pen-Pictures of The War*.⁵ It is known that this edition has Alger's poem "The Soldier to His Betrothed," but it also has Alger's poems "The Price of Victory" and "Exempt." In this source, the poem "Exempt" is erroneously attributed to Edward Everett.

Since Alger's works were published in such a broad array of publications over the course of several decades in the late 1800s, I suspect new sources containing Alger's works and possibly new Alger items will continue to surface for some time.

NOTES

1. Bennett, Bob. *A Collector's Guide to the Published Works of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (updated edition, E. C. Mattson and Thomas B. Davis, eds.) Newark, DE: MAD Book Company (1999), p. 253.
2. Fenno, Frank H. *The Science and Art of Elocution*. Philadelphia: John E. Potter & Company (1878).
3. Hillard, G. S. *The Webster-Franklin Fifth Reader, For the Use of Public and Private Schools*. New York: Taintor Brothers, Merrill, & Co. (1878).
4. Tiffany, O. H. *Perfect Pearls of Poetry and Prose*. Chicago: C. W. Stanton Co. (undated).
5. Hayward, J. Henry. *Poetical Pen-Pictures of the War: Selected from Our Union Poets*. Published by the editor (1863).

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

they, in turn, were given the leading roles in the final five books, with "Ginger" Hale still around to handle the transition.

Because the latter group of books was unknown as a separate entity to Hudson and Mattson-Davis, it did not have its own title. In his article in this issue, Vaughan has assigned the title **The Peewee Dewire-Colvin Criswell Series**, and he has told this writer he will provide this article for a future issue of *Newsboy*.

When all this started to come to light, I phoned Bart Nyberg, and he told me he knew of the "crossover" between characters. "I collect the Theiss books, but they are not in my main area of interest, so I did not know the full significance of the Dewire and Criswell characters, even though I knew they existed," he said. "Despite all the work we did helping Tom and Ed out with the Guide, we overlooked it."

My *mea culpa* is similar. I was just starting to collect

the Theiss books in the mid-1990s, and I simply accepted Harry Hudson's original listing as fact.

19th Century green book covers under scrutiny

The current issue of *National Geographic* (September) contains a one-page article in its "Artifact" series, titled "On the Trail of Toxic Tomes." In it, conservators Melissa Tedone and Rosie Grayburn of the Winterthur Museum in Delaware are tracking down books from the mid-19th Century whose covers were dyed with a toxic pigment known as emerald green, which is known to contain trace elements of arsenic. So far, their "Poison Book Project" has uncovered 88 books using advanced spectroscopic techniques. They say thousands of books may still be out there. Handling the books may make a person mildly sick — just don't eat them!

The accompanying illustration of a stack of books shows green covers not unlike Loring Algers or early Lee & Shepard Oliver Optics. The project has sent warnings and images of the green books to libraries throughout the United States and abroad. "Any library that collects 19th century cloth publishers' bindings is likely to have one or two," says Tedone.

2022 Strive and Succeed Award

Overcoming many obstacles with true Horatio Alger spirit

By Jack Bales (PF-258)
Convention Host

One of the highlights of our banquet is the annual presentation of the **Strive and Succeed Award**, which is given to a high school student who has overcome obstacles and hardships and who could be a typical "Alger hero." This year's recipient was Michael "Mikey" Harper. His mother outlined her son's difficulties as well as his successes, and from her remarks I gave the following introduction before presenting Mikey with the award:

"Michael Ryan Harper, who prefers to go by Mikey, faced some big challenges in his lifetime and had to learn early that he would have to work hard and persevere in order to get through life. His mother is a registered nurse and his father was a business manager for the Randolph Sheppard Blind Vending Program in Virginia. In addition to being visually impaired, his dad struggled with significant and chronic health issues that made it hard for him to work at times. Despite the family's difficulties, Mikey grew up in a loving home.

"Mikey met all of his developmental milestones later than most children and there were concerns about his development. Communication was the biggest concern. He didn't start talking till he was almost four and when he did start talking, it was very difficult for him to be understood. After many trips to his doctors, his parents were told that Mikey suffered from severe attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In addition, Mikey had severe hearing loss, which was inoperable. Insurance would not pay for hearing aids. These are expensive, his mother, Christine, told me. As she put it, 'Instead of budgeting for college, we found ourselves budgeting for hearing aids.'

"But the hearing aids certainly started to turn things around for Mikey. As Christine said, 'We learned that Mikey was a pretty smart kid despite his struggles with ADHD and hearing loss. He was evaluated for the gifted and talented program in school. It was then we learned he had a passion for music. We were



Convention host Jack Bales presents the 2022 **Strive and Succeed Award** to Michael "Mikey" Harper. His mother, Christine, right, joined him for the ceremony at the annual H.A.S. banquet on June 25. Photo by Bill Gowen

thrilled. He found something he loved which also helped him excel in school. He participated in school plays and even learned to play an instrument. Mikey is an accomplished trumpet player.'

"Unfortunately, Mikey suffered a setback when he was 12 years old, when his father, who had been chronically ill his entire life, became critically ill and died. Mikey grieved, of course, but he was tough, like his father, and carried on, the way his father would have wanted him to. When he got to high school, he renewed his interest in music and joined the high school marching band. This is where he really began to thrive. His band program is a blue-ribbon band winner twenty-one years in a row.

"COVID gave Mikey another setback. Acoustics were poor in the large rooms where he had to watch teachers on a screen. He had technological accommodations at home that helped him, but his grades still dipped a little, and he had to work a lot harder to bring them up, and in his senior year he worked harder still and did very well. When it came time to apply to colleges, Mikey remembered that he is smart, tough, and resilient. He was accepted to most of the schools he applied to and selected Christopher Newport University here in Virginia.

"Mikey's mother told me that 'we immediately began seeking financial aid and I was ready to take on a third job to help pay for college. This is why we were so grateful to hear about the Horatio Alger Society and your willingness to help my son meet his goals.' Christine said that she also appreciates the efforts of Jessica Dirks of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, who recommended Mikey to begin with. Jessica is also here tonight. I am pleased to present this year's Horatio Alger Society **Strive and Succeed Award** to Michael Harper."

Convention host's report

(Continued from Page 3)

Giroux said that he was "honored and delighted" that convention attendees could each have a copy of it.

I have to admit that I had trouble finding a **Strive & Succeed Award** recipient. Early on, I contacted local high school educators, but things did not work out as planned. I was telling Bob Sipes and Liane Houghtalin about my lack of success, and they suggested, among other groups, ministry organizations and boys' and girls' clubs. In essence, target the groups that deal with the type of student we want to honor. Those suggestions prompted me to contact the local Big Brothers Big Sisters, and within a few minutes I had a marvelous candidate, Michael "Mikey" Harper (see article on Page 11).

Bob Sipes was able to get our award plaques done in record time — including a President's Award for the Hampton Inn's Chris Jones.

As she did last year, Liane Houghtalin put together a flyer with directions on how to get from the hotel to the local newsboy statue. A popular feature of the 2021 convention was the candy bowl in our meeting room which she kept well stocked. Liane arranged for a similar bowl once again, and I know we pretty much went through all the bags of candy that she had on hand.

Another highlight of the 2021 convention was Liane's drawing for registered attendees to win a gift basket of "made in Virginia" items, such as Virginia wine, peanuts, etc. Melissa Givey was the winner, and she remarked a few weeks ago that she still uses the Virginia tea towel from the basket just about every day. This year, Scott Chase was the gift basket winner, and as he told me later on, both he and his wife, Lisa, "have been enjoying its contents since we've been back."

Inclement weather hit Fredericksburg on the Wednesday of this year's convention with one of those wind and rain storms that toppled large trees and knocked out power. The caterers had just left my place after clearing away the meal I arranged for early arrivals, when all of a sudden the power went out. I had a flashlight and lantern at the ready, however, and we all continued talking. The power went back on less than an hour later, but soon went out again. During a lull in the storm, everyone managed to leave, but the next day I heard reports of traffic lights being out and gusty wind doing its best to blow cars from side to side.

Speaking of the caterers, I thought that — like last year — the Sodexo Catering Services at the University of Mary Washington did an outstanding job. I kept in touch with Heather Hosey of UMW Dining Services throughout the



Richard Hoffman, Bob Sipes and James King enjoy host Jack Bales' Wednesday reception. Photo by Bill Gowen

year, and she and her staff had everything well in hand. I particularly heard many positive comments about the box lunches. And what's not to like? After all, there was a large sandwich, chips, fruit, a drink, and a huge cookie — all for less than a meal at McDonald's.

I had been to Belmont, the home and studio of artist Gari Melchers, many times, but I think the tour that H.A.S. members had on Saturday afternoon was just about the best one I've experienced. Our docent was both knowledgeable and friendly, and she answered dozens of our questions.

Scott H. Harris, Executive Director of the University of Mary Washington Museums, arranged for this tour. Scott is the director of the James Monroe Museum, and last year as keynote speaker he did a first-rate job comparing President Monroe with Richard Hunter (aka Ragged Dick). This year I gave him a copy of *Chester Rand* (whose titular hero is an artist), and he came through with an entertaining PowerPoint presentation drawing parallels between Chester Rand and Gari Melchers.

Looking ahead to 2023: At this year's Horatio Alger Society business meeting I agreed to once again host the 2023 convention. The Society has traditionally held its annual convention during the first weekend of May (the weekend before Mother's Day). However, circumstances outside our control caused us to shift to June the past two years. Next year, we will be returning to those early days when "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" will take place from Thursday, May 4 to Sunday, May 7, 2023, in Fredericksburg.

Of great interest to potential attendees is that we have already secured the same \$89 (plus tax) nightly room rate at the Hampton Inn and Suites which we enjoyed in 2021 and 2022. I will continue to outline additional convention plans in future issues of **Newsboy**.

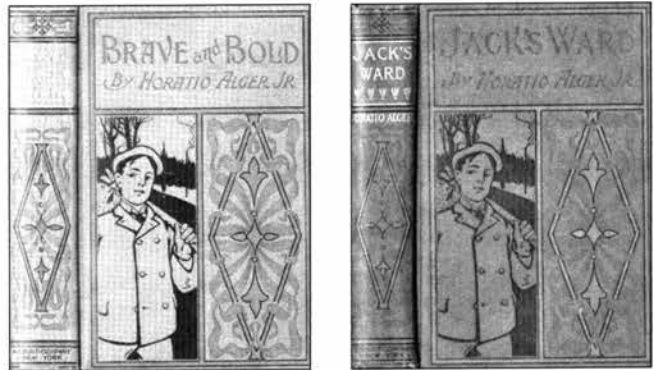
I look forward to planning "Forging Ahead in Fredericksburg" and hope to see you there!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill,

During what is now routine cataloging of the Alger portion of our collection, I came across another variant binding, this one in the Oriental Diamond format. According to Brad Chase's *Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt* (1983), this format had only been seen in the green cloth. Keeping in mind that Brad's guide is now nearly 40 years old, I was only mildly surprised to find a copy of *Brave and Bold* in what can only be termed a blue-gray slate cloth, easily much lighter in color than the others on my shelf, which are all in the standard green. I doubt, though, that it is all that rare, as a search for examples on abebooks.com turned up a different title with the identical color variant. So for what this is worth, I am sending you the photos so that H.A.S. members can check their own collections for copies. It is possible that all four of the *Brave and Bold* Series titles appeared in this color, as it is indeed possible that any of the 36 titles Brad listed in the Oriental Diamond format could have been issued this way. Society members can examine their shelves for books in this previously unrecognized variant.

I have finished my catalog through Jack Bechdolt. Examining each book before listing it, I found a copy of Barbour's *The Lilac Girl* signed to a Doctor Rockwell and dated in the year of publication, 1909. The book is signed a couple of pages in, and I never saw it before. During a recent talk with Jeff Looney, he revealed that he also has a Barbour romance signed to the same person, *Kitty of the Roses*, except that in 1905, when his was signed, Dr. Rockwell was just Mr. Rockwell. We are both now looking to see if we can find this particular person. If you know where Rockwell lived during the 19-oughts, please let me know. I know he came from Cambridge and went to school in Waltham and Worcester, but I have no exact address. And by the way,



A.L. Burt ornamental diamond cover in blue-gray slate cloth, compared with standard green cover, at right.

Images courtesy of Bart Nyberg

there are 189 Barbour listings, which include six copies of *The Half-Back* (all different formats) and a baseball story from 1902 in the "Boston Brown Book." I still lack *The Big Books for Boys*, but as all the stories are in other volumes, it is not a prime target. I'm still looking, though.

I also discovered that my copy of Dan Beard's *Jack of All Trades* (Scribner's, 1900) was once owned by Albert Neely Hall, who signed and dated this copy in December of 1901, which likely makes it his earliest known signature (he was 18). Hall lived in Elmhurst, Illinois, beginning in 1916 (I could drive you right to his door), and died (evidently in California; I don't know the circumstances) in 1959, just months after my family moved there. He was brought back to be buried in Mount Emblem Cemetery, in Elmhurst, a place that holds my paternal grandparents and my father's sister. How strange all this research can be on occasion.

Yours,

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

'Fame and Fortune in Fredericksburg' — Attendance list

Jack Bales (PF-258)
Fredericksburg, Va.

Terry Booth (PF-1150)
Kenilworth, Ill.

Scott Chase (PF-1106)
Pittsford, N.Y.

Lisa Chase
Pittsford, N.Y.

William R. Gowen (PF-706)
Lake Zurich, Ill.

Richard B. Hoffman (PF-570)
Washington, D.C.

Liane Houghtalin (PF-699)
Fredericksburg, Va.

Debby Jones (PF-1092)
Bellefonte, Pa.

Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
Richmond, Va.

James King (PF-1126)
Plantation, Fla.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)
Charlottesville, Va.

Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)
Swarthmore, Pa.

Bob Sipes (PF-1067)
Shelbyville, Ind.

Keith Thompson (PF-035)
Bellport, N.Y.

Melissa Givey
Bellport, N.Y.

TOTAL: 15; H.A.S. MEMBERS: 14

Annual fund-raising auction summary

Donation from William R. Gowen (PF-706)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Byron A. Dunn: <i>Battling for Atlanta</i>			
	A. C. McClurg	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
A.T. Dudley: <i>In the Line</i>	L, L & S	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Harrison Adams: <i>The Pioneer Boys of the Columbia</i>			
	L. C. Page	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Capwell Wyckoff: <i>The Mystery Hunters at Old Frontier</i>			
	A. L. Burt (d/j)	Terry Booth	\$41.00
Cyrus T. Brady: <i>On the Old Kearsarge</i>			
	Scribners	Jeff Looney	\$65.00
William O. Stoddard: <i>Success Against Odds</i>			
	D. Appleton	James King	\$31.00
Harry L. Saylor: <i>The Airship Boys in Finance</i>			
	Reilly & Britton	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
Harry L. Saylor: <i>The Airship Boys in the Barren Lands</i>			
	Reilly & Britton	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
Ashton Lamar (H. L. Saylor): <i>Battling the Bighorn</i>			
	Reilly & Britton	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Ashton Lamar (H. L. Saylor): <i>The Stolen Aeroplane</i>			
	Reilly & Britton	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Gilbert Patten: <i>Clif Stirling, Captain of the Nine</i>			
	David McKay	Rob Kasper	\$5.00
Percy K. Fitzhugh: <i>Pee Wee Harris</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	James King	\$4.00
F. W. Dixon: <i>What Happened at Midnight (Hardy Boys)</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$28.00
Clair Bee: <i>Chip Hilton: Home Run Feud</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (pc)	Jeff Looney	\$20.00
Clair Bee: <i>Chip Hilton: Triple-Threat Trouble</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (pc)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>Dave Fearless and the Cave of Mystery</i>			
	Garden City (pb)	Bob Sipes	\$17.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>Dave Fearless in the Black Jungle</i>			
	Garden City (pb)	James King	\$10.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>Dave Fearless near the South Pole</i>			
	Garden City (pb)	James King	\$8.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>Dave Fearless near the South Pole (2nd copy)</i>			
	Garden City (pb)	James King	\$8.00
Roy Rockwood: <i>Dave Fearless on the Lost Brig</i>			
	Garden City (pb)	James King	\$20.00
Francis Rolt-Wheeler: <i>The Boy with the U.S. Aviators</i>			
	L, L & S	Jeff Looney	\$54.00
Francis Rolt-Wheeler: <i>The Boy with the U.S. Fisheries</i>			
	L, L & S	Jeff Looney	\$9.00



James King asks for an opening bid.

Photo by Bill Gowen

Edward S. Ellis: <i>The Three Arrows</i>			
	Cassell	James King	\$18.00
John Blaine (H. L. Goodwin): <i>Rick Brant: The Flying Stingaree</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (pc)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Leo Edwards: <i>Jerry Todd and the Talking Frog</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$15.00
Leo Edwards: <i>Jerry Todd and the Purring Egg</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$18.00
Leo Edwards: <i>Jerry Todd and the Whispering Mummy</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$15.00
Edward L. Beach: <i>An Annapolis Second Classman</i>			
	Penn Pub. Co.	Jeff Looney	\$30.00
Yates Stirling: <i>A U.S. Midshipman Afloat</i>			
	Penn Pub. Co.	Jeff Looney	\$20.00
H. Sherman: <i>Flashing Steel</i>	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Jeff Looney	\$25.00
Elmer A. Dawson: <i>The Pick-Up Nine</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	Jeff Looney	\$45.00
P.K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade on Mystery Trail</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	James King	\$12.00
P.K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade at Black Lake</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	James King	\$8.00
P.K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade on Mystery Trail</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	James King	\$15.00
P.K. Fitzhugh: <i>Tom Slade on Overlook Mountain</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap (d/j)	James King	\$12.00

Annual fund-raising auction summary

A. S. Pier: <i>The Coach</i>	David McKay	Rob Kasper	\$6.00
Arthur M. Winfield: <i>The Putnam Hall Rivals</i>			
	Grosset & Dunlap	Jack Bales	\$8.00
Horace Porter: <i>Our Young Aeroplane Scouts in the Balkans</i>			
	A. L. Burt (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
Horace Porter: <i>Our Young Aeroplane Scouts in Russia</i>			
	A. L. Burt (d/j)	James King	\$12.00
William Drysdale: <i>The Treasury Club</i>			
	W. A. Wilde	Jeff Looney	\$30.00
Lots sold: 41	Total bids:	\$642.00	

Donation from Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Julius</i>	J. C. Winston	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>In a New World</i>	M. A. Donohue	Debby Jones	\$16.00
<i>Jed, the Poorhouse Boy</i>	J. C. Winston	Jack Bales	\$2.00
<i>Only an Irish Boy</i>	Chatterton-Peck	Jack Bales	\$2.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	Hurst (Stand. Boy)	Scott Chase	\$35.00
<i>Driven From Home</i>	Chatterton-Peck	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Helping Himself</i>	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$9.00
<i>The Young Musician</i>	Hurst	Richard Hoffman	\$2.00
<i>Strive and Succeed</i>	J. C. Winston	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>Sink or Swim</i>	Consolidated	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Paul the Peddler</i>	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Do and Dare</i>	Mutual	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
<i>Strong and Steady</i>	J. C. Winston	Debby Jones	\$21.00
<i>Do and Dare</i>	J. C. Winston	Debby Jones	\$12.00
<i>Try and Trust</i>	Chatterton-Peck	Debby Jones	\$3.00
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Silas Snobden's Office Boy</i> (inscribed by R. Gardner to Ken Butler)			
	Doubleday (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>A Fancy of Hers/The Disagreeable Woman</i> (signed by R. Gardner)			
	Doubleday (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$10.00
<i>The Sun Series</i> (reprinted by Jim Thorp and Bob Sawyer), 9 vols.			
		Keith Thompson	\$30.00
Gilbert Patten: <i>Frank Merriwell's 'Father'</i> (Harriet Hinsdale, ed.)			
	Univ. of Okla. (d/j)	Debby Jones	\$27.00
Quenton Reynolds: <i>The Fiction Factory</i>			
	Random House (d/j)	Debby Jones	\$42.00
Herbert Mayes: <i>Alger: A Biography Without a Hero</i>			
	Macy-Masius	Terry Booth	\$13.00
Edward S. Ellis: <i>The Launch Boys in the Deerfoot</i>			
	J. C. Winston	James King	\$5.00
<i>Making His Mark</i>	Polyglot Press	Jeff Looney	\$2.00
Lots sold: 24	Total bids:	\$250.00	

Donation from Scott Chase (PF-1106)

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Driven from Home</i>	Federal	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
<i>Cast Upon the Breakers</i>	Doubleday (d/j)	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Five misc. Algers	World Pub. Co.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Six misc. Algers	World Pub. Co.	Debby Jones	\$6.00
<i>Ben Logan's Triumph</i>	Grosset & Dunlap	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Grosset & Dunlap	Bill Gowen	\$2.00
<i>Jerry the Backwoods Boy</i>	Grosset & Dunlap	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Brave and Bold</i>	A. L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Chatterton-Peck	Bill Gowen	\$2.00
<i>Tom Brace</i>	D. McKay (missing tp)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Tom Tracy</i>	David McKay	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	David McKay	Debby Jones	\$9.00
<i>Advent. of a Telegraph Boy</i>	David McKay	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
<i>The \$500 Check</i>	David McKay	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt (fez II)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Frank Fowler</i>	A.L. Burt (fez II)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Tom the Bootblack</i>	A.L. Burt (fez 1)	Debby Jones	\$3.00
<i>Tony the Hero</i>	A.L. Burt (fez II)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Adrift in New York</i>	Mershon	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
<i>Rufus and Rose</i>	J. C. Winston	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Three misc. Algers	Hurst	Jack Bales	\$5.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	M. A. Donohue	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Julius the Street Boy</i>	Trade Pub. Co.	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Two misc. Algers</i>	A. L. Burt (red triangle)	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Three misc. Algers	A. L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$12.00
Five misc. Algers	Whitman	Debby Jones	\$12.00
Lots sold: 26	Total bids:	\$123.00	

Donation from Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)

<i>Falling in with Fortune</i>	Mershon	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>The Young Circus Rider</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Scott Chase	\$15.00
<i>The Young Circus Rider</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	James King	\$28.00
<i>Rupert's Ambition</i>	H.T. Coates	Keith Thompson	\$16.00
<i>Rufus and Rose</i>	A.K. Loring	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	A.K. Loring	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>No. 91</i>	Westgard	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Phil, the Fiddler</i>	M.A. Donohue	Scott Chase	\$2.00
Three misc. Alger reprints	Various publishers	Debby Jones	\$3.00
Nackenoff: <i>The Fictional Republic</i> (Oxford)		Debby Jones	\$12.00
Nackenoff: <i>American by Birth</i> (d/j)		Rob Kasper	\$30.00

Consignments:

<i>Finding a Fortune</i>	Penn (2nd. ed.)	Debby Jones	\$26.00
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
Donation lots sold: 11	Total bids:	\$117.00	
Consignment commission to H.A.S.:		\$9.20	

Annual fund-raising auction summary

Donation from Michael Nabholz (PF-1146)

Earl Reed Silvers: <i>The Spirit of Menlo</i>	D. Appleton	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
Earl Reed Silvers: <i>The Menlo Mystery</i>	D. Appleton (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$135.00
Harold Sherman: <i>The Call of the Land</i> (signed by author)	M.A. Donohue (d/j)	Jeff Looney	\$25.00
Capwell Wyckoff: <i>The Mercer Boys and the Indian Gold</i>	World Pub. (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
A. C. Wyckoff: <i>Bright Horizons</i>	Zondervan (d/j)	Jeff Looney	\$7.00
A. C. Wyckoff: <i>Victory at Daybreak</i>	Erdmans (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
A. C. Wyckoff: <i>Sounding Brass</i>	Erdmans (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
A. C. Wyckoff: <i>Bright Harvest</i>	Erdmans (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
A. C. Wyckoff: <i>The Winning of Kay Slade</i>	Zondervan (d/j)	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Howard Brier: <i>Skyblazer</i>	Random House	James King	\$2.00
G. Inness Hartley: <i>The Lost Flamingos</i>	Century	James King	\$5.00
G. Inness Hartley: <i>Boy Hunters in Demerara</i>	Century	Jeff Looney	\$8.00
Lots sold: 12		Total bids:	\$210.00

Donation from Bob Bennett family

Bob Bennett's <i>Luck and Pluck Award</i>	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
Bob Bennett's personal library listing	Jack Bales	\$2.00
<i>Alger Street</i> (ed. by Westgard; pub. by Canner)	Scott Chase	\$13.00
<i>Only in America Opportunity Still Knocks</i> (inscribed by Helen Gray)	Rob Kasper	\$3.00
Bennett's Alger bibliography (inscribed to his wife, Luciana)	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
Alger bibliography (Bennett's correction copy)	Bob Sipes	\$7.00
Mayes Alger biography, inscribed to Bennett	Bob Sipes	\$15.00
Mayes Alger biography, inscribed to Ken Barnes	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>The Antiquarian Bookman</i> review of Bennett's Alger bibliography	Rob Kasper	\$7.00
Group of H.A.S. membership rosters	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Display board of presidential campaign pins	Carol Nackenoff	\$30.00
<i>The Bootblack</i> , Vol. VIII (ed. by Westgard)	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Opportunity Still Knocks</i> (H.A.A. Jubilee Ed., 1972)	Rob Kasper	\$2.00
<i>Opportunity Still Knocks</i> (H.A.A. 1963 ed.)	Rob Kasper	\$2.00

Very early photocopies and printings of *The Sun Series*

	Bob Sipes	\$26.00
Lot of early 1960s Newsboys (first issues)	Debby Jones	\$17.00
Lot of early Newsboys (~1968-1979)	Debby Jones	\$16.00
Lot of early Newsboys (~1980-2003)	Debby Jones	\$16.00
Framed picture of Alger-related photos	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
<i>School Dialogues</i> reprint inscribed by Robert Kersch to Bennett	Richard Hoffman	\$6.00
<i>Road to Success</i> , flat-signed by Ralph Gardner	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Road to Success</i> , Bennett's personal copy, inscribed by Gardner	Carol Nackenoff	\$2.00
Brad Chase: <i>Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt</i>	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Hardcover edition, 1983	Bob Sipes	\$4.00
<i>Horatio Alger: An Annotated Bibliography of Comment and Criticism</i> (Gary Scharnhorst, with Jack Bales, 1981)	James King	\$7.00
<i>The Lost Tales of Horatio Alger</i> (Ed. by Gary Scharnhorst, 1989)	Rob Kasper	\$10.00
Ralph Gardner: <i>Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era</i> (Inscribed by Gardner to Bennett)	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
Ralph Gardner: <i>Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era</i> (Inscribed by Gardner to Bennett)	Jack Bales	\$5.00
Ralph Gardner: <i>Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era</i> (Flat-signed by Gardner)	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
Ralph Gardner: <i>Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era</i> (Flat-signed by Gardner)	Scott Chase	\$2.00
Frank Gruber: Alger biography/bibliography	Rob Kasper	\$10.00
Bennett Alger bibliography, MAD Book Co. update, 1999	Jack Bales	\$10.00
Bennett Alger bibliography (another copy)	Richard Hoffman	\$10.00
Bennett Alger bibliography (another copy)	Carol Nackenoff	\$10.00
Bennett Alger bibliography (another copy)	Debby Jones	\$10.00
<i>Student and Schoolmate</i> , 1864-65	Bob Sipes	\$11.00
"Super 100 Club" Horatio Alger Society plaque	Bob Sipes	\$2.00

Lots sold: 37	Total bids:	\$296.00
----------------------	--------------------	-----------------

Donation from Deidre A. Johnson (PF-596)

Cash donation to 2022 auction in lieu of books	\$75.00
--	---------

2022 auction summary:

Donation auction total (all proceeds to H.A.S.)	\$1,713.00
Total bids, consignment auction	\$46.00
H.A.S. commission, consignment auction	\$9.20
Total bids, all auctions	\$1759.00
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions	\$1,722.20

The 'Ginger' Hale aviation series by Lewis E. Theiss

By David K. Vaughan (PF-831)
(First of two parts)

Introduction: Lewis Edwin Theiss wrote some of the finest juvenile series books issued in America. A professor of journalism at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, Theiss (1878-1963) early developed writing habits that he maintained throughout his long career as an author. He paced himself, conducting research on each topic and writing one book per year from 1914 to 1955. He produced a total of 44 books, moving through scouting, wireless, and aviation topics.

Each book is prefaced with a statement by Theiss indicating the general purpose of the book and acknowledging the individuals who provided information upon which he based the actions of the plot. His books do not fall into the typical series book plot pattern of heroic young man overcoming significant aviation challenges. Instead, his books provide a continuous sequence of adventures of the main characters.

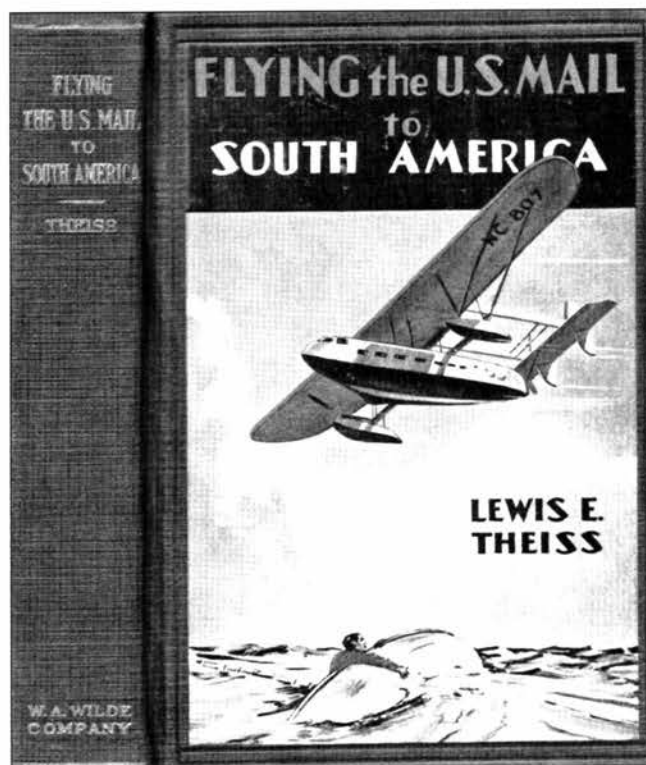
Although he produced one aviation book per year from 1927 through 1946, they can be segmented into three separate series, with each group of books focusing on the central character(s), beginning with the **Jimmy Donnelly Series** (six titles, 1927 to 1932) and the **"Ginger" Hale Series** (seven titles, 1933 to 1939).

During World War II, Theiss developed yet another series (five titles, 1941 to 1946), describing the wartime flying activities of two young American fliers, Henry "Peewee" Dewire and Colvin "Cris" Criswell. I have labeled this series the **Peewee Dewire-Colvin Criswell Series** because they are the two central characters whose actions the books describe. Note that the activities of the title characters often interact among the three series, all published by W.A. Wilde of Boston.

* * *

As noted above, Lewis Theiss' **"Ginger" Hale Series** is essentially a continuation of his **Jimmy Donnelly Series**. There are seven books in the series, as follows:

- *Flying the U. S. Mail to South America; How Pan American Airships Carry on in Sun and Storm above the Rolling Caribbean* (1933).
- *Mail Pilot of the Caribbean; The Adventures of Ginger Hale above the Southern Seas* (1934).



- *The Flying Explorer; How a Mail Pilot Penetrated the Basin of the Amazon* (1935).
- *Coast to Coast with the U. S. Air Mail* (1936).
- *Flood Mappers Aloft; How Ginger Hale and the Scouts of the Bald Eagle Patrol Surveyed the Watershed of the Susquehanna* (1937).
- *Wings over the Pacific* (1938).
- *Wings over the Andes* (1939).

These titles cover one of the most exciting and rich eras of aerial development, involving the expansion of the air mails and the development of commercial passenger services. In the case of the Theiss stories, this was demonstrated by Pan American Airways ("Pan Am"), an innovative flying organization led by the colorful Juan Terry Trippe. The Pan Am staff provided Theiss with essential information about aircraft characteristics and aircraft operational procedures for his books.

Flying the U. S. Mail to South America

In *Flying the U. S. Mail to South America*, the first of the **"Ginger" Hale Series**, Theiss establishes the framework for four of the next six books, as he creates narratives in which Joseph "Ginger" Hale makes his way up through the ranks of the Pan Am organization. Through a series of fortunate coincidences, Ginger meets several individuals who make his rapid advance possible. The title is more than a little misleading, for

(Continued on Page 18)

The 'Ginger' Hale aviation series by Lewis E. Theiss

(Continued from Page 17)

in this book Ginger Hale never flies the mail to South America. Instead, he learns about the operation of the Pan Am organization, especially in its home base at Dinner Key, Miami, Florida. At the time Theiss wrote his Ginger Hale books, Dinner Key was the headquarters of Pan Am's flying activities. Today, the former Pan Am terminal is now the Miami City Hall.

As this book opens, Joseph "Ginger" Hale is visiting his Uncle Henry and Aunt Martha, who live on the Miami River. He is an Eagle Scout and possesses the appropriate skills and talents. He is preparing to go fishing off the coast of Florida when he learns that his aunt has become ill from an attack of appendicitis; he decides to search for his Uncle Henry, who is fishing with some friends off the Miami coast. He sets out in a small but sturdy motorboat, but it becomes disabled and is left powerless on the Atlantic Ocean, with both the current and winds causing his boat to drift farther out to sea. He is relieved to see a Coast Guard airplane descending toward him. However, one of the aircraft pontoons is severely damaged when it lands on the rough water.

Ginger assists the crew in cutting the damaged pontoon loose. The Coast Guard aircraft is piloted by Jimmy Donnelly, the central figure of Theiss' previous series. Because the Coast Guard aircraft is disabled, it floats on the surface of the water, much as Ginger did in his small boat. It drifts gradually to the south until it approaches a small island, where the crew pulls it onto the beach. While they wait for the Coast



Lewis E. Theiss (1878-1963)

Guard to send a rescue boat, Ginger helps make camp and proves himself to be an industrious and capable worker.

Lieutenant Donnelly is impressed with Ginger's determination and initiative and recommends him to the Pan Am director, who agrees to give Ginger a job, but only as a manual laborer. After Ginger rescues a worker who falls into the water, he is promoted to radio technician, in charge of the teletype machines which are responsible for sending communications to all Pan Am locations. Ginger eventually is assigned to the Pan Am repair shop, where he learns about Pan Am's aircraft maintenance procedures. In the meantime, under Lieutenant Donnelly's guidance, he takes flying lessons, even taking instrument flying lessons ("flying blind"), a discipline which was just being developed.

As a result of Ginger's quick responses in the radio department when a hurricane strikes Santo Domingo, he is assigned to fly as a radio operator on a special Pan Am aircraft sent to provide aid to the island. On the return flight, he spots an overturned yacht with a man clinging to it; the Pan Am plane lands and Ginger jumps in to save the man, who is about to drown. As the book ends, Ginger is assigned to fly in the radio operator position of a regular flight crew.

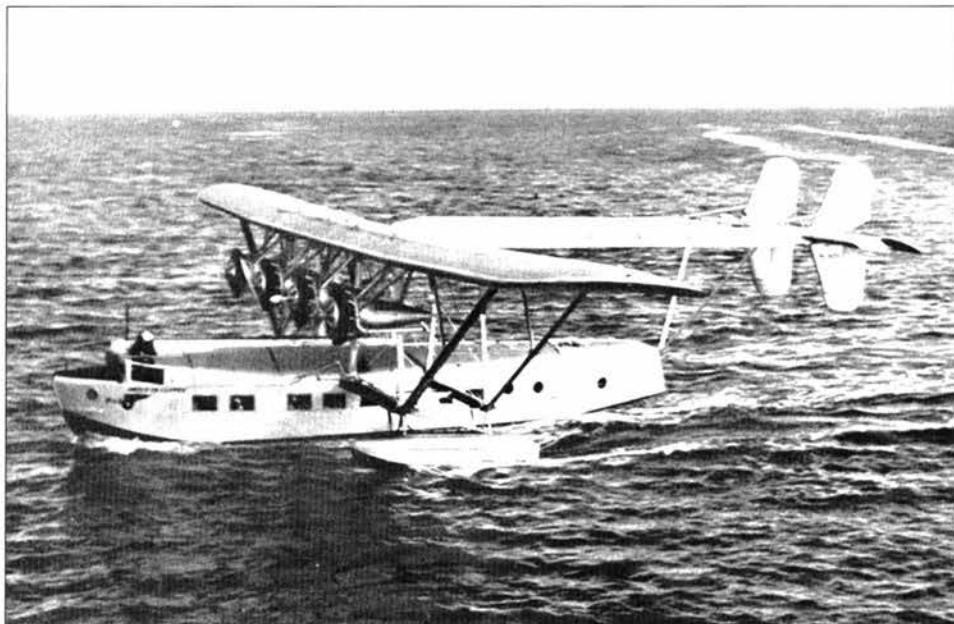
The book provides a complete description of the ground operations, radio procedures, maintenance procedures, and flight operations at the time they existed at the Pan Am flight facility at Dinner Key. Theiss describes these procedures in detail to show that Ginger Hale has to be a truly exceptional young man if he is to be successful in qualifying to work for Pan Am, much less fly on board a Pan Am aircraft as a crew member.

The Mail Pilot of the Caribbean

In the second title, *The Mail Pilot of the Caribbean* (1934), the life of a Pan Am flight crew member is depicted, as Ginger and his fellow crewmembers follow their routine flight schedules. Ginger begins as co-pilot/radioman on a small 8-passenger amphibian (probably a Sikorsky twin-engine amphibian, though the specific aircraft is never identified) that flies a scheduled run between Havana and Merida, Mexico, with interim refueling and mail delivery stops at San Julian, Cuba, and Cozumel, Mexico.

Ginger flies as a "deadhead" (backup) crewmember on a four-engine S-40 Clipper from Miami to Havana, where he picks up his assigned duties. Over the Everglades, he sees some men hide for cover as the Pan Am ship flies over, and he asks the pilot to send a message back to Miami because he believes the men

Used as the frontispiece for *The Mail Pilot of the Caribbean*, this photograph, provided courtesy of Pan American Airways, is the Sikorsky S-40 Clipper, the same amphibious aircraft piloted by Joseph "Ginger" Hale in that book.



might be involved in a smuggling operation (he later finds out his assumption was correct). Upon landing in the Havana harbor, he sees armed guards in the city, due to some "trouble" in Cuba. From 1930 to 1935 there was, in fact, great political turmoil in Cuba, but Theiss does not go into detail.

He is understandably nervous and excited on his first flight as a co-pilot. When they land for the night at Cozumel, his swimming skills come in handy once again as he saves a native from an attack by "Old Methuselah," the local alligator. As they fly into Merida, Ginger sees the ruins of the ancient Chichen Itza stone temple. After landing at Merida, he engages in an extended conversation with the local station agent, who explains the difficulties that the Pan Am engineers had in constructing landing grounds out of coral. In Merida he visits the hacienda of a wealthy family, drives through the tropical jungle, and swims in an underground spring.

On the return flight, Ginger sees a school of flying fish and observes his experienced first pilot fly the aircraft through cloud and fog. Ginger helps to calculate the exact time at which another aircraft, traveling in the opposite direction in the bad weather, will pass them. On a later flight, as they fly over the Mexican jungle, he sees an individual waving a shirt. He and his fellow pilot drop some supplies and promise to help. The following morning they land on the lake and rescue the man, an explorer, and his two companions, but not before Joe becomes temporarily lost himself. Fortunately, he is found just as a large boa constrictor snake attacks him.

In the final section of the book, Ginger is assigned to a Pan Am station at Cienfuegos, on the southern Cuban coastline, where he is involved in transmitting emergency messages relating to a hurricane that strikes the area. He is not especially happy about the assignment because it is ground duty, not flying duty. While he is there he helps to solve an engine problem affecting some of the Pan Am aircraft when he determines that the problem is caused by engine magnetos with defective insulation causing them to overheat. He is then assigned to fly on an emergency assistance aircraft that is flying to Jamaica and assists the aircraft, which has been flying in bad weather, by using a cross bearing system involving triangulation of radio bearings. As a result of his excellent performance and assistance, his pilot status is upgraded.

The Flying Explorer

In *The Flying Explorer* (1935), Ginger becomes involved in an unusual mission which involves the exploration of a tropical river. This episode is based on the experiences of actual Pan Am pilot Charles Lorber, who flew a charter flight similar to the one described in the book. According to Theiss, Lorber told the story "while we were soaring together over the Caribbean Sea" and told it "so vividly that it just had to be written" (3).

In Theiss' version of the story, Ginger, who is only a "junior pilot," is selected by his Operations Manager, Richard Rowland, to fly a special Pan Am charter mission for Mr. Phineas Hudson of Amalgamated Steel Corporation; Hudson wants a flight crew to take him

(Continued on Page 20)

The 'Ginger' Hale aviation series by Lewis E. Theiss

(Continued from Page 19)

and his team on a combination hunting and exploration expedition into the Brazilian jungle. Ginger is joined by Jose Miguel as a co-pilot and William Dunn as radio operator. They will be flying the "sister ship" to the aircraft he had flown on the Havana-Merida run, a smaller twin-engine amphibian.

The team proceeds to Rio de Janeiro, where they gather the necessary supplies for jungle operations. They fly south along the coastline to Santos, where they meet an Italian flyer, the Conte de Rossi, who intends to fly almost the exact same route Ginger intends to follow to the town of Corumbai, on the Paraguay River, on the west edge of Brazil.

The Conte de Rossi is unfamiliar with jungle flying and is not carrying any emergency equipment. They fly inland to Sao Paulo, where they spend the night and then fly to their first destination, Tres Lagoas (Three Lagoons). But when they arrive at Tres Lagoas, they discover that the lagoons on which they hoped to land are dry. Fortunately, one dry lagoon offers a smooth landing surface. However, Ginger is forced to swerve the aircraft to avoid running into enthusiastic villagers and causes damage to the aircraft when it strikes a stump.

They become guests of Senor Rohas, on whose ranch they landed. They make crude repairs on the aircraft and prepare to return to Rio de Janeiro. They learn that the Conte de Rossi has disappeared and unsuccessfully attempt to locate his aircraft as they return. Flying at low altitudes, they proceed safely to Santos and then back to Rio de Janeiro. After their ship is repaired, they return to Tres Lagoas and land without incident. The next day, they depart for Corumbai.

As they near their destination, they see a column of smoke in the jungle, circle to investigate, and see a man waving for help. They land on the Paraguay River at Corumbai and depart immediately on a rescue mission to assist the missing aviators. The rescue party, led by Mr. Fuller, the American agent at Corumbai, reaches the man, who identifies himself as the Conte de Rossi. He survived but his mechanic

despaired of rescue and hanged himself. They bring the Conte to Corumbai to recover.

They depart Corumbai with two passengers, Stephen Ellis, the Descalvados ranch manager, and a native clerk. This flight presents little navigational challenges, as they follow the course of the Paraguay River to the north. When they land at the ranch, they meet several explorers and movie men, who want to take moving pictures of the wild animals in the area. They learn also that the ranch was previously visited by President Teddy Roosevelt, who had made a "famous trip down the River of Doubt" (139). At this point in the book, about halfway through, their flying challenges consist primarily of carrying the explorers to various locations in the vicinity of the ranch. After their initial flight, in which they nearly become lost flying over the jungle, they grow more familiar with the territory over which they are flying.

During the stay, Ginger observes how archeological work is done, observes dangerous piranha fish, interacts with the native people, learns ground to air distress signals, and helps rescue an explorer who is trapped up a tree at night. When his co-pilot is disabled by a fall from a ladder, Ginger flies back down the river to Corumbai to stop the Conte de Rossi before he leaves.

The Conte serves as Ginger's co-pilot for the remainder of the book, and assists in the final episode, when they fly a man who has been badly mauled by a giant panther, first to a doctor at Corumbai, and then to a hospital in the town of Asuncion. Ginger assists with the transfer of animals, equipment, and other artifacts when the men depart, and he brings Mr. Hudson and Hooker, the wounded man, back to Miami.

During his adventures, we learn about the challenges of landing and taking a seaplane off from a winding river whose shores are lined with large trees, and we also learn about how to repair damaged pontoons under primitive conditions.

The episode in which the Italian aviator crashes in the jungle and is rescued is based on a real event; the Italian aviator Count Edmondo de Robilant lived in Rio de Janeiro and had been a key individual in coordinating the flight of Italian aviator Francesco di Pinedo in his 1933 flight from Italy to Europe, to the United States and then to South America. Count de Robilant and his mechanic crashed in the tropical jungle in April 1931; the count was rescued, but his mechanic, despairing of being saved, hanged himself. During World War II he was arrested for spying activities, sending messages about Rio de Janeiro shipping activities to Italian fascist authorities.

(To be concluded in the September-October issue)