

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

VOLUME 8

NO. 3

newsboy



GUEST EDITOR:

Carl Hartmann

4907 Allison

Lansing, Michigan 48910

OCTOBER 1969

Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL,
5868 Heath, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49002

Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

STRATEMEYER

ALGER'S

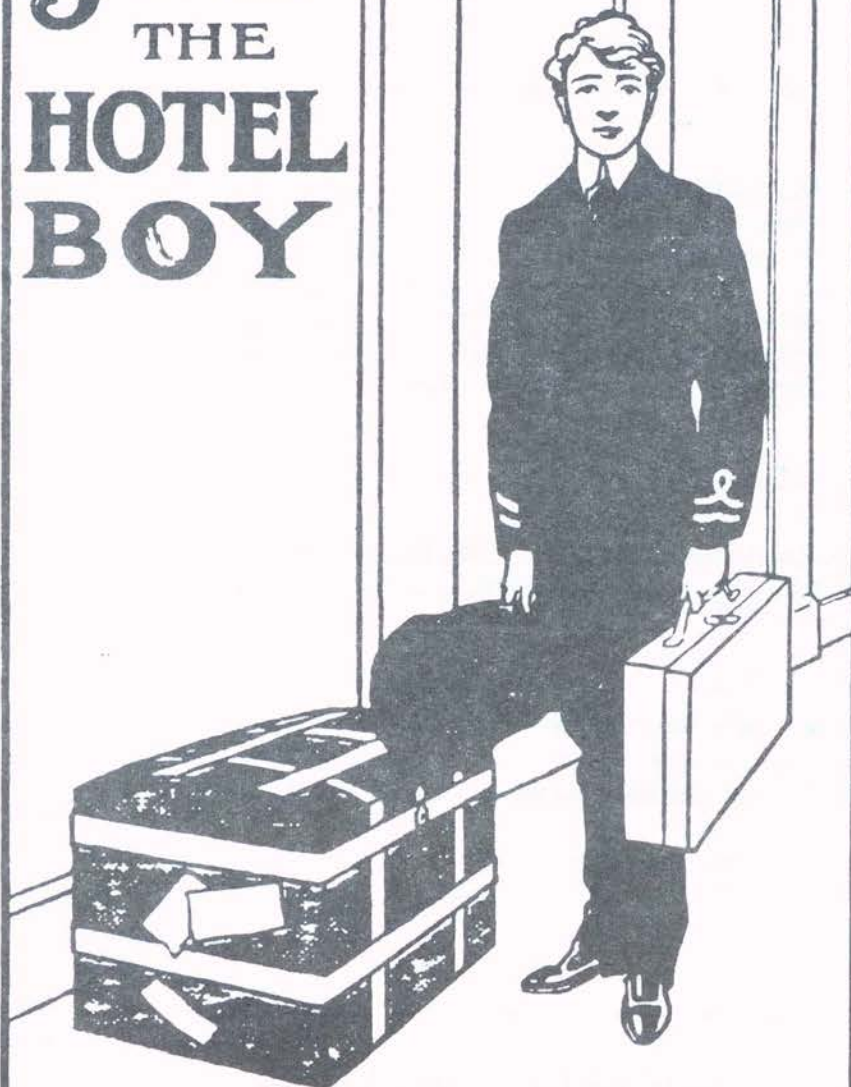
"JOE THE HOTEL BOY" IS THE TENTH OF THE SERIES OF BOOKS ATTRIBUTED TO ALGER, BUT ACTUALLY THE WORK OF EDWARD STRATEMEYER.

RALPH GARDNER'S BOOK "HORATIO ALGER OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA", PUBLISHED BY THE WAYSIDE PRESS, GOES ON TO SAY: LIKE A NUMBER OF OTHERS, THIS VOLUME LISTS ALGER'S NAME ONLY, AS AUTHOR. PREFACES OF OTHERS OF THIS GROUP WERE STARTED BY ALGER BUT COMPLETED AFTER HIS DEATH BY ARTHUR M. WINFIELD (A STRATEMEYER PSEUDONYM).

NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, OF ALGER'S STYLE AND TECHNIQUE TO BE FOUND IN "JOE THE HOTEL BOY", OR FOR THAT MATTER, IN ANY OF THE ELEVEN "COMPLETIONS".

THE FIRST EDITION WAS PUBLISHED BY CUPPLIES AND LEON, 1906. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REFER TO "HORATIO ALGER OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA".

JOE THE HOTEL BOY



HORATIO ALGER, JR.

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 - lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

* * * * *

OFFICERS

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KENNETH B. BUTLER	Director
RALPH GARDNER	Director
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* * * * *

The 1970 Roster will be made up of all members in good standing (dues paid) as of December 15, 1969. Any changes must be in by that date, to wit: change of address, new acquisitions, or any other information, please let your Secretary, Carl Hartmann know in time.

* * * * *

**DON'T FORGET . . . THE 1970 CONVENTION
WILL BE HELD IN REVERE, MASS., JUNE 19,
20, 21**

* * * * *

PLEASE CHANGE ADDRESS TO:

H. David Buttorff
3110 Knights Road, Apt. C3
Cornwells Hgts., PA 19020

* * * * *

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

1971

BOOK MART

1. Bound to Rise-N.Y. Book
2. Grit, The Young Boatman
3. The Erie Train Boy - Superior
4. Sink or Swin - Donohue
5. In a New World - Donohue
6. Adrift in N.Y. - World
7. Andy Gordon - World
8. Helping Himself - Superior
9. Risen from the Ranks - Donahue
10. Risen from the Rands - Hurst
11. Luke Walton - N.Y. Book
12. Struggling Upward - Whitman
13. Mark Masons Victory - Donohue
14. Paul the Peddler - Superior
15. The Telegraph Boy - Donohue
16. The Young Salesman - N.Y. Book
17. Julius The Street Boy - Superior
18. Hector's Inheritance - N.Y. Book

Above offered by:

Mrs. Rohima Walter PF-160
1307 Greenbush
Lafayette, Indiana 47904

All are in fair shape and she would like \$2.00 each or would trade for one she needs.

MORE ON PAGE 9

* * * * *

MATERIAL NEEDED!!!

We need research material on Alger. If you have information you would like to share with our members write it up now and send to ye old secretary Carl Hartmann. If you would like to do some research here are some suggestions. 1st edition titles - date and publisher. Ralph Gardners book, HORATIO ALGER or THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, gives us 1st edition publishers and dates but does not include the reprint titles. If you have a copy of ALGER STREET, The Poetry of Horatio Alger Jr. edited and arranged by PF-024, Gilber K. Westgard, you will find most of Alger's poetry, but how about the obscure poems in newspapers and magazines. If you know of any write it up for the NEWSBOY. Many of our new members and quite a few of our older members do not have as much information as they would like, so whatever you have - share.

* * * * *

His pen inspired a nation's boys

Is the caption of a beautifully executed poster-like advertisement in color in present use nationwide by the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston, 200 copies have been made available to our members upon application (200 Berkeley St., Boston, 02117).

The poster, measuring 11" X 14" is worth framing.

The message reads as follows:

EIGHTY YEARS AGO, an unknown man sat down to write a tale for boys.

His skill was small, and his style was halting. But he wrote so truly that his name has become a saying among us. Even today, when we wish to describe a typically American career, we say: "It is a Horatio Alger story."

Horatio Alger was a man possessed by one story. It was the story of the poor boy who made good. It dealt with the dignity of simple beginnings, the power of ambition, the honor of work, the inevitability of merited success. It was the world's oldest story, but with one difference. Everywhere else in the world, when this story was written, it was called a fairy tale. In the country of which Horatio Alger wrote, it was true.

Hopefully into the streets and the backwoods, into the tenements and the farmhouses, went Mr. Alger's little paper-backed books. And the titles of them rang out like an American credo. *Strive and Succeed . . . Helping Himself . . . Struggling Upward . . . Bound to Rise*. There were grown-ups

who smiled at the innocence of it. But a million boys, with deeper wisdom, read and believed—and made the stories true.

The original oil painting on loan is presently on tour of various art galleries and museums.

(Article submitted by George C. Clarke of Revere, Publicity and Convention Chairman

For all this was in the time when a boy named Henry Ford was wiping steam engines for \$2.50 a week, and a future president of United States Steel was a laboring boy in a wire mill, and a poor errand boy named George Washington Goethals was becoming interested in engineering, and a young man named John D. Rockefeller was looking for a job.

We do not often read Horatio Alger's books today. But we still live in the warm light of the truth he set down with boy-like simplicity. He was one of the men who helped us to see the miracle we have here, in this incredible land where all are free to strive and succeed.

The logo features the name "John Hancock" in a large, elegant, cursive script. Below the name is a stylized, circular emblem containing a cross-like symbol.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

One of a series of John Hancock advertisements appearing in magazines of national circulation.

Taken from
RODNEY THE PARTISAN

By:
Harry Castlemon
Published by:
Henry T. Coates & Co.,
Philadelphia
Copyright, 1890

H O R A T I O A L G E R , J R .

The enormous sales of the books of Horatio Alger, Jr., show the greatness of his popularity among the boys, and prove that he is one of their most favored writers. I am told more than half a million copies altogether have been sold, and that all the large circulating libraries in the country have several complete sets, of which only two or three volumes are ever on the shelves at one time. If this is true, what thousands and thousands of boys have read and are reading Mr. Alger's books! His peculiar style of stories, often imitated but never equaled, have taken a hold upon the young people, and despite their similarity are eagerly read as soon as they appear.

Mr. Alger became famous with the publication of that undying book, "Ragged Dick, or Street Life in New York." It was his first book for young people, and its success was so great that he immediately devoted himself to that kind of writing.

It was a new and fertile field for a writer then, and Mr. Alger's treatment of it at once caught the fancy of the boys. "Ragged Dick" first appeared in 1868, and ever since then, it has been selling steadily, until now, it is estimated that about 200,000 copies of the series have been sold.

--Pleasant Hours for Boys and Girls

JUDSON S. BERRY V.P.

A TALE OF TWO RARE ALGER BOOKS

BY GILBERT WESTGARD

1. *Wren Winter's Triumph*

I should first state that I do not collect the various titles of the Alger books, but am content to have just one copy of each story without having the same story under several different titles.

Before going to the Des Moines Convention, last year, I obtained a copy of the Thompson & Thomas edition of "A Rolling Stone". Since this was a better copy of the same story that I had under the title of "Wren Winter's Triumph, Donohue edition", I decided to offer WW'sT at the convention in Des Moines. Jack Row wanted my copy, so he traded his copy and a few dollars to make up for the difference in the condition of the two copies. His copy I sold to Dan Fuller a few hours later. Also, at this time, Eddie PF205 obtained a very find copy of WW'sT for only \$1.50. In October 1967 I purchased Jack Row's entire collection, which brought my original copy of WW'sT back to me. When I offered the entire collection for sale as individual items at the New Haven Convention I sold that copy of WW'sT for the second time. And, who was the buyer, but Dan Fuller who bought it to replace the copy that he purchased from me last year. Anybody who is in need of a copy of WW'sT, please contact Dan Fuller, -- he has an extra copy!

2. *Bertha's Christmas Vision*

When we arrived in New Haven, Eddie was most eager to add several Alger titles to his fast growing collection. When he found that one of the members was looking for a copy of Berta, and had in fact just missed buying a copy by a few minutes, he made a deal to trade his copy, a Hurst miniature with a dust jacket for two Loring Editions of titles not yet in his collection.

Then there occurred a rare bit of luck at the Saturday night banquet in the best Alger tradition. Les Langlois offered several Alger books as door prizes.

CON'T ON PAGE 8



HOUSING AMONG THE AUTHORITIES in the
"Alger Foxhole" - Irene Gurman

1823: The "Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents", the first of the kind in America, was incorporated by the State of New York.....and by

1825, January, the first Reform School in the United States was opened in New York by the "Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents", upon what is now Madison Square. It is now situated upon Randall's Island.

.....we continue in the treadmill of then, and now.....

1834: First gun ever rifled in America was turned out at South Boston Iron Works of Mr. Cyrus ALGER, leading inventor in ordnance line.

1866: Alger wrote HELEN FORD, her father was busy working on an aeroplane in the attic of their boarding house, but gave it up as a failure.....12 years later we find this bit of intelligence in Alger's territory the year he wrote YOUNG ADVENTURER, & THE WESTERN BOY.....

1878: "A flying machine was exhibited in Tremont Temple, Boston, by Prof. Ritchel of Connecticut, and seemed to promise some success in navigating the air. But nothing has since been heard of it, and we are as far as ever, apparently, from that delightful result".

(I say, if this delighted them, how then, would they have reacted, knowing that less than an hundred years hence, 2 Luna-naughts and who we beheld with our own private eye when they touched His face, upon the place they trod.....)

.....but they kept working at it with war and wheels and bailing wire til finally in December, 1903, they got it off the ground when Wilbur and Orville came along and did it the Wright way.....

December, 1896, Harper's Bazaar reveals...

The Children's Aid Society of this City, has received a gift of \$50,000 from William Waldorf Astor as a memorial of his wife who was greatly interested in the work of the Society. The money was given nearly a year ago, although the public announcement of the gift was not made public until the recent annual meeting, and immediately upon its receipt work was begun upon a school building on East Sixteenth Street. It is hoped to have this building which is in every way a model of its kind, ready for occupancy by the first of January. Over five hundred children can be accomodated in the new building.

(Verily, a fur-lined gift....and let it be known that William Waldorf, was the great-grandson of John Jacob Astor, and manager of the latter's estate until his demise on the ill-fated Titanic, along with Frau Elbert Hubbard.)

(By the by.....the Charles O'Connor of Alger's Newsboys' Lodging House is not to be confused with the mighty-mite mouth-piece Charles O'Connor, whose hot breath bellied the sails, that sent the ship, that took the Tweed-ringers, to Blackwell's Island, November of '73).

THOSE ALGER DAYS

*This contribution, an original poem is by
Frank Eisenberg; PF #229, St. Louis Park,
Minn.*

When I was a lad long years ago,
The world was different then;
There was peace on earth and life was good
In Those days away back when.

He had a horse and buggy,
That took us everywhere,
No automobiles and aeroplanes,
To contaminate the air.

We ran errands for a penny,
To the corner grocery store
Bought peppermints and lollypops
And who could ask for more?

There was no television then,
of gangsters and of crooks,
No hippies with their shaggy beards,
and psychadelic looks.

There was a woodshed in the back
Where properly applied,
The strap pa pulled from out his pants,
To tan our exposed hide.

On Sunday morn we went to church
and prayed on bended knee,
To be forgiven for our sins,
Some minor deviltry.

The schoolwork and the home chores done,
In some secluded nook,
We'd live a dream world of our own,
In another Alger book.

We read them all, each tattered page,
Bore sermons we would heed,
We did not smoke, we did not drink,
We rose above all greed.

We relished Tom the Bootblack,
And Julius Out West,
Dan the Newsboy, Bound to Rise,
Fame and Fortune, we loved the best.

Brave and Bold and Frank and Fearless,
Strong and Steady, Slow and Sure,
Tried to emulate each hero,
Vowed to grow up clean and pure.

Came the time when youth was over,
When realities of life,
Came to break into our dream world,
Came the years of toil and stife.

Unforgotten were the lessons,
Garnered from each Alger tale,
Courage to endure and heartaches,
To sustain us through travail.

Old am I now and looking backward
To the time I was a lad,
Wouldn't trade those Alger hours,
Greatest time I ever had.

Never gathered gold in plenty,
Never needed much, in truth,
For I was rich when I was younger,
In those Alger days of youth.

Faith have I in modern youngsters,
I do not claim to be a sage,
The world is hectic and uncertain
In this grim atomic age.

Yet I'm peaceful and contented,
As the years are on the wane,
I relive my boyhood over
and read Alger books again!

Frank Eisenberg
Minneapolis, Minn.
January 1, 1968

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS:
NOVEMBER 20, 1969

8888*****

DO YOU HAVE A FLARE FOR WRITTING?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR NAME IN
PRINT? HOW ABOUT A BY-LINE OR BETTER
YET "EDITOR" AFTER YOUR NAME. WE NEED
A NEW EDITOR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
DROP A NOTE TO PRESIDENT STEVE PRESS
OR SECRETARY CARL HARTMANN. NOW IS
THE TIME TO ACT. DON'T BE BASHFUL,
WRITE NOW AND MAYBE THE JOB CAN BE
YOURS.

THE ALGER BOTTLES ARE STILL
AVAILABLE FROM YOUR SECRETARY. YOU
MAY ORDER THEM IN ANY COLOR YOU LIKE,
BUT PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR
DELIVERY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PIC-
TURE OF ONE DROP A LINE TO:

CARL HARTMANN
4907 ALLISON DR.
LANSING, MICH. 48910

THE NEWSBOY

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society members by our Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann, from 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Mich. 48910.

Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3.00 annually; adult membership, \$5.00 annually, to be paid in advance. Each new member receives a membership card, membership roster, and ten issues of the NEWSBOY.

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STREET & SMITH -- THE FICTION FACTORY (Con't)

Later, the two partners started hiring other writers. Soon, most all of New York was reading about the great fictional detective Nick Carter. They loved Frank Merriwell of Yale, who became the Number One American Boy. Every year Frank would catch the winning touchdown pass in the football game between Yale and Harvard, or hit a home run with one man on in the last of the ninth inning, when Harvard was beating Yale by one run in their annual baseball game. Soon Horatio Alger Jr. became a household word, and everyone wanted to read how the ragged street boy, through pluck and hard industry, achieved success. All totaled, Street & Smith published 128 Alger paperbacks.

These authors and more were featured in Street & Smith's "pulp parade." These were the highly successful paperback books that were priced so low, everyone could afford them.

Soon more and more magazines were being published by the great firm Street & Smith. One of the reasons the house prospered was that they refused to keep publishing a magazine or newspaper if its sales started dropping. The owners never let sentimentality interfere with business. This rule helped Street & Smith keep going even to

1955, when the firm celebrated its 100th anniversary. Little did Francis S. Street and Francis S. Smith realize that when "young Mr. Street (aged twenty-four) shook hands with Mr. Smith (aged Thirty-six) a partnership would be formed that was eventually to provide the industry with the most fabulous publishing firm in history."

In writing this article the author is indebted to Quentin Reynold's excellent book, The Fiction Factory, from which the preceding quote was taken. Without the use of this Random House published book, this article would never have been written.

JACK BALES PF 258

* * * * *

JUNIOR ALGER CLUB

George C. Clarke, our National Publicity Chairman, will shortly submit a plan to the Executive Committee for its approval calling for the formation of an Alger Youth Organization for boys between the ages of 12 and 15. He suggests the name, JUNIOR ALGER CLUB. A pre-requisite for membership - or an obligation of membership - would be that of reading an Alger book.

Clarke is a prominent member of Kiwanis International, which has as one of its projects in all local clubs, Service to Youth". He holds the world championship for PERFECT ATTENDANCE. His record is 48 years without a miss, 52 weekly meetings and 53 in leap years, at his own or some other club. At the recent (September 25-28) convention at the famous Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, 1150 persons witnessed the award of a plaque in appreciation of that record, his service in many offices and his authorship of "The History of Kiwanis In New England", now in its fourth edition.

Clarke is also setting up our 1970 convention at Revere, Mass. at which time proper exercises will be featured as a suitable marker is placed on the Alger Homestead at 88 Beach Street with the official sanction of the Revere City Council. A public meeting in nearby City Hall and possibly a civic parade at Revere Beach, are under consideration, under the joint management of the Revere Kiwanis Club and the City of Revere. Clarke is currently serving his 12th term as club secretary.

A SYNONYM FOR SUCCESS
BY GILBERT WESTGARD

Horatio Alger's name is today a synonym for a concept of industry, thrift, honesty, morality, virtue, and the self-made individual. But, what do most people know of the man himself?

Some would say, "Oh, I believe he was the fictional hero of a group of books that were popular a long time ago." Others might rhetorically state, "Horatio Alger was the pen-name of a popular writer such as Longfellow, or Mark Twain." Still others, in all sincerity believing their answer to be true, would reply, "That was the name of a wealthy man who helped a lot of young men get a start in life by giving them some of his money."

Only the last of these three answers has even a glimmer of truth to it.

Horatio Alger was a real person. The son of a Unitarian clergyman, he was born on Friday, the 13th of January, 1832 at Chelsea, (now Revere) Massachusetts. Like his father, he, too, became a graduate of Harvard College, graduating in the distinguished class of 1852.

Even while he was still in school his name was becoming known to the American public. Various articles and short stories from his pen had begun to appear in some of the popular magazines of the day.

Eventually moving to New York City, just after the Civil War, he found the material for which over one hundred books that he wrote for the next thirty years have become known; the stories of poor boys, most of them orphaned, trying to make a living, and to become successful. They were boot-blacks, newsboys, baggage-Smashers, and match-boys. All had in common their poverty and their dreams of success. By writing about them, Horatio Alger made himself a wealthy and successful author whose name is even today remembered while he himself is almost forgotten. He did not just write of these poor boys, but with the money he earned from his books, helped many of them to get a start in life. Truly, Horatio Alger was a synonym for success.

Welcome - New Members

PF-271 William DiCarlo
36 Fowler Avenue
Revere, Mass. 02151

William P. Di Carlo, who will serve as secretary of the 1970 Convention Committee is currently serving as a member of the Revere City Council and ranked second at the recent primary election for a second term. He has previously served for four years as a member of the Revere Youth Commission and was United Fund Chairman for Revere in 1965 and 1966.

Di Carlo is a graduate of Manlius Military Academy (Manlius, N.Y.); Hillsdale College (one year); Boston University (B.A. in Business Administration; and Boston State College for his Teachers' Certificate. He taught in the Revere School System for several years and then entered business operating two family-owned high-grade night clubs at Revere, Mass. In 1968,

as the father of two boys just entering school, he joined and became President of Theodore Roosevelt P.T.A. in 1968. He is a Kiwanian which he has served for the past two years as club secretary and in 1969-1970 he will be 1st Vice-President. He is a member of the Revere Junior Chamber of Commerce and a long list of other civic and patriotic organizations, including the American Legion.

CON'T FROM PAGE 4

Eddie had the second choice of the various books, and got a Hurst miniature of Bertha, which remained in his hands for only a couple of hours before he traded it for three needed Alger titles.

It would seem that the same method of trading books between "particular friends" works just as well today as it did in the days of Horatio's greatest popularity.

BOOK MART CON'T

TITLE - PUBLISHER - CONDITION - PRICE

1. A Boys Fortune-Winston-Loose-\$1.50
2. Adrift in New York-Hurst-Poor-\$1.50
3. A Cousins Conspiracy-Hurst-Loose-\$2.00
4. Andy Grants Pluck-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
5. Andy Gorden (2)-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
6. Bound to Rise-Trade-Pub.-Loose-\$1.50
7. Bens Nugget-Winston-Good-\$2.00
8. Chester Rand-Hurst-Loose (Fair)-\$2.00
9. Do and Dare-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
10. Digging for Gold-Winston-Cover off \$1.50
11. Driven from Home-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
12. Do and Dare-Whitman-\$1.00
13. Erie Train Boy-Hurst-Loose-\$1.00
14. Facing the World-Burt-Loose-\$1.00
15. Frank Fowler Cash Boy-Burt-Loose-\$1.00
16. Frank & Fearless-Whitman-Fair-\$1.00
17. Frank's Campaign (2)-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
18. Helping Himself-Burt-Loose-\$1.00
19. Herbert Carters Legacy-Hurst-Fair-\$1.50
20. Helen Ford-Winston-Good-\$3.00
21. Hector's Inheritance-Burt-Fair-\$15.00
22. In a New World-Donohue-Good-\$2.00
23. Jed, The Poorhouse Boy-Hurst-Loose-\$1.50
24. Joe's Luck-Loose-\$1.00
25. Julius The Street Boy-Hurst-Fair-\$5.00
26. Luke Walton-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
27. Making His Way-Burt-Loose-\$2.00
28. Mark Mason (2)-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
29. Paul Prescotts Charge-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
30. Paul the Peddler-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
31. Risen from the Ranks (2)-Mershon & Herst- Good-\$3.00
32. Phil the Fiddler-Donohue-Fair-\$2.00
33. Ralph Raymonds Heir-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
34. Ragged Dick-Winston-Good-\$2.00
35. Sam's Chance-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
36. Strong & Steady - Poor-\$1.00
37. Strong & Steady-Donohue-Fair-\$2.00
38. Strive & Succeed-N.Y. Book Co.-Paper-\$1.00
39. Sink or Swin-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
40. Slow & Sure-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
41. Sam's Chance-N.Y. Book Co.-Loose-\$1.00
42. Struggling Upward-N.Y. Book Co.-Loose-\$1.00
43. Shifting for Himself-Burt-Poor-\$1.00
44. Telegraph Boy-Hurst-Good-\$5.00
45. Tom the Boot Black-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
46. Try & Trust-New York-Fair-\$2.00
47. The Young Explorer-Winston-Excellent-\$ 5.00
48. Young Outlaw (2)-Hurst-Good \$2.00

49. Young Miner-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
50. Young Adventurer-Hurst-Fair-\$2.00
51. Wait and Hope (2)-Hurst-Good-\$2.00
52. Walter Sherwood's Probation-Burt-Fair-\$2.00

Above offered by:
Owen P. Morton
2857 S. 11th. St.
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001

Helen Ford - Winston - Good \$10.00
Tom Turner's Legacy - Hurst - Good \$5.00

Above offered by:

Irv. Poznan PF-135
107 Timka
Ballwin, Mi. 63011

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Ken Butler, publisher of Ralph Gardner's Book, "Horatio Alger or the American Hero Era", tells us that there are only nine (9) good copies and 20 copies with minor defects, nothing serious, left. Ken has been holding these for members of the HAS - so - if you don't have your copy you had better get one while you can. Send directly to Ken Butler.

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NEW BOOK

PF 230, ALAN DIKTY INFORMS US THAT A NEW MAGAZINE "THE BOY'S BOOK COLLECTOR" IS NOW ON THE MARKET. ALAN SENT YOUR EDITOR A COPU OF THE FIRST EDITION AND WE FOUND IT VERY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY AND IS \$4.00 PER YEAR. THE FIRST ISSUE IS 32 PAGES AND IS FULL OF ILLUSTRATIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE WRITE:

ALAN DIKTY
1105 EDGEWATER DRIVE
NAPERVILLE, ILL. 60540

A FORGOTTEN BOYS' CLASSIC

"What do Boys Read Now - Schopenhauer?"

The Herald Tribune is in doubt about what they read, but seems to think that Schopenhauer is the only next step after "Motor Boys" and "Balloon Boys". One remembers G. A. Henty, but who has lately thought of Horatio Alger, Jr.?

His centenary, "less than a national event" was dated for January 13, and THE HERALD TRIBUNE pays a tribute:

"The name itself has been enshrined enduringly in the national language as a literary and cultural symbol.

One wonders how many of the cognoscenti have spoken scornfully of the Alger books' without ever having read them; one wonders, too, how many graying representatives are left of the generations which did read them or their counterparts.

"For Horatio Alger was only one of a school of nineteenth-century practitioners whose gentle and dreadfully fluent pens poured out their tales 'for the young' by the hundred if not the thousand, whose precocious heroes led lives of blameless nobility and the most improbable coincidence, always fighting their way upward through hair-raising excitements to the material prosperity which was virtue's first reward.

"For some obscure reason (it could scarcely have been connected with their literary excellence), the books of this class never fell under the terrible bans pronounced against the dime novels. Perhaps it was because they came in boards instead of the immoral paper, and were written by clergymen or teachers as estimable as the boy heroes whose adventures they recorded.

"Mr. Alger began life as a clergyman and opened his literary carrer with two temperance stories. His lips never touched either liquor or the weed, and upon the appearance of his first boys' books, they were

FROM THE COLLECTION OF PAST
PRESIDENT MAX GOLDBERG-----

ordered by hundreds of Sunday-school libraries. Thereafter, he went into quantity production. The "Ragged Dick" series, the "Tattered Tom" series, Luck and Pluck, "Sink or Swin", and many others came forth to the number of seventy-five or a hundred volumes.

But where are the boys' books of yester-year?

"The first Alger stories, it is said, appeared in one of William T. Adams's juvenile magazines.

"Mr. Adams was a school-teacher and educator who, under the famous name of "Oliver Optic," produced some 100 published volumes, and is credited with over 1,000 stories. "The Star Flag", "Onward and Upward", "Great Western", and many other volumes. For, in spite of the family sanction, the boys read them in all their endless series.

"The 'success story,' of course, is perennially popular, it still turned out in quantity for adult children today. But were Victorian parents altogether wise in upholding an ideal of white-collar prosperity, which Americans are perhaps too ready to seize upon anyway?

"Another clergyman-author could scarcely be criticized on those grounds. The kindly Jacob Abbott turned out twenty-eight volumes of the 'Rollo' books, six volumes of the "Lucy" books, ten volumes of "The Franconia Stories," and enough others to amount to some 200 titles.

"Numerous as they were, however, they were sounder stories than some others; even modern children are still fascinated by the very human doing of FANNY and the wonderful BEECHNUT, by the charming steel engravings which illustrated them.

"Later on came G. A. Henty - alien but exciting reading of boys too young for Kipling- and after him the school seems to have degenerated into various kinds of "motor Boys," "Balloon Boys", and so on. What do boys read now ---- Schopenhauer?"