

# newsboy

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ISSN 0018-4918  
ISSN 0028-9396

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



Vol. 12, No. 2 & 3  
September & October, 1973

Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

*copy  
added  
1/8/96  
JTB*

227 West 34<sup>th</sup> St. New York -  
Jan. 4, 1896 -

H. T. Coates Esq -

I will with your permission  
call on you Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> (18<sup>th</sup>) for  
a statement and check -

It would be a convenience to  
me if you would send me a check  
for \$100 on account. If you have  
any objections I will wait till the general  
settlement.

Yours truly,  
Horatio Alger, Jr.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF H.A.S. PRESIDENT BOB BENNETT AN ALGER LETTER  
TO H.T. COATES REQUESTING \$100.00 ON ACCOUNT JANUARY 4, 1896.



## HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

TO FURTHER THE PHILOSOPHY OF HORATIO ALGER JR., AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SPIRIT OF STRIVE AND SUCCEED THAT FOR HALF A CENTURY GUIDED ALGER'S UNDAUNTED HEROES - LADS WHOSE STRUGGLES EPITOMIZED THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM AND FLAMED HERO IDEALS IN COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF YOUNG AMERICANS.

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The NEWSBOY, The official organ of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY, is published monthly and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$5.00

NEWSBOY recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, OR THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

Please use membership roster for mailing addresses of our officers and members.

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PF-388 Bernard Shawn  
60 Ryckman Ave.  
Albany, N.Y. 12208  
T-68 (Rose)

Bernard is an Associate in Education, N.Y.S. Education Department and collects Zane Grey, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Frank Merriwell and Nick Carter besides Alger. He learned of HAS from Dr. Poste.

PF-389 Marvin G. Pursinger PHD  
P.O. Box 8570  
Portland, Oregon 97207  
T-67 (Elizabeth)

Marvin owns a computer hardware co. and collects Stamps and music.

PF-390 Zella Jeanne Oliver Fry  
6 Edgewood Court  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07060  
(Alvin Abram)

Zella is an Associate Professor of speech at Newark State College and is interested in the inspirational element of Alger as a source on encouragement

to today's troubled youth. She learned of HAS from Dr. Poste's display in the Chamber of Commerce window display in Geneseo, N.Y.

PF-391 William Pengelly  
1825 S. Michigan, P.O. Box 2544  
South Bend, In. 46613  
T-100 (Eva L.)

William is an Antique dealer with stores in Michigan and Indiana. He learned of HAS "5 yrs. ago thru your Secretary at an Antique show in Lansing, Mi. A delayed membership - I thought you'd never get off the ground." William also collects Michigan History material, particularly Hillsdale County and Civil War.

PF-392 Catherine L. Booze  
344 N. 14th.  
Banning, California 92220  
T-55

Catherine heard of us thru Carl's Bookstore in Tacoma, Wash. Besides collecting and re-reading Alger's books she is interested in building a library of other books of interest to her - photography and gardening.

PF-393 Dudley W. Hargrave, M.D.  
R.D. Tarrytown Rd.  
Feura Bush, N.Y. 12067  
T-40 (Dorothy)

Dr. Dudley is primarily interested in building a good Alger collection and is an amateur Archeologist. He also collects antiques. He also learned of us thru Dr. Poste.

PF-394 Alex T. Shaner  
5135 Far Hills Ave.  
Dayton Ohio 45429  
T-95 (Katherine)

Alex is an executive with a management consulting co. and is interested in anything on Alger. He also collects boys books 1850 to 1940, US, History and story papers. He learned of HAS thru our Treasurer Dale Thomas.

PF-395 Irving P. Leif  
2 Upsala Court  
East Orange, N.J. 07019  
T-9

Irving is a Professor at Upsala College and is interested in the sociological impact of Alger on American Society. He also collects rare sociological works. "I was beginning to do background research on Alger for a possible sociology research project. I became interested in collecting Alger books. On my search for any information on Alger, I came across the HAS by its listing in the Encyclopedia of Associations

Con't on page # 3



PF-396 Alan Conner  
90 Harrison Ave.  
Sausalito, Ca. 94965  
T-70 (Jean)

Alan is a Marketing Executive and is interested in Lexicography and Etymology. On Alger he says "I believe him to be the social philosopher whose works have had a more profound effect on the business and work mores of the U.S.A. than any other author." Alan comes to us by way of Ralph Keeney.

PF-397 Victor H. "Peter" Burrows  
797 Fairview Ave.  
Annapolis, Md. 21403  
T-30 (Pam)

An Insurance Agent, Victor also collects U.S. Stamps, Antiques, old books, American and is interested in Chess and Bridge. He learned of thru his brother, T.W. Burrows, a rare book dealer in Chicago.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by bob bennett

#### WHAT IS A TITLE?

A new HAS Official Title List has been waiting in the wings for several months pending agreement on what exactly constitutes a separate title.

There appears to be some controversy related to this matter, so I will give some of my personal thoughts and hopefully readers will give me their ideas and we can reach a consensus.

A title should be identifiable as a distinct entity in and of itself and should carry readily distinguishable points of identification. It should be a real and verified title as opposed to a "ghost listing" in an obscure publication with no evidence that the item was actually issued as such. For example, no one has ever seen "The District Telegraph Boy" or "The Young Railsplitter" and I believe that both were simply suggested titles that were changed prior to publication.

The official title is that which appears on the title page. Because some publishers choose to abbreviate a title or use some other form on the cover, spine, or running heads of a book does not create a separate title.

The addition of a sub-title, usually separated by the conjunction "or", does not

change the original title, nor does it create a new one. The sub-title is simply the second of two choices for the original title.

To illustrate my point, consider the following possibilities. The title "Julius" has as its sub-title, "Or, the Street Boy out West". Whether the story appears with just the single title, "Julius" or with the full title and sub-title, it is still a single title. If the story also was published as "The Street Boy Out West" then it would constitute another title. An example is the title, "500; or, Jacob Marlowe's Secret". This story is published as both "500" and as "Jacob Marlowe's Secret" thereby creating two titles.

Misprints and idfferent forms of spelling are not logical means of creating new titles. The story "\$500" also appears as "Five Hundred Dollars". "Andy Gordon" is misspelled "Andy Gordan" in the Street & Smith paperback series. Subtle differences of this nature do not seem justifiable in establishing additional titles.

Some titles must be differentiated by using the full title and sub-title. Some of the Garfield Library editions combine two stories into one and therefore create a new title. "Bound to Rise; or, Harry Walton's Motto" is the original story issued by A.K.Loring. However, the Garfield edition combines the two stories, "Bound to Rise" and "Risen From the Ranks" into one story. The Garfield title is "Bound to Rise; or, Live and Learn" and is neither "Bound to Rise" or "Risen From the Ranks". but a separate and distinct entity.

Facing the World; or, The Haps and Mishaps of Harry Vane", is the original story first published by Porter & Coates. However, "Facing the World; or, Gilbert Greyson's Fortunes" was the serialization of "Shifting for Himself" and has no connection with the Porter & Coates Story. Here it is necessary to use the sub-title to differentiate between the two stories.

Still another confusing item is, "Paddle Your Own Canoe, or, Harry Raymond's Resolve", which is a Garfield Library reprint of "Sink or Swim". The title, "Paddle Your Own Canoe; or, The Fortunes of Walter Conrad", is the serialization title of "Strong and Steady" and bears no relationship to the Garfield edition.

Watch coming issues for new finds and new sources. Next month I will do a story on "Abner Holden's Bound Boy" which I have found in book form. This title was previously thought to have existed only as a serialization title.

Gilbert Westgard and I will collaborate on issuing information about other new discoveries in the subsequent months.



## ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK - PART II

A Report by Capt. Gary V. Lemon

In this six month interim Andy is given a special mission by Mr. Crawford, to go to Tacoma, Washington and purchase some desirable lots for him. His itinerary takes him from New York to San Francisco via train and then by ship to the Puget Sound. In the coach on way to Chicago, Andy falls in with an adventurer, by the name of Percival Robinson, who convinces Andy that it would be wise to stay with him in a boarding house on the outskirts of town. Almost too late Andy discovers that he has been led to a trap and escapes with the aid of another boy. He takes up residence at the Sherman House, a respectable Chicago Hotel. The conspirator Robinson follows him there and attempts to gain possession of Andy's wallet by a bold bluff, accusing Andy of stealing his wallet. His bluff is foiled at the last minute by the house detective who recognizes the villain as Tom Maitland, the infamous Chicago confidence man.

Andy changes his itinerary in Chicago and takes the Northern Pacific to the end of the line, going the rest of the way by stage coach. The coach is stopped by another infamous desperado, Dick Hawley, who commands "Stop the coach and pass over your watches and pocket books". (pg. 299) To lend emphasis to his command, the robber fires a shot into the air. This volley so frightens the stage horses that they rush forward forcing Hawley over the precipice to his death.

Once in Tacoma, our hero gets a room at the Tacoma House and seeks out the lots he and his employer now own. He is pleased to find them located in the centre part of town not far from the business district. Back in his room Andy's attention is captured by moans from the next room. He investigates and finds Seth Johnson, a wealthy man from San Francisco almost at death's door. Andy loses no time in securing a doctor and a full time nurse. Seth credits Andy with saving his life and as a token of his gratitude he gives Andy five lots which he owns in Tacoma and lets Andy purchase 20 additional lots for five thousand dollars.

Andy and Seth Johnson return to New York City together to complete the transaction. Mr. Crawford, who could not have been more pleased by Andy's success, rewards him for his services by giving him Five Hundred Dollars.

Returning again to Arden, Squire Carter's final triumph, foreclosing the mortgage on Mr. Grant, is again foiled by our hero. Andy, armed with his \$500.00 plus a loan of Two thousand dollars on his Tacoma property, arrives with his benefactor, Mr. Gale in time to destroy Squire Carter's dream, by paying off the entire mortgage.

At the conclusion Andy, who is now living on Madison Avenue with Mr. Gale, becomes a wealthy young man and a partner in Mr. Crawford's firm. Squire Carter is embarrassed financially when the Widow Carter forces him to pay the Five thousand dollars which was the remainder of her late husband's estate. This, combined with ill-advised speculations cause Squire Philemon Carter to sell his home and move to a humbler one near the village. Conrad, his despicable son, is forced to take a job at four dollars a week. Mr. Simon Rich ends up a fugitive in Canada.

Throughout the book Horatio Alger has added many characters who have little impact on the story but add variety and interest. Many of these characters were fellow boarders at Mrs. Norris's boarding house such as Mr. Warren, an erstwhile writer who was continually being turned down by publishers, or Sam Perkins, a clothing salesman with an eye for a flashy necktie.

Many of Andy's boyhood friends play character roles in the book. Chief among them being Valentine Burns who, Alger writes, "Now holds a position in Mr. Crawford's office and is giving excellent satisfaction." (pg. 335) Andy's little brother, Robbie, is entirely forgotten once he is mentioned in the beginning of the volume. Perhaps Alger lost him among all the many characters in the book. Two other quickly forgotten people were Lilly Hunter, introduced in the first chapter as a "favorite" with Andy and Aunt Jane who functioned as the devil's advocate in regards to Andy's leaving for New York.

The most glaring error is a name mix-up by Alger for the nephew of the Clerk at Flints. The nephew is first introduced as "James" in Chapter XII and later in Chapter XVI he becomes John Crandall.

## ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK LIST OF CHARACTERS

Andy Grant - Page 1  
Our hero



# ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK LIST OF CHARACTERS Cont. from Page 4

Almur Bacon - Page 1  
Student at Penhurst Academy

Dr. Crabb - Pages 2-4  
Kindly principal of Penhurst Academy

Roland Hunter - Page 4  
Boyhood friend of Andy's in Arden

Lilly Hunter - Page 6  
Roland's sister and a favorite with Andy

Mr. Sterling Grant - Page 6  
Andy's father, a farmer with 50 Acres

Robert Grant - Page 6  
Andy's little brother

Mrs. Grant - Page 7  
Andy's mother

Nathan Lawrence - Page 7  
Bank Cashier who ran away with \$20,000.00

Squire Philemon Carter - Page 9  
Arden's village aristocrat and money lender  
Chief villain who holds mortgage on Grant farm.

Conrad Carter - Page 19  
Son of Squire Carter-most disliked boy in village

Dudley Cameron - Page 25  
12 year old school mate of Andy's

Valentine Burns - Page 31  
Intimate friend of Andy's who offers him a boat for the race

John Larkin - Page 34  
An Arden boy who sometimes played with Conrad but was not intimidated by his "airs"

Jimmy Morris - Page 35  
Arden boy who was a good boat rower

Serwin - Page 35  
A man who rented row boats

Mr. Walter Gale - Page 43  
Race's sponsor and Andy's eventual friend and benefactor

Dennis Carlyle - Page 45  
Competitor in the boat race

The Tramp - Page 66  
A character who attempts to rob Andy and is later employed by Carter to destroy Andy's boat

Saul Wheellock - Page 74  
Blacksmith who rescues Andy during a robbery

Peter Hill - Page 96  
A small boy who witnesses the destruction of Conrad's boat

Aunt Jane - Page 105  
Andy's spinster aunt

Mr. F. Flint - Page 107  
Owner of N.Y. Jewelry store and employer of Andy

James - Page 109  
Boy Andy replaced at Flints (note-this is an Alger mistake-James is also John Crawford)

Mrs. Norris - Page 110  
Keeper of boarding house where Andy resides

Eva - Page 122  
A Swedish employee at Mrs. Norris' boarding house

Mr. G. Byron Warren - Page 124  
An eccentric writer who lives next to Andy

Mr. Sam Perkins - Page 126  
A young fellow boarder who sells neckties

Mr. Simon Rich - Page 142-143  
Disagreeable head cashier at Flints

John Crandall - Page 145  
Rich's nephew (See James)

Mrs. Mason - Page 146  
Wealthy customer at Flint's who invites Andy to lunch

Gustave - Page 147  
Rude servant of Mrs. Mason's

Mr. & Mrs. Osborne - Page 157  
Young married's living at boarding house

Miss Manson - Page 158  
Attractive business woman who resides at boarding house

Mr. Kimball - Page 158  
Resident at boarding house

James Callahan - Page 178  
Boy who witnessed John Crandall going to pawn shop

Roy Mason - Page 184  
Young son of Mrs. Mason

Mr. John Crawford - Page 184  
Mrs. Mason's brother and real estate broker and Andy's employer

James Grey - Page 194  
Boy Andy replaces at Crawfords

Mr. James Bristol - Page 219  
Newark man who sells Mr. Crawford and Andy land in Tacoma

Ben Carter - Page 227  
Young nephew of Squire Carter

Mrs. Carter - Page 228  
Widowed mother of Ben

Mr. Gardner - Page 235  
Lawyer who hires Mrs. Carter

Mr. Grayling - Page 243  
Man to whom Andy sells a house

Mr. Percival Robinson - Page 278  
Alias for Tom Maitland

Tom Maitland - Page 293  
An infamous Chicago confidence man who tries to rob Andy

Dick Hawley - Page 295  
Western stage robber

Seth Johnson - Page 302  
Sick Tacoma land owner that Andy saves

Mr. Graham - Page 304  
Unemployed farmer

Maria Graham - Page 305  
Wife of farmer who becomes Seth Johnson's nurse



## PLACE NAMES FOUND IN ANDY GRANT'S PLUCK

Cont. from Page 5

Arden, Connecticut	-	Page 4
Andy's home town		
Benton	-	Page 7
A place near Arden		
New York City	-	Page 104
Place Andy gains employment		
Philadelphia	-	Page 110
On the route to Mr. Gale's sick Uncle		
Yonkers	-	Page 134
Supposed location of fictitious sister in story used by con-man		
Brooklyn	-	Page 136
Place Andy visited on first day in New York		
Denver, Colorado	-	Page 161
Location of Mr. Flint's brother		
Tacoma, Washington	-	Page 218
Location of land that Andy and Mr. Crawford purchased		
Newark, New Jersey	-	Page 220
Home of James Bristol		
Mt. Vernon, New York	-	Page 243
Location of house Andy sells to Mr. Grayling		
San Francisco	-	Page 272
Original land terminal for Andy's western trip		
Puget Sound	-	Page 273
Body of water on which Tacoma is located		
Chicago	-	Page 273
Andy's first stop on his trip west		
Iowa	-	Page 305
Home state of Mr. Graham		

\* \* \* \* \*

### "THE GOODIES IN THE CATALOGUES BY Jack Schorr

I received a catalogue from an Eastern dealer who deals exclusively in children's literature. These catalogues I usually give first priority, not because I can afford to buy anything they offer, but because I live in the "boon docks". These come from the East, and by the time I get them, anything worthwhile is gone. Anyway, this ad had six Algers I wanted, three G & D publications and one first edition Penn Publishing and several others - all nice. The catalogue had not been in my hands more than 15 minutes before I had a check inside an airmail letter and it was enroute. Not being satisfied with that, I called the party. I heard my wife grumbling in the other room about, "he's got his nerve complaining about my calls." I yelled, "this is a good investment." I wasn't sure but thought she retorted, "What about the other 4,500?" When I finally got my call through someone either 10 or 12 years old responded and said

that Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ was not at home. I extracted a promise to have her hold the six Algers and said that the money was in the mail right now. I wasn't sure this child got the message but I tried. About a week later I received a letter with my check. "Sorry, the six Algers were sold the day after my catalogue was released." Must have lived next door, I muttered. Well, it was a good try for a good investment.

A few weeks later I got another catalogue from the Southwest area of our country advertising numerous boy's book buys described in varying degrees of enthusiasm, as "Bobby Blake School Nine" condition "great"; "The Tin Box"-Alger, "Jim Dandy condition, very rare one"; "Bound to Rise" - Alger, "beautiful cover, hard to find", etc. I should have known better than to answer this, with such a description of the condition of a book, but I needed "The Tin Box" more than I needed good sense so I sent \$7.50 off and this time I got the book and no letter. It was "Jim Dandy" alright. The binding was held together only by the wrapping paper it came in. I wonder what the book in "great" condition looked like. Funny thing too, this guy had 600 or so books listed. Took me two months and four letters to get my \$7.50 back.

On the brighter side I received a listing from a dealer in Des Moines. There were 400 or so books listed, all science fiction. It had one juvenile, an Alger "The Young Explorer" H.T. Coates edition. The condition was not stated. I sent \$3.00 off not knowing what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised as it turned out to be a near mint copy. Original book seller's stamp in back, a shop in Boston, long since extinct.

A friend of mine up in Northern California who is a book dealer has been putting aside Algers as they come in and always if they are in nice condition. His shop is unique in that there is not a book on his shelves in less than what would be good-plus condition. He won't take any otherwise. So when he says he has four or five Algers I usually jump because condition is important with me. I ordered the four Algers he said he had and waited and waited. Finally a box came. It was, I thought, rather large for four Algers. I opened them with my wife present, and I took out seven cookbooks. My wife looked at me and said, "Now I know you are off your rocker, 'Six Little Bunkers' last week, 'The Bobbsey Twir' and now this." There was a mix-up in packaging and we finally got it straightened out.

Collecting has its struggles, humor, and gratification, all of which makes it fun.



## SEEK AND FIND

by Jack Schorr

Last week I answered an ad in our local paper. The ad appeared in the evening edition, "Antiques, Nic-Nacks, 800 old books, mostly novels, including early juveniles, Palmer Cox, Algers, Optics, etc., 9 to 5 p.m." Needless to say I had visions of a box of Loring's or at least some nice reprints. It was a large old house that I drove up to the next morning which plainly said 1914, which is old by California standards. There must have been 50 or more people milling around waiting to get in. I consoled myself that few were looking for books, most antique seekers. My heart fell when I spotted one of our local book dealers in the crowd. Then he went around to the back, and I kind of followed to see what happened. He went in the back door. I decided to go in also. I could only be asked to leave. When I got inside the place was crowded already. I found out that this old house had been in the family for years and had a lot of good authentic antiques. That's why the crowd. I found the room where the books were. A library well-stocked with many, many victorian novels from 1880 to 1920 era. Of course by the time I got there the juveniles had been picked over and the Palmer Cox books were gone. I found a box of Algers, but every one was the kind that had two stories by Alger in one volume, with a picture of an Indian head on the spine. I cannot for the life of me remember the publisher. I debated whether I should get them, there were ten and in fine condition, but priced at \$3.50, I passed them up. I did find "Joe's Luck" and "Tom Thatcher's Fortune" in very good condition with the gold sharp and clear on the spine. They were the Burt deluxe editions. There were no Loring's. I also found one fine copy of a H.T. Coates edition. I went home with the above plus six volumes of Optic, "Great Westerns Series", in beautiful red bindings all matched set.

On a trip to Oakland a couple of years ago I went into Holmes Book Store, a fine old store that has many thousands of second hand books, and found some Algers I was happy to get. There were about 60 juvenile books among others they had purchased from an estate, all in fine condition, many with dust jackets, all inscribed with the name "Master R.L. Davis" inside. I got six Winston editions of Alger, the edition with the colored plates, four of which had dust jackets. The I would say were fine condition. I am particularly fond of this Winston edition. It must be the colored plates. They make such a nice looking row, all with the same illustration on the spine, when you get about 15 or more on a shelf. Along with these I found seven mint

"Motor Boys", found in the original plain yellow-orange dust jackets with black lettering. This boy kept splendid care of his books because all 60 were just great. A funny thing too. My wife is certain that the R.L. Davis was a nephew of an old friend of our family. Well, his books found a good home on my shelves.

I am keeping my fingers crossed as I await a call from a dealer friend of mine who is now sorting out books from his basement where they have been stored since 1927. I have been down there and there must be, at a conservative estimate, nine thousand or so books down there in no particular order - all in piles and piles. He has promised to save for me all Algers and other juveniles and phone me as he unearths them. He has assured me that he has many juveniles there, including Algers. If this materializes, as well as some other Algers that are in pending litigation, I will be able to help some of my collector friends out who need some help with Algers in nice condition.

So many times I have been in a store and have asked, "Do you have any Algers put away?" The dealer reaches under the counter, or goes into his back room, and just before he returns, if you are a true collector, your pulse increases, but as you see what he brings out and recognize that they are New York Book Co. editions, your pulse returns to normal fast. One of these days my response to that question will be Loring's with the gold so bright they hurt your eyes. Well, I can dream, can't I?

\* \* \* \* \*

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## VICE-PRESIDENT COLUMN by Jack Bales

## Horatio Alger Reference Works

Besides just collecting the numerous different titles that appear under the name of Horatio Alger, Jr., another important part of my collection is the obtaining of reference and research books on Alger or Alger related subjects. Naturally, Alger's four biographies come to mind (I have all four, with Mayes' book in mint condition with dust jacket), but there are many, many other volumes that one can include in his collection.

One book that mentions the Alger family is D. Skurtleff's *THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF REVERE*, which besides tracing the history of the town, contains many genealogical references about the Alger family.

Besides Alger books I'm also interested in the pulps of that period. Books that are very informative are Quentin Reynolds' book, *THE FICTION FACTORY*, which superbly gives the history of the great publishing house, Street and Smith (with many book illustrations), and Gilbert Patten's autobiography *FRANK MERRIWELL'S "FATHER."* This latter book is excellent reading, and literally filled with anecdotes about the boyhood and later years of this famous author. By the way, Patten (whose pen-name was Burt L. Standish), was even a more prolific author than Alger. For 17 years he wrote a 20,000 word Frank Merriwell story every week, and an estimated 500,000,000 copies of his works have been sold!!!

Another volume that deals with a dime novelist is Jay Monaghan's *THE GREAT RASCAL: THE EXPLOITS OF THE AMAZING NED BUNTLINE*, and, published by the same company as Patten's book (University of Oklahoma), is Albert Johannsen's monumental three volume set titled *THE HOUSE OF BEADLE AND ADAMS AND ITS DIME AND NICKEL NOVELS*. This is also filled with illustrations. Unfortunately, it is out of print now, and I have only seen it advertised, I do not own it.

There are many books that have special sections on Horatio Alger. These include Harry Hartwick's *THE FOREGROUND OF AMERICAN FICTION*, ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY by Clifton Fadiman, Richard Huber's, *THE AMERICAN IDEA OF SUCCESS* and Charles Dana Gibson's famous Authors and the Best Literature of England and America. One book that has a quite renowned section on Alger is *LOST MEN OF AMERICAN HISTORY* by Stewart H. Holbrook.

Illustrated books are always beautiful to look at, and my favorite is Eric Quayle's *THE COLLECTOR'S BOOK OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS*, which has many

full page color illustrations.

Also in my collection, I have a special place for books dealing with New York City. The two most notable books in this category are Helen Campbell's *DARKNESS AND DAYLIGHT* (published in 1891) and Matthew Hale Smith's *SUNSHINE AND SHADOW IN NEW YORK* (published in 1872). These also are superbly illustrated with pictures of newsboys and bootblacks who frequented the streets of New York. (In the March, 1963 issue of *NEWSBOY*, Gilbert Westward contributed a chapter from Mrs. Campbell's book. This was entitled "New York Newsboys," and mention was also made of the Newsboy's Lodging House. This chapter from *DARKNESS AND DAYLIGHT* ran for seven issues of *NEWSBOY*).

Other books on New York City include *KING'S HANDBOOK OF NEW YORK CITY* by Moses King, Henry M. Christman's *WALT WHITMAN'S NEW YORK*, Robert Shackleton's *THE BOOK OF NEW YORK*, Susan Lyman's *THE STORY OF NEW YORK*, the well illustrated *THE STREETS OF OLD NEW YORK* by J. Ernest Brierly, *BROADWAY*, by J. B. Kerfoot and *VIGNETTES OF MANHATTAN* by Brander Matthews.

Also in my collection are books that include Alger's poetry. Noteworthy of these is Gilbert K. Westgard's *ALGER STREET* of course, but there are others besides. The poem "John Maynard" seems to be a famous one, for it appears in Albert Raub's *THE NEW FORMAL FIFTH READER*, published in 1878 and in *GEMS FOR THE FIRESIDE*, published by O. H. Tiffany in 1881. (See March, 1972 issue of *NEWSBOY* for a reproduction of this latter work).

Many of the above books can be bought from fellow collectors, and many more of them can be bought at book sales. For example, the Chicago Public Library recently held a book sale in which all books cost a quarter apiece. Every one of the 60,000 books were sold.

One good place to buy books is from the publishing houses themselves. Naturally, if the book is out of print, these are of no help, but several of the above books I obtained this way. One of my favorite dealers is PUBLISHERS CENTRAL BUREAU (Department 299, 33-20 Hunters Point Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101). This company sells mint books by numerous publishers, all at greatly reduced prices. (Reductions are up to 83%, and they regularly send out different catalogs). For example, going through the catalog, I see a book that was originally published at \$35.00 reduced to \$9.95, \$4.95 to \$1.00, \$25.00 to \$5.95, and \$12.95 to \$1.98. Send for their

(Cont. on Page 9)



VICE-PRESIDENT COLUMN by Jack Bales Cont. from  
Page 8

catalog, and also start looking through the indexes of old books. You might come across a good Alger reference book!!

COMING NEXT MONTH: A little known anecdote about Horatio Alger, Jr., gleamed from an Alger reference work.

\* \* \* \* \*

TOM TEMPLE'S CAREER by Horatio Alger, Jr.  
as Read by PF-314

"Tom Temple's Career" was originally published as a serial entitled "The Bully of the Village" in the New York Weekly in 1879. The page numbers used in this report correspond to those in the A.L. Burt edition.

From the outset the reader is prepared for something different in the way of Alger heroes. For one thing Tom is rich. His father has just died and left him a \$40,000 inheritance. For another, he is supposed to be a bully. Mr. Sharp, the executor of the estate, describes our hero on Page 8 as follows (excerpt):

"He is known among us as 'The Bully of the Village.' He is fond of teasing and domineering over other boys, and is full of mischief." (end of excerpt)

However, upon introduction, our hero doesn't seem to be all that bad. Tom is sixteen years old and is described on Page 12 as "a stout boy, with a keen, expressive face, who looked full of life and activity." To give some further idea of Tom's character the following soliloquy is included. Tom is referring to his new guardians, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Middleton. (excerpt Page 14):

"I don't fancy the old man's looks," he thought. "He looks mean and so does his wife. I have an idea they'll try to starve me, but if they do I'll make it lively for them, or my name isn't Tom Temple." (end excerpt)

Tom ends up getting his own way with the penny-pinching Middletons because they don't want to lose the steep price Mr. Sharp is paying for his ward's board.

After an eventful supper, Tom decides to take a walk to see something of his new home town of Plympton. He chances upon two of the upper crust of Plympton society playing a game of catch. They were James Davenport, son of a lawyer and Edwin Barker, James' cousin. Not knowing that Tom

was rich like themselves, they refused to let our hero join in their game. Tom catches the ball in mid-air and heaves it into a corn-field and the fight begins. (excerpt page 22-23):

"What did you do that for?" shouted James furiously.

"For fun," said Tom. "You wouldn't play with me, so you must take the consequences."

"I'll give you a beating."

"Will you? Come on, then."

In an instant Tom had flung off his coat and stood in his shirt-sleeves, facing his two foes.

"Stand by me, Edwin --we'll rush on him together," said James.

But Tom, stepping to one side, received James singly, and flinging him on his back, made a dash at Edwin and served him in the same way.

"That's the first round," said he, squaring off. "Now get up, you loafer, and we'll try it again."

But James had been laid flat with so much force that it jarred his frame, and he didn't like it. The stranger was altogether too strong to make it pleasant.

"Why didn't you help me?" he asked, turning to Edwin.

"He had you down before I got a chance," said his cousin.

"You're a brute and a bully!" he said angrily.

"Anything more?" asked Tom coolly. "Go ahead if it does you good. You ought to know what a bully is."

"Why?"

"Because you'd be one if you had a little more courage." (end excerpt)

Tom later explains his actions thusly to his horrified guardians (excerpt page 27):

"You must be very quarrelsome," said Mrs. Middleton, who didn't like Tom, and would have shown it much more plainly if he had been a poor boy.

"I suppose I am," said Tom frankly. "They used to call me the bully of the village, but I never tyrannized over weak boys. It's only the upstarts and pretenders that I interfere with. Those boys I saw to-night need a few lessons in good manners." (end excerpt)

The next day Tom rescues a poor Irish boy from drowning. And the day after that he rescues Mary Somers from a fierce, mad dog. She is a poor relation to the Davenports and is an unwelcome guest in their home. One gets the general impression that Tom is quite fond of her which again makes our hero stand out from other Alger heroes. Affairs of the heart in Alger epics are, of course, remarkable and will be



TOM TEMPLE'S CAREER by Horatio Alger, Jr. Cont.  
from Page 9

faithfully noted in every case. Tom had to kill the rabid dog and fight the dog's owner besides. Our hero didn't have to kill the owner who was somewhat larger and stronger than Tom; a couple of lessons in fisticuffs sufficed to show the brute the error of his ways.

Alger says of his hero on page 75 (excerpt): "Our hero has easily gained an ascendancy in the school. His physical prowess made his companions shy of opposing him, and I am compelled to say that he showed a disposition to assert authority over his school-fellows. He oftentimes insisted on carrying his point, when it would have been in better taste to consult the wishes of others. There was evidently some ground for the name which he had won in his former home, that of the bully of the village. But Tom had redeeming traits. He always sided with the weaker against the stronger. Though he domineered over the smaller boys, he allowed no one else to do so." (end excerpt)

The Davenports send Mary off to a cheap boarding school so she isn't around to witness our hero's fall. For it is discovered that Tom is no longer rich due to some bad investments. It is believed that he is now worth only a few hundred dollars and can no longer afford to be idle. Undismayed, Tom gets \$50.00 from Mr. Sharp and journeys to the big city of New York. He immediately falls prey to a sneak thief but manages to get his money back. This episode provides the vehicle for Alger's usual Arithmetic lesson for his young readers (excerpt page 117):

"I've purchased two thousand dollars worth of goods."  
"With six hundred dollars?"  
"Sharp, again, my son. You don't understand business. I pay twenty-five per cent down, and get ninety days' credit for the balance."  
"That's five hundred cash."  
"Precisely. You'll make a smart business man." (end excerpt)

After a few days looking about the city, Tom contacts Mr. Armstrong, one of his father's debtors in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Armstrong is bankrupt because one of his clerks absconded with \$100,000 in cash and securities. It is believed that the thief went to California. So Tom gets some more money from Mr. Sharp and takes out after the clerk. Mr. Lincoln, the thief, will be easy to recognize because he has a burn scar on his left hand and a cast in the left eye.

On the steamer to California Tom makes two

acquaintances who may or may not be of assistance to him in the future. One is a poor Irish working man and the other is Henry Stoddard, rich, elderly gentleman in poor health. Our hero aids the latter in getting about on deck and events will prove that Tom's kindness was appreciated.

A few days after his arrival in San Francisco Tom secures a place as a clerk in a clothing and outfitter's store. In the owner's absence Tom foils a would-be burglar who uses Alger's favorite oath for thieves caught in the act often enough to gladden the heart of any true Alger devotee (excerpts pages 165, 166, 170):

"Confusion!" he muttered. "The young rogue has outwitted me."  
The burglar realized that so far from being simple he had to deal with a boy who was brave and quick-witted.  
"Confusion!" he muttered to himself. "If I am caught here it will ruin me."  
"Confusion!" he exclaimed, with an oath. "The boy is calling assistance." (end excerpts)

Tom's employer rewards him with \$100 in gold for saving the cash receipts of some \$800 from the Burglar. Alger opines that our hero has benefitted from his work in the store in ways other than monetary (excerpt page 175-176):

It was certainly a great change from the character which he had previously sustained as a bully, and an arrogant, imperious boy. The truth was that he had been injured by his prosperity.  
When, through circumstances over which he had no control, he had lost his fortune, and been reduced to comparative poverty, he found himself for the first time filling a useful place in the world.  
His new position required courtesy and a disposition to oblige, and he was wise enough to see it. So he had improved in a marked manner under the discipline of adversity, and no longer deserved the appellation once given him of "Bully of the Village." (end excerpt)

Tom finally meets Lincoln, the subject of his search, in the store. Lincoln now is using the name Morton and he and a companion are outfitting for a trip to the mines. Tom persuades them to let him tag along. The party is captured by a band of outlaws who discover the missing securities in Morton's money belt. Our hero offers the robber-chief a \$10,000 reward for \$80,000 in non-negotiable bonds. The robber-chief agrees and makes up his mind to give up his life of crime. He decides to take on a new name to go with his new life and here Alger has a bit of fun with the reader. For he has the



TOM TEMPLE'S CAREER by Horatio Alger, Jr. Cont.  
from Page 10

robber-baron pick as his new name the same name he has already given to one of his other characters; James Davenport, the snobbish son of the lawyer back in Plympton. From an earlier conversation that took place between Tom and James we know that the latter would be very displeased at this presumption by the ex-thief, (page 48).

But than, now that our favorite author has two characters with the same name, he must dispatch one of them to avoid confusion. So Alger has one of the outlaws shoot his chief dead and that settles that. Tom ends up with the securities which the new Davenport had given him earlier because he had a presentiment of impending doom. Tom also gets the \$800 in gold the robber-chief had on his person for he had made our hero his heir. But of course Tom would only keep that sum of which he had been robbed by the outlaws.

Tom encounters that wealthy gentleman, Mr. Stoddard, again on board the steamer back to New York. And it turns out he is to be our hero's benefactor. He will regard Tom as his adopted son and Tom will regard him as his (rich) uncle. And Tom will receive an allowance of a thousand dollars a year from Mr. Stoddard.

In New York our hero triumphantly turns over the securities to Mr. Armstrong. Then he returns to Plympton to astound his old acquaintances in the concluding chapter entitled "Circumstances Alter Cases." Our hero recovered all of his fortune and is heir to another. Herewith is the final paragraph of "Tom Temple's Career" (excerpt page 256):

"Ten years have passed by. Tom is a young merchant, bold, enterprising and successful. Mary Somers is his wife, and Mr. Stoddard, happy in their love and respect, lives with them. The Davenports are proud of their connection with their once despised poor relation, and thankfully accept her invitations. Imogene is unmarried and is likely to become a sour old maid. James Davenport is a clerk in the employ of Tom, through poverty being forced to work, very much to his disgust. Mr. and Mrs. Middleton still live. They have become more penurious than ever, but their opinion of Tom has changed. "My dear young friend, Tom Temple, once an inmate of my family," says Nathan and his wife echoes it. How gold reveals the virtues of those about us! As for Tom, he has greatly improved. The bold, aggressive qualities which once made him a bully have been diverted to business, and have made him energetic and enterprising. So we leave him better than

we found him, and with every prospect of a happy and prosperous career. (end excerpt)

The End

#### List of Minor Place Names

Plympton - Page 5  
Adopted home town of our hero  
Centerville - Page 10  
Original home town of our hero

#### CHARACTERS FOUND IN "TOM TEMPLE'S CAREER"

Nathan Middleton - Pages 5,6  
Guardian to our hero, an insurance agent  
Corinthia Carver - Page 6  
Maiden name of Mrs. Nathan Middleton  
Stephen Temple\* - Page 6  
Our hero's father, deceased  
Tom Temple - Pages 6,8  
Our hero, "The Bully of the Village"  
Ephraim Sharp - Pages 6,10  
Executor of the Temple estate, an attorney  
Prudence Peabody - Page 18  
An old busy-body  
Thomas Washington - Page 19  
Name assumed by our hero in fun  
James Davenport - Page 20  
Young snob, son of Squire Davenport  
Edwin Barker - Page 20  
Cousin to James Davenport  
Squire Davenport - Page 20,37  
Lawyer, member of the upper crust  
Mike - Page 42  
An errand boy  
Imogene Davenport - Pages 43,44  
The Davenport's unattractive daughter  
Mary Somers - Page 44  
Our hero's love interest, a poor relation of Davenports  
Jimmy Grady - Pages 47,48  
6 year old rescued from drowning by our hero  
Mrs. Grady - Page 49  
Poor mother of Jimmy Grady  
Ben Miller - Pages 61,63  
The butcher boy, recipient of boxing lesson from our hero  
Professor Thompson \*- Page 64  
Our hero's boxing instructor  
Archibald Armstrong - Page 106  
Bankrupt New York merchant, owes our hero ten grand  
Samuel Livingston - Pages 111,112  
Sneak thief  
Johnny - Page 114  
New York bootblack  
Micky - Page 114  
New York bootblack



# CHARACTERS FOUND IN "TOM TEMPLE'S CAREER cont. from Page 11

Richard Armstrong	-	Page 122
Archibald Armstrong, evidently an Alger error		
Samuel Lincoln	-	Pages 129,130
A villain and a thief		
Mike Lawton	-	Page 134
A seasick steerage passenger, Irish working man		
Henry Stoddard	-	Pages 135,138
Our hero's benefactor, a wealthy old gentleman		
Bridget*	-	Page 140
Mike Lawton's Irish sweetheart		
Carny Rafferty	-	Page 147
A friend of Mike Lawton's		
Jim Granger	-	Page 149
A successful gold miner		
Bill Rogers	-	Page 149
A successful gold miner		
Oliver Burton	-	Pages 152,156
Clothing store owner, our hero's employer		
Archibald Campbell	-	Page 171
Scotchman who captures a burglar		
Mr. Gates	-	Pages 177,178
Companion to Samuel Lincoln		
Mr. Morton	-	Pages 177,178
Alias of Samuel Lincoln		
Tom Lincoln	-	Page 181
Alias of our hero(used to test Lincoln-Morton the thief)		
Johann Schmidt	-	Page 190,191
A fat dutchman, provides comedy for robber band		
Katrine Schmidt*	-	Page 192
Herr Schmidt's frau		
Alonzo	-	Page 209
Member of the robber band		
Jack	-	Page 222
Member of the robber band		
Bill	-	Page 223
Member of the robber band		
James Davenport	-	Page 232
Name assumed by robber-chief		
Frederick	-	Page 236
Clothing store clerk		
Hugh Osborn	-	Page 249
Merchant friend of Mr. Armstrong		

\* Doesn't actually make an appearance

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IN SEARCH OF HORATIO ALGER by Bill Henderson  
PART II

The recent sustained revival of interest in Alger began in 1962 when Collier issued a one-book paperback reprint of "Ragged Dick" and "Mark the Match Boy", which has sold over 300,000 copies and remained in print for a decade. Collier followed up in 1968 with Alger's "Digging for Gold." Other Alger publishers during the 60's were Holt, Rinehart and Winston with "Julius" and "The Store Boy," and Odyssey, with "Adrift in New York" and "The World Before Him."

In the fall of 1971, Nautilus Books, a small firm in North Plainfield, New Jersey, published boxed first edition facsimiles of "Phil The Fiddler" and "Struggling Upward" and has gone back to press for a second printing. Doubleday recently issued Alger's "Silas Snobden's Office Boy," a novel never before published in book form, which has gone into a third printing, was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review, will be a Popular Library paperback--and achieved the rare distinction of being printed for the second time in the magazine that gave it birth: Argosy, in this case.

Alger's books are increasing in value on the rare book market. First editions average about \$40.00, but some firsts cost more: "Robert Corderdale's Struggle" (1910)-\$350.00; "Seeking His Fortune" (1875)-\$425.00; "Timothy Crump's Ward" (1865)-\$1,000.00.

Like the value of his books, Alger's modern-day disciples are increasing, in number and enthusiasm. On Thanksgiving Day, 1961, two ex-farm boys, Forrest Campbell and Ken Butler, met, discovered their mutual hobby of collecting and reading Alger's books, and founded an early version of the Horatio Alger Society. The first HAS national convention was held at Mendota, Ill. in 1965. Membership has grown to over 300 members and includes the New York Public Library, Library of Congress and Princeton University. To fuel Alger's spirit, HAS offers a number of national annual awards, such as the Strive and Succeed Award to "the boy who lives up to the Standards described by Horatio Alger and should be a typical Alger Hero." (This award was not presented in 1969 or 1971, apparently for lack of a suitable boy hero.)

The world champ Alger book collector is Raymond Gardner of New York. Gardner owns just about every piece Alger ever wrote, including unpublished manuscripts. The HAS "100 Club" lists 36



IN SEARCH OF HORATIO ALGER by Bill Henderson -  
Part II Continued from Page 14

proud collectors who have reached the hundred mark.

So much for Alger's past. But the question remains, Who was this mighty man?

Herbert Mayes's "Alger: A Biography Without a Hero," published by Macy-Masius (now Vanguard) in 1928, tells us that Horatio Alger, Jr., was born on Friday, January 13th, 1832 in Revere, Massachusetts. His father, a Unitarian minister, enforced his religious will on the boy with terrifying thoroughness, leaving him with a lifetime stutter and the nickname "Holy Horatio."

Horatio attended Harvard and graduated in 1852. While there he started a diary, said to be the basis of most of Mayes's biography. The diary revealed Alger's love affair with comely Patience Stires. Rev. Mr. Alger forbade Horatio's marriage to her, and Horatio was marked for the rest of his life. After a three-year stay at Cambridge Theological Seminary, Alger arrived in Paris with two raunchy school friends sometime in the mid-1850s. Here Elise Monselet, a girl in a "reasonably genteel cafe," seduced him ("I was a fool to have waited so long. It is not vile, as I thought"), and he dallied with her until Charlotte Evans, "a student of painting in Paris," snatched him away.

Alger escaped from Charlotte, tried to enlist on the Union side in the Civil War, and instead was appointed pastor of the Brewster Unitarian Church in Massachusetts in December, 1864. In March, 1866, he resigned his pulpit and moved to New York. There the publication of "Ragged Dick" in 1868 made him famous. The novel also brought him to the attention of New York's Newsboy's Lodging House. He befriended many of the boys living there and used them as models for his heroes and villains.

Following a trip to the West Coast--where he was lionized until Bret Harte arrived and stole the show -- Horatio found himself involved in a very indiscreet love affair with a Mrs. Una Garth. When Una and her husband sailed for Europe, Horatio scribbled some new novels, gathered the royalties, and sailed off after her. In Paris he found that her ardor for him had subsided. Horatio returned to New York a sick man. He died sometime before July 18, 1899, having authored 100 rags-to-riches boys novels.

Mayes's biography is relied on in almost

every major reference book, and almost all literature about him is based on Mayes's testimony. Unfortunately Herbert Mayes, a former president of MCCALLS, director of the Saturday Review, and editor of Good Housekeeping, has unintentionally saddled the United States with a gigantic literary hoax. After dodging questioning critics for over four decades, Mayes finally admitted his spoof to me in a letter of July 3, 1972: "Not merely was my Alger biography partly fictional, it was practically ALL fictional... The project was undertaken with malice aforethought--a takeoff on the debunking biographies that were quite popular in the 20s.. Unfortunately--how unfortunately!--the book when it appeared was accepted pretty much as gospel. Why it was not recognized for what it was supposed to be baffled the publisher (George Macy) and me."

Mayes explains that he has remained silent because to reveal the truth would have embarrassed friends who reviewed the book and were taken in. Malcolm Cowley, alone among critics, has continued to hound Mayes for the truth over the years and to attack his biography in print. But the first all-out denunciation of the Mayes biography came from an unlikely source. Frank Gruber, a Hollywood writer, self-published in 1961 a bibliography of Alger's novels plus a 14 page biographical sketch. About Horatio's sex life, Gruber reveals, "Mayes has Alger going to France in 1857 and for three years living a dissolute life on the left Bank of Paris, with first one, then a second mistress. From 1857 to 1860, in actuality, Alger attended the Cambridge Divinity School..." He suggested that Horatio's life was really so dull that a biographer would have to make up wild tales to keep the reader interested for an entire book. And documentary proof of Horatio's banality arrived in 1964, when Ralph Gardner's well-researched biography, "Horatio Alger or The American Hero Era" was published by Wayside Press. Gardner lives on Central Park West in New York, surrounded by his huge collection of Alger's works, and it was to him I went recently to ask: "Ralph, who was Horatio Alger?"

"Nobody is around now who knew him. The last of Alger's friends that I talked to was Governor Herbert Lehman. Lehman described Alger as a pleasant, easy-going fellow, who was a very successful, well-liked tutor. In fact one of Alger's pupils, Benjamin Cardozo, became a Supreme Court Justice.

"Later in life, he was a level-headed businessman who knew how to get the most out of a publishing arrangement. Alger was a shy, re-

(Cont. on Page 16)



IN SEARCH OF HORATIO ALGER by Bill Henderson -  
Part II Continued from Page 15

tiring man -- only five foot and never any heavier than 135 pounds. For most of his life he was bothered with bronchial asthma and, in his final years, with a heart condition.

"Horatio just wasn't much of anything that could be called outstanding. To read his books is to know him. He was a happy guy. He lived in all the best sections of New York, spent his summers in Old Orchard, Maine, with interesting people, took trips to Europe. He had a good life. Beyond that there isn't much to say about him."

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Judy Lemon was talking to a new local Antiquarian Book dealer who had just sold 2 (two) copies of "The Disagreeable Woman", one signed by Starr and one by Alger. The dealer said they went for \$400.00 each to a library but wouldn't say who's or which. She also wouldn't say where she found them.

Willard Thompson advises our members to subscribe to "Bookdealer" Sardinia House, Sardinia Street London WC2A 3NW. He purchased a rare "Ben's Nugget" thru it and finds it very helpful.

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY  
4907 ALLISON DRIVE  
LASNING, MICHIGAN 48910



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ED Levy's Alger collection now rests in the Brandeis University Treasure Hall and occasionally he will replace a Brandeis item with something better, for example last fall in England Ed came across an excellent copy of "Mark Stanton" a first as published by US Book Co. Leather Clad Edition. He also found mint copy of "The Nugget Finder" by H. Alger - reprint of "In a New World" by John F. Shaw of London in 1894.

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The 1975 convention city will be Geneseo, N.Y. and our host will be Dr. Leslie Poste.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

William J. McCord  
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