

Newsboy



EDITOR

Jack Bales
1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

Volume 15
Numbers 1 & 2
Aug-Sept, 1976

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



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



Two of the newest members of the Horatio Alger Society are Harriet Stratemeyer Adams (left), director of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and daughter of noted boys' book author Edward Stratemeyer—and Nancy Axelrad, partner in the Syndicate with Mrs. Adams. As all HAS members know, Edward Stratemeyer was one of Alger's friends, with Stratemeyer

completing some of Horatio's works after he died in 1899.

Meeting these two ladies was a highlight of the "Rosemont Twelfth Time," the twelfth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society. Details of the occasion are included in this issue of Newsboy.

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

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.

OFFICERS

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Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. Cost for single issues of Newsboy is \$1.00 apiece.

Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address, claims for missing issues, and orders for single copies of current or back numbers of Newsboy should be sent to the Society's Secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

A subject index to the first ten years of Newsboy (July, 1962 - June, 1972) is available for \$1.50 from Carl Hartmann at the above address.

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.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited, but the editor reserves the right to reject submitted material.

* * *

I apologize for the brevity of this issue of Newsboy, and for the delay in getting it to press. My new job (note new address on cover) at the Illinois College Library in Jacksonville has required a great deal of time. However, when the pace becomes less hectic, I intend to release a longer-than-usual issue to compensate for this double Newsboy. Look for it towards the end of the year.

Jack Bales

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-158 E. Garnet Fay
2103 N. Dayton St.
Chicago, Ill. 60614

PF-429 Gary Scharnhorst
3914 Southeast 122nd St.
Portland, Oregon 97236

Gary, a thorough Alger scholar who will soon complete his doctoral dissertation on Horatio Alger, has been appointed Assistant Professor of the Humanities at Warner Pacific College in Portland. Your editor has had the privilege of exchanging Alger information for the past several years with Gary, and I congratulate him on his appointment. (Read further on in this issue of Newsboy for news of his big Alger discovery).

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-484 Robert E. Andrews
% Parsons-Jurden Int'l Corp.
112 Elizabeth II Blvd.
Tehran, Iran

Robert read of the Horatio Alger Society in member Eddie LeBlanc's Dime Novel Round-Up. A voracious reader, Robert owns twelve Alger titles and is interested in their nostalgic appeal. His other hobbies include the viewing of 8mm and 16mm sports films, playing golf, and traveling. He is a housing manager in Iran.

PF-485 Clyde C. Gelbach
1 Winchester Road
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701

Clyde is a history professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and is conducting a graduate seminar on Alger, his works, and his world. He writes that this "has been a most pleasant experience. I find the 'Book Mart' section of Newsboy of interest since Alger books in this area have sky rocketed in price at auctions and flea markets, commanding \$3.50 without regard to edition or condition!"

PF-486 E. E. Fogelson
2010 Republic Bank Building
Dallas, Texas 75201

Mr. Fogelson learned of the Society through a newspaper article. He is involved with independent oil exploration and production, and "has been concerned that his books might be out of print and not available to youngsters now growing up."

PF-487 Pauline G. Westgard
703 Southwest 18th St.
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

Pauline is the mother of Gil Westgard, the host of last May's superb Horatio Alger Society Convention. She and her husband were both in attendance at this affair, and all convention goers enjoyed meeting them. Pauline owns two Algers - a copy of Paul, the Peddler, and of course, her son's Alger Street; The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr.

L-15 John F. Kennedy - Institut fur
Nordamerikastudien
Freie Universitat Berlin
Bibliothek
1 Berlin 33, Lansstrabe 5-9

A SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
TO TWO NEW HAS MEMBERS

The following people join the Horatio Alger Society as honorary life time members. These two women were in attendance at the "Rosemont Twelfth Time," the twelfth annual convention of the

Horatio Alger Society, and all of us reveled in the accounts of their various writing and career experiences.

PF-500 Harriet Stratemeyer Adams
% The Stratemeyer Syndicate
197 Maplewood Ave.
Maplewood, N. J. 07040

A LITERARY GENEALOGY

It all began with Horatio Alger, Jr., who basically brought out in his stories that a person, if honest, could succeed in business, in social settings, and even in finding the right mate. Edward Stratemeyer, who also held the same philosophy and was an admirer of Alger's literary work, was requested to complete many of Alger's unfinished works.

All this time Stratemeyer was writing long and short stories of his own, and in his lifetime used sixty-four pen names. In 1910 he formed a one man organization which he called the Stratemeyer Syndicate. His best known series were the Rover Boys, Tom Swift, and the Bobbsey Twins.

During these years his daughter Harriet was growing up, intensely interested in writing and in her father's philosophy that crime does not pay (or else pays and pays and pays!) and that right eventually triumphs. While at Wellesley College, from which she received a B.A. degree, Harriet Stratemeyer became a firm believer in the college motto, Non ministrari sed ministrare. She subconsciously realized that this was a new way to express the philosophy on which she had been brought up — not to be ministered unto but to minister.

After graduation Harriet worked for her father a year, learning his techniques. Then she married Russell Adams and had two sons and two daughters. Now Harriet has eleven grandchildren. The sudden death of her father opened up a challenge to carry on the work of the Stratemeyer Syndicate. Because of the first World War



Harriet Stratemeyer Adams and Nancy Axelrad, partners in the Stratemeyer Syndicate, enjoying themselves at last May's Horatio Alger Society Convention in Rosemont, Illinois. They join the Society as honorary life time members.

War and the stock market crash of 1929, many of the series had been dropped. Among those remaining were Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, and Tom Swift.

Harriet immediately became Carolyn Keene and has recently completed the fifty-fourth Nancy Drew book. The Hardy Boys have been carried on, sometimes by Harriet herself, but at other times with male assistance. The Bobbsey Twins are still being written, and the Dana girls and Tom Swift Jr. have been created and carried on, as well as lesser well-known series.

The formula used has not changed, despite pressures from various groups who say it is old-fashioned and out-of-date to be honest and trustworthy. Harriet still likes heroes and heroines who are courageous, truthful and willing not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and insists that the language, action and philosophy of all Stratemeyer Syndicate heroes and heroines be in that tried and true tradition.

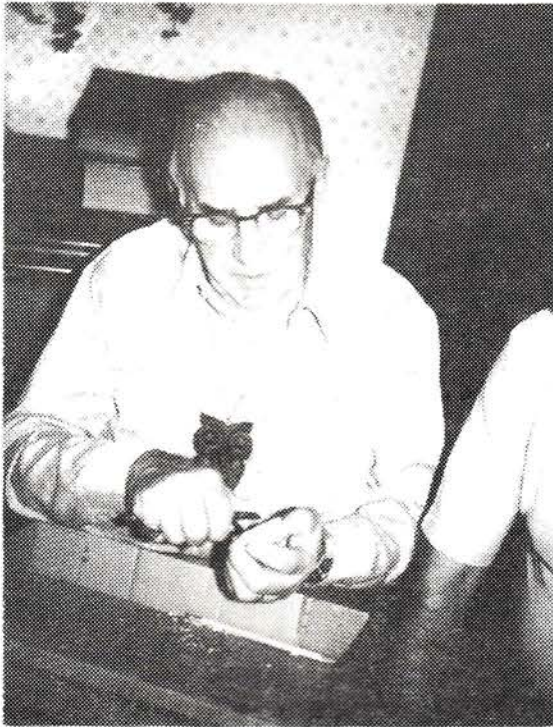
PF-501 Nancy Axelrad
% The Stratemeyer
Syndicate
197 Maplewood Ave.
Maplewood, N. J. 07040

Once a young, devoted fan of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, Nancy Axelrad looks upon eleven years with the Stratemeyer Syndicate as one of the most rewarding and pleasurable experiences of her life. While a junior at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey (1965), she joined the syndicate, first as a girl Friday, later as an editor and writer, and now a partner. During her association with the Stratemeyer Syndicate, Miss Axelrad completed a B.A. in Religion and an M.A. in writing from the John Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Although born in Oxford, Mississippi, most of Nancy's life has been spent in New Jersey where she enjoys the proximity of New York's cultural resources, especially the theater. When not working on series material, she tries her hand at playwriting. She has written and produced a few one act plays and has started a full length play, all of which have proven helpful exercises for her current television project, the creation of an instructional music program. Recently, Nancy developed and aired two shows on a local cablevision channel.

Between these activities, she finds time to travel, mostly in search of new adventures for the Bobbsey Twins. The 1977 story, her third, called The Bobbsey Twins and the Smoky Mountain Mystery is set in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where she visited the Craftsman's Fair last fall.

Apart from traveling, Nancy enjoys her new piano. Having wanted to play it since she was little, she has just begun to take lessons. Sketching is another favorite pastime.



Wood carver Bob Sawyer works on an owl, similar to the one around his neck. Bob hand carved a dulcimer (with Alger and "Phil, the Fiddler" on it) especially for the convention.



Irene Gurman, writer of the 1976 Convention highlights, proudly displays the necklace given her by Jerry Friedland, who purchased it at the annual auction.

Although an only child, Nancy views the series children as younger brothers and sisters, the imaginary and imaginative part of her family. She is particularly happy to be researching Edward Stratemeyer's life in preparation for a biography his daughter, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, plans to write.

* * *

FROM "THE ALGER FOXHOLE"
1976 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
by Irene Gurman
PF-OA1

What a colorful convention the twelfth was. There's much to be said about "better by the dozen," as those present witnessed in Rosemont, Illinois, May 6 - 9, 1976! The Westgards in triplicate were our hosts: Gilbert II, and Dr. and Mrs. Westgard, his parents. They looked after our every whim and comfort on arrival at the open house on Thursday - raindrenched, twenty of us, six car loads and a cab, hung us up to dry with

the grace of an everyday occurrence. Our heartfelt thanks go to our hosts who made it all possible.

In the "A" department, we wish to thank: Adams, Axelrad, authors, autographers, auctioneer - there was anticipation, adulation, and answers. The invited surprise guests - Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, venerable lady, eighty-three years young in heart, daughter of Edward Stratemeyer who finished Alger's manuscripts (no longer left to conjecture on the part of collectors, the actual handwriting of both appears on them and proves their authenticity). Bombarded with questions, Mrs. Adams always had a ready answer. If memory doesn't play me knavery, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams has written 168 books, including the last three of the Tom Swift series, among them "Electric Television," which in those early days was as "visionary and fantastic" as "going to the moon."

Stratemeyer's pen names have long been unknown, but I can safely vouch from Mrs. Adam's reply to my direct question that they numbered "over sixty." If you find them all, you will surely end up living in a bookcase with windows. It will come as a surprise to you when you see the list of both male and female names he used to capture the job market!

Nancy Axelrad is an author in her own right of the "Bobbsey Twins" series, and she won us all with her interesting replies to a myriad of questions and inquiries put to her. She was an epitome of patience in autographing, who engaged in endless discussion. She has been an editor with the Stratemeyer Syndicate for a bit over ten years, and as she said, "I share the same first name as my favorite detective, Nancy Drew."

At the convention, Mrs. Adams and Miss Axelrad were unanimously voted in as honorary members of the Horatio Alger Society, with PF numbers 500 and 501, respectively.

Two other distinguished members were. . . Florence Ogilvie Schnell, PF-344, granddaughter of publisher J. S. Ogilvie. She is still seeking imprints by her grandfather. . . and Helen M. Gray, PF-475, Executive Director of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee which honors poor boys who rise to prominence through their own efforts. These are names such as Bob Hope, Eddie Rickenbacker, President Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan, to name a few, in an organization sponsored by the American Schools and Colleges Association, Inc., with National Chairman, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. Helen added much by her presence and favored us with complimentary copies of their jubilee issue of Opportunity Still Knocks. (Copies are available from the following address at a cost of \$5.50 per book: Helen M. Gray, Executive Director, Horatio Alger Awards Committee, One Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10020).

Our distinguished guests had common

similarities, to wit: they are all ladies; they "did their own thing" by quietly going about their business to become successful by Horatio Alger's axiom of Work and Win, more better than Wait and Win — Making Things Happen, instead of Waiting for Things to Happen. How much we all learned of humility, modest and wisdom — they all possessed these attributes of inner and outer beauty.

Two additional members of merit were: Owen R. Cobb, PF-473, a cousin of Ty Cobb of baseball fame, who brought on some good talk. . . and Harry Lane, PF-428, who wrote and distributed a twelve page souvenir entitled "Horatio Alger, 1907," about his experiences as a Detroit newsboy back in 1907. He'll send it to you gratis, if members wish to write him.

There was a most successful auction conducted by Ralph Gardner, which brought in \$615 to enrich our coffers and which doubled the income from previous auctions with a great variety of articles and books. We thank all the donors and bidders, and Ralph for his good work again this year. Jack Bales was much surprised by a gift from our new President, Jerry Friedland, of a very nice first edition of Helen Ford, and he also surprised and delighted me with an East Indian "doofangle" necklace, a real beauty. THANKS FROM BOTH OF US. Jerry's a celebrity too. He's the attorney for comedian, Rodney "I get no respect" Dangerfield.

Thanks to the "B" department, in no way implies the "back seat," but included brew, baloney, blue cheese, biscuits, and bagels that came in boxes, bags, bundles, and bottles — every size and shape to keep the larder filled in the hospitality room. Our special appreciation goes to Dan N. Sickbert, Sales Manager, Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company, Des Plaines, Illinois, who donated ten cases of their brew, par excellence, to wash down the comestibles donated by Dick Seddon and Jerry Friedland — wheels of blue and swiss cheese, sausages in such profusion, that no

matter how we sliced it, we couldn't believe it was all baloney, delectable to the last smidgeon. The hospitality room was a blessing to newcomers who could meet and discuss Alger at any hour of the day and wee hours of the morning. It was a spare time meeting and board room - a haven for the Monday morning morticians, as it were. There was magical entertainment by Dick Seddon who enchanted us all.

Thanks go to those who couldn't come but who donated their fees. Judson Berry, PF-014; Doris Butler, who remained in Mendota at the "Time Was" Museum as "keeper of the keys," touring bus loads of school children through the Museum; Paul Fisher, PF-148.

Thanks go to photographers, too. Jack Row, PF-101, has been the official photographer for years and supplied many fine candid shots of our activities. Others were: Bradford Chase, PF-412; Owen Cobb, PF-473; and John Henry Walter, son of Rohima Walter, PF-160. There are pictures from various sessions in this convention issue of Newsboy where a montage will acquaint those who couldn't attend with many they have never met. (We might mention that John Henry Walter was in a serious auto vs. cement truck accident, and we wish him well in the outcome of his case).

Regrets were sent by those members who couldn't attend. These included Forrest Campbell, Max and Ida Goldberg, and Dave Kanarr.

These are "our people" who attended: ANDERSON, Ralph and Irene, former publishers of Collector's News; BALES, Jack, our "good news" editor of the HAS Newsboy. We recall this young man when he first joined HAS at Kalamazoo Convention (1969) and walked into a roomful of "golden-age juveniles" as our youngest member! He was just graduating from high school. Since then he has graduated from college and graduate school as an all A student - remained as a dedicated member and has many hours of research to his credit. We're all proud of him. We were also delighted to meet

his mother, Mrs. Phyllis Bales - we're a bit richer, she was something special.

BARNES, Keith and Sharon and their children; BENNETT, Bob, now past President, will remain on the Board of Directors and has given unstintingly of his time, patience, and good works for the benefit of HAS. Now he can get reacquainted with his wife, Doris, and his children before they graduate from college.

BUTLER, Ken, also a past president and one of the original founders of the ALGER POORHOUSE CLUB, is an all 'round good fellow, publisher, collector, and owner of the Time Was Museum in Mendota, Illinois, with an already international reputation. CHASE, Bradford and Ann are always lively company, attending their third convention. Brad was Chairman of the Newsboy Award Committee.

CORCORAN, Glenn and Lorraine, always weed the book sales; Grebel, Evelyn, past Vice-President; Gurman, Irene, published a souvenir brochure for the Ohio Convention of two early efforts by Horatio Alger from Peterson's Magazine of 1853, just after his graduate from Harvard Divinity School. These are now available as a first edition, numbered and signed by both publisher and editor.

HAFNER, Eugene, was fortunate enough to find both a Gruber bibliography and a signed letter, 1964, by the late Frank Gruber. He was much pleased with his find; HARTMANN, Carl, our Executive Secretary and his wife Jean; LANE, Harry, newcomer to the convention; LANGLOIS, Les and Bertie, who are 100%ers - they have never missed one! McCORD, William and Helen, distributed little statues of a plastic newsboy, so reminiscent of the Hurst edition spine design. Helen is studying law, a commendable pursuit - their daughter has a bookstore.

MURRELL, William and Virginia, came all the way from Dallas, Texas. We



Horatio Alger Society President Jerry Friedland (left), and HAS Director Dick Seddon.

welcomed them both, en route East, they brought some books and set up shop. It was their first convention, and we trust they'll join us again; POSTE, Les, and Virginia, who were our hosts in Geneseo, N. Y. last year; RISTEEN, Herb, and his wife, Esther, whom we hadn't seen in some years. Herb is our crossword puzzler in Newsboy.

ROW, Jack and Beth - Jack was past president and hosted the Des Moines, Iowa convention - he printed beautifully bound copies of Timothy Crump's Ward for the benefit of those who may never find the original, and also printed Seeking His Fortune, both in limited editions. Jack and Beth came in their "home away from home," a trailer camper, sleeping six, and they gave us royal tours through it.

SAWYER, Robert, a "master carver" of all manner of owls which he distributed as gifts, and, especially for the auction, a special "first edition" of a dulcimer, a musical instrument peculiar to Ozark Mountain folk, though traditionally American, with the head of Horatio Alger carved at the neck. The bidder at the auction had a "one-of-a-kind-gem," to be sure.

Alger Popular

NATICK, Mass. (AP) — Horatio Alger Jr. is very much in vogue on university campuses, according to Max Goldberg, president emeritus of the Horatio Alger Society.

"Students are now reading the Alger books as part of sociology courses," Goldberg said. "Just a couple of weeks ago, I had a college student from Ohio visit me. His thesis is going to be on Alger."

"Our Horatio Alger Society now has thousands of members," Goldberg added. "We opened a branch in London, and we've got one in the works for Tokyo."

—Aurora Beacon
News, May 2, 1976

SCHARNHORST, Gary, from Purdue University, gave a clue to some mystery "unknown" to collectors.

Don't ask me, let him tell it, and you can all go a-hunting for something new; SEDDON, Dick, is a master magician, belongs to both national and international magicians associations, and for our benefit memorized the Chicago telephone book! He gave us the correct name and phone number from any given page we selected. Some of his inventions which we saw first: Popping coins into sealed containers, cutting an expensive tie, which remained intact after the owner fainted - you too can enjoy these wonders if you attend the Boston Convention in 1977. Dick Seddon will be our host for this one.

SMITH, Amos, has for several years given the convocation at the Saturday evening banquet, for which we thank him; THIEME, Carl and Helen - Carl has a reputation of "minty" juveniles - the buyer always goes away happy with his finds. Helen works with the elderly, giving her all to the forgotten ones.

THOMAS, Dale, and Mary Ellen, was unanimously reelected to his former post of HAS Treasurer; he's done such a good job; WALTER, Rohima, and son John Henry, contributed jewelry to the auction, many fine pieces he made

—From The Hoosier Voice of Fellowship, edited by Alger Society member Amos Smith and his wife Priscilla.

THE EDITOR SAYS:

Let's talk about The Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew. One of the highlights of the Horatio Alger Society Convention at Rosemont, Illinois, recently was the opportunity to meet the authors of these interesting books.

Mrs. Harriet Stratemeyer Adams writes the Nancy Drew books under the pen name "Carolyn Keene." Nancy Axelrad, using the "Laura Lee Hope" pseudonym authors the Bobbsey Twins series. They are honorary members of the Horatio Alger Society.

Why would they be interested in the Alger organization? It is an interesting story some of which I will relate briefly.

Mrs. Adams' father, Edward Stratemeyer was a writer and a friend of Horatio Alger Jr. He wrote The Rover Boys series using the pen name Arthur Winfield, the Tom Swift books as Victor Appleton, Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew and others. After Alger's death Stratemeyer completed several of his unfinished books which we call The Stratemeyer Alger's.

After Edward Stratemeyer's death, his daughter, Mrs. Adams, became Laura Lee Hope and Carolyn Keene and continued the Bobsey Twins and the Nancy Drew stories. Three or four years ago Nancy Axelrad was brought into the Stratemeyer syndicate to take over the Bobbsey Twins series.

Our readers who belong to The Horatio Alger Society will soon receive The Newsboy, monthly publication of the Society and it will have a full account of the convention. It was really a good one!

May 26, 1976
issue.

Ken Butler's TIME WAS® VILLAGE MUSEUM

If you travel 4 miles south of Mendota, Illinois, on Road 51 you will find a surprise awaiting you unless you have visited the big museum before. If you have been there new treats will await you. One of them is the new carriage house which houses the antique horse-drawn vehicles, built since we were there.

The museum which is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Butler is called: **A CENTURY IN REVIEW** "12,000 yesterdays in 12 buildings on 12 acres." Their prices are reasonable and it is a great museum.

Ken was one of the founders of The Horatio Alger Society and always attends the conventions. This year those attending the meeting were invited to visit the museum as a bonus added to an already noteworthy week-end.

Plan to visit this interesting attraction.

ships in bottles • dioramas • coin machines • nostalgic art • fire house • stuffed birds • hobby horses • art glass
carriages • wagons • sleighs and bobsleds • tobacconist • print shop • Columbian Exp. • homecrafts • barbed wire

old toys
marbles
iron banks
soldiers
bottles
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cure alls
valentines
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political

blacksmith shop • sawmill • barber shop • cobbler shop • tinker shop • matchesafes • buttons • shells • tintypes
harness shop • old soda parlor • locksmith • miniature circus • office • sleds • bottles • oddities • World War I

and sold at his bourse table. Mrs. Westgard was much impressed with a delicate beading she vied for.

WESTGARD, Gilbert II, our illustrious host with a foresight to the comforts of all, who provided all the niceties and surprises for the guests - even drafting his dear mother and father, Gilbert and Pauline, who took over so efficiently when Gil was occupied elsewhere. Gil organized things from the time we arrived at the open house at his apartment until 3:30 a.m. in the hospitality room when it was time for Auld Lang Syne to old friends and new, after the banquet.

We had but two regrets...that you-all couldn't be there, and that it didn't last longer. We hope that we have shared some of the lighter moments with you. I'm sure many of you will get personal letters from those in attendance to share their views about Gil's personal library in particular, to tell about talks with the invited guests, and about the miles of verbiage that transpired that left all of us a bit wiser, to be sure.

Friday was "free time," and some took jaunts to Chicago's museums, some members attended the open board meeting. Evening dinner was designated at the German Hapsburg Inn with a selection in advance of ten choices, taken at noon at the board meeting and sent to the Inn, readied for seven at night and served after cocktails. A Jack Benny movie was shown, but halfway through, the sound went "that-a-way," and curious and interested as we were to see it "silent" to the end, the mechanics folded up, took their trappings and went someplace else. So we loaded into cars and headed back to the Windsor Inn's Hospitality Room where the magic and talk of books continued.

One other thing should be mentioned, and that is that the registration fee included a souvenir ten inch plate with a popular engraving of Horatio Alger on it, with his signature beneath the portrait. Additional ones may be



John Henry Walter, son of HAS member Rohima Walter, in Hospitality Room after banquet Saturday night.

ordered from Carl Hartmann at a cost of \$5.00 apiece.

Saturday morning, bright and early, the book stalls opened in the Buckingham Room, with a variety of books and peddlers, each having got the best of the bargain. After lunch, Bob Bennett called a symposium to discuss first editions by Alger. Those who were interested gathered in the Hospitality Room - we wouldn't have missed this session where the authorities contributed their experiences in the field of collecting. Bennett chaired the affair with some new notes on old Alger editions. He stumped Ralph Gardner on several, who could no longer remember after fifteen years. The lively discussion participants were: Jack Bales, Ken Butler, Jerry Friedland, Florence Schnell, Dale Thomas, Gil Westgard. Les Poste, and others who decided that a first edition has to be a later bound book, as opposed to the first printing earlier in many of the serialized versions.

With or without the questions resolved, we repaired each to his own den to gear up for the banquet at 6 p.m. in the Buckingham Room, preceded by cocktails for those who chose. The menu was excellent, Kiev Chicken, attractively served and enjoyed as a very good selection by our host.

Parting President Bob Bennett gave many of the highlights of his term in office. He also introduced our honored guests, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams and Nancy Axelrad. Mrs. Adams talked of her vast experiences as a writer and told a tale of a friend who inquired about her coming to Rosemont - "Are you really going to that Alger Hiss Convention?!" To be sure, she won and endeared us all from the first moment we met her until our "farewells" in the coffee shop on Sunday morning. She convinced us that success is being eighty-three years young in heart and doing what one does with dedication - in this case writing books enjoyed by juveniles and doing it well.

Bradford Chase, Chairperson of the Newsboy Award Committee, surprised both Bob Bennett and Carl Hartmann, who have given so much for the Society during their terms in office, with the Luck and Pluck and Newsboy Awards. (The first award is given to the person who has served the society in an outstanding manner during the past year. The Newsboy Award is given to the person, not necessarily a member, who has done the most to add to Alger's image). Bob has admirably served the Society for several years as President, acquiring along the way the best collection of Algers in the world (with "best" referring to the number of different first editions).

Carl has been the Secretary of HAS for many years, and takes care of the answering of the hundreds of letters of inquiry regarding the society. He also prints the Newsboy, and for his help in that regard and for his dedication to the Horatio Alger Society, Editor Jack Bales presented him with a large framed photograph of the Newsboys' Lodging House - the establishment where

Horatio Alger gathered much material for his juvenile works.

Gary Scharnhorst, in a talk (interrupted, for lack of a microphone, which for some reason went across the hall to another ballroom to what sounded like a three day wedding, which drowned us out with their hoopla-merriment - Owen Cobb made short work of it - closed the doors to theirs and our rooms, returned with two martinis from the wedding scene, which Mrs. Westgard thought a stroke of sheer genius!)....Scharnhorst went on with his research talk on Alger and other American author related parallels he had found in American literature at Purdue, after he became interested in the "rags to riches" theory of Alger. More about this later on in this issue.

How fast Sunday morning came, so we dab a bit of cold water here and there, and with one eye open hasten to the coffee shop, catching those with their other eye open (we didn't know that there were so many one eyed Alger collectors). We bid our farewells, got packin', and it's all done for those who hastened home on Mother's Day. Those who were fortunate enough to view and tour the historical documentary of Ken Butler's TIME WAS Museum, were Dick Seddon, Dr. and Mrs. Westgard, Gilbert K. Westgard, Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas, Jack Bales, Carl and Jean Hartmann, Keith and Sharon Barnes and their children, Evelyn Grebel, and William and Virginia Murrell. At the museum they were served a hearty lunch before their full Butler's tour through the Village Museum, after which, the participants each wended their way home, only to relive the adventures they had.

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A NEW ALGER TITLE AND FIRST EDITION by Gary Scharnhorst

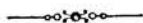
Horatio Alger, Jr., as we know, began his professional writing career as an author of novels and stories for adults, and, even after winning success as a writer of juvenile novels, he occasionally returned to writing adult fiction. Letters which Alger wrote in

THE

NEW SCHOOLMA'AM;

OR,

A SUMMER IN NORTH SPARTA.



LORING, Publisher,

Corner of Bromfield and Washington Streets,

BOSTON.

1877 and 1878 to one of his former students, Edwin R. A. Seligman, who later became Professor of Political Economy at Columbia University in New York City, serve to identify the first publication of one such novel. As Alger wrote to Seligman on August 6, 1877:

I am writing a brief novel (200 pages) to be published anonymously. It will probably be issued in October. I hope something from it. It is an experiment.

Four months later, on January 3, 1878, Alger wrote to Seligman and quoted from a favorable review of his new adult work (and in so doing mentioned its title), as follows:

By the way, the London Academy, of Dec. 15, in a favorable notice of my recent novelette, says, "The New Schoolma'am is a sparkling American tale, full of humor, etc." I am quite ready to believe, as Loring tells me, that there is no higher critical authority in England than the Academy."

On the basis of these excerpts from Alger's correspondence, the authorship of The New Schoolma'am; or, A Summer in North Sparta (Boston, MA: Loring, 1877) can now, for the first time, be attributed to Horatio Alger, Jr. The number of extant copies of this novel is unknown—in fact, due to the reason that its author remained anonymous, this novel may be as rare as another Loring first edition, Timothy Crump's Ward—so its value is likewise not known. At any rate, the copy of the novel in the Henry E. Huntington Library has been reproduced on microfilm in the Wright's American Fiction Series (volume II, number 3948), and so I can offer the following description of it:

Title page: The/New Schoolma'am;/or,/ A Summer in North Sparta./ (decorative rule)/Loring, Publisher,/Corner of Bromfield and Washington Streets,/Boston.

Copyright page: Copyright, 1877,/A. K. Loring.

Dedication page: To the/Grand Army of American Schoolma'ams,/ One Hundred Thousand Strong,/This Story/Is Respectfully Dedicated.

As it turns out, this story is, with minor revisions and name changes, the same one as that which was published under the title "A Fancy of Hers" and with Alger explicitly listed as author

in the March, 1892, issue of Munsey's Magazine. "A Fancy of Hers" has been most recently reprinted in the March-April, 1975, issue of Newsboy.

The difference between The New Schoolma'am and "A Fancy of Hers" are, as I suggested above, rather minor. For example, a comparison of the opening paragraph of each, as reproduced below, indicates how slight were Alger's alterations:

The evening stage drew up in front of the tavern in North Sparta. The driver descended from his throne, and, coming round to the side, opened the door and addressed the only passenger remaining within. (The New Schoolma'am)

The stage rumbled along the main street of Granville, and drew up in front of the only hotel of which the village could boast. The driver descended from his throne, and coming round to the side opened the door and addressed the only passenger remaining within. ("A Fancy of Hers")

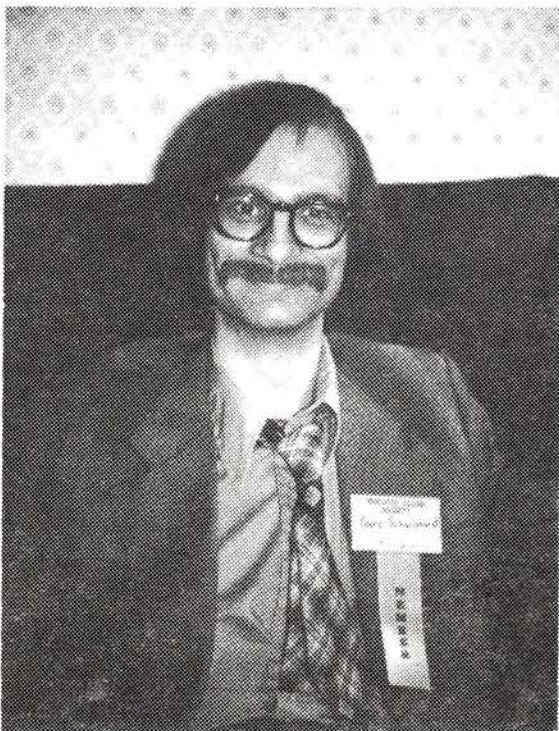
The only noteworthy revision, so far as I can determine, may serve to suggest that Alger was sympathetic to the demands of labor unions in the year 1877, one of the most violent years in the history of the labor movement in America. In fact, labor unions at this time were usually criticized by religious leaders for allegedly interfering with the natural laws governing the marketplace. One of the most famous ministers of the period, Henry Ward Beecher, wrote an article for his periodical, Christian Union, dated August 1, 1877, in which he invoked divine authority to decry the unChristian activities and expectations of labor:

It is said that a dollar a day is not enough for a wife and five or six children. No, not if the man smokes or drinks beer. It is not enough if they are to live as he would be glad to have them live. It is not enough to enable them to

live as perhaps they would have a right to live in prosperous times. But is not a dollar a day enough to buy bread with? Water costs nothing; and a man who cannot live on bread is not fit to live.²

As can be established by Alger's letters to Seligman, Alger was composing his novel at the same time that Beecher's celebrated comments were published. Alger may have read them (for what it's worth, in 1870 the Christian Union published a review of Alger's Ben, The Luggage Boy) or at least heard about them, for in his 1877 novel he has his heroine, Mabel Frost Cunningham, who is to be paid at the rate of a dollar a day as a teacher, muse, "So I am to earn seven dollars a week . . . --I who never earned a dollar in my life; I am afraid I should not find it easy to restrict my expenses within that limit." The clear implication of this passage, if my suspicion is correct, is that Alger shared the belief that a dollar per day was hardly sufficient to support a working class family, for he indicates that it would require strict discipline for a single young lady to maintain herself on that salary. At any rate, in the 1892 version of the story, Alger has revised the paragraph, perhaps because the context in which it would be read had obscured his original point. In 1892, the heroine Mabel Frost Fairfax very simply muses, "So I am to earn seven dollars a week. . . . This is wealth indeed!"

As the first one to encounter this Alger first edition, perhaps I am entitled to speculate on the reason it was published anonymously. It could be, of course, that A. K. Loring simply did not wish the name of an established writer of boys' books to be associated with an adult novel, for, if successful, the adult novel would detract attention and possibly sales from the juvenile market. However, I prefer to think, perhaps for sentimental reasons entirely, that Alger chose to publish his novel anonymously for the same reason that the heiress in the novel chooses to withdraw from fashionable society,



Gary Scharnhorst, Assistant Professor of the Humanities at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon, relaxes in the hospitality room at the "Rosemont Twelfth Time," the twelfth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society.

change her name, and win respect by her own efforts rather than by her reputation. In other words, I propose that Alger wished this work to be judged not as a novel by the well-known writer Horatio Alger, Jr., but as a novel which would succeed or fail on its own merits. Just as Alger refers to his adult novel as "an experiment" to Seligman, so too does the genteel Mabel refer to her teaching career as "my experiment" in the first chapter of the novel.

One final note: Alger wrote to Seligman several months after his novel appeared that "I have completed a new novel, nearly half as long again as the 'New Schoolma'am.' I am not sure that it will be published this year. The book-trade is dull, and I prefer to delay it, rather than have it a comparative failure. I shall limit the decision to the publisher." If my suspicions are correct again, this "new

novel" which Alger mentions is "Mabel Parker; or, The Frontier Treasure," the still unpublished novel in manuscript located in the Street and Smith Collection at Syracuse University and which served as the basis of Edward Stratemeyer's "completion" of Jerry, The Backwoods Boy. In other words, a definite day of composition may now be assigned to "Mabel Parker." Not only is the manuscript about "half as long again" as The New Schoolma'am, but Francis S. Smith is mentioned by Alger in the same letter to Seligman in which he describes his new novel.

¹All three letters of Alger to Seligman are quoted from the original manuscript by courtesy of the Columbia University Libraries, which own them.

²Quoted in Henry F. May, Protestant Churches and Industrial America (New York: Harper, 1949), p. 94.

When Gary's discovery was mentioned in the last issue of Newsboy, your editor subsequently received a letter from Dick Bowerman, an HAS member who is writing (like Gary) his dissertation on Alger. Dick writes:

"See by the Newsboy that a new title has been discovered. Must be The New Schoolma'am; or, A Summer in North Sparta. Anon., Boston, Loring, 1877.

"This was part of my bib. that I brought to the convention last year. The book is listed in the following annotated bibliography:

"W. M. Griswold. Descriptive List of Novels and Tales Dealing With American Country Life. Cambridge, Mass.: W. M. Griswold, Publ., 1890.

"Griswold lists H. Alger as author. He also mentions the following review from the Nation, January 24, 1878, p. 65.

"'The New Schoolma'am' may be called less poor (than the preceding review of Mrs. Oliphant's 'My Mother in Law'); indeed, there is real humor in it. It

is the slightest of sketches, describing the adventures of a rich young girl who becomes tired of fashionable life in the city and takes the place of a school-mistress in a village among the mountains. She meets the gifted and penniless artist and they marry. The author's little hits at the country people and at the city people who spend the summer in the country are amusing."

Another Alger scholar, who wishes to remain anonymous, sent me the following:

"The New Schoolma'am; or, A Summer in North Sparta, was #3 of Loring's Hub Library. It ran to 34 quarto pages and sold for 15 cents. It was published either in June or July of 1879. This 'library' appeared on an irregular basis, and like others published by Loring, was not very successful, since this, I believe, ran only to 6 issues."

I commend these three individuals on their research, and I thank them, especially Gary, for sharing their efforts with the readers of Newsboy.

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HORATIO ALGER'S
THE NEW SCHOOLMA'AM
AVAILABLE SOON

A fully bound, offset printed, reproduction of the original printing of The New Schoolma'am, will soon be available in a limited edition, with each copy numbered and signed by the printer. Advance orders are now being accepted by Gilbert K. Westgard II. The special pre-publication price is only \$12.50 until October 31, 1976. After that date the price will be \$17.50. (NOTE: THE DATE ON ENCLOSED ORDER FORM IS SEPTEMBER 30, 1976. BECAUSE OF LATENESS OF NEWSBOY, THE DATE HAS BEEN MOVED BACK ONE MONTH).

The numbering of this limited edition of 200 copies will be done in the order in which checks and order forms are received. If you want one of the low numbers, act today. An order form and envelope are provided for your convenience.

This is a hard bound book that belongs in every Alger collection. Only two originals have been located, and these are both in libraries. The value of this limited edition is certain to rise swiftly because of the few copies being produced.

(Editor's note: The preceding was written by Gilbert K. Westgard II. I too hope that members take advantage of this offer to purchase a new Alger title. If members are receptive to the idea, there is a good possibility that other extremely scarce Algers may be printed).

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jerry B. Friedland

It is with great pride and with anticipation of success for the Society in the months and years ahead that I embark upon my term of office.

The Society thanks Gil Westgard for hosting a terrific convention. We are all grateful for the time and energy expended by Gil in making it a fun time for all. Thirty-three members were in attendance. Les Langlois and Carl Hartmann kept their record perfect, making Rosemont their twelfth convention. Ken Butler and Ralph Gardner joined Paul House as runners-up with ten conventions now under their belts, and Jack Row has made nine. Gil Westgard and Bob Bennett followed with their seventh convention.

Dick Seddon has been tapped to host our 1977 convention in Boston on May 6, 7, 8, and 9, and everyone knowing Dick won't want to miss this one.

We were greatly honored to have in attendance at Rosemont Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, daughter of Edward Stratemeyer and who in her own right is probably one of the largest selling authors of all time. Her Nancy Drew books are now published in fourteen languages in some nineteen countries. Mrs. Adams joined us together with Nancy Axelrad, who is also part of the Stratemeyer Syndicate, and who is

presently writing Bobbsey Twins manuscripts. These two charming young ladies hopefully will be with us in Boston in 1977. Helen Gray of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee from New York and Florence Ogilvie, granddaughter of the publisher of three of Alger's books, also were a bright additions to our assemblage in Rosemont. So please ladies, like the song says: Come to Boston!

In the latter part of June, I visited the Stratemeyer Syndicate at their headquarters in Maplewood, New Jersey, and I was cordially welcomed by Mrs. Adams and Nancy Axelrad. It is a most beautiful place. The walls are resplendent with oils of pictures from many Stratemeyer books, and the books - well, they just don't stop! Included are several of the Stratemeyer Algers which I carefully inspected. Apparently they were copies presented by the publisher, and for the most part were mint and probably first editions. It would seem that the brown or green color was not determinative of a first edition, based upon what they have, and that except for Jerry, The Backwoods Boy, all of the Mershon firsts have no ads on the copyright page. Their copy of Jerry, which is mint, has the familiar rectangle of ads on the copyright page. Ben Logan's Triumph (Cupples & Leon) has the circle on the bottom of the spine, and Joe, The Hotel Boy does not.

A special thanks to Bob Sawyer for the unique Dulcimer he made especially for our auction with a Horatio carving and a Phil, the Fiddler motif. Dale Thomas was the successful bidder at a price in excess of \$100, which is a welcome addition to our treasury. Bob hand makes these beautiful native American instruments.

And also, thanks to all who attended this annual event. Hope to see even more of you next year at "Booked in Boston," the thirteenth convention of the Horatio Alger Society. Remember the dates - May 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1977, in or near the Boston area.

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RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND

by Jack Bales

I am typing these words on September 11, 1976, and it is obvious that the Newsboy is long overdue. However, I intend to start the October issue in a week, so soon the society publication will be back on schedule. Unfortunately, quite a few items were deleted from this issue which will have to wait. I have the Secretary's Report that was given at the convention, the list of donors and bidders at the convention banquet auction, and I also wanted to mention some of the questions that Ralph Gardner included on his annual quiz (this year it was entitled "The Rosemont Revels.") These and other features (like Herb Risteen's crossword puzzle and the "Book Mart,") will simply appear in the October Newsboy.

NEW ALGER BIOGRAPHY

Yesterday I received a letter from Gary Scharnhorst, who writes in part: "I received this week a contract from the general editor of the Twayne United States Authors Series to do a full-length (about 60,000 to 70,000 words) "critical-analytical" book on Alger which should be the documented book I've long wanted to write and which I think is needed. . . . The book probably won't be submitted until late 1977 or early 1978, and won't be published until months after that."

I wish Gary the best of luck with his project, and if his Newsboy articles and his discoveries are any indication of what is to come, I'm sure that what is published in a few years is something for which it will certainly be worth waiting.

Dave Kanarr writes of a new book out called Ghost of the Hardy Boys (Two Continents Pub. Group, Ltd., 5 South Union St., Lawrence, Mass. 01843. Cost is \$8.95 + \$0.35 postage). The book is the autobiography of Leslie McFarlane, who wrote for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, and his book contains references to many series authors, including Alger. Many thanks, Dave, for mentioning this!!