

Monthly publication of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY,
a magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

Newsboy



Jack Bales, Editor
1214 W. College Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

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Wall Street - where many an Alger Hero found a job.

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.

O F F I C E R S

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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, at 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.

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

* * *

The HAS Convention - the "Cleveland Connection" - was a huge success. Many thanks to host Dale Thomas (Treasurer of the Alger Society) for doing such a great job!!

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-579 Jack C. Guthartz
2560 Tassajara Ave.
El Cerrito, California 94530

Jack heard of HAS through long time Alger collector Ernie Sanford. Besides Alger, Jack is interested in classical music, opera, good restaurants, and wine. He owns 72 Alger titles.

PF-581 Charles Shepherd
1020 Milton Road
Castle Shannon, Pa. 15234

Charles has over 10,000 volumes in his book collection. Now retired, he was formerly employed as a specification writer. He learned of the Society from Antiquarian Bookman.

PF-582 Herb Wadsworth
% Rep. Don Fuqua 2268 RHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Herb is an administrative assistant to a U.S. Congressman. He owns 22 Algers.

Robert E. Walters, 961 McClain Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212, recently reinstated his membership (PF-378) in the Alger Society. Good to have you back, Bob!!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-OA1 Irene Gurman
3190 N. W. 93rd Ave.
Sunrise, Florida 33321

PF-538 Zena Naiditch
451 Wrightwood
Chicago, Illinois 60614

PF-547 Morris E. Brown
Brentwood Tower - Apt. 312
1236 Verdier Ave.
Brentwood Bay
British Columbia
Canada

PF-557 Robert D. Eastlack
209 East 7th St.
Berwick, Pa. 18603

BOOK MART

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to HAS members. Please list title, publisher, condition, and price.

Offered by Herbert L. Risteen, P. O. Box 161, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913.

The following Alger books are for sale as a group only at a price of \$465.00 postpaid.

A Boy's Fortune	Winston	Mint
(has color illustration)		
Adrift in the City	Winston	Fine
(library edition)		
A Cousin's Conspiracy	Hurst	Good
Ben Bruce	Burt	Excellent
Dan, the Newsboy	Burt del.	Very good
Frank and Fearless	Winston	Mint
(library edition)		
Frank's Campaign	Coates	Excellent
Frank Fowler	Burt del.	Very good
Canal Boy to Pres.	Anderson	Excellent
(first edition)		
Hector's Inheritance	Coates	Fine
Harry Vane	NYBook	Excellent
Helen Ford	Winston	Fine
In a New World	Winston	Good
(color illustration)		
Helping Himself	Coates	Excellent
Jed, the Poorhouse Boy	Winston	Fine
Julius	Winston	Excellent
Lester's Luck	Winston	Very good
(scarce format)		
Luke Walton	Coates	Excellent
Luck and Pluck	Winston	Very good
(library edition)		
Ralph Raymond's Heir	Burt	Excellent
Rupert's Ambition	Winston	Excellent
(has color illustration)		
Struggling Upward	Winston	Fine
(library edition)		
Tattered Tom	Winston	Very good
(Porter & Coates format)		
In Search of Treasure	Burt	Excellent
(pictorial edition)		
Tom Thatcher's Fortune	Burt	Very good
(first hardcover edition)		
The Train Boy	Burt del.	Mint
The Errand Boy	Burt del.	Very good
The Five Hundred Dollar Check	Street & Smith	Excellent
Young Bank Messenger	Winston	Excellent

Young Circus Rider	Coates	Very good
Young Explorer	Coates	Excellent
Young Miner	Coates	Excellent
(redshirted miners on spine and cover)		
Wait and Win	Burt	Mint
(pictorial edition)		
Wren Winter's Triumph	Donohue	Very good

Herb also has titles 1 to 130 of the FRANK MERRIWELL SERIES (all complete). 102 are Street and Smith paperback editions, very good to excellent condition. 28 are the hardcover McKay editions in good condition. Offers are invited for this set.

Offered by Norman Smith, Plantation Club Cond. 404B, 6855 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, Florida 33314.

A Debt of Honor	Burt	Vg	\$30.00
Strong and Steady	Loring	G	30.00
Frank Fowler	Burt	G	15.00
Sink or Swim	Loring	Vg	25.00
Ben, the Luggage Boy	Loring	Vg	25.00
The Errand Boy	Burt	Vg	25.00
Tom Thatcher's Fortune	Burt	G	15.00
Tom Temple's Career	Burt	Vg	25.00
Tony, the Hero	Burt	G	10.00
The Young Explorer	Loring	G	35.00
Rough and Ready	Loring	G	20.00
Risen from the Ranks	Loring	G	35.00
Farm Boy to Senator	S&S	G	10.00
Luck and Pluck	Loring	G	30.00
Slow and Sure	Loring	F-G	30.00
Tattered Tom	Loring	F	25.00
Paul, the Peddler	Loring	F	25.00
P. Prescott's Charge	HTC	Vg	30.00
(almost mint)			
Strive and Succeed	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Chester Rand	Hurst	Vg	6.00
Driven from Home	Hurst	Vg	6.00
The Young Musician	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Adrift in New York	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Sam's Chance	Hurst	Vg	6.00
Bound to Rise	Hurst	G	3.00
Shifting for Himself	Hurst	G	6.00
Hector's Inheritance	Hurst	G	3.00
In a New World	Hurst	G	5.00
Making His Way	Hurst	G	5.00
The Tin Box	Hurst	G	5.00
Strong and Steady	Hurst	G	5.00
Mark Mason	Hurst	G	5.00
Helping Himself	Hurst	F	5.00
Mark Mason	Hurst	F	3.00
The Young Acrobat	Hurst	F	3.00

Sink or Swim	Hurst	F	\$3.00
R. Raymond's Heir	Hurst	P	2.00
P. Prescott's Charge	Hurst	P	2.00
H. Carter's Legacy	Burt	G	5.00
Do and Dare	Burt	G	3.00
The Store Boy	Burt	F	2.00
Jed, the Poorhouse Boy	Burt	F	2.00
Mark, the Match Boy	Winston	Vg	8.00
Rupert's Ambition	Winston	Vg	10.00
The Young Miner	Winston	Vg	6.00
Victor Vane	Winston	Vg	10.00
A Boy's Fortune	Winston	Vg	5.00
Bound to Rise	Winston	Vg	4.00
Try and Trust	Winston	Vg	4.00
Try and Trust	Winston	F	2.00
Ben's Nugget	Winston	F-P	2.00
Frank and Fearless	Winston	F	2.00
Sink or Swim	Winston	F	2.00
Adrift in the City	Winston	P	2.00

(NOTE: The above Winston editions are all library editions)

Tom, the Bootblack	Superior	F	1.00
(intact, back cover missing)			
A Cousin's Conspiracy	Superior	F	1.00
Joe's Luck	Superior	F	1.00
Jack's Ward	Federal	Vg	6.00
Facing the World	Donohue	Vg	5.00
Phil, the Fiddler	T&T	Vg	20.00
The Telegraph Boy	Donohue	F	2.00
Wait and Hope	Donohue	P	2.00
W. Sherwood's Proba.	NYB	P	2.00
Erie Train Boy	Donohue	G	7.00
Ragged Dick	P&C	F	8.00
Young Salesman	Donohue	F	2.00
Only an Irish Boy	Donohue	F	2.00
Brave and Bold	World	G	3.00
Frank's Campaign	Donohue	F	2.00
Young Adventurer	Donohue	F	2.00
Young Acrobat	Chatter	G	4.00

Norman has other Algers for sale. Write him for additional titles.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS MONTH'S "BOOK MART": P = Poor, F = Fair, G = Good, Vg = Very good, F-P = Fair to Poor, T&T = Thompson and Thomas, Chatter = Chatterton Peck, S&S = Street and Smith, HTC = Henry T. Coates, Burt del. = Burt deluxe.

Note: Newsboy accepts no responsibility for books advertised. If any questions arise, always write the person selling the books.

* * *

DON'T GIVE UP

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

(Editor's note: The following Alger short story is from the collection of former HAS Vice-President Evelyn Grebel. It originally appeared in the March 3, 1860 issue of Gleason's Literary Companion).

Edward Carter walked home with a down-cast look, and an air of despondency. That day his employer had informed him that in consequence of the hard times and the general stagnation of business, he should be compelled to discharge him. He had added, kindly, "I am sorry for this, Carter, for I have always been satisfied with your fidelity, and would gladly retain you if I could."

This was pleasant, but it was a hard thing to find himself out of work, especially as he had a wife and two children dependent upon his exertions. What added to his trouble was that he was naturally of a desponding temperament. When things went well with him, however, he was not troubled in this way, but the first touch of adversity brought discouragement.

No one is quicker to detect a husband's low spirits than a wife. When Edward Carter entered the houses, his wife at once saw that something was the matter.

"Has anything gone wrong?" she asked.

"Yes, everything," he answered gloomily.

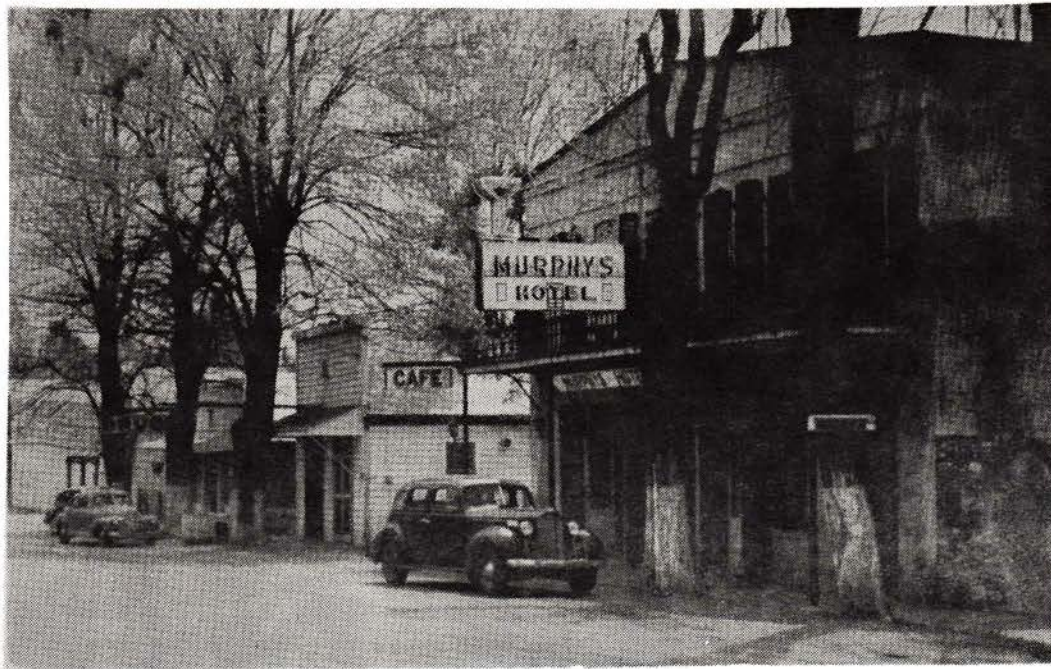
"No, not everything," she answered cheerfully. "We are all of us well, and that is something to be thankful for."

"I can't see much to be thankful for," answered her husband, "with starvation staring us in the face."

"Starvation! Now I am sure you are exaggerating, Edward."

"You can judge about that. I was

June-July



MURPHYS, CALIFORNIA

Most prominent of the old structures is the famous Murphys' Hotel. Built in 1855 by Sperry and Perry it was first known as MITCHLERS' HOTEL. Its old register includes such illustrious travelers as Mark Twain, U. S. Grant, Henry Ward Beecher, Thomas Lipton, J. Pierpont Morgan, Horatio Alger and many others.

note reference to
Horatio Alger!!



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discharged from employment this evening."

"Discharged! For what reason?" inquired his wife, a little anxiously.

"Because business is dull, and I don't know whether it will ever be any better."

I may remark here that Edward Carter was a shoemaker.

"As to that," said his wife, "I don't think we need to entertain any apprehensions. People must wear shoes, you know. That isn't a fashion that is likely to be superseded while the world stands."

"The market is glutted. There are already enough made to last for a long time. The fact is, the trade is overdone, and the result is, that we must make up our minds to starve."

"I don't see the necessity," said Mrs. Carter, still cheerfully. "At the worst, even if the trade should be wholly given up, and everybody adopt the fashion of walking barefoot, you could turn your attention to something else."

"I am not fit for anything else."

"You are altogether too modest--a rare quality for a man," said his wife, playfully. "But suppose we sit down to tea. If we are destined to starve, I for one am in favor of putting it off as long as we can."

"I don't see how you can jest so over our misfortunes," said Edward, encouraged a little by his wife's cheerfulness.

"It is always better to laugh than to cry," said Mrs. Carter. "That's what Aunt Nancy used to tell me, and I think there's a good deal of sound philosophy in it. But come to the table. Everything is ready."

The tea table presented a very neat appearance. The hot buscuit and butter and plain cake, together with hot tea,

certainly did not constitute a very extravagant meal, but each was excellent of its kind, and Edward Carter's spirit rose considerably under the influence of a good meal, and his wife's enlivening and cheerful conversation.

The next morning, at the hour when he was in the habit of going to work, he became despondent.

"What's the matter, Edward?" asked his wife. "We have got enough in the house to last us a good while yet. No fear of our starving just at present."

"It's only putting it off," said he, shaking his head. "Every day will bring us nearer to it."

"Then you don't expect to get anything to do?"

"There isn't the least chance of it. The trade is down."

"I don't mean that. But there are a good many kinds of work to do instead."

"And there are a good many to do it."

"Suppose, Edward, before you quite decide upon starving, you go out with the fixed resolution of taking up with the first job that offers. Then at night you can come home and report progress. Will you promise me that you will let no false pride interfere with your doing this? Try it only one day. Will you Edward?"

"I don't mind making the promise, for there is no chance of anything offering."

"At all events, you will feel happier being out of doors on the lookout for work than moping in the house."

"Perhaps you are right. At any rate, I will make the promise."

Mrs. Carter helped her husband on with his coat, and looked after him as he walked down the village street.

"Edward is industrious and efficient," she said to herself as she watched him, "but he is too easily discouraged. Now I don't mean to trouble myself in the least. I am quite sure that if we keep up good heart, and exert ourselves, our Heavenly Father will not permit us to suffer."

We will now follow Edward Carter.

He had not walked many rods when he met Squire Emerson, a man of some wealth."

"Good morning, Mr. Carter," he said.

"Good morning, Squire."

"By the way, do you know who I could get to saw and split my wood? I have got some half dozen cords that I want prepared for burning."

Edward Carter was about to say "No," when he thought of the promise made to his wife. True, the work was not much to his taste, but he had promised not to let any false pride interfere in case a job offered.

After a brief hesitation, he said, "I don't know but I could do it as well as anybody, Squire Emerson."

"You, Mr. Carter!" said the Squire, in surprise. "I had not thought of you. Won't it interfere with your business?"

"Just at present I have no other business to interfere with it."

"What, you haven't given up the shoe business?"

Aquarium and Battery Place, New-York.



"It has given me up," answered Edward with a tinge of despondence in his tone. It is very dull, and there is no knowing when it will be any better."

"Oh, it will be better by-and-by, never fear. Meanwhile, Mr. Carter, allow me to say that I admire your manly spirit in resolving not to be idle, but to do whatever your hands find to do. I shall feel much obliged to you if you will undertake the job I spoke of, as it will relieve me of trouble in looking after somebody else."

Edward felt inspired by this commendation, although he felt that it was his wife rather than himself that deserved it.

"When will you be ready to begin?"

"There is nothing to prevent my beginning at once," he replied.

"Very well, I will turn back with you, and show you where to find the saw and so forth."

Edward Carter was soon at work. It seemed to him a little strange at first, but he soon got accustomed to it, and the thought that he was earning something for his family kept up his spirits.

His wife looked for him somewhat anxiously at dinner. She knew his temperament, and she feared that he might have been unsuccessful, in which event he would be more disheartened than ever.

But to her gratification he seemed quite cheerful.

"Well, Edward, did you get anything to do?" she asked.

"Yes, Mary, I have turned wood sawer," he replied, half jocularly. You see, we are rising in the world."

"I think we are," said his wife, her face beaming with approbation. "A man who can throw aside all false pride, and show that he is determined to make the most of his circumstances, ought to stand high in the world's estimation."

"It is all owing to you, Mary," said her husband. "I was ready to give up the ship last night."

"But you won't feel so again, I hope."

"I can't promise that. This job will last only two or three days. I shall have to lay by then."

"Perhaps no. Something else may present itself. But you have not told me for whom you are working."

"For Squire Emerson."

"How much has he agreed to pay you?"

"He told me he would pay me for the time employed at the same rate that I have been accustomed to receive in the shop."

"That is quite liberal."

"Yes, considering that I am out of practice, and probably could not accomplish so much as some one more experienced."

That evening, when Edward Carter came home from work, his wife said, "I have

got a confession to make, Edward."

"A confession. Then you have been doing something awful, I presume."

"You shall judge. I have agreed to take two boarders."

"Two boarders!" said her husband, in astonishment.

"Yes, James and Moses Studley called here this morning and asked me if I knew of a good boarding place for them. It seems that Mrs. Evans, with whom they have been boarding hitherto, has concluded to break up housekeeping and join her two sons, who, you know, are doing business in Boston, and therefore they are obliged to seek some other place. Then they asked me about it, and I at once thought that it would be a good thing for us if we could secure them. You know they pay promptly and a fair price. So I said, half in joke, "Suppose you come and board with me!"

"And what did they say?"

"James spoke up at once and said, 'We should like nothing better, Mrs. Carter, if you will take us.' They wanted an immediate answer, and so I took the liberty to say 'yes' without waiting to consult you."

"But have you considered how much your work will be increased, Mary?"

"I know it will be increased, but then it will be a great help to us. Consider, they will pay us four dollars a week each, and that will do something to ward off starvation," she said, playfully.

"You are an excellent wife, Mary," said Edward Carter, feelingly. "I need just such a one to keep up my spirits. But I am afraid you are taking too much on yourself."

"As to that, Edward, I can work as well as you, and I don't mean to give any advice that I am not willing to follow myself."

The next day two Studleys came to their new boarding-place. They were engaged in a flourishing trade, and proved capital boarders.

Meanwhile Edward Carter kept on with his job at Squire Emerson's. When that was finished, he was out of work for a day or two. This affected his spirits somewhat, but not so much as before. He felt more confidence in Providence, and was cheered by his wife's good spirits.

At this time his wife chanced to see an advertisement in a daily paper relating to an agency. She persuaded her husband to answer it.

"It won't amount to anything," he said. "Most of these things are humbugs."

"Some are, no doubt," she answered; "but, in the absence of anything else, it will at least do no harm to find out what this is."

Edward Carter received a letter in answer, offering him inducements which seemed liberal. He decided to visit the city, and make further inquiries. These impressed him so favorably that he decided to undertake it. I need only add that it led to something more profitable than his former business, which accordingly has not seen fit to resume. He is now in prosperous circumstances, and firmly believes, with his wife, that God helps those who show a disposition to help themselves.

* * *

The CLEVELAND CONNECTION is history!! The annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society, hosted by HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas was held this past May, and all who attended judged it a tremendous occasion. Almost 2,000 dollars was raised at the auction, many books changed hands as volumes were traded and sold, and the hospitality room was filled with a great variety of things to eat. Jack Row and Gil Westgard took many pictures which will appear in the next Newsboy, along with a full convention report.

* * *

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Jerry Friedland

The "Cleveland Connection" was a whopping success!! Dale and Mary Ellen were fantastic hosts. There was a never ending supply of delicious food both in the Hospitality Room and in their home where we all went into ecstasy over Dale's Alger collection. Dale's screws and bolts factory has to be seen to be believed and on Saturday morning we were fortunate to tour it. Myself and the other early arrivals will long remember the sumptuous Japanese feast that Dale treated us to.

"Rookie" Bob Bennett conducted a record auction that reaped \$1,919. Brad "Money Bags" Alexander walked off with the two prize books donated by Dale Thomas (Bertha's Christmas Vision and Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving) for \$500. (\$300 and \$200). Dale got a real buy on the beautiful watch donated by Les Langlois - \$100! I have since ascertained its value to be a minimum of \$250. Hey, Dale, how about a fast \$50 profit? Paul Miller got Bob Sawyer's beautiful Alger file chest for \$205. Everyone should have one of these. I wouldn't part with mine for any price. Carl Hartmann went home with one of Bob Sawyer's Dulcimers donated by Gilbert and Pauline Westgard for \$50 - a steal.

Alger firsts are still at a premium as The World Before Him went for \$125 and The Young Musician brought \$75. Both of these hard to get Penns went to Gene Hafner. I was lucky to take home the first hardcover edition of Dean Dunham (American Pub.) donated by Eddie LeBlanc, for \$70.

Thirty of our members were in attendance, with almost fifty people all together. Carl and "Sweet" Jean Hartmann kept their record perfect by attending their fifteenth straight convention. A convention without our beloved Secretary would not really be a convention. (Editor's note: Yes, and Jean is always great to talk to!!) Les and Bertie Langlois are next in total attendance

with thirteen, having missed their second. We all missed them. Ken Butler and Ralph Gardner caught up, having made this their thirteenth. Jack and Beth Row were with us for their eleventh, Jack sporting yet another one of those great little cameras. We missed Paul House who has attended ten. Gil Westgard and Bob Bennett made Cleveland their tenth and Dale and Mary Ellen, our hosts, made it their ninth - could you imagine a convention without our Treasurer? We would surely go bankrupt.

Jack Bales, our Newsboy Editor who has attended eight conventions was sorely missed, as was Irene Gurman, Evelyn Grebel, and Keith Barnes who have all attended seven conventions. Les and Virginia Poste were with us for their seventh convention. Along with their congeniality, Les' antiquarian book expertise is a benefit to all. We all hope Forrest Campbell will be back next year enjoying good health.

Attending their first convention were Bill Russell, Gil Kapelman, Bob William, and Nancy Jane Schmidt. Other members in attendance were Carl Thieme, Dick Seddon, Paul Miller, Brad Chase, Rohima Walter, Gene Hafner, Glenn Corcoran, Bill McCord, Bob Sawyer, Eddie LeBlanc, Alex Shaner, Marilyn Saurer, Brad Alexander, Pauline Westgard, Bill Leitner, Neil McCormick, and John Juvinall.

We are always learning more about our books at conventions. Example: I had come to the "brilliant" conclusion that Caldwell predated Street and Smith as a publisher, based upon an 1893 dedication date in A New York Boy by Caldwell, since the copyright page shows U.S. Book Company, 1891, with Street and Smith showing a date of 1901. However, Dale astutely pointed out to me that the 1893 dedication date has to be in error since obviously the book in question could not be in existence in 1893 if it has a 1901 S&S copyright date on it.

On the other hand, the only one of Dale's Abraham Lincoln Alger firsts

(he has three) with page 99 (the number) not obliterated was on his "may be disposed of shelf"! Needless to say, after pointing this out to him it now rests comfortably on his top shelf!

Saturday night after a delicious roast beef dinner and Alger skit directed by Bob Sawyer and narrated by Gil Westgard wherein Bob played the villainous lawyer and I played the heroine, Awards were presented. Bob Sawyer received the Luck and Pluck Award and will chair the committee for next year. Brad Chase received the Newsboy Award for which the chairman for next year is Gene Hafner. Dick Seddon received a most deserving special Presidential Award. Aside from the excellent job he's done on membership recruitment and on the stamp project with Brad Chase, there is nothing that Dick would not do for you. Incidentally, Brad must have put in hundreds of hours on the Horatio Alger Commemorative Stamp Project.

Alex Shaner will chair the nominating committee for next year. Next year, hopefully, we will see former President and incumbent Director Max Goldberg.

NEXT YEAR - Brad Chase talked us into his hosting 1980 in Connecticut. (I'm just kidding, Brad!!) We know that the 1980 convention will be great. Everyone will be glad to know that Morris Olsen will be there - it's not that far to his house and I have an idea that several members might be planning an early arrival. Anyone who has been there knows it's easily worth a 10,000 mile journey to feast one's eyes on Morris' goodies which keep arriving daily.

Speaking of journeys, as a final note. Alex Shaner had to fly by way of Texas and New York to come to Cleveland for two days!! That's what HAS is all about. Atta way, Alex!!!!

* * *

Thanks go to Jerry for giving me this quick convention coverage. More news in the next Newsboy, including pictures by Gil Westgard and Jack Row.

Horatio Alger Lives On Through Self-Made Man

By Tom Fennessy
Of The Dispatch Staff

A non-reader might not be able to guess the subject of *Valley of the Dolls* from its title, but there's just no way to mistake what kind of yarns were spun by Horatio Alger Jr.

Risen from the Ranks; or, Harry Walton's Success. Strive and Succeed; or, The Progress of Walter Conrad. Mark Mason's Victory; or, The Trials and Triumphs of a Telegraph Boy.

THE STORIES may be forgotten, but their author placed his name in the American dictionary of everyday adjectives with his tales of the young men of pluck and honesty who rise to success from boot blacking or newspaper peddling.

And as a subject of literary study, Horatio Alger is the special domain of



Dispatch Photo by Glen Cumberland

RALPH D. GARDNER

Columbus Dispatch, May 15, 1979

Ralph D. Gardner, whose biography of the writer who entertained and enthralled a couple of generations of Americans is the standard work.

Gardner, a New Yorker, is in Columbus this week, making a television appearance Tuesday evening on Qube, autographing the biography Friday afternoon at Lazarus, and appearing Friday evening at the Neil House where 12 Horatio Alger awards will be given to some present day up-by-their-bootstraps people.

ONE OF THE HONOREES is Wendy's hamburger magnate, R. David Thomas.

The fact that Alger is America's all-time best-selling writer came about because his dozens of books had appeal for both the children who were his audience and their parents who bought the books.

"They are awfully good stories, if you're naive," Gardner said. "They all have happy endings and they're filled with adventure, action and lots of dialogue."

THE STORIES also won approval of the nation's elders.

"Alger gave a moral lesson — Work hard and you will succeed," Gardner said. "It was sort of an update of the Cinderella story, or an amalgam of Cinderella and David and Goliath."

Gardner, whose book is *Horatio Alger; or, The American Hero Era*, said there has been a growing appreciation of Alger's work in recent years, if not as literature at least as a piece of Americana.

ALGER LETTERS that would fetch only a couple of dollars a few years ago now command \$300 to \$400. Copies of Alger books that once were in the 10-cent bins of used bookstores now are \$50 and up. One title, *Timothy Crump's Ward* would bring \$2,000 to \$2,500, he said.

Gardner, who won't call himself a Horatio Alger hero in spite of having started as a *New York Times* copy boy and becoming a World War II correspondent and owner of his own ad agency, has uncovered a lot of Alger fans.

One of them is former Ohio Gov. Michael V. DiSalle, with whom Gardner has corresponded and who, he says, has been a "genuinely enthusiastic (Alger) collector over many years."

THE ALGER TYPE of literature died with the Alger type of self-made man, Gardner said.

But a revival of Alger's stories is possible, dated and quaint as they are.

Gardner said a few years ago he gave some of his excess copies of Alger books to several New York City children's aid societies, asking the librarians to note the reaction.

Most of the youngsters who looked at a book read it, he said, and most who read one book returned for more.



BROOKLYN CITY HALL.

RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND by Jack Bales

Concerning the last convention, Bill Russell writes to Dale Thomas: "Thanks for the great time at the convention. It was my first time, and I am already looking forward to next year. I would urge any member who has never attended one to get out next year and attend. You don't know what you have missed until you have attended a HAS Convention. I am very glad to have made it."

"I did manage to pick up five new titles and five first editions, along with some replacement copies. There were a few more books that I passed up and I am sorry I did. Next year I won't let any get away from me."

Your editor is pleased to announce that on May 12, 1979, he got engaged! My fiancée's name is Janis Nestor, and she is a librarian at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. Recently she showed me a crossword puzzle from the May 23, 1979 New York Times. (She is a regular follower of the Times'

puzzles). One of the clues, she noticed, was "Ragged Dick's Creator." (Naturally, we both knew the answer)!!!

Speaking of crossword puzzles, Herb Risteen writes: "In July I will complete 25 years of crossword puzzle construction, as my first crossword to be published appeared in the Sunday edition of the New York Times on July 11, 1954. Since that time I have had nearly seven thousand puzzles published by newspaper syndicates, book publishers, and puzzle magazines. The high point came in 1978 when I got to be the New York Times' number one constructor." (Congratulations, Herb. Did you do the puzzle mentioned in the preceding paragraph)?

Irene Gurman notes that Phil Atkins has a now famous dinner theater in his 1872 Calvert Hotel. "He has had over 300 television interviews and radio comments, many news articles, etc., and is doing beautifully and successfully." Irene also says that PF-064, David, Carlson, is now the mayor of Dillingham, Alaska. Congratulations, David!!