

Newsboy

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



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.

Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

Volume XVIII

March, 1980

Number 8



FOTOS FROM STATEN ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
"Wuxtry, read all about it!" Kids of the 1890s hawked newspapers on the streets of New York. These ambitious sprites wore junior fashions of the day—knickers for boys and long frocks for girls. Scene is at City Hall, with the World Building in the background.

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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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 each.

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.

* * *

REMEMBER: The HAS Convention — the "Connecticut Conclave" — will soon be here!! Don't forget the dates, Thursday, May 1 through Sunday, May 4, 1980, in Windsor, Connecticut.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-588 Gordon Wallmark
101 Nebraska St.
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Gordon is a clerk for the U.S. Post Office. Owner of over 80 Algers, he heard of the Society through your editor. He writes that "none of my books are in very good condition which is as it should be. I wonder how many times they have been read and reread in the past seventy-five years."

PF-589 Robert J. F. Linguiti
7 Deerfield Road
Wilton, Conn. 06897

Robert became aware of HAS through Ralph Gardner's biography. He is a disability examiner for the U.S. Social Security Administration and owns 85 Alger books, plus bound volumes of periodicals which contain Alger stories. He enjoys "book collecting in general, children's books in particular, photography, and playing (or trying to) the recorder." In regards to Alger, his field of interest includes a feeling of "nostalgia for the period of the mid-late nineteenth century, its innocence, its triumphs of good over evil, the 'Baedeker-like' descriptions of New York City, and a genuine affection for the Alger heroes and of course, their author."

PF-590 Charles W. Rainwater
5911 Edsall Road - Apt. 512
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Charles "was introduced to the World of Alger by Russell Dock. The encouragement he has given me exemplifies the spirit of Alger as shown by his writings." Charles is President of Afton, Inc., a manufacturer of tobacco-oriented products, and would like "to help expand the knowledge of Horatio Alger's characters so that their conduct may become a standard for my generation and those who follow. The Horatio Alger principles should not be lost." He owns 16 Algers and is also interested in photography.

PF-591 Lewis B. Coover
2403 S.E. Monroe St.
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

Besides collecting Algers - of which he has over fifty - Lewis enjoys hunting, fishing, bottle digging, and collecting coins, arrowheads, antiques and inkwells. He heard of the Alger Society through Ralph Gardner and is a dentist by occupation.

* * *

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-000 Forrest Campbell
P.O. Box 642
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

PF-045 Gardner F. Dalton
P.O. Box 269
Palm Desert, Calif. 92260

PF-362 M. Miller Saurer
Route 1, Box 112
Big Prairie, Ohio 44611

PF-547 Morris E. Brown
Royal Woods, Apt. 419
1009 McKenzie
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 4B1

PF-570 Richard B. Hoffman
2917 28th St. N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

* * *

B O O K M A R T

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

Offered by Rohima Walter, 1307 Greenbush, Lafayette, Indiana 47904.

Bound to Rise	NYB	G	\$10.00
The Cash Boy	NYB	G	10.00
Charlie Codman's Cru.	JCW	G	25.00
Fame and Fortune	JCW	G	25.00
Canal Boy to Pres.	And.	G	60.00
Hector's Inheritance	NYB	G	10.00
Helen Ford	JCW	G	25.00
Herbert Carter's Leg.	NYB	G	10.00
Only an Irish Boy	NYB	G	10.00
Slow and Sure	JCW	G	10.00

Struggling Upward	Burt	G	\$20.00
Struggling Upward	NYB	G	10.00
W. Sherwood's Proba.	JCW	G	25.00
The Young Musician	Superior	G	6.00
The Young Explorer	Superior	G	6.00
Wait and Hope	NYB	G	10.00
Try and Trust	Whitman	G	15.00
Slow and Sure	Whitman	G	6.00
Risen from the Ranks	Burt	P	10.00
Phil the Fiddler	JCW	P	8.00
P. Prescott's Charge	Burt	G	15.00
Helping Himself	Gold.	G	8.00

Rohima has other Algers for sale. Write her for a list of them.

Offered by Bob Bennett, 1220 N. Fairfield Drive, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. 48858.

Five Hund. Dol. Check	S&S	G	\$10.00
(hardcover)			
Young Outlaw	S&S	F-g	10.00
(Medal Library #221, papercover)			
R. Raymond's Heir	Lupton	G-Vg	7.50
Only an Irish Boy	S&S	Vg	7.50
(Alger Series #10, papercover)			
Frank Fowler	Burt	G	7.50
(deluxe edition)			
T. Thatcher's Fortune	Burt	G	7.50
(deluxe edition)			
The Telegraph Boy	HTC	F-g	7.50
Joe's Luck	Burt	Vg	10.00
(deluxe edition)			
Joe's Luck	Burt	G	7.50
(deluxe edition)			
Tom Temple's Career	Burt	G	7.50
(deluxe edition)			
Harry Vane	Donohue	Vg	5.00
R. Raymond's Heir	Lupton	F-g	5.00
(1st hardcover edition, hinges repaired)			
Struggling Upward	S&S	F-g	5.00
(Medal Library #370, papercover, back cover missing)			
The Backwoods Boy	S&S	F-g	5.00
(Alger Series #77, papercover, no covers)			
Jack's Ward	S&S	F	5.00
(Medal Library #286, papercover, back cover missing)			
Tom Brace	S&S	F-g	5.00
(Alger Series #28, papercover, back cover missing)			
Driven From Home	Burt	G-vg	5.00
(boy with dog on cover)			
Andy Gordon	Burt	Vg	5.00

Risen from the Ranks	JCW	Vg	\$5.00
Frank's Campaign	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Grit	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Mark Mason	Hurst	Vg	5.00
Digging for Gold	JCW	Vg	5.00
Young Bank Messenger	JCW	Vg	5.00
Driven from Home	Mershon	Vg	5.00
Wren Winter's Triumph	Dono.	Vg	7.50
(deluxe edition)			
Grit, Young Boatman	Dono.	Vg	3.00
(deluxe edition)			
The Cash Boy	Hurst	G	3.00
J. Marlowe's Secret	Burt	G	3.00
Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Dec., 1863			
Contains "Job Warner's Christmas,"			
Good, \$7.50.			

Books wanted by James A. Maxwell,
P.O. Box 473, Redwood Estates, CA 95044.

The Telegraph Boy; The Adventures of a New York Telegraph Boy; The Adventures of a Telegraph Boy or, Number 91; and other variations of Alger's Telegraph Boy books. Please give price, condition, publisher, description of cover and exact title from binding and from title page. All letters answered.

Offered by Charles Shepherd, 1020
Milton Road, Castle Shannon, PA 15234.

25 issues of The Argosy, 1892-93, story paper format, illustrated, nearly all containing parts of serials by Alger, Arthur Lee Putnam, Optic, Stratemeyer, Winfield, and others. Condition is good to fine, except several that have had coupons clipped, but no story has been affected. Priced at \$3.50 each. Send SASE for further details. Some of the stories are: Alger - Chester Rand (6 parts), "Tom Parker's Strange Visitor" (short story), Victor Vane (8 parts). Arthur Lee Putnam - Ben Bruce (7 parts), Cast Upon the Breakers (Part 1 only). Oliver Optic - Always in Luck (8 parts). Edward Stratemeyer - Reuben Stone's Discovery (3 parts).

Book wanted by Robert E. Walters,
961 McClain Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212.

Jed, the Poorhouse Boy in good or better condition. Hurst or Winston preferred.

NEWSBOY FORUM

(Editor's note: The following letters are in response to my printing in the last Newsboy the church records relating to Alger's alleged homosexuality. Thanks go to all those who wrote me, and I appreciate their comments).

Jan. 3, 1980

Dear Jack,

Don't see why anybody should get upset over the December Newsboy. Well done and objective. I sure agree about all the myths which people accept complacently and then get excited over a little truth. I liked it all myself.

Keep in touch,

Jack Dizer

January 14, 1980

Dear Jack,

I'd like to believe many of the HAS members will praise your study and efforts. I myself always respect you as a serious scholar. We do not have to make Alger god, do we? To find the truth is absolutely necessary for us all. Even if he had been a homosexual, the fact wouldn't damage his works.

Best wishes,

Toshio Ueno

December 24, 1979

Dear Jack,

For what it's worth, let me hear what the reaction to the publication of the Brewster records has been. And you may quote me to the effect that the publication of the entire record is an invaluable service to scholars and should enable all interested readers to judge for themselves the merits of the allegations.

As ever,
Gary Scharnhorst

March

January 1, 1980

Dear Jack,

The publication of the records of the First Parish in Brewster covering Horatio Alger's brief tenure as the pastor of that congregation demonstrates that perhaps we as a society have finally reached a level of maturity where we can objectively look at an unsavory incident in his life, rather than attempt to sweep the facts under the nearest rug. Such attitudes produce only lumpy rugs and tend to perpetuate a climate conducive to malicious gossip and half truths.

I would point out that instead of "toying with the idea of printing the Brewster data for over two years," you have had it in your possession for over four years, and that rather than "toying" with it, it has been a carefully considered decision on your part to publish this important material. In the interest of truth you could not do otherwise.

For many years a number of our members have hinted vaguely about Alger's reputation in Brewster. The first mention in Newsboy of just exactly what was behind these rumors was contained in my article, "A Pain in the Tale," in the December, 1974 issue. A few months later in May, 1975, in company with Dick Seddon, I visited Brewster, examined the complete original handwritten records, and regretfully came to the inescapable conclusion that Horatio did indeed bugger the boys of Brewster.

Over the intervening years I have wondered why, if Alger were guilty of such aberrant behavior, he was not prosecuted and confined. My conclusion was that perhaps this kind of an incident occurred more frequently and was understood better by people of that era. They took the necessary steps to remove the offender and to effectively prevent a recurrence in another congregation. Beyond this step they did nothing.

Alger was educated privately. In his

era this meant that this was accomplished in an all male atmosphere. We know that from the age of sixteen to twenty Alger attended Harvard. All his classmates were male. In such a confined community of mutual interest homosexuality becomes the norm. Though this is a matter of conjecture, I would speculate that such activity was learned at Harvard along with Latin and Greek. Is it so surprising that pederasty perhaps persisted until an activity was brought to public scrutiny?

Should the knowledge of this activity cause us to lose interest in Alger? Are the stories that have inspired boys for well over a century now less instructive and moral? Are they somehow tainted? The answer to all of these questions must be a resounding "NO!"

We have perhaps in the past tended to place Alger on a pedestal. Such a location for anyone is too small. If you stand on a pedestal you are too easy a target for whatever anyone may hurl at you. Far better it is to stand upon the ground and be understood as a human being, than to be confined to the remoteness and limitations of a pedestal.

Alger did not let the incident at Brewster destroy him. Prohibited from preaching, he soon obtained a devoted following numbering in the millions. The positive influence of his writings on this vast congregation places him at a level achieved by few, while what may have happened at Brewster remains but an "incident."

"Try, try again!
The boys who keep on trying
Make the world's best men."

Respectfully yours,

Gilbert K. Westgard II

January 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Bales:

For whatever it's worth, I support

your decision to print the Brewster incident material. It is, after all, part of the historical record, and suppressing it isn't going to cause it suddenly to stop existing. Seems to me Alger's work can be and should be judged on its own merit, not on the questionable events of a relatively short period of the man's own life. I use "questionable" here in the sense of unsubstantiated.

Sincerely,

James A. Maxwell

December 29, 1979

Dear Jack:

Thank you for printing the story of Alger's Brewster years. I sincerely believe that this is an important addition to the information previously given on Alger's life in the Newsboy. However, you should have included the speech given by Dr. Max Goldberg at the 1977 Convention at Waltham Motor Inn, in which he gave a proper New England interpretation of the Brewster data.

Any man who works with boys, even today in New England, is suspected of having underhanded motives by some individuals. Scoutmasters and choir directors are especially open to criticism when their services are given without pay. None of these men may ever say that they love their jobs or love the boys with whom they work. This is seen as blatant evidence of evil by some.

Unfortunately, modern scientific information on homosexuality was not available in Brewster in 1866. Even today few individuals take the trouble to read and understand scientific literature on the subject. Most

(continued on next page)

Harvard Likes Alger, But Newsboys Do Not

Author, Born in Chelsea, Died 40 Years Ago Today

By Mary Elizabeth Prim

Harvard men seem to be the only ones around Boston who still read the stories of Horatio Alger, Jr.

The newsboys, about whom Alger used to write, are little interested. At Burroughs Newsboys Foundation, the members prefer Tarzan.

Alger, who died 40 years ago today at Natick, at the age of 67, was graduated from Harvard in 1852. The Harvard Library has about 25 titles, many the gift of the author. They circulate, too, and are slowly gaining in popularity. Records show that the books seldom went out in the 1920's, but have been in demand during the last few years.

The librarians can't figure out whether this is due to loyalty to a fellow alumnus or a belated interest in the methods of the newsboys and others in the street trades about whom Alger wrote with such gusto. All of Alger's lads had one thing in common. They made a lot of money and made it quickly.

Double Barrel Titles

The Alger heroes were honest and eager, but they certainly got the breaks. There was invariably a rich, kindly old gentleman who lived on Madison avenue to make them junior partners. Maybe the Harvard boys feel he is still about, and now known as Uncle Sam.

Most of the favorite Harvard titles are double-barreled, such as Phil the Fiddler, or the Story of a Young Street Musician; and Paul the Pedlar, or the Fortunes of a Young Street Merchant.

There are a number of Alger's books in the Boston Public Li-



HORATIO ALGER, JR.

brary, including his Harvard class ode, but none of them circulate. Several are in the rare book collection.

The public library in Chelsea, where Alger was born, has not a single title of his on their shelves. In Natick, the children's department has 14 titles and they are out all the time.

Alger was an early trustee of the Natick Library and officials have always kept his books in stock. The younger generation—girls as well as boys—can't seem to get enough of them, the children's librarian says. She thinks parents reread them when they get the chance. There never were books that opened such a beautiful dream world, peopled by brave and high-principled boys, lucky enough to meet up with millionaires who put them in the way of making a fortune, too.

This article is from page three of the July 18, 1939 issue of the Boston Evening Transcript. It is from the collection of Jack Bales, who originally located it in the files of the Marlborough Public Library. This institution has many items of interest on the life and works of Horatio Alger.

March

individuals prefer to assume that any information obtained by gossip or innuendo is sufficient for their needs, and they have improved over the past 113 years!

Based on the information given, together with an understanding of the social outlook of many people in New England, as well as subsequent events in Alger's life, the Brewster years should be recognized as a classical example of a whispering campaign. History has shown again and again that certain individuals in New England were experts in this area.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Anstey

January 25, 1980

Dear Jack,

Just read the Brewster stuff - certainly enjoyed reading the fruits of your labors (pun intended). But seriously, I think that it's a good idea. Putting all the excuses aside, which to me all seem to be rather universally lame, it seems to me fairly obvious to an objective person (that's the catch) that Horatio was a homosexual. To this I say, "So what?" When people then say, "Why bring it up; of what use is it now, it won't change things?" I say: "You are a member of an organization dedicated to learning more about a person who had a profound impact on 19th century America. As such, it is well that you don't stop just at collecting his books, but instead, try to learn all about the man." Notice that I say all about him. That means that you don't pick and choose what you will and will not decide to publicize. Sticking one's head in the sand and saying, "Say it ain't so, Horatio," accomplishes nothing; indeed, it puts serious scholarship back several hundred years. Does Oscar Wilde's sexual preferences demean his writings? No, and neither does it Alger's. You should be commended. Once and for all, it is clear that Newsboy is not a newsletter, but a serious literary journal.

Dick Bales

ALGER'S BIRTHDAY MARKED

Author's Memory Honored
at Luncheon in Newsboys Home

(Editor's note: The following article is from the collection of Jack Bales. It originally appeared in the January 14, 1942 issue of the New York Times, p. 12. Note connection between this article and the editorial "Ragged Dick" that was reprinted in the last issue of Newsboy).

The Children's Aid Society Newsboys Home, 244 William Street, held a special luncheon yesterday in celebration of the birthday 119 years ago of Horatio Alger, author of boys' stories. Mr. Alger lived for years at the home, where he obtained material for many of his stories.

A water color portrait of the author, painted at one of the society's six centers in New York City, was presented to the home. George Blum, director of the institution, gave the boys a short history of the home and of Mr. Alger.

The home is now used to provide shelter, medical care and food for homeless boys. They represent nearly every State in the union and some foreign countries. Even soldiers and sailors have spent the night there, while awaiting transfers or assignments.

(Editor's comments: When "Ragged Dick" appeared [January-February Newsboy, p. 9], Gil Westgard wrote that Alger wasn't born 119 years ago, but 110. That is, he was born in 1832 not 1823.

As previously reported, other errors are present. A common myth is that Alger lived at the Newsboys' Lodging House. Probably Herbert R. Mayes was the first to note this in his 1928 volume, Alger: A Biography Without a Hero. As with much of the material in that book, this fabrication has been repeated for over fifty years.

* * *

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
**CONNECTICUT
CONCLAVE**
MAY 1 - 4, 1980



SHERATON TOBACCO VALLEY INN
450 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, WINDSOR, CT 06095

* * *

A VISIT

By Brad Chase - Convention Host

I eased my silvery Toyota into a vacant parking space outside of the Tobacco Valley Inn, home of our upcoming May Convention, and said a little nervously to my passenger, "Well, here it is. To the right is the main building which houses the offices, some function rooms and Dunfey's Tavern, a popular local restaurant and lounge. To the left in the big white building is where most of the attendees will stay. The Hospitality Room is located there as well."

I went rambling on. "And straight ahead is a third building which may house those who don't get their reservation cards in early." I then narrowed my eyes and warned my passenger as he looked judgmentally around, "You must get your reservation card to the motel by April 9th or else you may not be able to stay here at all!" I could see as he flinched that this had considerable impact.

We got out of the car and explored around the Inn complex, finally ending up in the lounge. As music played in the background my visitor from upstate New York, Brad Alexander - Alger and other book collector supreme - smiled and assured me that he felt that my choice for the Convention site was a good one. We spent the remainder of the evening as we had that day and the previous evening - negotiating books and talking Alger and the convention.

The hour was getting late and we were tired as that day we had visited five states and driven over 325 miles book searching. As we left the Inn, Brad

remarked, "Yep, this is a nice place and we should have fun in May." I smiled and looked down at my fingers that have been crossed since Ann and I agreed to host the 1980 Convention and mumbled, "I sure hope so, Brad, I really hope so so."

We went on to Interstate Route 91 and headed north to my home and talked of this and that and about the Convention. I mentioned the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, a local trolley museum, the Noah Webster and Mark Twain houses and museums, a local castle, a park with dinosaur tracks and a prison/copper mine as places of potential interest to attendees during their free time. I also mentioned the Hitchcock Chair Factory and Furniture Museum which might interest antique buffs. We shared ideas about a program for Friday night of the Convention and roughed out some possibilities. We also talked of the annual book auction and Ralph's Alger quiz and laughed as we recalled together Jerry Friedland and Bob Sawyer in the skit last year.

May seemed a long way off at that point, but we both knew it was only a matter of a few short months. This reminder jerked me back into the reality of the work which must be done between now and then in order to assure that everyone has fun in May. Brad Alexander's support, advice and encouragement during his visit was invaluable to me and I knew he was really looking forward to the first week in May.

Notwithstanding this, and, as I watched him struggle toward the airline ticket counter the next day with his overweight baggage (which included a bunch of newly found book treasures, of course), I yelled somewhat unceremoniously, "Remember, get your motel reservation card in early and at least by April 9th!" He turned, and ignoring the curious glances of other travelers at both of us, nodded several times, smiled and then disappeared into the crowd. Somehow I just knew he would send in his card early. How about you???

WEEP NOT FOR HORATIO

(Editor's note: The following editorial is from the collection of Gary Scharnhorst. It is reprinted by permission of Forbes Magazine from the February 1, 1971 issue).

We have to take issue with a recent article in the New York Times. On Jan. 10, page 27 of the special National Economic Review, the Times carried an article headlined: "'The Horatio Alger Thing is Dead.'" The burden of the story was that the rags-to-riches dream no longer moves American youth. The prize, to them, was no longer worth the struggle.

We'd like to report to the Times that Horatio Alger is alive and well and living right in these United States. Bearded instead of clean-shaven, perhaps. No longer exclusively Anglo-Saxon, to be sure. As likely a political liberal as a political conservative. But dead? Never.

Read our lead story on page 15. Here's a 33-year-old shoe company executive without a penny of capital who figures a way to get control of a \$44-million company. How? By hard work and hard thinking.

Our cover story is about the Marriott family of hotel and restaurant fame. Who made the Marriott company the hottest thing in its field? A young man did, son of the founder, who was 32 when he became president and is only 38 now. Did Bill Marriott Jr. have to work hard? Of course not. But he had that old drive.

One of our senior editors, Robert Flaherty, 37, is a member of the Harvard Business School Class of 1961. When Bob goes to his tenth reunion this June, he will rub shoulders with three class members who are millionaires already. Average age: 36. And, Bob says, "1961 was not an especially vintage year for millionaires at the 'B' School."

The list is long. The first New York

Stock Exchange firm to go public, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, was started from scratch only 12 years ago by three men, the oldest of whom is even now only 41. Leasco's Saul Steinberg, whom we wrote about in our last issue (Jan. 15, p. 14), at 28 had already built a big company, saw it get into trouble and now at the ripe age of 31 is trying for a comeback.

The biggest recent success in the magazine business is New York, the sophisticated and successful weekly, which was nurtured by 42-year-old Clay Felker.

We could go on and on, but we suspect we know what some of you are thinking: that all these Horatio Algers are over the Great Divide; they're past 30. They don't represent the new younger generation. We don't buy that, though. The world is changing fast, but not that fast. If the generation that marched into the business world in the early Sixties still contained its entrepreneurs and achievers, we suspect that the generation of the Seventies will, too. We're practically willing to guarantee it.

We recently had occasion to talk with a 28-year-old money manager, a fellow from a poor family who had worked his way through Columbia. He had been washed out of his job in last year's crash and was eking out a living as best he could. Someone told him about a \$25,000 job outside the money management field that was right up his alley. Do you know what he did? He said he wasn't interested. "I'm going to make a comeback in money management," he said. "I'm going to make it big or not at all." If that isn't the old entrepreneurial spirit then what is?

The question was: Is Horatio Alger dead?

We rest our case.

I wish to thank Gary for sending me this provocative editorial. However, we've been saying those things for years!!

Dick was standing on a boat deck when Johnny Rodelle, age 6, fell into the murky water.

"My child!" shouted Johnny's dad.

"Who will save my child! A thousand, ten thousand dollars for anyone who will save him!"

Dick didn't hear one word. Already, he was up to his rags in murky water. Saving the kid.

Good deeds are their own reward, Dick said. He did not, however, pass up the money.

Luke Walton. Ragged Dick. They were fine lads.

Another was Mark, the Match Boy. He came into big money when he was reunited with his long-lost father, who was very wealthy. What did Mark do? Why, he gave \$100 to Bridget Flanagan, a friend from his poor days.

"Does this good gentleman give me a hundred dollars? It's rich I am with so much money," she said.

Obviously, she was delighted. And so was Mark. And so was Max Friedman when, as a lad, he read about Mark.

"He's my favorite," Friedman was saying the other day. Friedman is 71, and he lives at 135 N. Lauderdale.

"Mark, the Match Boy" existed first in the mind of Horatio Alger Jr., a 19th Century author. As did Luke Walton, Ragged Dick and all these other heroes and heroines of the 190 novels produced by Alger.

The novels created what cynics refer to as America's "rags-to-riches myth."

It's no myth to Friedman. Or to any of the other members, about 200, of the Horatio Alger Society.

They say these lads "epitomized the great American dream." And the Alger stories "flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans."

"They were an inspiration to the younger set. Some of the stories were fantastic. But they were supposed to be success stories," Friedman said.

Looking back at Friedman's life, you think that Alger could have made his 191st novel out of it.

Friedman's father, Morris, came from Russia to Kalamazoo in about 1900. With great struggles, he began the Kalamazoo Junk & Fur Co.

And, as a lad, Max was a newsboy. He sold Gazettes on a downtown corner. The papers cost him 25 cents for 15. And, selling them for three pennies, Max cleared 20 cents.



MAX FRIEDMAN AND HIS COLLECTION

Portrait of Horatio Alger in background

Kalamazoo Gazette

January 13, 1980

—Gazette photo by Robert Maxwell



Max's life could be Alger tale

Terrific. You have to cheer this Luke Walton.

"I don't always mean to be a newsboy or errand boy," Luke told some rich snob.

"I shall work my way upwards as fast as I can, and in time I may come to fill a good place in society."

Luke did, too. And so did Ragged Dick, another poor boy with rich ambitions. Fate helped.

The biggest days were when the headlines read, "Armistice!" or "Harding Dies!" — and buyers grabbed copies, and didn't wait for change.

At this time, Max was reading the Alger novels. And, to Max, they were far from fiction.

Max went from working in the family business to opening his own business, Max Friedman's Metals, which he closed down in 1977.

And, once, Mrs. Blanche Friedman said:

"My husband is a junk dealer, yes. But he is an honest junk dealer. He is an honest junk dealer and he has worked hard all his life."

Which is pure Horatio Alger. Also, pure truth.

Today is the 148th anniversary of Alger's birth.

By literary standards, he was a bad writer. And he was 'somewhat careless. He misplaced characters' names.

And — horrors — he wrote for money.

Alger stood 5-foot-2. A boy's height. So, he was always looking up, dreaming a boy's rich dreams.

And, with his books, he made others dream, too.

Because of this, the Horatio Alger Society was formed here in 1961 by Forrest Campbell and Kenneth Butler.

Campbell was a letter carrier. He's 73 now, and living in Alabama. Butler went from Kalamazoo to great success with a publishing business in Indiana.

Friedman was the first member of the society, which has members nationwide. In a basement room, Friedman has 50 of the novels written by Alger.

"I still read them and reread them," he said.

But don't try to tell him they are fiction. and that the stories are myths. They are America. And don't let anybody tell you different.

Max Friedman writes: "I called our newspaper last Tuesday to remind them that January 13 was Horatio Alger's birthday. Well! See what happened! Don't be surprised if you get new members from Kalamazoo, as I am getting calls about our Society." Max — now 71 years old and retired — helped Forrest and Rachel Campbell host the 1969 Alger Society Convention, and it was certainly nice to hear that he is doing well.

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Florence Ogilvie Schnell has written her senator concerning the issuance of an Alger U.S. postage stamp. William V. Roth of Delaware replied that "this proposal has been presented to the Committee and you will be pleased to learn that issuance of such a stamp is under active consideration for a future stamp program. This does not necessarily mean, however, that a stamp will be issued." Thank you, Florence, for your continued efforts on this HAS project. I urge all Society members to write their senators and congressmen concerning the Alger stamp.

THE GIPSY NURSE AND
PAUL PRESCOTT'S CHARGE
by Bob Sawyer

Although I had collected Algers for some time, it was not until 1975 that Ralph Gardner introduced me to the Horatio Alger Society. I at once became even more interested and soon started collecting back issues of Newsboy. With the help of several PF's I finally managed to gather together all of the back issues. I have the first ten years bound and indexed and am about to send Volumes 12 through 15 to the binder. Indexing them makes them more useful as a source of material and information on my favorite hobby — collecting the works of Horatio Alger, Jr.

In looking over the back issues I was particularly intrigued with the August, 1973 issue in which Gilbert Westgard announced the discovery of seven new Alger novels that had been serialized in the New York Sun. Since then two more have been found making nine in all, and because it seems to me that it fits, I add Marie Bertrand, published in 1864 by Street and Smith in their newspaper the New York Weekly.

Listing them, they are: Hugo, the Deformed; (since then published in the December Newsboy and later in book form by Westgard); Madeline, the Temptress; The Secret Drawer; The Cooper's Ward (later rewritten by Alger as Timothy Crump's Ward and again as Jack's Ward); Herbert Selden (I found this to be

very similar in many ways to Alger's later story Ralph Raymond's Heir); Manson, the Miser (later rewritten as Charlie Codman's Cruise); The Discarded Son (later rewritten as Helen Ford); The Mad Heiress; Marie Bertrand; and The Gipsy Nurse. I don't doubt that other Alger fans have discovered as I did that this story was later rewritten as Paul Prescott's Charge. The plot has been changed but many of the characters have the same names. Page after page is word for word the same in both stories. For my own satisfaction, I am copying all of these stories, making a master copy, which I then photocopy and bind into volumes. The only copies I have been able to find are photocopied pages of the original newspapers, vastly reduced in size, making them sheer torture to read. By using my wood carving magnifying glasses I am wading through them a page at a time.

Gipsy was so interesting to me after I found it was in many ways basically Paul Prescott, that I started making a comparison of the two. I am submitting it to Newsboy so that others in the Society will also enjoy it.

1. The setting in both stories is Wrenville, a small town about 100 miles from New York City.

2. Basic plot development is very similar but the final objectives differ. In Gipsy Harry Conant had been stolen as an infant, left with his step-parents and eventually restored to his real parents. In Paul Prescott, Paul was orphaned and left with a \$500 debt to miserly Squire Conant. Using a plot similar to that in Gipsy, Paul eventually manages to repay his "Charge" to the Squire.

3. Characters:
The Gipsy Nurse:

Harry Conant - our hero
Squire Benjamin Newcome
Hannah - the Squire's housemaid
Ben Newcome - the Squire's son
Mrs. Conant - Harry's mother (adopted)
Nicholas Mudge - Supt. of the Poorhouse

Mrs. Mudge - his wife
Aunt Lucy Lee - Harry's friend
Dr. Humphries - Poorhouse doctor
Joseph Dean - Harry's friend
Jehosephat Stubbs - a tin peddler
Hugh Cameron - a church sexton
Hester Cameron - his wife
Felipe Morna - the Gipsy Nurse
Wm. Francesco - Felipe's husband
Ellen Danforth - Harry's real mother
Edward Darforth - Harry's real father

Paul Prescott's Charge:

Paul Prescott - our hero
Squire Benjamin Newcomb
Hannah - the Squire's housemaid
Ben Newcomb - the Squire's son
Mr. Prescott - Paul's father
Nicholas Mudge - Supt. of the Poorhouse
Mrs. Mudge - his wife
Aunt Lucy Lee - Paul's friend
Dr. Townsend - Poorhouse doctor
John Burgess - Paul's friend
Jehosaphat Stubbs - a tin peddler
Hugh Cameron - a church sexton
Hester Cameron - his wife
Mr. Smith - Paul's first employer
Nicholas Benton - Paul's fellow worker
Mrs. Danforth - Paul's friend
Edward Danforth - Paul's second employer

There are various other minor characters in both stories not important to the comparison. In addition, The Gipsy Nurse has Betsy Stone - Danforth's housemaid; Mrs. Bent - Danforth's cook; George Dawkins - Harry's school rival.

In Paul Prescott's Charge there is Tim Flaherty - Hannah's cousin; Duval - a gambler; George Dawkins - Paul's school rival; Squire Conant - miserly squire who holds a \$500 note against Paul's father.

4. Chapter by chapter comparison of the two stories.

The Gipsy Nurse: Chapter I, "The Human Machine"; Paul Prescott's Charge: Chapter I, "Squire Newcome"

Basic premise is the same in both stories with minor changes in the text and a few sentence revisions. References

to the hero are respectively changed from Harry Conant in Gipsy to Paul Prescott in Paul. In Chapter I Harry's mother is dying and Paul's father is dying.

The Gipsy Nurse: Chapter II. "A Death Bed Revelation"; Paul Prescott's Charge: "Paul Prescott's Home."

Harry is twelve, Paul is thirteen. The death bed scenes are quite different. Harry's mother reveals that she is not his blood mother but that she and her husband adopted him after a strange gipsy woman left him with them as a baby. Paul's father reveals a different problem. He tells of borrowing \$500 from Squire Conant to invest in a mining venture that failed. Paul promised to somehow repay this debt, his "charge."

Chapter III. Gipsy: "Harry's Brilliant Prospects." Paul: "Paul's Brilliant Prospects." Basically the same as both boys' parents are buried and they are in turn assigned to live in the local poorhouse.

Chapter IV. Gipsy: "Life in a New Phase." Paul: "Life in a New Phase." Both boys start life in the dim dismal environs of the poorhouse. Both meet a good friend in Aunt Lucy Lee. In Paul she turns out to be the sister of Squire Conant.

Chapter V. Gipsy: "A Crisis." Paul: "A Crisis." Both boys become sick due to overwork and poor food. In Gipsy the chapter is cut in half as Paul includes the content's of Gipsy's Chapter VI.

Chapter VI. Gipsy: "Dr. Humphries." Paul: Chapter VI - see below. This chapter is included in Chapter V in Paul but the doctor is referred to as Dr. Townserd.

Chapter VII. Gipsy: "Harry's Determination." Paul: "Paul's Determination." Almost word for word the same as both boys determine to run away from their respective poorhouses.

Chapter VIII: Gipsy, "Theft." Chapter VII: Paul, "Paul Begins His Journey." With the help of Aunt Lucy both boys carry out their plans of leaving.

Chapter IX: Gipsy, "A Friend in Need." Chapter VIII: Paul, "A Friend in Need." Each boy meets a friend as he sits and rests near a farm. Harry's friend is Josph Dean and Paul meets John Burgess.

Chapter X: Gipsy, "A Cloud in the Mudge Horizon." Chapter IX: Paul, "A Cloud in the Mudge Horizon." An angry Mr. Mudge makes plans in both stories to get the runaways back.

Chapter XI: Gipsy, "Pursuit of Knowledge." Chapter X: Paul, "Mr. Mudge Meets His Match." With adroit help of their newfound friends Harry and Paul escape from Mr. Mudge.

Chapter XII: Gipsy, "Wayside Gossip." Chapter XI: Paul, "Wayside Gossip." Both boys meet the friendly tin peddler Jehosaphat Stubbs, who gives them food and shelter.

Chapter XIII: Gipsy, "On the Brink of Discovery." Chapter XII: Paul, "On the Brink of Discovery." Jehosaphat helps the boys elude possible discovery by a citizen of Wrenville who chances to run into them.

Chapter XIV: Gipsy, "The Sponge." Chapter XIII: Paul, "Paul Reaches the City." Both boys reach New York and are greeted by a "sponge" who takes them in for an oyster dinner.

Chapter XV: Gipsy, "A Strange Bedchamber." Chapter XIV: Paul, "A Strange Bedchamber." Both boys wander into a church service, fall asleep and are locked in for the night. In Gipsy, Harry, who is an orphan, gives Alger one of his favorite plays. He allows the reader a little glimpse of the future when Harry seats himself only a few feet from his real mother who is a member of that church. Of course neither is aware of the other.

Chapter XVI: Gipsy, "A Turn of Fortune." Chapter XV: Paul, "A Turn of Fortune." The boys are discovered by the church sexton who takes them home for a meal and eventually invites them to stay. In Gipsy the reader is given another hint when Hester, the sexton's wife, is reminded of someone she knows when she meets Harry for the first time.

Chapter XVII: Gipsy, "Felipa Morna." Chapter XVI: Paul, "Young Stupid." At this point the stories separate and the plots differ vastly. Gipsy introduces Felipa, the gipsy nurse, and goes back several years in time to explain her part in the story. In Paul Paul enters school at the urging of the sexton and encounters a rival, George Dawkins. (This segment is withheld till later in Gipsy).

Chapter XVIII: Gipsy, "The Nurse." Chapter XVII: Paul, "Ben's Practical Joke." In Gipsy we learn how Felipa Morna is hired as a nursemaid to the Danforth infants son Harry (Harry Conant). In Paul the story goes back to Wrenville and recounts the mischievous antics of Ben Newcome.

Chapter XIX: Gipsy, "Francesco." Chapter XVIII: Paul, "More about Ben." In Gipsy Felipa's husband Francesco enters the scene and they plot to rob the Danforths. In Paul Ben continues his mischief.

Chapter XX: Gipsy, "The Burglary." Chapter XIX: "Mrs. Mudge's Discomfiture." The planned burglary fails in Gipsy but Felipa cleverly involves poor Betsy, the chambermaid. In Paul Aunt Lucy catches Mrs. Mudge snooping through her trunk in search of Paul's letter.

Chapter XXI: Gipsy, "The Innocent Falls Into the Snare." Chapter XX: Paul, "Paul Obtains a Situation." The second burglary attempt succeeds in Gipsy and poor Betsy is blamed. In Paul Paul is first in his class, Dawkins second. Paul accepts a position but only gets \$1.25 a week.

Chapter XXII: Gipsy, "The Sleeping Potion." Chapter XXI: Paul, "Smith and Thompson's Young Man." Felipa tries to drug Mrs. Danforth who is suspicious and does not take it. Thus, she observes Felipa as she furtively steals her diamond neclace. In Paul Paul is disillusioned after the his first day at work.

Chapter XXIII: Gipsy, "The Diamond Necklace." Chapter XXII: Paul, "Mr. Benton's Adventure." Felipa is caught with the necklace and Betsy is cleared in Gipsy. In Paul Paul's fellow worker Benton falls in love and Paul is amused.

Chapter XXIV: Gipsy, "The Arrest." Chapter XXIII: Paul, "Paul Loses His Situation and Gains a Friend." Felipa is arrested and sent to prison after threatening revenge upon Mrs. Danforth. In Paul, Paul proves too honest for his employer and is fired. Later he stops a runaway carriage and rescues Mrs. Edward Danforth. (This is the name of Harry's mother in Gipsy but in Paul she is only a very good friend to our hero Paul).

Chapter XXV: Gipsy, "The Advantage of an Education." Chapter XXIV: Paul, "Paul Calls on Mrs. Danforth." In Gipsy Alger injects some humor into the story as Mrs. Bent, the Danforth cook, tells Betsy the good news and attempts to teach her a few long and totally incorrect words. In Paul Paul is invited to call on Mrs. Danforth and receives a beautiful desk in appreciation and is told to call upon her husband for a possible job.

Chapter XXVI: Gipsy, "Felipa's Revenge." Chapter XXV: Paul, "An Old Acquaintance." Felipa escapes from prison and abducts young Harry in Gipsy. In Paul Paul lands a job in Mr. Danforth's counting room and finds himself a fellow employee of George Dawkins, much to the latter's disgust.

Chapter XXVII: Gipsy, "Young Stupid." Chapter XXVI: Paul, "A Vulgar Relation." In Gipsy this chapter is identical with Chapter XVI in Paul Paul's

peddler friend Jehosephat Stubbs shows up and turns out to be a cousin of George Dawkin's father. George gives him the brush-off.

Chapter XXVIII: Gipsy, "The Temptation of Rivalry." Chapter XXVII: Paul, "Mr. Mudge's Fright." In Gipsy Harry works hard to win a prize for the best essay in school. His rival George Dawkins tries to discredit him by blotting his paper, and is detected by a friend of Harry's. (Note: Alger uses the same ploy in his short story "The Rivals," reprinted in Newsboy, October-November, 1979 and originally published in Student and Schoolmate, 1866. In Paul Ben, up to his usual tricks, frightens an inebriated Mr. Mudge out of his wits, pretending to be a ghost of a former ill-treated poorhouse inmate.

Chapter XXX: Gipsy, "How It Turned Out." Chapter XXIX: Paul, "Dawkins in Difficulty." Harry and Dawkins are both awarded the top prize and Harry is told what happened and who did it. Dawkins gives a gambling friend, Duval, his I.O.U. for \$150, a debt incurred through gambling. He is in trouble when Duval threatens to go to his father (in Paul).

Chapter XXXI: Gipsy, "A Meeting After Many Years." Chapter XXX: Paul, "A Trap is Laid for Paul." In Gipsy, Harry is discouraged after trying for six days to land a job. He is encouraged by the sexton to try again. As he is walking about seeking employment he stops a runaway horse (as in Chapter XXIII in Paul), rescuing Mrs. Danforth (his real mother). In Paul Dawkins steals \$150 from Mr. Danforth and plants money in Paul's coat to implicate him.

Chapter XXXII: Gipsy, "Mrs. Danforth at Home." Chapter XXXI: Paul, "Convicted of Theft." Harry calls at Mrs. Danforth's and receives a pleasant surprise, an opportunity to be employed by Mr. Danforth, her husband in his counting room. In Paul, Dawkins succeeds in blaming Paul for the missing money and he is discharged.

Chapter XXXII: Gipsy, "Harry's Good Luck." Chapter XXXII: Paul, "Right Triumphant." In Gipsy Harry is hired by Mr. Danforth, much to his old friend George Dawkin's disgust as he is also employed here. In Paul Mrs. Danforth does not believe in Paul's guilt and urges her husband to look further into the matter. He does and sees Dawkins giving Duval \$150. He then discharges Dawkins and hires Paul back.

Chapter XXXIV: Gipsy, "An Old Acquaintance." Chapter XXXIII: Paul, "Paul Redeems His Pledge." In Gipsy Felipa does a turnabout and shows up in Wrenville inquiring for Mrs. Conant, Harry's adopted mother. She eventually finds Aunt Lucy at the poorhouse, who tells her how to find Harry. In Paul, Paul by hard work and through saving his money at last accumulates enough to pay off his father's debt to Squire Conant. He goes to Cedarville where the Squire lives, pays him off and finds him ashamed of his past parsimony.

Chapter XXXV: Gipsy, "Felipa Visits the Poorhouse." Chapter XXXIV: Paul, "How Paul Goes Back to Wrenville." Felipa visits Aunt Lucy in the Poorhouse and finds out where Harry is. In Paul Paul goes back to Wrenville and rescues Aunt Lucy from the poorhouse.

Chapter XXXVI: Gipsy, "A Glance Backward." Chapter XXXV: Paul, "Conclusion." Felipa finds in Gipsy that life with her husband is not a bed of roses. At last he is killed in a drunken brawl and she is free. She decides to right the wrong she has done Mrs. Danforth. As in all Alger stories Paul ends happily with our hero in full control and well embarked upon a happy and successful life. This chapter ends Paul Prescott's Charge.

Chapter XXXVI: Gipsy, "False Pride." Gipsy dwells upon Dawkins and uncovers that he comes from rather ordinary sources and has no reason to look down upon Harry.

Chapter XXXVIII: Gipsy, "A Vulgar Relation." In Gipsy as in Chapter XXVI of Paul Jehosaphat Stubbs shows

up and turns out to be a cousin of Dawkins' father, much to his horror.

Chapter XXXIX: Gipsy, "The Birthmark." Felipa calls on Mrs. Danforth and tells her Harry is her son. He is called in and a birthmark on his neck shows this to be true.

Chapter XL: Gipsy, "Final." Again Alger winds up a story happily. Harry rescues Aunt Lucy from the poor-house and all turns out well.

* * *
RANDOM REPORTS
FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

Florence Ogilvie Schnell writes that she has 80 Algers. She has recently returned from a lengthy vacation abroad, where she visited Zurich, Munich, and Vienna. In N. America she took a bus trip to Niagra Falls and Toronto, among other places.

Paul Miller tells me that he and his wife went traveling and visited a few members of HAS. He says that "Dick Seddon and I got together and made the usual visit to see Morris Olsen. I picked up a few first editions plus an 1854 bound volume of Gleason's Army and Navy Weekly.

Paul says that he and Ruth also visited Max and Ida Goldberg. They had an exceedingly pleasant evening, Paul reports, and stayed at the Goldberg's home for several hours talking Alger and other subjects. As usual, Paul

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says, Max and Ida were gracious hosts and made their visit most enjoyable.

The above ad was sent in by Gil Westgard. The loft of The Sun was the first site of the Children's Aid Society's Newsboys' Lodging House. Later Lodges were on Park Place and the intersection of Duane, New Chambers, and William Sts.