

# Newsboy

Jack Bales, Editor  
1407A Winchester St.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



Official 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*

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Owner, Ken Butler atop an old road coach (stage coach) at the Time Was Museum 4 miles south of Mendota, IL.

This photo is from a recent copy of The Hoosier Voice of Fellowship, edited by HAS member Amos Smith. Kenneth B. Butler, co-founder and long-time friend of the Alger Society, is the owner of the renowned TIME WAS MUSEUM near Mendota, Illinois.

Ralph D. Gardner announces a new item for Alger collectors. See page 3 for full details.

## 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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## NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-719 Grace D. Bales  
1829 Cherry Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Grace read of us in a recent issue of the Tri-State Trader. Her hobbies include antiques, china and glass, genealogy, lace making, travel, and elder hostels. She is a retired federal and state employee.

PF-721 Louise Kent-Boyd  
47 Hannaford Street  
Toronto, Ontario CANADA  
M4E 3G8

Louise, a writer, is currently working on a book about the history of newsboys in North America. In the course of her research she read about the Alger Society, and has read many Alger titles. (She is currently looking for Ben Bruce).

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## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-428 Harry L. Lane  
3815 Cabana Blvd. N. #105  
Mobile, Alabama 36609

PF-463 Richard F. (Dick) Bales  
P.O. Box 282  
Geneva, Illinois 60134

PF-691 James D. Alger  
283 Makaweli Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

PF-695 Theresa Pottetti  
Box 34  
Port Jefferson, N.C. 11777

PF-693 Pastor Harvey Seidel  
Route 1, Box 170  
Rigby, ID 83442

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Jerry Friedland called today (Thanksgiving Day) to not only wish me a happy Thanksgiving, but to remind me that the next convention is not far away. The site next year is Nashua, N.H., and it will be hosted by Jim and Maryjane Thorp. Details will appear in Newsboy very soon!!

## LETTERS

135 Central Park West  
New York, N.Y. 10023  
November 8, 1983

Dear Jack:

I'd like to recommend to all Horatio Alger Society members a beautiful new miniature book that I have now added to my Alger collection. It's titled, "The Story of the Horatio Alger Commemorative Postage Stamp." I believe it is a valuable, integral part of every Alger collection.

It's just been published by the famed book binder, Lillian Herzig Cohen. It measures 2" x 2-3/4" and is bound in marbled boards. This is a hand-made, hand-sewn limited edition of only 150 signed, numbered copies. Its frontispiece is an Alger commemorative stamp.

These miniatures cost \$10.00 (ten dollars) each. I spoke with Ms. Cohen and she will give a 20% (twenty percent) discount to those who, when ordering, identify themselves as members of the Horatio Alger Society. I'd guess that these--like all miniature books that are works of art, as this book is--will increase in value, and any that may be offered by booksellers will probably be at a higher price.

These can be ordered directly from:  
Ms. Lillian Herzig Cohen, 34-41 77th  
St., Jackson Heights, New York 11372.

Cordially,

Ralph D. Gardner

[Editor's note: With discount, the price per book is \$8.00 each].

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THE BLUE SASH!  
by Carl Cantab

(The following short story--written by Horatio Alger, Jr. under the pseudonym Carl Cantab--is from the collection of Gary Scharnhorst [See March-April 1983 Newsboy, page 19]. It originally

appeared in the June 10, 1854 issue of the American Union, and remained undiscovered by Alger scholars until just this past year. Thanks go to Gary for sharing it with HAS, and to Gilbert K. Westgard II for providing me with a typed copy to transcribe).

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Gardner Churchill was an enthusiast. He did not like--he admired; he did not dislike--he detested. All his feelings and all his sensations were in the superlative degree. He was just the person to fall in love at first sight, marry within a week after acquaintance, and devote the remainder of his life to an ineffectual repentance of his precipitancy.

He was sitting in his room at the hotel one day at the open window. His friend Lyman Robbins was seated at a little distance. They were both discussing a fine cigar, conversing meantime about various topics, rather to pass away the time than from any strong interests which they felt, when all at once to his friend's astonishment, Gardner looked for a moment fixedly from the window, and then without a word of explanation darted from the room, in his hurry completely forgetting his hat, and dashing down stairs as if pursued by the three furies.

Lyman put down his cigar, and followed with astonished eyes the exit of his friend.

"What is the matter with him?" thought he. "He must certainly be crazy."

Five minutes afterwards Gardner came back in a profuse perspiration brought on by his excessive hurry.

"What in the name of all the saints possessed you to make off in that strange manner?" asked Lyman. "I had just come to the conclusion that you were a suitable subject for a Lunatic Asylum."

"The lady in the blue sash!" exclaimed Gardner, wiping the perspiration from his brow. "Didn't you see her?"

"The lady in the blue sash! What do you mean?" asked his friend in a tone of astonishment.

"Oh, I forgot. You don't know

# *Alger Treasures Could Be In Your Attic*

By BEATRICE GARFIELD

**T**his is spring-cleaning season and for the really thorough practitioner it could be a time of peril.

In long-untouched cartons in attics and basements, in old-fashioned bookcases in summer cottages, there probably are thousands of old copies of the highly-collectible Horatio Alger books which an untutored person might just throw away.

But, you might ask, what modern youngster would be interested in these dated, Victorian novels which stress those old-fashioned virtues?

Well, perhaps today's youngsters are really too cynical to be persuaded by Alger's solemn homilies. Maybe they will laugh at the idea that one should

"shift for one's self" or that "honesty pays."

Perhaps you had better forget the youngsters.

If you want to dispose of any Alger books to a truly appreciative audience, concentrate upon the Alger collectors.

Fortunately for Connecticut residents that presents no problem. Not only are there a number of ardent Alger buffs in the area, the president of the International Horatio Alger Society, Bradford Chase, lives in nearby Enfield. If you have any questions at all about the hobby, he is the person to talk to.

"People who come upon a cache of old Alger books are apt to dramatically over-estimate or else under-estimate their value," Chase commented. "Either they throw them away, without first checking on their value, or else they assume that they are all rare and valuable — which is usually not the case."

Books, like other collector's items, are esoteric. Their worth is recognized only by the specialist.

The layman usually errs in assum-

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*Beatrice Garfield is a free-lance writer specializing in antiques stories. She is a frequent contributor to The Courant.*

ing that age is the important criterion in determining value of objects.

With the Algers, as with many other categories, there are many factors which affect their worth, but these are usually appreciated only by the expert.

Alger's books first appeared during the 1860s but their popularity lasted almost until the 1930s. Over those many years there were many publishers, many editions and many series. Certain ones are much more desirable than others, but determining that requires a considerable amount of research.

Despite the frequent "Gold in Your Attic" alerts regarding the skyrocketing prices being paid for old children's books, only a few of the Algers bring hundreds of dollars.

Except for particularly rare or choice items, most sell for less than \$15. "And that's a good thing," noted Chase, "because in the Alger clubs there are many students, beginning collectors and others on a limited budget but they still can have a great deal of fun collecting because there are so many books which are available for as little as \$5 or less."

The Horatio Alger Society, of which Chase has been president for two years, is an international organization with members from all over the United States and Japan, Germany, Canada and Italy.

It was formed more than 20 years ago when two men who happened to meet began to reminisce about their boyhood love for Alger stories. They thought it might be a good idea to try to find others who shared their enthusiasm and trade copies and Alger lore and so the organization, called, at first "The Newsboy," was born.

In time the name was changed to the "Horatio Alger Society" but the "Newsboy" name remained as the title of their newsletter, published 10 times a year and available to members for \$10. It's a sprightly, highly informative magazine which keeps members in touch with the news on the collecting scene.

The group held its 18th annual convention last weekend in Willow Grove, Pa. These yearly conventions are al-

See Alger, Page G2



G2

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Sunday, May 9, 1982

# Alger Society Leader Lives In Connecticut

Continued from Page G1

ways enlightening and delightful occasions, Chase said, but this year is particularly noteworthy because it's the 150th anniversary of the birth of Horatio Alger in Revere, Mass.

A special commemorative stamp picturing the four little fellows who first brought fame to the Alger name, will be issued, and the stamp, and first-day covers, will be presented at the convention.

And, whenever someone relates a "rags to riches" story you will surely hear a voice murmur, "a true Horatio Alger tale."

A great many people are familiar with the Alger credo, even those who never read his books. People appreciate the significance of the "Horatio Alger Distin-

guished Service Award" (presented to Ronald Reagan, Clare Booth Luce, Herbert Hoover, among many other successful Americans).

Among social historians the author is highly esteemed for they recognize the fact that the New England author did much more than merely delight generations of readers.

Following his graduation from Harvard he entered the ministry, but in time he turned to his great love, which was writing.

In articles and novels he dramatized the tragic conditions which were faced by thousands of homeless waifs who wandered about the streets of New York City during the post-Civil War decades.

Many were orphaned, many maltreated by cruel guardians, and most were forced to eke out a living selling newspapers or shining boots.

Alger's brilliant and moving reporting of the conditions did much to enlist the sympathies of influential persons and bring about significant reforms.

The series he wrote tugged at the heart, but generations of youngsters literally devoured them. Long after Alger's death in 1899 the books continued to be popular — probably, Chase remarked, the best-sellers of all time.

They were issued and re-issued in numerous editions by many publishers. Some were sold for as little as 10 cents, in Woolworth's stores.

"It is probably because they were not only popular but awfully inexpensive — available to every family — that many people who find copies dispose of them without first checking," said Chase. "They were found in such profusion in homes years ago that people are apt to assume they are not worth very much."

"Actually," Chase said, "unless the books are as tattered and torn as the garments worn by the little heroes of the stories, they are probably worth something to a collector."

"Many of the Alger buffs are seeking certain titles, or books from certain publishers or series. Even though they may not bring a fortune, they probably would be sold."

Continue your thorough spring-cleaning, then, but do keep an eye out for "Phil the Fiddler," "Ragged Dick," "Tattered Tom," "Mark the Matchboy," or "Ben, the Luggage Boy."

Assuredly, they will reward you handsomely for your diligence.

anything about it. Listen, and I will explain. It is now the third day that I have seen her riding past in a magnificent carriage drawn by two beautiful blood horses. She had a child with her--a beautiful child, with a most captivating countenance."

"Is she beautiful?"

"Beautiful! Can you doubt it?"

"Then you have seen her face?"

"Why, no," said Gardner, hesitating. "I can't exactly say I have seen her. But then I have seen the child, and judging from that the mother must be peerless."

"But how do you know it is the mother?"

"I don't know, but I am firmly convinced of it."

"But you haven't told me yet what sent you out so suddenly. You didn't expect to take the carriage by storm?"

"Not exactly. The fact is, I was seized with an irresistible impulse, and I obeyed it. But when I got to the door of the hotel, I found that I had in my hurry left my hat behind me, so I was forced to return."

"Just as well, perhaps. You would have been at a loss what to do if you had had it."

"I might have found out where the fascinating owner of the blue sash resides, and then if, as I believe to be the case, the charming creature is a widow, the problem of my life would be solved, and as her husband I should be supremely blest."

"Good Heavens! Gardner, how you run on," exclaimed Lyman. I sincerely hope that the blue-sashed heroine will keep out of the way, and thus prevent your committing an act of extravagance."

"Lyman," said Gardner, seriously, "you are not impulsive like myself. If you were, you would find that cool philosophy is no antidote for such a love as I feel for her--"

"Whose face you have not seen."

"Pardon me I have seen it."

"Just now you said you had not."

"In fancy."

"Pooh!"

Thus the conversation ended. Gardner was more determined than ever to follow the bent of his fancy, and find

out the residence of the fair unknown.

As he was walking leisurely the next day, the carriage drove rapidly past him. Without a thought of how it would appear to those around him, Gardner commenced running after it. Finding that it was likely to outstrip him, he adopted a plan which came to him in this emergency.

Stopping a man who was driving along, he hurriedly exclaimed,

"Is your horse a fast one?"

"Yes," was the surprised reply.

"Could he keep up with that carriage, do you think?"

The man looked at it for a moment.

"Yes," said he. "I have no doubt of it. But why do such?"

"Take me in with you, and keep in sight of that carriage, and I will give you five dollars."

The man hesitated.

"There is no time to lose," said Gardner, eagerly. "If five won't do you shall have ten."

"Done," was the answer. "Jump in."

The conversation which we have narrated above took place in much less time than we have taken to tell it.

In a trice Gardner was in the carriage, plying the steed with the whip till he dashed on at the top of his speed in close pursuit of that in advance. The latter had gained considerably while Gardner was concluding his bargain, so that the horse was pressed to his utmost speed.

It was a model race. John Gilpin might have stood abashed at seeing the clouds of dust which rose in dense volumes beneath the swiftly driven wheels of the rival vehicles.

"Faster! Faster!" exclaimed Gardner, with enthusiasm, as he bent out of the vehicle.

"He can't go much faster, and there isn't any need of it, unless you want to pass them."

"No, but if you could contrive to drive abreast so that I could look in."

"Yes, I think I could do it. Gee up, pony."

As they were dashing on with mad speed, and were scarcely a carriage length behind the object pursued, suddenly the blue sash appeared projecting

from one of the windows.

"She's going to speak," said Gardner, breathlessly.

The blue sash was accompanied by an ebony face, betokening the greatest alarm, from the mouth of which proceeded these words.

"Gemmen, for the lub of Heaven, don't-ee drive so fast. You'll break our carriage all to smash, and kill me and little missis."

"Let me out in Heaven's name," exclaimed Gardner. "Here's your money. Let me out. I don't want to go any farther."

"You've seen enough, have you?" asked the man with a grin—"I was thinking so."

Gardner's enthusiasm was effectually cooled, and by a five mile walk back to town. Even now he is sometimes disturbed in his dreams by the vision of a blue sash with an ebony face peering behind it.

\* \* \*



Could this have been Alger's model for "The Telgraph Boy"?

## FAVORITE STORY-WRITERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Frank Lee Farnell

### SECOND PAPER

[Editor's note: The following essay was discovered by Jack Bales and Gary Scharnhorst, and is significant because it offers previously unknown information on Alger's early writing career. It originally appeared in Frank Leslie's Pleasant Hours for Boys and Girls, Vol. 60, #2, March 1896 (New Series, Vol. 1, #6). The author notes that "the first paper in this series was given in the February number and described the methods of Oliver Optic, Edward S. Ellis, Nora Perry, J. T. Trowbridge and Susan Coolidge. This number can be obtained from the publishers for ten cents."]

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

Mr. Alger became famous with the publication of that undying book "Ragged Dick, or Street Life in New York." It was his first book for young people, and its success was so great that he immediately devoted himself to that kind of writing. It was a new and fertile field for a writer then, and Mr. Alger's treatment of it at once caught the fancy of the boys. "Ragged Dick" first appeared in 1868, and ever since then it has been selling steadily,

until now it is estimated that about 180,000 copies have been sold.

The events and circumstances leading to the bringing out of this famous book, as told to me recently by the author, are full of interest. Mr. Alger was born near Boston, and when but a young man began writing short sketches and stories for the Student and Schoolmate, published in that city. These contributions were so much liked that when, in 1866, he moved to New York, the editor requested him to continue writing for the periodical. Mr. Alger had been in New York City but a short time when his attention was attracted to the life of the little street urchins, for their methods of existence and of gaining a living were very different from those of the poor boys in Boston. He soon made the acquaintance of one of them, whom he met at the office of a friend on the corner of Nassau and Spruce Streets. The lad was a bootblack, and his descriptions of how he obtained his meals and the various places at which he slept at night so surprised and interested Mr. Alger that he began making a study of the life and habits of these homeless boys.

This study naturally suggested to his mind a series of articles or stories on the subject. He soon decided to put the idea in the shape of a story of about seven chapters and offered to write it for the Student and Schoolmate. The offer was promptly accepted, and the story begun. When two or three chapters had been published the author saw that he could not do justice to the subject in the space he had allotted himself, and he asked the editor if he might enlarge it a little. At once came back the reply: "Yes; go ahead; make it as long as you like." The story was attracting attention, and the editor was glad to have more of it. Before it was finished Mr. Alger had occasion to go to Boston, and while there called at Loring's bookstore and publishing house. Mr. Loring congratulated him heartily on the story, and told him that a number of people had spoken about it, among them a minister, who praised it warmly and

inquired about its author. Mr. Loring then suggested that he would like to bring out the story in book form; and the result was that arrangements were at once made toward that end, and "Ragged Dick" was published.

That was in 1868. Since then Mr. Alger has written in all forty-eight books for the boys, and he is adding to the list every year. He writes very rapidly and seldom finds it necessary to revise the original manuscript, although one of his earlier stories was written twice and another three times. But, while he works quickly, he is thoroughly conscientious, never making a statement that cannot be easily verified.

He never plans a book entirely before writing it, as some authors do. He aims to give in the early chapters an idea of the hero, and then lets the incidents and plot shape themselves as he proceeds. He considers this the best method, as the most interesting features of a story do not present themselves to the writer until it is well under way. He likes a story to grow upon him as it does upon his readers.

Mr. Alger used to follow the example of almost every author of prominence in doing all his writing in the mornings, but he now works only in the afternoons, spending the forenoons and often whole days in going about the city gathering material for his stories. Twice he has traveled to California to obtain new material, and before writing "Luke Walton; or the Chicago Newsboy," he spent some time in the city where the scene is laid in order to thoroughly understand the life of the street Arabs there.

In all of his books Mr. Alger aims to convey a moral lesson. He always makes his hero's success depend upon honesty, industry, energy and fidelity. He has the welfare and success of all boys at heart, and he likes to both please them and help them--to point out to them the way to honest enjoyment and to progress in business life. One of his books,

# BOSTON STREET ARABS.

949

## STREET ARABS. BOOTBLACKS AND NEWSBOYS.

BY PAUL WARD.

THE boys who earn their living in cities by selling papers and blacking boots do not have a very easy or pleasant time; but they seem to try to get as much enjoyment out of the business as possible, and become very bright and sharp in their intercourse with their customers and with each other.

This is the common catch-all with most of the poorer boys who are obliged to do something for a living, and at one time became so great a nuisance in Boston that the authorities were obliged to contrive some means to reduce the number, and bring order out of apparent chaos; so the city government took the matter in charge, and reduced the business to a system.

They found too many of the boys growing up in ignorance, — and if there is anything more objectionable to a native of New England than ignorance, the people have not yet discovered it, — and they decided that the boy who would shine as a bootblack, or shout as a newsboy, should be compelled, as one of his qualifications, to attend school. They established newsboys' schools, having sessions of two hours a day, which the young craftsmen were compelled to attend; they also decided to limit the number; and the licenses now in force are about four hundred. They also furnished a numbered badge, which each boy must wear in sight while about his duties. For this badge the boy deposits one dollar, which is returned to him on the return of the badge, after deducting the amount necessary for repairs.

There are only two schools now in the city exclusively for street Arabs, one of which is located in E. Street Place, and the other in North Margin Street; and those who do not live within the districts embraced by these schools attend the city schools during their regular sessions. The teachers of the schools and the superintendent of the bureau all give good accounts of the intelligence and progress of these boys. A great desire to learn is manifested, and as much ambition to excel displayed as by the average scholars in the public schools. Some of the boys have attended the High School, and some of them have gone through, while plying their vocation; and, when it is remembered that these boys are generally the sons of dissipated parents, to

whose support they contribute largely each week, and in some instances procure all the money on which the family subsists, we can commend them as examples of persistency and pluck worthy of imitation.

The ages of the boys vary from ten to fifteen years, and their average earnings are four dollars per week. The newsboys are generally Irish, with a slight sprinkling of Americans, while the bootblacks are nearly all Italians. The boys come from the very dregs of society which congregate in the vicinity of the North End; but it is a difficult task to find in the city a group of brighter-eyed, sharper-witted, or more intelligent-looking boys than can be found around the delivery-room of any of our afternoon papers.

Mr. Wright, who has charge of this department of city government, gives excellent accounts of their life after they leave this business, and has followed their after-life with considerable care and interest. Very few of them turn out badly; some of them marry, and become good husbands and fathers, and exemplary citizens. Many of them learn trades, which they take up as apprentices when fifteen or seventeen years of age, and follow a life as far as possible the opposite of that led by their parents. Nearly all of them display a commendable ambition to master their trade thoroughly, and are anxious to be respected and respectable citizens. The system of school attendance, and the other requirements with which the boys must comply, has worked a salutary change in the craft in Boston, and causes better and more intelligent boys to apply for permits, while the department protects them in the rights they have conferred upon them, and prevents undue crowding.

Time brings about many astonishing changes, and who can tell but the boy who to-day shines our boots, or sells us our evening paper, may to-morrow wield a power to which we, as good citizens, shall render obedience? It is only a few days since a marquis of France was found among the bootblacks of Chicago; and it is not improbable that equally as powerful men may arise from the ranks, and fill responsible positions. Andrew Johnson had fewer advantages for education than these street Arabs, and he filled the highest office in the nation's gift; and many other similar cases might be cited. He who will, generally succeeds; and another president may some time fill the executive chair who will take as much pride in saying that he was once a Boston newsboy, as did Mr. Johnson in referring to his early struggles as a tailor in Greenville.

This article is from the collection of Gilbert K. Westgard II. It originally appeared in the December 1875 issue of Oliver Optic's Magazine (Volume XVIII, Number 269).

"Phil, the Fiddler," was largely instrumental in breaking up the tyrannical padrone system by which poor Italian boys were brought to this country and made to work long hours on starvation wages.

Mr. Alger has recently completed a particularly interesting and powerful story, which was written especially as a serial for this magazine. The publication of this story will begin in the next number.

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#### RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND by Jack Bales

Ralph R. Keeney writes that he is "looking forward to another enjoyable year with HAS. All is going well here in The Dalles, and I am in the middle of remodeling my Book Shop and on the final pages of writing my Family's History which I hope to have published before the end of the year."

Mrs. Eve Alexander, 156 Montclair Dr., Rochester, N.Y. 14617, wrote the following: "Quite some time ago I jotted down the address of your Society from an article in the Antique Trader in case I would like to sell my small collection of Alger books. I am attaching a list of the books with the idea that some of your members would like to make an offer on various books, or the full collection." Thirty-two Algers were on the list. Publishing companies include Donohue, Burt, Winston, Hurst, Whitman, and Superior. Write for list.

To obtain Horatio Alger postcards, write Bob Williman, Box 415, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Cost is \$2.00 for twelve.

George Owens notes that in the last year he has acquired Bertha's Christmas Vision and Making His Mark. We also wish to thank him for his monetary donation to the Society's Treasury. We certainly appreciate it!

The New York Times, October 16, 1983

### Miss Taittinger to Wed Peter Gardner

Mr. and Mrs. Jean Taittinger of Paris and Reims, France, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Victoire Taittinger, to Peter Jaglom Gardner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Gardner of Manhattan and Kinderhook, N.Y.

The wedding is planned for June 23. The future bride, who expects to graduate in June from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, attended the Institut National des Langues Orientales in Paris and Maison Française in Compiègne. Her father, who is president of Société du Louvre, the

holding company that includes Champagne Taittinger and the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris, was Mayor and Parliamentary Deputy of Reims from 1959 to 1977 and Minister of Justice in the Cabinet of President Georges Pompidou.

Mr. Gardner is executive vice president of Servez-Vous (USA) Inc., a Manhattan-based importer of candy. He graduated from the Brown School and Middlebury College. His father, who is retired, founded Ralph D. Gardner Advertising in Manhattan.

Ralph Gardner sent in the above clipping, and we extend our congratulations to him and his family. By the way, don't miss Ralph's notice of the new Alger book on page 3 of this issue of Newsboy.

Rohima Walter wrote to tell me that Paul House stopped by her house to visit early in November. Rohima also included with her letter copies of some slides she took at the recent convention. Thanks, Rohima!

Jim Ryberg tells me that his collection is speedily growing. At a recent gathering of HAS members at Morris Olsen's house, he came away with about 35 books. "Needless to say," Jim writes, "we had a great time." (Jim is looking for a good G&D copy of Young Book Agent to round out his set of G&D titles).

Ken White sent me an article from the August 21, 1983 issue of The State Journal-Register (Springfield, Illinois). The article is concerned with a local successful businessman, who notes, "My story is really a Horatio Alger story."

Gil Westgard continues to research the life of Beatrice Harraden, and has recently examined ten reels of microfilm borrowed from the California State Library. Gil is also interested in England, and recently picked up some books at a book sale in the Chicago area.

# MORRIS OLSEN HOSTS MINI-CONVENTION

by Jim Ryberg

A Horatio Alger Society Mini-Convention occurs whenever two or more Society members gather to discuss book collecting or Horatio Alger. A recent mini-convention was held November 4-6 and was graciously hosted by long-time Alger collector Morris Olsen in Mattapan, Massachusetts. Discussion topics included "Four Variant Hurst bindings of Bertha's Christmas Vision" and "The Best Local Restaurants."

Attending were Jerry Friedland of New York, Bill Russell of Pennsylvania, Bill Leitner of New Jersey, and Jim Ryberg of Texas. The next mini-convention is scheduled whenever you and a fellow collector sit down to talk Alger.

## \* \* \* B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to HAS members. Thus, it is assumed that all books can be returned if the buyer is not satisfied with them. See August-September 1982 "Book Mart" for criteria in determining condition of books. Please list title, publisher, condition, and price. If book for sale is a first edition, give bibliography used to determine same.

Offered by Jim Ryberg, 4627 Wild Indigo, Houston, Texas 77027. Please add \$1.00 for each book to cover wrapping and shipping costs.

Ben Logan's Triumph, 1st ed., (Bennett), good condition, tight, pale stain on back cover. \$45.00.

Digging for Gold, 1st ed., (Bennett), cover very worn and discolored, intact, poor condition. \$25.00.

From Canal Boy to President, 1st ed., (Bennett), fair copy, spine worn and torn at top and bottom, front and back cover frayed around edges. \$20.00.

From Farm Boy to Senator, Street and Smith Alger Series #15. About good condition with small cut area on top, right side of front cover. \$10.00.

From Farm to Fortune, Grosset and

Dunlap, spine and cover faded, frontispiece and title page missing, poor condition. \$8.00.

Luck and Pluck, 1st ed., (Bennett), complete, tight, spine worn and frayed at top and bottom, rose colored binding, small black stain to right of center spine, good condition. \$55.00.

Luck and Pluck, 1st ed., (Bennett), tight, complete, spine torn and bottom half ragged or missing, top of spine torn, water stain on bottom 1/8 of front cover. \$32.00.

Nelson the Newsboy, Grosset and Dunlap, fair, title page missing. \$8.00.

Rough and Ready, Loring, rose ed., meets all 1st ed. points for Bennett except that flyleaf, ads, and frontispiece are missing, spine very worn, torn at top, and bottom 1" of spine is missing. \$25.00.

Rufus and Rose, Loring, rose colored binding, good condition, spine worn at top and bottom and discolored by age. Inscription dated 1876. \$25.00.

[Editor's note: Bob Bennett's monumental bibliography of Alger's works is available for just \$15.00 from Flying Eagle Publishing Company, P.O. Box 111, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858. (Or, write Bob at his home address--see membership roster). This book has received widespread favorable reviews and is highly recommended].

## \* \* \* CURRENT CONTENTS

HAS member Gil O'Gara has just issued Number 18 in his Yellowback Library. In it is Jack Bales' last article in his series on the Hardy Boys, plus Geoffrey S. Lapin's fascinating article, "Carolyn Keene, Pseud." Lapin is contributing a series of articles which offer previously unknown data on the Stratemeyer Syndicate.

The current Dime Novel Round-Up contains "The Influence of Dime Novels on Theodore Dreiser," and an intriguing article on copyright data by Edward S. Ellis authority Denis R. Rogers. Write editor Eddie LeBlanc for a subscription (see membership roster for address).