



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY OFFICIAL PUBLICATION NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

1832 - 1899

A magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

VOLUME XXXIII

MARCH-APRIL 1995

NUMBER 2

Under cover: A look at Alger dust jackets



-- See Page 5



Corning bids welcome!

-- Page 3

The Horatio Alger theme in girls' books

-- Page 11

President's column

One of the saddest duties that we have in the Horatio Alger Society is to report the death of a member or his or her spouse. And so it falls to me to report the death of Charlie Ditch, our president Mary Ann's husband. Charlie passed away at 1:30 p.m. on February 20, 1995 in Omaha, Nebraska. Mary Ann has asked me to thank all of the members of the Society who called or sent cards during Charlie's illness and after his death. She plans to see us all in Corning.

* * *

Corning, New York should be beautiful in early May. I lived in Binghamton — about 75 miles east of Corning — for three years. The New York "Southern Tier" is a great place to live, a great place to visit and a great place to hunt for books!

Corning Glass has a fantastic visitors' center and museum where where you can see some of the most fantastic glass items ever created. Convention host Dick Pope has arranged a discount tour of this world-famous attraction, which you should not miss.

Elmira, about 20 miles east of Corning, is the final resting place of Mark Twain and also has a lot of glider activity. If the wind is right, you can spend a lot of time watching the planes sail and soar — or you can try it yourself!

Beautiful university campuses such as Cornell, on Cayuga Lake in Ithaca, also await your visit. If you're driving from the east you'll travel through the majestic Catskill Mountains. Also within driving distance is the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown — and for the adventuresome or romantic with extra time to spend — Niagara Falls is only about four hours to the northwest.

Of course, the main reason for attending our annual convention will be meeting friends, old and new. Dick reports that the number of registrations is past the 30 mark, so we are hoping for a record turnout.

Double-check your calendar — it's May 4 through 7 at the Best Western Lodge on the Green in Painted Post, just outside of Corning at the intersection of New York Route 17 and U.S. Route 15.

If you haven't sent in your convention registration to Dick Pope or hotel registration card, do both as soon as possible. Time is running short!

Your partic'lar friend,
John Cadick (PF-858)
Vice President

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.

OFFICERS

MARY ANN DITCH	PRESIDENT
JOHN CADICK	VICE-PRESIDENT
MURRAY D. LEVIN	TREASURER
ROBERT E. KASPER	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ROBERT COLLMER	(1995) DIRECTOR
BOB HUBER	(1995) DIRECTOR
JESSICA CADICK	(1995) DIRECTOR
CHRISTINE DE HAAN	(1996) DIRECTOR
BART J. NYBERG	(1996) DIRECTOR
JOSEPH T. SLAVIN III	(1996) DIRECTOR
MILTON F. EHLERT	(1997) DIRECTOR
NEIL J. McCORMICK	(1997) DIRECTOR
JOHN R. JUVINALL	(1997) DIRECTOR
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	EMERITUS
RALPH D. GARDNER	EMERITUS

Newsboy, the official newsletter of the Horatio Alger Society, is published bi-monthly (six issues per year). Membership fee for any 12-month period is \$20, with single issues of **Newsboy** costing \$3.00. Please make all remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to Executive Secretary Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Drive, Media, PA 19063. (610) 566-5917

Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY H.A.S.

- Horatio Alger, Jr., A Comprehensive Bibliography*, by Bob Bennett (PF-265).
- Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era*, by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053).
- The Fictional Republic: Horatio Alger and American Political Discourse*, by Carol Nackenoff (PF-921).
- Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr., as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co.*, by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.*, by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales (PF-258).

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, to Robert E. Kasper, 585 E. St. Andrews Dr., Media, PA 19063. The above rates apply to all want ads, along with ads offering non-Alger books for sale. However, it is the policy of the Horatio Alger Society to promote the exchange of Alger books and related Alger materials by providing space **free of charge** to our members for the **sale only** of such material. Send such ads or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Corning bids welcome to H.A.S.!

Early registrations indicate record turnout for '95 convention

by Dick Pope (PF-740)

Due to a large number of early returns of the registration forms for our rapidly approaching May convention, it looks as though we may well have a record turnout. As of March 20, we already had 36 paid registrations! An alphabetic listing of those members and guests appears on Page 10.

In addition, we know of at least another 25 probable attendees based on notes, phone calls, motel registrations and "the grapevine."

Our headquarters motel, Best Western Lodge on the Green, is quickly running out of rooms set aside for our convention at the special \$49 rate (single or double occupancy). Only about 10 or 12 rooms remain out of our allotment of 35 rooms, so please do not delay if you have not yet called Lodge on the Green at (607) 962-2456. Also, the last date to call before the remaining rooms are released is April 15, so do it today!

There are other motels in the area (call me for details) but they are not as convenient for you.

Please remember, too, that for H.A.S. convention registration forms postmarked after April 15, you will have to add a \$5 per person late charge. This is because we need an early and accurate count in order to plan meals and other events and order souvenir gifts.

Lodge on the Green has a free airport shuttle service for those flying into Corning-Elmira Airport, but you'll need to make arrangements with the hotel 24 hours in advance. The airport is about 16 miles away, and the major airline serving the area is USAir.

For those attendees arriving earlier than the evening of Thursday, May 4, I will be mailing you a special update on what will be happening. Look for this letter around April 20-24.

Jack Dizer in his presentation on Friday morning will be speaking about Howard Garis, who was born only 75 miles east of Corning in Binghamton, N.Y. As many of you know, Garis wrote an incredible number of series books, including Tom Swift, Buddy, Rocket Riders, Motor Boys and Baseball Joe, in addition to the famous



The Best Western Lodge on the Green in Painted Post, N.Y. will host the Horatio Alger Society's annual convention on May 4-7.

Uncle Wiggily stories. This promises to be an interesting talk. We also look forward to hearing Dr. Arthur P. Young, Director of Libraries at Northern Illinois University, tell us about the latest plans for the H.A.S. Alger repository in DeKalb, Ill.

We are hoping for a very successful book sale on Saturday morning, as quite a few tables have already been reserved. Because of local collector interest (including myself) you may want to consider bringing, along with your Algers, the following:

Old baseball books, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Tarzan, Zorro, Uncle Wiggily, Judy Bolton, Oz, Tom Swift, Radio Boys, pre-1930 National Geographics, old magic books, along with books by the following authors: Thornton Burgess, Mark Twain, Howard Garis, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Leo Edwards, L. Frank Baum, Edward Stratemeyer, Margaret Sutton, Mildred Wirt, Gene Stratton-Porter, G.A. Henty and Zane Grey.

Jackie and I are looking forward to welcoming all of you in Corning in a few weeks.

If you need to reach me by phone, please try me at my home during the hours 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. eastern time at (607) 936-6610, seven days a week. Between 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. you can usually reach me at (607) 962-6300. I expect to be away April 20-23 and April 27-30.

Editor's notebook

In about a month we'll be gathering in Corning, N.Y. for the 31st annual H.A.S. convention and from the early list of registrations (see Page 10) it looks like a record — or near-record — turnout is likely. If you haven't sent in your registration form, do it now. Why? Because convention hosts Dick and Jackie Pope need an accurate headcount as soon as possible in order to plan for our Friday dinner, annual banquet on Saturday night and the farewell breakfast at the Popes' home Sunday morning.

Incidentally, Dick reports that there has been a very positive response to the Sunday breakfast, which will offer us a nice setting to say our annual good-byes. Often, in past years, the Sunday morning gathering was catch-as-catch-can, with a few partic'lar friends gathering in the hospitality room (usually, the coffee and doughnuts were gone by that point in the weekend) and chatting for a minute or two before hitting the road. Hopefully, this year's event will start a trend.

In the past couple of issues we've been promoting our annual H.A.S. auction, reminding you to get your donations to Dick Pope as soon as possible. If it gets down to the last minute and you haven't sent your items in, please bring them with you.

As we mentioned in the January-February issue, there are two blocks of time set aside for auctions. The Saturday night event (immediately following Garry Yoggy's presentation at the banquet) is the annual fund-raising auction of donated items. This will include books and other items, with all proceeds going to the Society.

The auction scheduled immediately following our Friday morning presentations by Jack Dizer and Dr. Arthur Young (see Dick Pope's description on Page 3) is the members' auction which includes books sold on consignment from members, with the Society receiving 15 percent. At this point, we do not have a good handle on how many items will be made available for this auction and don't know if the allotted 3-hour time block will be enough. At press time we are hopeful that a major collection of good- to high-quality Alger reprints (including around 20 Porter & Coates "Brown Apples" editions and a whole bunch of desirable Henry T. Coates, Winston Library and early A.L. Burt editions) will be made available through the H.A.S. estate service. Once again this is a consignment arrangement. If this can be finalized by the time this issue gets back from the printer, I'll include an insert covering this and all the other auction information we know at the time. I realize this is impor-

tant because many of you base your decision to attend a convention on the books that they know will be available at auction.

In this issue: On Page 5 you'll find the first part in a series of articles by Executive Secretary Rob Kasper on Alger dustjackets. For many of you, these will be the first photographs you have seen of Alger first editions with jackets. I am amazed that more early Alger's in jackets have not turned up, particularly from publishers that we know produced dust jackets for other boys' books at around the same time.

At the end of the article we have an appeal for all partic'lar friends to share information on dust jackets if they have any in their collections. We don't mean the later Burt (Chimney Corner Series) or cheaper Hurst and Donohue reprints. Those are relatively common (well, not as common as later Stratemeyer Syndicate books in d/j); but we want more information on the earlier Alger's. Drop Rob Kasper a line if you have data to pass along.

Speaking of dust jackets, I was told by a fellow H.A.S. member that \$75 was a "fair price" for a certain less-common Leo Edwards title appearing on a recent sales list. After swallowing hard, I groaned "What?" and his reply was he could buy it at that price and re-sell it in a heartbeat. Of course, the book had a dust jacket described as "very good," so I asked him "Well, if the book is worth \$75 in jacket, what is it worth without a jacket?" And his reply was "nothing."

The d/j debate: That, fellow collectors, is the sad truth in boys' book collecting today. While the scarcity of Alger dust jackets has kept this attitude from infecting that special area of the hobby, it has reached main-line series book collecting in a big way. This shouldn't be surprising, because those of you who happen to collect 20th century American fiction know that dust jackets have always been the key to the hobby. If you want to collect Hemingway, for instance, prepare thyself to take out a new mortgage if you want bid at auction on titles like "For Whom the Bell Tolls" or "A Farewell to Arms" in fine-condition first editions in jacket. Believe it or not (I prefer not), even Stephen King first editions in jacket command a premium among collectors.

In my collection I have key titles that are missing jackets ("The Radio Boys to the Rescue" and "Pee Wee Harris Turns Detective" are a couple of examples). To make my collection uniform, I plan to have laser copies of the d/j's made from friends' copies. However, that laser copy will only be "taking space" before the real thing comes along.

Which brings me to the subject of rapidly improving technology in the laser copying field. A recent program on PBS Television covered how this technology has led to a rash of high-quality forgeries of U.S. currency, and the

(Continued on Page 15)

All dressed up for the occasion

Alger dust jackets: Part I

by Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

I recall quite clearly my visit some 10 years ago to a well-known Philadelphia book dealer. This was a first-class establishment — customers were not allowed to wander through the stacks and handle the inventory.

Alger at first glance

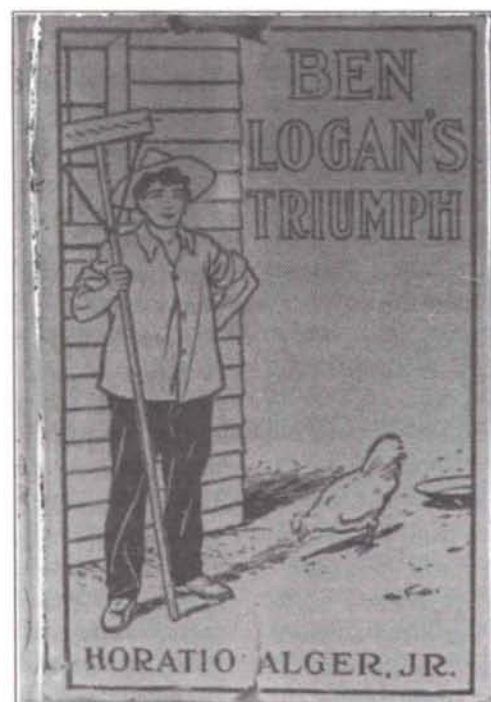
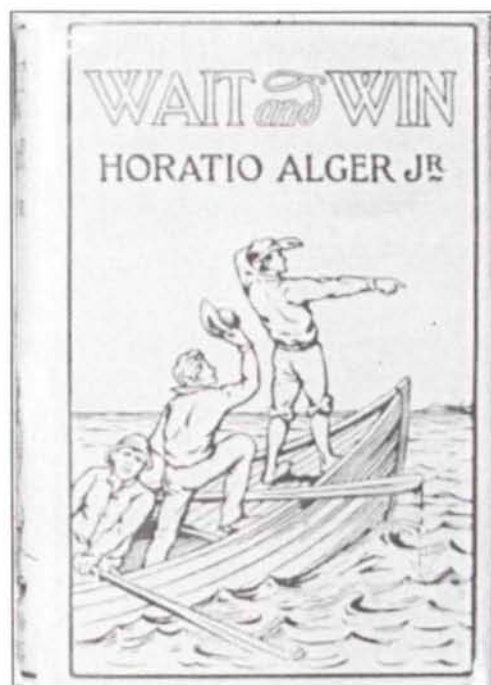
Instead, you were ushered to a special viewing room where requested items were retrieved for your inspection. This was all done under the watchful eye of one of the employees or the owner. On this particular day it did not take long to peruse the meager and overpriced inventory of Alger books.

In any event, as I was about to leave the store the proprietor loudly boasted that he had just sold two Alger first editions complete with the original dust jackets. I don't remember my response but I do remember thinking that this dealer was either misinformed or really stupid, or both. "There's no such thing as a dust jacket for a Horatio Alger first edition," I thought to myself as I left the store.

Time, however, has proven me wrong.

The focus of this article will be on dust jacket information for Alger books published after 1900. More specifically, first-edition Alger books, since reprint publishers also produced dust jackets during this period. Future articles will deal with pre-1900 dust jackets.

At this point in time there are only two known copies of post-1900 Horatio Alger first editions with dust jackets. They are "Wait and Win," published by the A.L. Burt Company in 1908, and "Ben Logan's Triumph," by Cupples



Ex. 1: "Wait and Win" (A.L. Burt) and "Ben Logan's Triumph" (Cupples & Leon) are the known dust jackets for post-1900 Alger first editions.

& Leon, also published in 1908 (see Example 1, at left).

Alger experts have long speculated that both Cupples & Leon Alger products ("Joe the Hotel Boy" 1906) and "Ben Logan's Triumph" were issued with dust jackets since just about all C&L books published during this period were produced with jackets. A good example is the Motor Boys Series published from 1906-1924 (Example 2).

It was not until September 1994, however, that the dust jacket for "Ben Logan's Triumph" was discovered and its existence confirmed. It is almost certain that "Joe the Hotel Boy" was also published with jacket, but to date no copies have surfaced.

Cupples & Leon utilized its familiar salmon-colored paper for "Ben Logan's Triumph" which, unfortunately, was quite fragile. More fragile than, say, a Hurst dust jacket or even a Saalfeld dust jacket. The front inside flap lists eight Motor Boys titles by "Clarence Young" and the rear flap advertises three Great Marvel books by "Roy Rockwood" and the two Alger titles.

The back cover lists the eight Motor Boys books again, along with four Jack Ranger titles and four Darewell Chums volumes. The Motor Boys dust jacket contains similar advertising for Jack Ranger, Motor Girls and Webster Series books. All of these books, incidentally, were products of the Stratemeyer Syndicate.

The A.L. Burt Company dust jacket for "Wait and Win," the existence of which has been known for some time, is shown at left. Burt used the common practice of reproducing the binding picture on the jacket with line drawings, printed in this case on coated white paper. The front and rear flaps are blank with the only advertising appearing on

(Continued on Page 6)

Alger dust jackets: Part I

(Continued from Page 5)

the rear cover. The caption reads "GOOD FICTION WORTH READING" followed by a list of 14 historical and romantic novels, none of which would seem appealing to young readers.

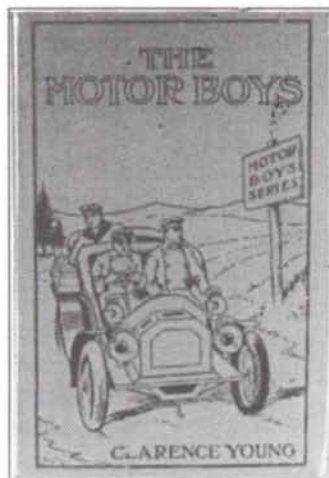
Although I am not aware of a copy of "In Search of Treasure" (A.L. Burt Co., 1907) in dust jacket, it seems likely that it existed at one time. Burt expert Brad Chase (PF-412) informs me that the earliest-known A.L. Burt jacket for an Alger book is 1905.

The earliest known dust jacket extant for a Mershon book (which published six of the Stratemeyer-Alger titles in first editions from 1900 to 1904) is a Rover Boys title printed in 1906 (Example 3). This, of course, does not preclude the possibility of earlier jackets.

Both Chatterton-Peck and Stitt Publishing Company books have been found with dust jackets on uncoated white paper and replicating the binding picture, similar to the Rover Boys jacket just mentioned.

Many Penn editions of boys' books have been located with pictorial dust jackets as well. In my Penn Publishing Company collection I have jackets in the Philip Kent and College Athletic Series, both by T. Truxtun Hare; and a Don Hale dust jacket published circa 1919.

Newsboy editor Bill Gowen informs me that a dust jacket exists for the 1904 Penn first-edition printing of "Winning His Way to West Point" by Capt. Paul B. Malone, the first volume of the West Point Series published from 1904-1911 (Example 3). The dust jacket, printed on powder-blue uncoated paper, even has the Penn logo at the foot of the spine in the interlocking script format. This logo was discontinued in 1905 in favor of the



Ex. 2: The dust jacket for "Ben Logan's Triumph" follows C&L's early style of using the book's cover design for the d/j — as in the Motor Boys series.



Ex. 3: These examples of early dust jackets from books by Penn (1904) and Mershon (1906) suggest that Alger books by these publishers may also have come in d/j's. So far, none has been discovered.

more familiar back-to-back "P-P" block lettering. So it seems probable that the five Alger titles published by Penn after 1901 came with dust jackets, but where are they?

The publishing firm of Thompson & Thomas produced one Alger first edition ("A Rolling Stone" — 1902) and six other reprint titles during this period. Although I am not aware of any dust jackets for these books, I wouldn't be surprised if one were to appear someday.

Unfortunately, this is all the known dust jacket information for post-1900 Alger first editions. Perhaps in the future additional dust jackets will be discovered and made known to collectors.

Incidentally, I recently learned that the two Alger first editions in dust jacket that had slipped through my fingers 10 years ago were bona fide Alger titles. "Rupert's Ambition" and "Walter Sherwood's Probation" are now safely in the possession of a long-time Society member.

Note: If any members know of any early Alger editions with dust jackets by the publishers discussed in this article, please contact the author or editor at the addresses listed on Page 2.

Horatio Alger and the American Union

Part II

by Peter C. Walther (PF-548)

"Aunt Dorothy's Visit!" was most definitely written for the **American Union**, and we can speculate that either the story was solicited by then-editor William E. Graves (or R.B. Fitts as proprietor) or that the author went the rounds of the Boston editors and the **Union** took it. In lieu of evidence citing the contrary it is highly likely that this was Alger's initial contribution to this periodical (May 21, 1853), although it should be noted that the previous 1853 issues of January 29, March 12 and 19, April 2 and May 7 still have not been located. Between May 21 and October 1, 1853 the "Carl Cantab" pseud-

onym was devised, by whom it is not known. The Horatio Alger name was doubtlessly peddled elsewhere.

After you read this tale feel free to substitute the female protagonists, Ellen Harwood and Selina Barker, for males (young ones at that) and I think you may safely come up with a standard Alger plot device used in novel after novel. The young ne'er-do-well, shabby but honest and not well turned out, comes to live with the rich cousin, not shabby at all and anything but honest.

Well, in this setting, the Barkers are not what you would call rich, but they have connections and their Aunt Dorothy is certainly worth all of fifty thousand dollars. Complications arise ... well, figure it out. Even in these early stages, Alger did not disappoint.

Aunt Dorothy's Visit!

by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Mr. Benjamin Barker was a tradesman in flourishing circumstances, but like too many of his class, became less liberal and more penurious with increasing wealth. His family, consisting of a wife and daughter, were disposed in this respect faithfully to imitate the example set by the head of the family.

There was another inmate — I use the word advisedly — Ellen Harwood, the only daughter of Mr. Barker's deceased sister, who at her death had solemnly committed her to his charge. Under such circumstances he was compelled ungraciously enough, to assume a responsibility which he would willingly have evaded. Yet Ellen Harwood was singularly amiable and affectionate, and would readily have found her way to any heart less encrusted with selfishness than Benjamin Barker's. As it was, her position was uncomfortable enough. Her cousin Selina hated her for the very sufficient reason that she was beautiful — an epithet which few could have been found hardy enough to apply to the carrotty locks that couldn't be prevailed upon to curl, the pinched features, and grey eyes of that prepossessing young lady.

Mrs. Barker, whose great object in life, next to

promoting her own happiness, was to get her daughter well established, could not be expected to feel very favorable towards one who threw her so completely into the shade.

Influenced by these praiseworthy motives, Mrs. Barker and her daughter formed a conspiracy, the result of which was to make Ellen's position as unpleasant as could well be devised.

Aside from the sneers and taunts with which she was every day greeted, it soon became an understood thing that whenever company called — and more especially young gentlemen of marriageable age — Ellen was to be confined to her chamber by indisposition, or to be busily engaged — but on no account to make her appearance in the drawing-room.

Mr. Barker had a wealthy relative, Aunt Dorothy, as she was familiarly called — who was now quite advanced in years. At her death, as she confidently expected, her property would go to increase his own already large possessions. Aunt Dorothy was rather a fussy personage, fully aware of her own merits and importance, yet withal kind hearted and averse to all injustice.

The Barkers were seated at breakfast one morning, when a letter was brought in, which proved far from a welcome visitant. It was from Aunt Dorothy, and was as follows: —

"Dear Nephew. — I know you will be surprised at what I am going to write you. To tell the truth, I am getting old, and am not so well

(Continued on Page 8)

Editor's note: This is the second in an ongoing series on Horatio Alger, Jr.'s work for the Boston **American Union**. Our goal is to eventually reprint all nine of Alger's known short stories from that publication, including those which remain missing. "Aunt Dorothy's Visit!" was first reprinted in **Newsboy** in July-August 1983

Aunt Dorothy's Visit!

(Continued from Page 7)

able to help myself as I once was. I am tired of living alone, and now for the news, which I am sure will be agreeable to you and your amiable family who have so often declared their affection for me. I have decided to come and live with you; all my preparations are made, and I shall be with you in two days from the date of this letter. You needn't put yourself out at all, for I mean to make myself quite at home.

"How does Selina do? Has she got a beau yet? Tell her she mustn't complain if she is homely. 'Handsome is that handsome does,' as old Mrs. Nipper used to say to her hump-backed daughter Jane. And sure enough, Jane got married to a tin-pedler before she was thirty. I hav'n't time to write any more, except that I am your affectionate aunt, Dorothy Barker."

It would be difficult to describe the mingled feelings of dismay, anger and mortification, which were occasioned by the reading of this well-meaning but not over-complimentary epistle. Mrs. Barker first found utterance.

"I declare," said she, I wish the old heathen was a thousand miles off. To think of having such a fussy, old-fashioned creature in the house. She'll be prying into everything, and want everything done in her own way. And then to talk of Selina in such a fashion. It's downright insulting. To go and compare her with a hump-back that married a tin-pedler. I declare if it wasn't for her money I wouldn't have her in the house a single minute. That I wouldn't."

"She'd better talk about my being homely," interrupted Selina with concentrated spite. "If I ever expected to be such a homely, disagreeable creature as she is, I would drown myself directly. She'd never have got married if she hadn't had money, and I had just as lief tell her so to her face. I'll give her a piece of my mind."

Selina looked as if she would have liked to give aunt Dorothy something more than a piece of her mind, but here her father thought fit to interfere.

"No, Selina, I will not hear of doing any such thing; your aunt, I know, is not just the sort of person we want in the house, but you must remember she is wealthy; her property cannot be less than fifty thousand dollars, and all this will come to us if we are only prudent. She cannot live long, and so as long as she chooses to stay with us, we must put up

with her oddities. I insist upon that for all our sakes."

Somewhat propitiated by this view of the matter, Selina, as if a new idea had entered her head, exclaimed,

"Will you keep a carriage, pa, when you get the old lady's property?"

"Perhaps so," said Mr. Barker; "but it is time for me to go to business."

Towards the end of the second day a hackney coach drove up to the residence of the Barker's, out of which got an old lady with a band-box in either hand, closely followed by the driver bearing a heavy black trunk.

"Just put it down in the entry," said she to the driver, as the door was opened by the servant, "and I'll go and see if I can find the folks."

So saying, and still carrying the band-boxes, she laid her hand on the door of the drawing-room, from which she heard Selina's voice.

"Hadn't you better go upstairs, ma'am," said the servant, "there's company in the drawing-room, and perhaps you'd like to take off your things —"

"No, no," said aunt Dorothy; "I know they're impatient to see me." So saying, she opened the door, and walked in.

I may mention here that Mrs. Barker's first name was Betsy — a fact which she studiously concealed from the world. Judge, then, of her consternation when aunt Dorothy made her appearance in the drawing-room with her hand-boxes, exclaiming,

"Why Betsy and Selina, how do you do? You can't tell how glad I am to see you all. I'm almost tired to death, and then only think I came near spilling my best bonnet. One of the men went and put a trunk right on the band-box, so I thought, to make all safe, I'd keep it with me. Here it is now."

Aunt Dorothy was going to open it in the presence of the company who were looking on with evident amusement, when Mrs. Barker, recovering her presence of mind, took the old lady by the hand, and said hurriedly,

"I am indeed very glad to see you, aunt, but you are fatigued by your journey. You do not look well, and I shall take the liberty of confining you to your chamber for a few hours until you are rested."

Aunt Dorothy yielded, and taking up her baggage went out, first bidding the company good-bye. She made her appearance at the breakfast-table next morning where she saw Ellen.

"How do you do?" said she; "I haven't seen you since you were a little gal. You look a good deal like your mother. She was very handsome, not at all like the rest of the family."

Selina bit her lips. She had not forgotten her aunt's compliment.

At the close of the meal Selina went to the piano, and Ellen was about to leave the room.

"Where are you going, child?" said aunt Dorothy; "come here, I want to talk over old times."

"Excuse me," said Ellen. "I must go up and make the beds; afterwards, I shall be very glad to talk with you."

"Well, no matter now," said the old lady, a little disappointed.

"How many *helps* to you keep?" said she to Selina.

"Three," was the reply.

"And out of all those," said aunt Dorothy, "is there not one that can make the beds that you send up Ellen to do it?"

"Why, was the hesitating reply, "perhaps so, but you know Ellen has nothing, and as she will have to do something sometime, she might as well begin now."

They were seated one day together, talking business about Ellen's mother, a topic of which neither grew weary, when aunt Dorothy said suddenly,

"Ellen, did I ever show you the portrait taken of your mother when she was little? But I know I hav'n't, so I will go up and fetch it down."

Ellen offered to go, but aunt Dorothy declared that no one could find it but herself, as it was at the bottom of her trunk.

It chanced that aunt Dorothy's chamber adjoined Selina's, in which she and her mother were then seated discussing among other things the character of aunt Dorothy herself. The latter had come up stairs unobserved, so that she could not avoid hearing the conversation.

"What a tiresome old thing aunt Dorothy is," said Selina; "it's lucky Ellen is her to keep her company. I am sure it would make me commit suicide or something equally dreadful, if I had to spend as much time with her as Ellen does."

"Yes," said Mrs. Barker, "but we must be careful to keep her in good graces for fifty thousand dollars is not to be picked up every day."

"Oh dear," said Selina, "I don't see whatever put it into the old creature's head to come here. Why couldn't she live alone at home, and not come and plague her relations?"

"Hush," said Mrs. Barker, "she may be within hearing."

"Oh no!" was the reply. "I left her down stairs with Ellen."

Aunt Dorothy had heard enough. Her resolution

was taken, and without a word of explanation, she next day announced her intention to depart, and take Ellen with her.

Though glad to get rid of her, the Barkers, suspecting nothing, urged her to remain, but without success.

A few days afterwards, the following letter was received: —

"Nephew, —

Perhaps you thought strange that I should leave your house so suddenly. I should not if I had found that my fifty thousand dollars was the only reason which made you keep such 'a tiresome old thing' in the house. You must ask your wife and Selina, if you want to know how I found out. I have made a new will and bequeathed every cent to Ellen.

Your tiresome old aunt,
Dorothy Barker."

I need not describe the sense of mutual recrimination and bitter disappointment which followed. Selina and her mother were left to regret unavailingly the cause which led to the abrupt termination of AUNT DOROTHY'S VISIT.

BOOK MART

For Sale:

"**Enjoying Alger,**" an updated 267-page Alger anthology featuring title, initial appearance date and publication for 884 of his titles which include his 784 original works with cross-references to:

a) The above that were featured in **Newsboy** 1962-94 with pseudonyms, as applicable.

b) Softcover and hard-cover reprint titles with the hero or heroine for each novel and many short stories.

c) Complete date chronology (month, day and year).

d) Profusely illustrated, featuring 130 full-page Alger themes, many hand-colored, covering N.Y.C. during his era; nostalgic book formats, **Newsboy** cover sheets and famed Alger frontispieces. Many other highlights, such as the most common and rarest Algers based on sales offerings in **Newsboy**; and a typed copy of the desired "Seeking his Fortune" which appeared last in **Newsboy** in the October 1965 issue.

This is a limited edition, only a few copies prepared so far, offered for **\$29.95 ppd.** or can be obtained at the annual convention in Corning, N.Y.

Angelo Sylvester (PF-928)
P.O. Box 53
Tamworth, NH 03886

MEMBERSHIP

New members:

Janice Morley (PF-957)
4676 Wheeler Drive
Fremont, CA 94538

Janice, the wife of member Michael Morley (PF-934), is a technical writer whose other interests include travel, cooking and taking care of the couple's "four-legged children." Janice previously collected books by modern authors but has now taken an interest in older juvenile literature as well.

Marc C. Williams (PF-958)
20 Brown Close
Red Deer, AB T4R 1K4
Canada

(403) 346-0479

Marc, originally from Houston, Texas, is on temporary assignment with his company in Canada at the above address. He learned about the Society from Van Daele Mabrito (PF-883).

Debbi Manley (PF-959)
P.O. Box 370
Bogota, NJ 07603

Debbi is joining through a gift subscription from Jim Cox of Liberty, Mo. Cox, a collector-dealer of boys' books, also plans to join H.A.S. in the near future.

Gared L. Kirkpatrick (PF-960)
P.O. Box 367

Dauphin Island, AL 36528 (205) 861-5411

Gared, who is retired, also is a book and jazz record collector and dealer. He learned about the Society from an association directory in his local library.

Janine M. Doherty (PF-961)
16 French Ave.

Braintree, MA 02184 (617) 843-1676

Janine, a publications director, currently owns about 30 Alger titles. Her interest in Alger was kindled when she took a graduate-school course called "New York and the American Imagination" that, she says, studied the various ways New York City has inspired painters, poets, architects, sculptors and writers. As part of the course she read "Ragged Dick" and "Mark the Match Boy," and has since collected Alger books and is currently seeking a copy of "Fame and Fortune." She learned about H.A.S. from a used-bookstore owner.

'On the Mark in Corning' — early registration list

Bob Bennett (PF-265)
Congers, N.Y.

Robert Huber (PF-841)
Madison, Wisc.

Luciana Bennett
Congers, N.Y.

Rob Kasper (PF-327)
Media, Pa.

Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524)
Indianapolis, Ind.

Robert Kersch (PF-946)
Great River, N.Y.

Marcy Biberdorf
Indianapolis, Ind.

Edward LeBlanc (PF-015)
Fall River, Mass.

Brad Chase (PF-412)
Enfield, Ct.

Rita LeBlanc
Fall River, Mass.

Alys Collmer (PF-956)
Waco, Texas

Adam Levin
Jenkintown, Pa.

Robert Collmer (PF-866)
Waco, Texas

Michele Levin
Jenkintown, Pa.

Donald Cripe (PF-919)
Bremen, Ind.

Murray Levin (PF-851)
Jenkintown, Pa.

Paul Cripe (PF-633)
Bremen, Ind.

Rebecca Levin
Jenkintown, Pa.

Christine DeHaan (PF-773)
Wayland, Mich.

Paul Miller (PF-351)
Vienna, Ohio

George Dunning (PF-776)
Abilene, Texas

Janice Morley (PF-957)
Fremont, Calif.

Velnor Dunning (PF-818)
Abilene, Texas

Michael Morley
Fremont, Calif.

Bill Gowen (PF-706)
Mundelein, Ill.

Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879)
Downers Grove, Ill.

Evelyn Grebel (PF-318)
Abilene, Texas

Alice Owens
Palmyra, Va.

Carl Hartmann (PF-102)
Lansing, Mich.

George Owens (PF-586)
Palmyra, Va.

Jean Hartmann (PF-710)
Lansing, Mich.

Dick Pope (PF-740)
Corning, N.Y.

Gordon Huber (PF-843)
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Jackie Pope
Corning, N.Y.

Jeanne Huber
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Arthur P. Young (PF-941)
DeKalb, Ill

The Horatio Alger theme in girls' books

by Jo Anne Fatherly

The formula Horatio Alger, Jr. used with such success was so useful that it has passed into the general vocabulary with his name attached. Interestingly, though, it was about a generation before it turned up in any other genre than boys' books. What took writers so long to recognize its worth?

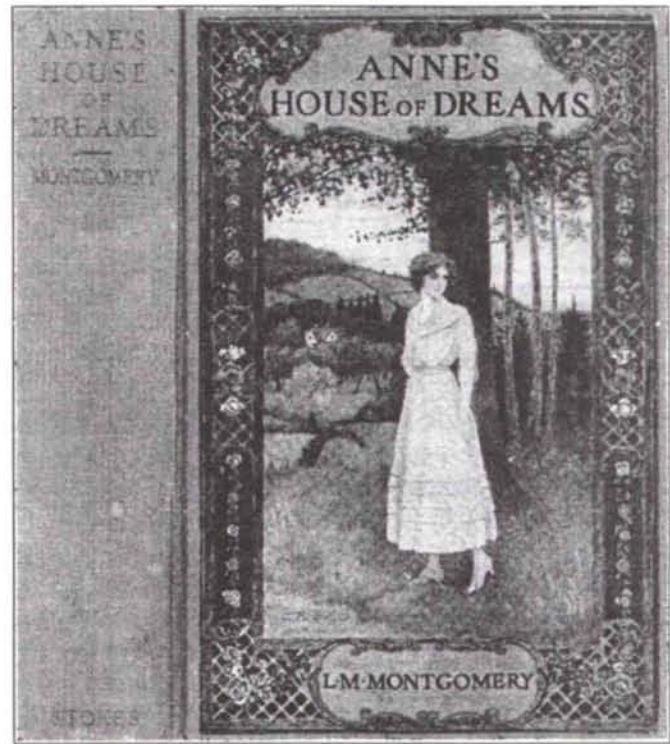
Some of the forces were probably social. Fewer girls' books were written. It's still a general fact that more girls read boys' books than boys do girls' books. If you want to reach the broadest possible market, it's better to write for boys. Suspicion and disapproval of a girl reading for pleasure existed in some segments of society — it took her energy away from useful work. And often, the average level of girls' education was lower as well, limiting the market still further.

But more importantly, there are several technical problems in using Alger's idea in a book for young girls. First is the difficulty of setting. Alger's boys lived on the streets, competing among themselves, and were prey to evil temptations. Ragged Dick's problems, for instance, are with drinking, smoking and wasting his money on theater-going. In contrast, when Alger himself wrote about a girl, Tattered Tom, she has her money stolen, is falsely accused, and in general is perceived as a victim. Dick has to conquer his own soul — Tom need physical protection as well. When she is restored to her family and learns to act like a well brought-up young lady, feminists may well claim that she has merely fallen victim again (she is certainly less interesting after that turn of events).

The second difficulty has to do with role models. Many of Alger's heroes make the acquaintance of an older man who takes an interest in their development and gives them something to work toward. Today, such a relationship might raise an eyebrow, but it was seen only as a positive influence a hundred years ago. On the other hand, than as now any adult professing a personal interest in a young girl would have been assumed to have ulterior motives.

Tom is finally restored to her natural mother as one of the few adults who can be relied upon not to victimize her. Boys are free to find their own mentors in a street acquaintance, a Sunday school teacher, or another boy the same age with more advantages behind him. Girls are

*Other authors...
...other books*



THE STORY GIRL

By
L. M. MONTGOMERY
Author of "Anne of Green Gables," "Anne of
Avonlea," "Kilnsey of the Orchard," etc.

With frontispiece and cover in colour by
GEORGE GIBBS

"She was a form of life and light
That seen, became a part of sight,
And rose, where'er I turn'd my eye,
The morning-star of Memory!" — Byron.



BOSTON • L. C. PAGE &
COMPANY • MDCCCXCI

(Continued on Page 12)

Editor's note: Portions of this article originally were published in *The Whispered Watchword*, newsletter of The Phantom Friends.

The books of Lucy M. Montgomery develop the Alger theme of fictional orphans (Anne Shirley, top, and Sara Stanley, above) struggling to find their way.

The Horatio Alger theme in girls' books

(Continued from Page 11)

too vulnerable to be allowed the same freedom.

And lastly there is the question of goals. What sort of lives were parents at the turn of the century willing to encourage their daughters to prepare for? If the answer, 90 percent of the time, was "wife and mother," the best preparation for that (as pointed out by Diana's mother in "Anne of Green Gables") wouldn't be found in books. Furthermore, it would be hard to create a suitable heroine whose life didn't seem likely to lead to marriage. No one dreamed longingly of becoming a domestic servant, and a girl in comfortable enough circumstances to have time for pleasure reading had no need to think in terms of training as a teacher or nurse.

The tale of the orphan girl

On the other hand, as the 20th century opened, the girls' book field began to burgeon. And even boarding school, dormitory fires and cruel Latin teachers have their limits as plot devices. Someone was bound to find a way to use the appealing and successful "Alger" plot for this different market.

And there was a way to surmount the setting problem. Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, Anne Shirley, Ruth Fielding and Polyanna were only a few among dozens of fictional female orphans who set out by train to live with unknown, distant relatives — at best unloving, at worst exploitive. These stern guardians could be relied upon to insist upon high moral standards and provide physical protection, so the heroines could get on with developing their inner selves. Safe in a household setting, they could hone their housekeeping skills, get basic schooling, learn to control their impulsive behavior, yearn after beauty and form life-long friendships — all apparently as important to success for a girl as accounting and French seem to have been for boys.

Once a girl was so ensconced, several natural — and safe — role models were at hand. A childless neighboring farmwife, a teacher, or the mother of a friend could all be reasonably expected to take an altruistic interest in an unappreciated girl in a small community. As time went on, the teacher was, as often as not, a Camp Fire Guardian or Girl Scout Captain as well. Ruth Fielding finds her helpful influence in another girl;¹ Anne Shirley looks to the minister's wife and the local female teacher.² Bessie Smith is sheltered by Eleanor Mercer (who is not married, a professional teacher or even a neighbor, but rather a well-to-do young woman who has found purpose in her life through shepherding the girls of the Manasquan Camp Fire.³

As orphans, these girls were necessarily self-reliant and aware of the necessity of supporting themselves.

Ruth Fielding starts on her screen-writing career in an effort to put herself through college. Anne Shirley teaches school for some years, develops her writing skills (but finds them, while sufficient for publication, not enough for a livelihood) and finally finds her niche as *materfamilias*. Her friend Katherine, after teaching school long enough to pay back the investment her guardians made in her education, finds an interesting and challenging position as secretary to a politician.⁴

Another Montgomery orphan heroine, Sara Stanley, eventually becomes an actress,⁵ while Kathleen Gilman of the Brightwood Camp Fire discovers her talents can earn her a living as an interior decorator.⁶

There weren't a lot of respectable careers for a self-supporting woman in the early years of the century but the indefatigable Laura Lee Hope (a Stratemeyer Syndicate pseudonym) managed to use three of them at once by setting the orphaned Blythe sisters to survive in New York City — one as an artist, one as a secretary and one in retail sales.

Turnabout

An interesting variation on the theme is the reversal that turns up, among other places, in "Fagots and Flames," the sequel to "Camp Fire Girls of Brightwood." In the first book, Kathleen, under the influence of teacher/Camp Fire Guardian Miss Bolton, achieves a firm start toward her goals. In art school on a scholarship in the second volume, she has the opportunity to pass along the favor when she rescues young Tip, his sister Em-Ri and his best friend (and fellow newsboy) Snooper from their Algeresque situation. While Tip prefers the farm to being a newsboy, he shares Alger's opinion of rural life and (presumably because he is responsible for his sister) is, with her, finally restored to their natural parents.

The voice of conservative society in this book, Mrs. Falkner, voices sentiments with which Alger would presumably have agreed when she expresses doubt about the addition of streetwise Tip to the middle-class household; "But," she adds, "there is a little girl, and it would be even worse to have her so uncouth."⁷

It hardly needs to be said that Em-Ri herself might not agree, since she apparently knows nothing of the life of thievery and prostitution Mrs. Falkner fears for her.

The Winnebago Camp Fire Girls — one of whose members has herself lost her parents and suffered with an unfeeling aunt as guardian⁸ — adopt a waif and find her a suitable home in their adventure at Onoway House.⁹

Oh, those modern girls

It took the inexhaustible Stratemeyer Syndicate (this time under the house name Amy Bell Marlowe) to find another way to mine the Alger vein. In "The Oldest of Four"¹⁰ the heroine Natalie French is left responsible for



THE BLYTHE GIRLS Helen, Margy and Rose

OR

Facing the Great World

BY

LAURA LEE HOPE

AUTHOR OF "THE BLYTHE GIRLS: HELEN'S STRANGE BOARDER," "THE OUTDOOR GIRLS OF DEEPDALE,"
"THE BOBBY TWINN CAMPING OUT," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY

THELMA GOOCH

NEW YORK
GROSSET & DUNLAP
PUBLISHERS

Made in the United States of America

Alger-like themes were a major part of many of the Stratemeyer Syndicate's early girls' series books.

her invalid mother and three younger sisters. Natalie is no ignorant street waif — she is an educated young woman, with a home and family. But every financial problem she tackles brings its own secondary (social) problems with it. When, to keep the wolf from the door, she takes a department store job, she encounters unexpected snobbery — from the socialite who assumes any girl working for a living must be dishonest, to the former classmate overcome with embarrassment at finding the Senior Class president on the wrong side of the notions counter.

Managing to get a better-paying job in publishing, she has to decide between her social training (a young girl should be chaperoned when she meets a gentleman) and business reality (if the gentleman is her editor and he wants a working lunch, what about the chaperone?) And as her self-reliance and competence are tried and proved, she actually loses some former "friends" who were more comfortable with her in a dependent position.

Besides doing most of the housework, caring for her mother and being the family breadwinner, Natalie also needs to find her father and find out why his employer is being so uncooperative. No Alger hero ever overcame so many obstacles in his path to respectability as Natalie does, as she keeps her family together.

Conclusion

Trying to appeal at the same time to active, intelligent, ambitious young girls and to their parents and relatives (who, after all, actually bought the books) puts definite limits on writers. By adapting Horatio Alger's timeless story line to overcome difficulties in setting, role modeling and aspirations, many of them can be considered to have made good use of it.

NOTES

1. Alice B. Emerson, "Ruth Fielding of the Red Mill." New York: Cupples & Leon, 1913.
2. Lucy M. Montgomery, "Anne of Green Gables." Boston: L.C. Page Co., 1908. "Anne of the Island." L.C. Page Co., 1915.
3. Jane L. Stewart, Camp Fire Girls Series. Akron, Ohio: Saalfeld Publishing Co., 1914.
4. Lucy M. Montgomery, "Anne of Windy Poplars." New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1936.
5. Lucy M. Montgomery, "The Story Girl." Boston: L.C. Page Co., 1908. "The Golden Road." L.C. Page Co., 1910.
6. Amy E. Blanchard, "The Camp Fire Girls of Brightwood." Boston and Chicago: W.A. Wilde Co.
7. Amy E. Blanchard, "Fagots and Flames." Boston and Chicago: W.A. Wilde Co., p. 233.
8. Hildegard Frey, "Camp Fire Girls at School." New York: A.L. Burt, 1916.
9. Hildegard Frey, "Camp Fire Girls at Onoway House." New York: A.L. Burt, 1916.
10. Amy Bell Marlowe, "The Oldest of Four." New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1914.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Robert E. Kasper, Executive Secretary
585 E. St. Andrews Drive
Media, PA 19063

Dear Rob:

Thank you for your kind letter of March 7th, and also for the copy of the January/February **Newsboy**. I was so pleased with your remarks in the President's column.

H.A.S. was very important to Bill. He had many good friends among the membership, and always enjoyed the conventions, so I am glad he was able to express this by a bequest. Perhaps others will consider this form of appreciation.

Brad Chase was so very helpful to me in picking up and transporting what books and mementoes Bill had not already given or sold. I do think the members should be made aware of what this partic'lar friend did for Bill and for me.

Best wishes for a successful "On the Mark in Corning."

Cordially,
Helen McCord

Dear Bill:

Bart Nyberg's letter in the January-February **Newsboy** inspired me to do a little investigating on my own.

Thomas Morris Longstreth was born in 1886 and wrote a large number of books, as follows:

The Adirondacks (publisher not listed) 1917; *The Catskills*, 321 pp., Century, 1918; *Mac of Placid*, 339 pp., Century, 1920, reprinted by Grosset & Dunlap in 1920; *Laurentians; the Hills of Habitant*, 459 pp., Century, 1922; *Lake Superior Country*, 360 pp., Century, 1924; *The Silent Five*, 293 pp., Century, 1924, reprinted by Appleton-Century in 1934; *Coin and Crossbones*, 293 pp. (sequel to *The Silent Five*), Century, 1925; *Reading the Weather*, 195 pp., Macmillan, 1925; *Ade of the Marcy Mounted*, 254 pp., Century, 1926; reprinted by Appleton-Century in 1934; *Silent Force; Scenes from the Life of the Mounted Police of Canada*, 383 pp., Century, 1927; *Sons of the Mounted Police*, 257 pp., Century, 1928; *Sky Through Branches* (verse), 81 pp., Century, 1930 (with Henry Vernon); *Murder at Belly Butte and Other Mysteries from the Records of the Mounted Police*, 300 pp., Century, 1931; *In Scarlet and Plain Clothes; the History of the Mounted Police*, 365 pp., Macmillan, 1933; reprinted by Macmillan in 1943; *Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa*, 318 pp., Appleton-Century, 1933; *To Nova Scotia, the Sunrise Province of Canada*, 290 pp., Appleton-Century, 1935; *At Mountain Prep*, 265 pp., Appleton-Century, 1939; *Trial by Wilderness*, 301 pp., Appleton-Century, 1940; *Trooper's Friend; a Tale of Mountain Prep*, 282 pp., Appleton-Century, 1940; *Missouri Clipper; a Mountain Prep Story*, 282 pp., Appleton-Century, 1941; *In Lightning or in Rain*, 285 pp., Appleton-

Century, 1941; *Jess*, 264 pp., Ambassador Books, 1941; *Knowing the Weather*, 150 pp., Macmillan, 1943; reprinted by Macmillan in 1951 and revised as *Understanding the Weather*, 118 pp., Macmillan, 1953; *Tad Lincoln, the President's Son*, 263 pp., Presbyterian Board, 1944; *Two Rivers Meet in Concord*, 286 pp., Presbyterian Board, 1946; *Hide-Out*, 233 pp., Macmillan, 1947; *Great Venture*, 185 pp., Macmillan, 1948; *Mounty in a Jeep*, 158 pp., Macmillan, 1949; *Showdown*, 196 pp., Macmillan, 1950; *Gallows Rock*, 169 pp., Macmillan, 1951; *Elephant Toast*, 221 pp., Macmillan, 1952; *Camping Like Crazy*, 242 pp., Macmillan, 1953; *Scarlet Force; the Making of the Mounted Police*, 182 pp., Macmillan, 1953, reprinted by St. Martin's Press in 1963; *Time Flight*, 216 pp., Macmillan, 1954; *Force Carries On; the Sequel to Scarlet Force*, 182 pp., Macmillan, 1954; *Dangerline*, 202 pp., Macmillan, 1955; *Doorway in the Dark*, 190 pp., Macmillan, 1956; *McQuarrie Boys*, 202 pp., Macmillan, 1957; *Bull Session*, 197 pp., Macmillan, 1958; *Michael Ironwood*, 194 pp., Macmillan, 1959; *Trouble Guaranteed*, 185 pp., Macmillan, 1960; *That Williams Boy*, 182 pp., Macmillan, 1961; *The Calgary Challengers*, 165 pp., St. Martin's Press, 1962; *Henry Thoreau, American Rebel*, 204 pp., Dodd, Mead, 1963; *The Comeback Catcher*, 186 pp., Dodd, Mead, 1965; *Last of the Jeannete*, Westminster, no date.

George Inness Hartley was born on 21 May 1887 in Montclair, N.J. according to **American Authors and Books**. He is listed as having written three novels plus one non-fiction title, as follows:

Boy Hunters in Demerara, illus. by J. Clinton Shepherd, 295 pp., Century, 1921; *The Importance of Bird Life: A Popular Account of its Economic Significance and Conservation*, 316 pp., Century, 1922; *The Last Parakeet*, illus. by Donald Teague, 292 pp., Century, 1923; *The Lost Flamingos*, illus. by Courtney Allen, 319 pp., Century, 1924.

As you can see by looking at the titles, several of these are sequels or form short series. The **Cumulative Book Index** does not specifically define these books as juvenile; however, nearly all of the fiction titles listed above are included in **Fiction, Folklore, Fantasy and Poetry for Children 1876-1985**.

Sincerely,
James D. Keeline (PF-898)
3201 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116

Editor's note: These two letters have a common bond. Five years ago, I was able to locate in a Milwaukee book store a copy of Longstreth's highly desirable **The Catskills** for Bill McCord since he was also an avid collector of books on his home region. He said he didn't need it because he already had a copy, but offered to buy it anyway if the price was right; however, when I went back to the dealer a couple of weeks later, he had inadvertently sold it! Longstreth was an extremely prolific writer, with an obvious interest in his native Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

means the government is going to use (in effect, completely redesigning our money) to crack down on this outbreak. In fact, other countries have less of a problem with laser forgery because they redesigned their paper currency years ago.

A book jacket has got to be easier to photocopy than a \$20 bill, and will get easier and easier as current color laser copiers continue to improve. So beware when you're buying books; make sure you know "what is real and what is Memorex."

While we must grudgingly accept the fact that certain books are nearly worthless as collectibles without jackets, we can still look at our shelves containing titles by early authors and marvel at the un-jacketed spines with glittering gold lettering. That's a prettier sight any day than even the most valuable dust jacket!

The bargain mill: Speaking of that \$75 Leo Edwards title, would you believe I found a desirable book for less than 100th of that amount? Last fall I was on a trip and stopped in a bookstore that had a good selection of boys' and girls' books in the back, and I picked up a few, including a Rick Brant #18 for two or three bucks, a bargain in itself. As I was paying my money, the proprietor asked "Did you look through our sale box?"

On the floor near the counter was a carton filled with a hodge-podge of kids' books, including junky Little Golden Books and a few series books. There among the chaff was a Lothrop edition of one of Elbridge Brooks' **Young Defenders Series** titles in a deluxe red binding with gold lettering. The sign on the sale box said "Three for \$2," so I grabbed the book for 67 cents (there was

nothing else worthy of purchase, even for that price).

I don't collect Elbridge Brooks, but Bart Nyberg (PF-879) does, and he needed that particular title.

I suppose this would normally be a \$10 item in most book stores; in this case the owner said he was simply reducing inventory.

The moral? Keep looking. Out there along with the \$19,200 "Hike and the Aeroplane" with d/j and slipcase (sold for that figure a couple of years ago at a New York auction), you can still get nice stuff for less than a buck.

Scanning the horizon: You may have noticed that a couple of photos in the January-February issue came out a little dark. This is because I'm in the process of switching over to a Hewlett-Packard desktop scanner, because soon I will no longer be able to have photos scanned at work (our newspaper is in the process of becoming fully paginated).

That means it's either scan the stuff myself or go to a printer and have it done, which is expensive. So in the interest of saving the Society money, I'm trying to become a scanning expert. This means learning how to handle such technical parameters as dot gain and half-tone screen frequency. I'm also working closely with the professionals at Colonial Printing in Lansing, Mich., to do the best we can to make the photos as good-looking as possible. Hopefully, they will look better in coming issues.

Speaking of coming attractions... In May-June we'll have our annual post-convention special, including a report on all activities in Corning, complete auction results, our annual treasurer's report and photos of the big event. Joe Slavin (PF-880), our photographer extraordinaire, says he'll be on hand with two cameras and plenty of film.

I hope to see you all in Corning!

'On the Mark in Corning'

May 4-7, 1995

Best Western Lodge on the Green, Painted Post, N.Y.

To register, send in the blue form now!

For motel registrations, call the Lodge on the Green at (607) 962-2456. Only a limited number of rooms at our special \$49 rate remain! For more information call Dick Pope at (607) 962-6300 days or (607) 936-6610 evenings.

WANTED

Want #1 — Good and complete copy of Mr. Barton Currie's "Fishers of Books, Who Once Were Men."

Want #2 — Good and complete copy of Edward Stratemeyer's "Pioneer Boys of the Great Northwest" in the Street & Smith paperback printings.

Want #3 — Full and clear photocopy of each page of the issue of Grosset & Dunlap's trade magazine, **The Promoter**, for that issue in the year 1908 in which Edward Stratemeyer was interviewed, and illustrated with a panel of pictures of Edward Stratemeyer by Brown Brothers Studio of New York, as promoting Stratemeyer's assignment of publication of his Rover Boys Series to G&D in that year.

Send all replies to:

**Wallace Palmer (PF-612)
406 North Pleasant
Truman National Historic District
Independence, MO 64050**