



# 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 XXXIV

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996

NUMBER 1

CONVENTION PREVIEW

## 'Strive and Succeed in Stratford'

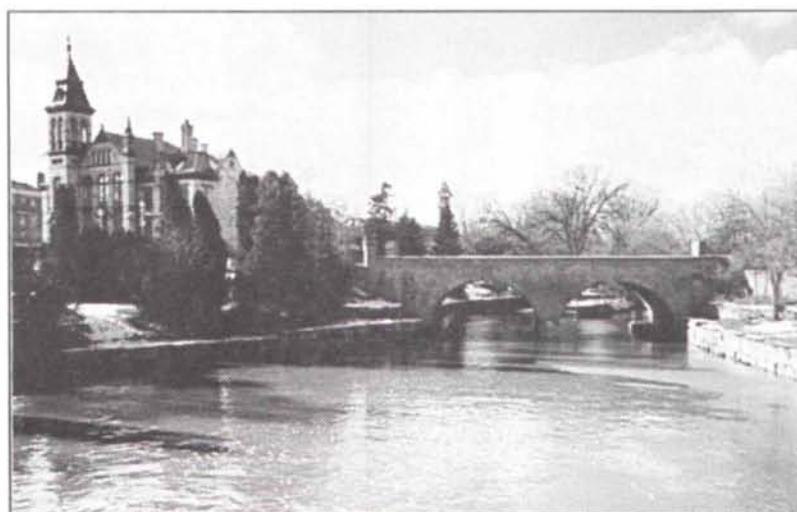
*A welcome  
from our host*

-- Page 3

*The Stratford  
area in photos*

-- Pages 8-9

*Agenda and  
registration  
form enclosed*



The stone bridge over the Avon River in downtown Stratford, Ontario, with the court house on the left.

Photo by Ivan McClymont



## Tribute to an Alger hero

-- Page 5

## Alger and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

-- Page 13

## President's column

The more I hear about Stratford, Ontario, the better it sounds.

Founded in the 1830's along the beautiful river Avon, Stratford has become a popular destination for tourists due to the beauty of the location. Although the Stratford Shakespeare festival does not coincide with our convention, I have been told that live performances of plays are offered 10 months out of the year at the handsome theaters in the area.

Please read Ivan McClymont's article on Page 3 for details of the upcoming first-ever Canadian H.A.S. convention, along with a description local attractions. Enclosed is a color brochure of the Queen's Inn Hotel, the tentative agenda for the convention as well as the convention registration form. Please plan on attending and return the registration form to Ivan as soon as possible.

We would like to repeat that there is no problem bringing books across the border into Canada for the book sales and auctions, but please leave your guns and alcoholic beverages at home (well, there go my plans for any fun that weekend).

Beginning with the last issue of *Newsboy*, the membership dues reminder slips have been amended to include a space in which a member can indicate a contribution to the Society's **Strive and Succeed Award**, which is given to deserving young people. I have been told that the initial response has been very generous and heartening. So when you get your dues notice (or any other time you wish to make a donation), please keep our **Strive and Succeed Award** in mind.

As usual, during the convention there will be an auction of donated items to raise money for the Society as well as a members' consignment auction, so please bring any books or items you would like included in these auctions. I am already casting an eye over my collection to see what I can bring; the copy of *Victor Vane* I purchased at last year's auction will reappear at the Society auction this year. I have obtained another copy. I mention this for the member, who shall remain nameless, who missed this book by arriving 10 minutes late to last year's auction (Hi, Carol).

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's convention the first weekend of May.

Your Partic'lar Friend  
Mary Ann Ditch (PF-861)  
4657 Mason St.  
Omaha, NE 68106

## 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
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
ALYS COLLMER	(1998) DIRECTOR
CAROL NACKENOFF	(1998) DIRECTOR
RICHARD L. POPE	(1998) 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.

**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).
- Horatio Alger Books Published by Whitman Publishing 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.



# 'Strive and Succeed in Stratford'

By Ivan McClymont (PF-722)

Marg and I are busy making plans for what will be without a doubt the best Horatio Alger Society convention ever held in Canada (it's also the first ever held in Canada) the weekend of May 2-5, 1996.

Stratford is a small city situated in Southwestern Ontario in the midst of one of the finest agricultural areas in the world. It is a former railway centre that because of the Shakespearean Festival has become a tourist Mecca each summer. The festival, which began life in a tent, is now housed in a large theatre overlooking Victoria Lake. Plays and concerts are also held in several associate theatres in the city. We hope to have information on the 1996 season for the next issue of *Newsboy*.

## Convention preview

Traveling to Stratford is within a few hours of the border points at Niagara, Queenston, Buffalo-Fort Erie, Detroit-Windsor and Port Huron-Sarnia. Toronto Pearson Airport is 1 1/2 hours away while London Airport is 45 minutes away.

Most major airlines fly into Toronto while London is served by Air Ontario and Canadian Regional to Sarnia, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal; Northwest Airlines from Detroit and U.S. Air from Pittsburgh. There is an airbus service from Pearson Airport to Stratford — for times and cost check with your travel agent. Branch line bus and train service is available from Toronto and London, which have main-line service.

Weatherwise, southwestern Ontario is similar to the neighboring states of New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Being almost surrounded by the Great Lakes has a moderating influence on the temperature.

The enclosed agenda may have to be somewhat altered to accommodate the auction of a couple of large collections that are under negotiation by the directors.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Huron County and the Varna area on Friday afternoon. You will see our very modest Alger collection as well as a great many other books in our library, including a few Hentys.

Our book shop will be closed the week of the convention except for a couple of hours Friday afternoon. We are withholding books of particular interest to Society members from the public until then.

We hope to make arrangements to have a huge unique windmill open for tours that day. This is a working mill used for sawing lumber and grinding grain, situated only a few miles from our home. It was built by a Dutch immigrant over a 20-year period.

Other points of interest include the Lake Huron



**The Folmar Windmill, located east of Bayfield, Ontario, is North America's only working wind-driven sawmill and gristmill. It is one of the many attractions during the Horatio Alger Society convention May 2-5, 1996. For a glimpse of Stratford and Varna, see photos on Pages 8-9.**

shoreline, towns of Goderich, Bayfield, Grand Bend and Benmiller; the stone town of St. Marys, the village of St. Jacobs and the Waterloo Market in Mennonite country and surrounding towns and villages such as Shakespeare with their antique shops. We will have a list of used-book stores at the convention.

In order to make this convention a success, we require your help. Please send your registration in as early as possible, stating the number of people attending and enclosing your cheque. We need to know how many are coming as both the ladies at the church and the Queen's Inn require the number well in advance of the convention in order to plan the meals.

We will accept books or items for the auctions sent in advance by mail, but they must be clearly marked either for the consignment sale with 15 percent going to the Society or as a donation for the Society at the fundraising auction Saturday night.

We hope you enjoy your visit to this corner of Ontario and if you have any questions about the convention, just call us at 1-519-233-3214.



## Editor's notebook

Welcome to our annual convention preview issue, which offers details about the Horatio Alger Society's historic first-ever convention in Canada. Hosts Marg and Ivan McClymont have planned an exciting program. Be sure you return the enclosed green registration form right away because advance arrangements must be made for the meals, in particular the Friday night roast beef supper and the Saturday night banquet.

As Ivan cautions, there may be alterations to the agenda on the enclosed yellow sheet because we are still hopeful of lining up one or two sizable consignments of Alger books for the Friday auction. At this point we just don't know how much time we'll need.

Hope to see there in May!

Turning to other matters, I must first apologize for listing Horatio's incorrect birth date in the article "A Remembrance from Cambridge" in the last issue. It should have been 1832 instead of 1862; just sloppy typing (and editing) on my part.

Speaking of Alger's era at Harvard, on Page 13 we offer a glimpse of his academic relationship with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who was a professor there during Alger's undergraduate years.

Also in this issue we make the sad report of the death of Bob Williman (PF-569), a member since 1978, who was so instrumental in getting the Horatio Alger commemorative stamp issued in 1982. Brad Chase's tribute to Bob can be found on Page 5.

For the past few months several H.A.S. members — myself, Bart Nyberg (PF-879) and James Keeline (PF-898) — have been assisting Ed Mattson (PF-067) of Baltimore and Tom Davis of Newark, Delaware, in editing their upcoming *A Collectors' Guide to Hardcover Boys Series Books*, scheduled for publication later this year.

This has been a daunting task mainly because so much new information about new series (as well as previous series) has been uncovered in the nearly two decades since Harry Hudson published his revised *A Bibliography of Hard-Cover Boys' Books* and nine years since the University of South Florida's *American Boys' Series Books, 1900 to 1980*.

It's been a page-by-page task in double-checking formats, publishers, dust jackets, etc., in hopes of making the new guide as complete and accurate as possible. Of course, we won't catch everything but hopefully, the major, highly collected series will have been brought up to date, along with literally hundreds of lesser-known

(Continued on Page 15)

## Wanted

**DESIRE to obtain the following Alger books:**

Dan the Detective	Ned Newton
Dan the Newsboy	Seeking his Fortune
Forging Ahead	Silas Snobden's Office Boy
Making his Mark	Striving for Fortune
Marie Bertrand	World Before Him

*Published by John Winston Co. — Standing Boy Series ONLY (boy in knickers and bow tie with suitcase to his right):*

Digging for Gold	Paul the Peddler
Frank and Fearless	Strong and Steady
Helping Himself	Young Outlaw
Only an Irish Boy	

**Contact:** Bob Kersch (PF-946)  
5 Leaside Drive  
Great River, NY 11739  
(516) 277-0283

## HORATIO ALGER BOOKS, LIMITED

Subsidiary of RAM Computer Services

**Ronald A. Murch (PF-970)**

Store located at 417 Main St.

Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 795-7699

By appointment until spring

**HOME ADDRESS AND PHONE:**

135 Lisbon Rd.

P.O. Box 36

Lisbon, ME 04250-0036

(207) 353-5822

- \* Over 300 volumes in stock
- \* Buying and selling
- \* Updated price list available



## Tribute to an Alger hero

**Editor's note:** At the first of the year I received a note from Ralph Gardner informing me of the death of longtime Horatio Alger Society member Bob Williman of Bowie, Maryland. Ralph had received a call from Bob's wife, Kathie, telling him that Bob had passed away the final week of December while awaiting a heart transplant. Although I joined the Society one year after the 1982 Willow Grove convention, I got to know Bob by mail and phone as I bought books from him over the years. Because Brad Chase was H.A.S. president when the Horatio Alger commemorative stamp became a reality, I asked him to make the following reminiscence.

**By Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)**

A friend is gone. I sit here in stunned silence in early January, for I have just learned that Bob Williman (PF-569) has died.

For some reason I have always thought of Bob as indestructible and that he would be with us forever; a guy who is always there when he's needed. I knew that over the years, he had serious medical problems, but he didn't look or act like he had them. I remember him as big, strong and hearty with an outgoing personality. He was an initiator and doer — a real action guy focused on results and willing to work as hard as is needed to win any game people wanted to play.

I consider Bob a friend — an Alger friend. The two of us have shared several really good Alger times together over the years and I enjoyed those times together immensely, particularly when we were working together on a project.

My closest association and most vivid recollection of working with Bob goes back quite a few years, to the early 1980s, and our effort together to get the United States Postal Service to honor Horatio Alger with a commemorative stamp. Now that Bob is gone, I think back fondly and with some wonderment to those exciting days.

It all began at our annual convention in Jacksonville, Illinois in May 1978, when I became chairman of a one-man committee to look into the feasibility of getting a stamp commemorating Alger's 150th birthday in 1982 and in taking any necessary follow-up actions. After much research and several visits to the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C., I prepared and submitted a formal Horatio Alger commemorative stamp proposal from the Horatio Alger Society to the Postal Service in January 1979.

It was very evident from the start that the possibility of us getting such a stamp was very slim (only a fraction of each year's commemorative proposals are approved), which is what I reported at the 1979 annual convention in Cleveland.

The '79 convention was Bob's first. Typically, he immediately picked up the gauntlet and said because of



**Bob Williman, right, accepts the 1982 Luck & Pluck Award from Gene Hafner at that year's Willow Grove, Pa. convention, which hosted first-day ceremonies for the Horatio Alger, Jr. commemorative stamp, a cause for which Williman worked for over two years.**

his access to Washington and knowledge as a stamp collector about the commemorative stamp process, he would gladly accept responsibility to pursue getting the stamp approved. He was given the chairmanship of a stamp implementation committee and from that point until the Willow Grove convention (at which the stamp was indeed introduced to the world in May 1982) Bob and I worked very closely, often in daily contact by phone.

We worked first to penetrate and convince the federal commemorative stamp bureaucracy that our cause was right and then Bob made the arrangements for the first-day issue ceremony in Willow Grove.

A key player in this continuing drama was Helen Gray of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Bob and I met with Helen several times. She was of tremendous help in getting influential people to lobby for the Alger stamp.

Let me tell you: Bob worked like a dog on this project. He drove the Commemorative Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service bonkers with his dogged logic, facts and measured rationale and used well his ability to generate pressure on the committee for the stamp from the inside of the stamp collecting world.

I know he visited and called the Postal Service and committee offices hundreds of times trying to move them off dead-center. We received several delays and near-refusals, each of which Bob immediately ruled unacceptable and he continued on with his pressure. He knew he had to work hard: time was running out, as the

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## MEMBERSHIP

### New members

Rodd Whelpley (PF-973)

403 West Hill St., #3

Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 398-1422

Rodd is an editor who currently has 58 Alger titles in his collection. He also collects the works of William Taylor Adams ("Oliver Optic").

David H. Couch (PF-892)

P.O. Box 1704

Medford, OR 97501 (803) 770-0328

David is reinstating his membership after a one-year absence. "Seems I have overlooked my dues renewal," he notes. Welcome back!

### Change of address

Gared L. Kirkpatrick (PF-960)

618 Bonnie Lane

Mobile, AL 36609

(334) 602-0187

Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

912 Borden Ave.

Sycamore, IL 60178-3200

(815) 899-2032

Louis Peters (PF-769)

4267 Valleyside Ct., N.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49505-9691

(616) 365-1370

David A. Moulton (PF-541)

1900 South Eads St., Apt. 1202

Arlington, VA 22202-3027

Jim E. Davidson (PF-964)

P.O. Box 8099

Hot Springs, AR 71910

(501) 922-6019 FAX: (501) 922-6003

Robert R. Routhier (PF-889)

12186 Hill Road

Swartz Creek, MI 48473

Rob actually moved to his new address from Flint last year but the change was not made in the H.A.S. roster.

## BOOK MART

E. Christian Mattson (PF-067)

Four Turtlerock Court

Baltimore, MD 21234

Tel.: 410-668-4730 FAX: 410-882-9137

**The following Alger books are for sale:**

**Postage extra. Telephone call holds for seven days.**

### *The \$500 Check*

U.S. Book Co., successor to John W. Lovell Co. 1890 — The first hard-cover edition of this title with the blacked-out spine bottom. The condition is VG with some top/bottom spine wear. Hinges inside and out are tight; book is clean. This is one of the scarce Alger books that is not often offered for sale: **\$390.00**

### **Other first editions:**

<i>Ben Logan's Triumph</i>		
Cupples & Leon	VG	\$90.00
(some soiling)		
<i>From Farm Boy to Senator</i>		
Ogilvie	VG	125.00
(early state of first ed. with all points; some wear top and bottom of spine)		
<i>Slow and Sure</i>		
A.K. Loring	G-VG	80.00
(green cloth; all points per Bennett)		

### **Various publishers:**

<i>Bertha's Christmas Vision</i>		
Hurst	VG	\$50.00
<i>Strong and Steady</i>		
P&C flying wheel edition	G+	8.00
<i>Sam's Chance</i>		
P&C small fruit edition	G	6.00
(inside hinges cracked)		
<i>Hector's Inheritance</i>		
H.T. Coates tan ed.	VG	12.00
<i>Sink or Swim</i>		
P&C small flowered ed.	VG	15.00
<i>Bob Burton</i>		
Winston tall green ed.	G	7.00
<i>Adrift in the City</i>		
Winston ADT cover	VG	6.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>		
S&S/Federal	Ex.	10.00
<i>Phil the Fiddler</i>		
Thompson & Thomas	G+	7.00
<i>Bound to Rise</i>		
Hurst train cover	VG	5.00
<i>Luke Walton</i>		
Burt, boy with rifle cover	VG	7.00
<i>Paul the Peddler</i>		
Burt, deluxe green	G	7.00
<i>Tom Thatcher's Fortune</i>		
Burt, train cover	VG	15.00



# It's a series!

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The thrill of discovery is what makes our hobby so rewarding.

I have collected the books of Albertus T. Dudley for many years and had what I thought was a complete collection totaling 13 titles.

I won't go into detailed background on Dudley himself because we have a more comprehensive article scheduled in a future issue of *Newsboy*.

But to quickly summarize, Dudley wrote two school-based series with the books heavily involved in depicting competitive sports of the early years of the 20th century. The series were **The Phillips Exeter Series**, which included nine titles published between 1903 and 1913; and the **Stories of The Triangular League**, which had three titles between 1909 and 1916.

All these books were published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard of Boston with the exception of the first two titles in the **Phillips Exeter Series**, which were by Lee & Shepard prior to its merger with Lothrop in 1905.

The 13th book written by Dudley was *The King's Powder*, published in 1923 by L, L&S. It is a Revolutionary War story, following the exploits of a pair of buddies named John Spencer and Zeb Giddinge, both of whom are, ironically, former students of Exeter Academy in New Hampshire (the setting of Dudley's largest series).

Spencer and Giddinge find themselves involved in several of the war's real campaigns, including Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the Battle of Bunker Hill.

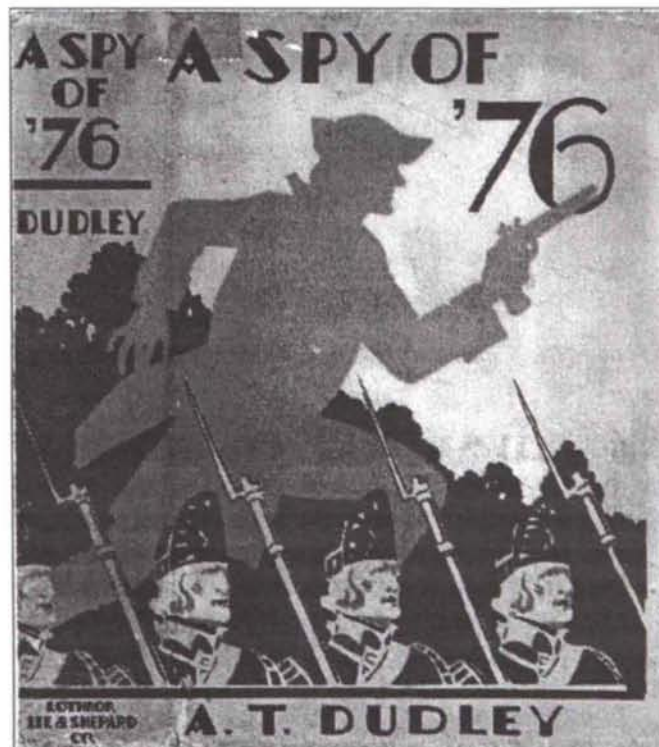
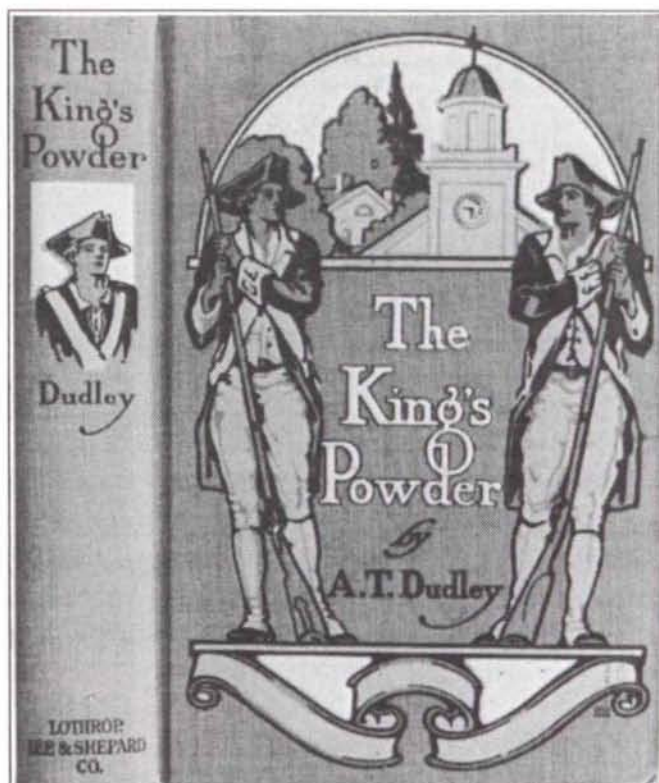
For years, collectors assumed *The King's Powder* was a single title — an extremely well-written one at that.

Imagine my surprise when last fall I found a copy of a new Dudley book: *A Spy of '76*. Imagine my further surprise when I discovered the main characters were none other than John Spencer and Zeb Giddinge! They are now involved with uncovering the Tory spy, Enoch Crosby. Spencer and Giddinge are then swept along by events, leading from New Hampshire to the victorious Battle of Bennington, Vermont in 1776.

*A Spy of '76* was published by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard in 1933, a full 10 years after its predecessor. The book is oversized, 8" by 5 1/2", in medium blue cloth with yellow art deco-style lettering. The dust jacket, shown at right, is on uncoated paper with its multicolored illustration wrapping onto the spine.

*The King's Powder*, on the other hand, is a standard-sized boys' book of the period (7 5/8" by 5 1/4") and the

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



dust jacket, on light blue uncoated paper, is printed in black, the design same as the cover of the book (above).

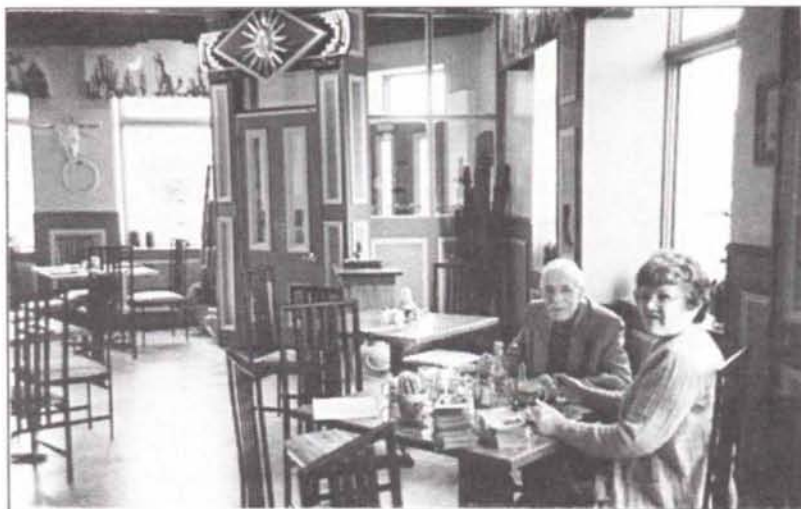
So we have a new series, and an interesting one at that, because of its small size (two titles) and the fact that they were published 10 years apart.

## *'Strive and Succeed in Stratford'*



The Queen's Inn in Stratford, a small English-style hotel, is the location of most of the convention activities.

Marg McClymont and her uncle celebrate his 80th birthday last fall in the dining room of the Queen's Inn.



Brucefield United Church, which will be the site of the Friday night supper and annual business meeting.

May 2-5, 1996  
Stratford, Ontario



# *The 1996 convention at a glance*

The north side of Ontario Street, looking west from the Queen's Inn. The Court House is in the background.



The McClymonts' farm in the town of Varna, which will be the site of Friday afternoon's open house.

Marg holds up a Donohue edition of *Strive and Succeed* inside the McClymonts' used book shop at the farm.



Photos courtesy  
of Ivan McClymont

# WANTED

## *A Few Specific Algers*

I am in the process of researching and writing my next book (on New York Book Company Algers, currently scheduled for publication in April 1997) and gathering material for my book after that, the last in this five-book series.

Also, I'm trying to fill a big hole in my A.L. Burt Alger collection. Do you have any of the following books in your extra Alger pile that you will sell me? (or trade for something I have that you need?) Condition is not critical but the book should be complete.

Here's what I need:

### **The New York Book Company**

- 1908 printed on title page: *Joe's Luck*
- 1912 printed on title page: *Harry Vane* and *Tom the Bootblack*
- No date printed on title page and flowers on the spine: *Bound to Rise, Strong and Steady* and *Walter Sherwood's Probation*
- 1910 printed on the title page: double volume, containing *Cash Boy* and *Telegraph Boy* together

### **McLoughlin Brothers**

*Cash Boy*

### **Whitman Publishing Co.: (in dust jacket only)**

*Bound to Rise, Slow and Sure* and *The Erie Train Boy*

### **Saalfeld Publishing Company**

*In a New World, Jack's Ward* and *Phil, the Fiddler*

### **The New Werner Company**

*Walter Sherwood's Probation, Work and Win, The Young Adventurer* and *The Young Miner*

### **MacLellan Company**

*Five Hundred Dollars, Frank's Campaign* and *Only an Irish Boy*

### **A.L. Burt Company**

Only the following titles in Format 17 in my book on Burt Algers (Green Helmet Format): *Adrift in New York, Bob Burton, Bound to Rise, Chester Rand, Do and Dare, Helping Himself, Making his Way, Paul the Peddler, Strive and Succeed, Try and Trust* and *The Young Outlaw*

Please let me know which of these you have, the condition of the book(s) and how much you want or what you'd like in trade.

**Brad Chase (PF-412)**  
**6 Sandpiper Road**  
**Enfield, CT 06082**



## Tribute to an Alger hero

(Continued from Page 5)

stamp had to be issued during 1982, the Alger sesquicentennial.

Along with Bob's considerable inside pressure and the letters from political people generated by many of our members and Helen Gray's people, came the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. He was one of the people contacted by Helen since he had been a recipient of one of the Association's awards in 1969. I don't know exactly what Bob and Helen said or did concerning Mr. Reagan, but I do know that sometime during the summer of 1981, just a few months after he took office, I was contacted as H.A.S. president and told that the stamp had been approved and that our little society was to be the host for the first-day ceremony!

What a thrill, and such a reward for work well done, particularly for Bob Williman, who had labored non-stop on this project for well over two years.

It is with great affection that I remember participating with Bob and others in that first-day issue ceremony that he had planned and facilitated. I distinctly recall Bob turning to me and saying: "Well, we did it, didn't we?"

Yes, Bob, it was truly through your dogged perseverance and hard work that "we did it."

Now that Bob is gone, I think about his willingness to see a need, accept responsibility, make a commitment and actually do the really hard work in the trenches that is required month after month on a project like this. I think also about his never-let-up attitude — aggressive, but always positive and in the right direction — to overcome constantly emerging obstacles.

In this sense, Bob was a true Alger hero — a person whose considerable contributions to the efforts of our society we should not forget — and indeed, we should individually try to emulate.



This First Day of Issue postcard was produced by Bob Williman for the Horatio Alger commemorative stamp that he was instrumental in turning the dream of the Horatio Alger Society into reality at the Willow Grove, Pa. convention in 1982.

## BOOK MART

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

### For sale:

A rare opportunity to enjoy Alger's seldom-published works. Every one of Alger's 139 works that appeared in **Newsboy** from 1962-1995 have been carefully copied or retyped, indexed and referenced, covering over 600 pages, including hun-

dreds of Alger-theme illustrations.

Copies are 8 1/2" x 11" sheets placed loose inside lacquered binders. Priced lower than cost at \$49.95, ppd.

There are still a few copies left of "Enjoying Alger" at \$29.95 ppd. This anthology carefully details each of Alger's 884 titles, which include his 784 original works.

Both of the above will also be available at our annual convention in Stratford, Ontario.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Introductory reading has changed

A sample of assigned reading for University of Wisconsin-Madison freshman shows a shift from the old classics.

## Required reading

1996

Billy Budd and Other Stories, by Herman Melville

Edgar Huntly, by Charles Brockden Brown

The Yellow Wallpaper, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, by Harriet Jacobs

Ragged Dick, by Horatio Alger

The Awakening, by Kate Chopin

Looking Backward, by Edward Bellamy

Angels in America, by Tony Kushner

▶ Emphasis is on literature

1946

John Brown's Body, by Stephen Vincent Benet

Life on the Mississippi, by Mark Twain

Lord Jim, by Joseph Conrad

Othello, by William Shakespeare

▶ Plus studies in composition

Source: UW-Madison English department

Journal Sentinel

Dear Bill:

Attached is a portion of an article (see chart, above) on required reading at colleges and universities. The interesting part is that *Ragged Dick* is required reading at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

I enjoy *Newsboy* and await each issue. A good job, well done!

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
Carl E. Wulff (PF-900)  
3108 Ruby Avenue  
Racine, WI 53402

Dear Mr. Gowen:

Thanks so much for the photocopy of the January-February 1974 issue of *Newsboy*. I appreciate your time and effort.

The story behind the (Mayes) book was quite interesting. And I applaud Mr. Mayes' insistence that the correspondence be published in its entirety. Smart.

As a book collector, I was pleased to note Mr. Gardner's observation that the Macy-Masius edition "...is a rare book, regularly bringing a premium price on the rare occasions it is offered for sale."

I have a number of literary hoax books that were intended as satires but were unexpectedly taken seriously, but this is the only one where the author had to keep quiet in order to save embarrassment to someone else.

Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,  
William D. Gall  
832 South Willow Ave.  
Waukegan, IL 60085

Dear Mr. Gowen:

I am enclosing an article entitled "Alger and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow," which I hope you will publish in *Newsboy*.

If you are interested in publication, please feel free to make any changes that you wish.

I am a Professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, Virginia. I have published books on Richard Henry Wilde and Longfellow, as well as a number of articles. Recently I have been working on the *Journals of Longfellow*, now in manuscript at the Houghton Library, Harvard University.

Back in the 1930s, when my brother and I were young, we used to read any Alger books that were available. I remember once that a neighbor looked at a passage in one of the books — probably about smoking or something like that — and declared that the book was scarcely one that a young boy should be reading.

With all my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Tucker

508 College View Drive

Blacksburg, VA 24060

**Editor's note:** Professor Tucker's article appears in this issue starting on Page 13, at right.

## BOOK MART

William D. Russell (PF-549)  
Apt. F-4  
240 E. County Line Road  
Hatboro, PA 19040

The following Alger books are for sale:

Dean Dunham		
H.M. Caldwell	VG	\$25.00
Phil the Fiddler		
Thompson & Thomas	VG	5.00
Slow and Sure		
Thompson & Thomas	VG	5.00
Robert Coverdale's Struggle		
A.L. Burt	VG	30.00
Ralph Raymond's Heir		
Superior (paperback)	Good	3.00
Wren Winter's Triumph		
M. A. Donohue	Good	10.00
14 Horatio Alger first day covers		
(all different)		25.00

Postage is \$1.50 for first book and 50 cents for each additional book.



# Alger and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## ... *Harvard days remembered*

By Edward L. Tucker

In December of 1834, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) received an offer to become Smith Professor of Modern Languages at Harvard College. He accepted and delivered his first lecture on May 23, 1837. In his new position he was required to prepare lectures on linguistic and literary subjects; in addition, he was expected to direct several native instructors in French, German, Italian and Spanish. He held this position for 17 years, officially resigning his Harvard professorship on Aug. 23, 1854.

Horatio Alger, Jr., was a student at Harvard College during Longfellow's tenure. Alger entered Harvard in the autumn of 1848 at the age of 16 and graduated in 1852, ranking eighth in his class.<sup>1</sup>

There are various indications that Longfellow and Alger developed a highly pleasant, valuable relationship. During his senior year, Alger took an elective course in German, most certainly taught by Longfellow. His admiration for the distinguished Cambridge poet always remained strong, and in his fiction he often referred to his teacher and his writings.

Alger borrowed a title of a poem by Longfellow, "The Vacant Chair," for a sketch he wrote about the untimely death of the son of President Franklin Pierce. Some of Alger's war ballads, with titles such as "A Copperhead's Creed" and "The Price of Victory," were written in the style of Longfellow. Alger's novel entitled *The Disagreeable Woman* was influenced to some extent by Longfellow's "Evangeline."

In the fall of 1875 Alger published 32 of his best poems in a volume entitled *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving*. He sent copies to various friends.

Longfellow wrote a letter to his former student praising the book. Alger, in reply, wrote Longfellow on December 16, 1875: "It is hardly necessary for me to say how much I am gratified by your words of approval."

And then Alger recalled an earlier incident. When he was a student at Harvard, it was against social etiquette for students to mingle freely with faculty members. Yet Alger and a friend boldly took it upon themselves to visit Craigie House, Longfellow's home. Alger wrote in the letter of December 16, 1875: "Years since, when at college, I remember calling upon you with a classmate, and I shall not forget the kindness with which you



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his early 30s, when he was Smith Professor of Modern Languages at Harvard.

From the collection of The Longfellow House, Cambridge, Mass.

received the two impertinent boys whose visit might have been regarded as an intrusion." This incident, though trivial, had left a lasting impression on Alger.

In the year in which Longfellow died, Alger paid tribute to his former teacher in a poem. First of all, he quoted from Longfellow's "The Building of the Ship" the following lines:

*"It is the heart and not the brain  
That to the Highest doth attain."*

And then Alger made his contribution, dated December 18, 1882:

*"So sang the bard whose rhythmic strain  
We shall not hear on earth again.  
Yet higher than his tuneful Art  
We prize the kindness of his heart."*

There are no references to Alger in the collected letters of Longfellow.<sup>2</sup> However, there is a reference in the *Journals* as follows:

*"1865, December 5. Went to the New Corner. Fields has hung up Healy's portrait of me in his Reading Room. Met Alger there."*<sup>3</sup>

By this date — December 5, 1865 — Alger had considerable accomplishments: he had taught for a while;

(Continued on Page 14)

**Editor's note:** Edward L. Tucker is Professor of English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg. He is currently working on the *Journals* of Longfellow, now in manuscript at Harvard University's Houghton Library.



## Alger and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(Continued from Page 13)

he had graduated from the Cambridge Divinity School in 1860; he had published *Bertha's Christmas Vision: An Autumn Sheaf* (Boston, 1856); *Frank's Campaign, or What Boys Can Do on the Farm for the Camp* (Boston, 1864); and *Paul Prescott's Charge: A Story for Boys* (Boston, 1865); and he had accepted a position as minister of the First Unitarian Church of Brewster, Massachusetts.

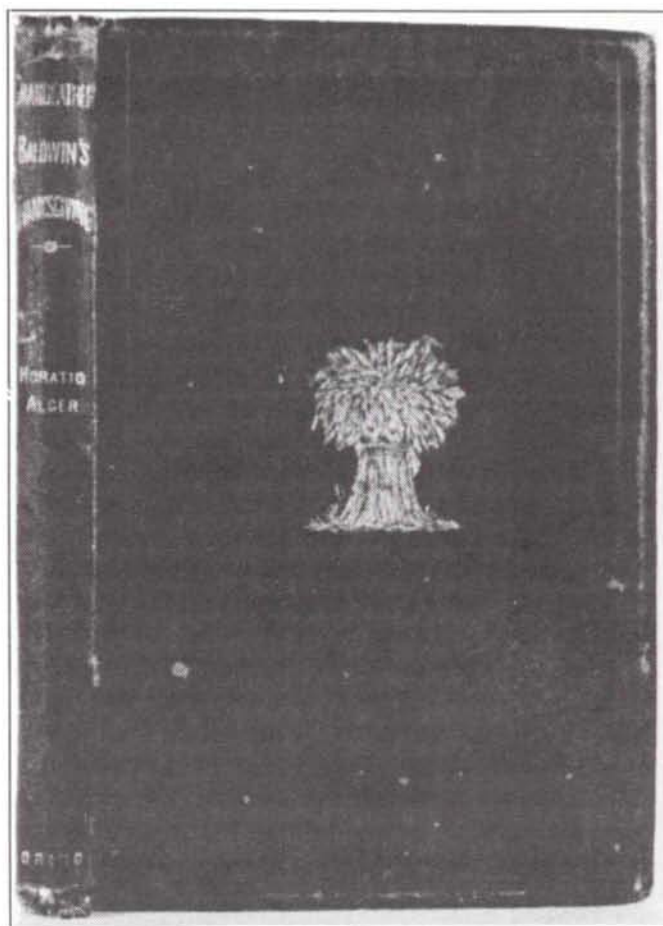
This *Journal* entry, published here for the first time, though brief, does suggest that Longfellow, now 58 years old, and Alger, now 33, had advanced in their friendship considerably beyond that of just teacher and student.<sup>4</sup>

### NOTES:

1. The biographical information on Alger comes from the following sources: Gary Scharnhorst, *Horatio Alger, Jr.* (Boston, 1980); Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales, *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.* (Bloomington, Ind., 1985); Marilyn P. Karrenbrock, "Horatio Alger, Jr." in *Dictionary of American Biography: American Writers for Children Before 1900*, 42 (Detroit, 1985): 52-73.

2. Andrew Hilen, ed., *The Letters of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, 6 vols. (Cambridge, Mass., 1966-82). There are also no references in Hilen to Alger's cousin, the Unitarian minister, William Rounseville Alger (1822-1905), author of *Life of Edwin Forrest, the American Tragedian* (Philadelphia, 1877) and *A Critical History of the Doctrine of a Future Life* (New York, 1878) and translator of Oriental poetry in *The Poetry of the East* (Boston, 1856), or to any other Algers.

3. For many years the firm of Ticknor and Fields had occupied the old building on the corner of Washington and School Streets in Boston, well known as "The Old Corner"; the firm had now moved to Tremont Street and Hamilton Place. James Thomas Fields (1817-81), a partner in Ticknor and Fields (1854-68), was editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* (1861-70) and wrote *Yesterday with*



Alger received a letter of praise from Longfellow for *Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving*, published by A.K. Loring in 1875.

*Authors*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1872). George Peter Alexander Healy (1813-094), Boston-born portrait artist, is best known for his historical painting, "Webster's Reply to Hayne," which contains 130 individual portraits, including Longfellow's.

4. The *Journal* entry is printed by permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University.

## Strive and Succeed in Stratford

The 32nd annual Horatio Alger Society convention

May 2 - 5, 1996

The Queen's Inn -- Stratford, Ontario, Canada

- ◆ Make your plans now (use the enclosed green registration form)
- ◆ For hotel reservations, call The Queen's Inn directly at 1-519-271-1400 or 1-800-461-6450 -- Major credit cards accepted
- ◆ For more information call Ivan and Marg McClymont at 1-519-233-3214



# Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

series that the previous bibliographies either ignored completely or contained insufficient data. For example, the two-volume *Revolutionary War* series by A.T. Dudley revealed on Page 7 of this issue will be included in the new guide.

In the March-April *Newsboy*, Bart Nyberg will write about the popular **Plupy Series** by Henry A. Shute, and these books will also be included in the new guide, the first time they have appeared in any boys' book bibliography. Several other new series revealed in recent issues of *Newsboy* will also be included.

The new guide has several features of interest to collectors, including photos of selected books, each series given a 5-digit number (helpful if you computerize your collection inventory) and cross-indexing by series author(s) and title.

I'm not here making a sales pitch, but just noting that a new reference guide was long overdue. As Ed and Tom realize, if previous errors and omissions were repeated, the guide would lose its value to collectors. Hopefully, it will be as accurate as we can make it given the time constraints of getting it published reasonably soon. In a sense, a guide like this is provisional, so hopefully when even more information and corrections are uncovered over the next year or two, a revised edition can be issued.

When the book becomes available, ordering information will be provided in this and other publications that support our hobby.

As promised in the last issue, here are the panels and topics for the Dime Novels, Pulp and Series Books area annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meeting to be held March 25-28 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. I have included the PF numbers of those panelists who are H.A.S. members.

## Monday, March 25 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.

*Dime Novel Days: Excerpts and Commentary Surveying Nineteenth-Century Dime Novels.* Edward T. LeBlanc (PF-015), Fall River, Mass.

*Frederick Whittaker's Dime Novels about Santanta County, Texas.* James L. Evans, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas.

*On the Road with Robert Adams — Beadles' First Traveling Salesman.* Lydia C. Schurman, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Va.

## Monday, March 25 — 2:30 to 4 p.m.

*Pulp Detectives: An Anthropological Perspective on Their Sociological Milieux.* Frank A. Salamone, Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y.

*Detective Stories in Family Story Papers 1855-1880.* Dawn Fisk Thomsen, 9934 Ferndale Ave., Columbia, Md.

*On the Wings of Legend: The Return of the Dime Novel Hero.* J. Randolph Cox (PF-598), St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

## Monday, March 25 — 4:30 to 6 p.m.

*Scenes from a Stratemeyer Pilgrimage.* Geoffrey S. Lapin, Indianapolis, Ind.

*James Lawrence, Author of Popular Radio, Comic Strip and Series Book Stories: An Insider's look at His Life and Accomplishments.* James Lawrence, Jr., Wharton, N.J.

*The Lady and the Press: Harriet Adams Courts America.* Ilana Nash, Los Angeles, Calif.

## Tuesday, March 26 — 8:30 to 10 a.m.

*Other than Uncle Wiggily: Lesser-Known Works of Howard Garis.* John T. Dizer (PF-511), Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, N.Y.

*Nothing but the Facts: The Nonfiction Series World of Sam and Beryl Epstein.* Henri Achée (PF-922), Houston, Texas.

*Jules Verne, Bracebridge Hemming and Edward Stratemeyer: A Case of Plagiarism in 19th Century Literature.* James D. Keeline (PF-898), San Diego, Calif.

## Tuesday, March 26 — 10:30 a.m. to noon

*Striking Out: The Stratemeyer Syndicate and Boys' Sports Books.* William R. Gowen (PF-706), Mundelein, Ill.

*The American Southwest in Children's Series Books.* Jeanne G. Howard, Gadsden (N.M.) High School.

*All the World Loves a Fat Boy, Doesn't It?* H. Alan Pickrell (PF-965), Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.

## Tuesday, March 26 — 2:30 to 4 p.m.

*The Reconversion of Cherry Ames, Army Nurse.* Mary Lineham, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

*Girls' Fiction by Josephine Lawrence.* Deidre A. Johnson (PF-596), West Chester University, West Chester, Pa.

*The Public School in American Girls' Series Fiction.* Kathleen Chamberlain (PF-874), Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.

**In upcoming issues:** In March-April as mentioned, we'll have Bart Nyberg's examination of the juvenile writings of Judge Henry A. Shute, plus another in our series on Horatio Alger, Jr.'s short stories first published in the *Boston American Union*. Also . . . a last-minute update on the convention.

The May-June issue is our convention issue, while in mid-summer we'll have a special presentation on books autographed or inscribed by the author. We'll be reproducing the signatures from Alger right on down to Leo Edwards, Edward Stratemeyer, Everett Tomlinson and many others too numerous to mention.

We plan to issue our 1996 Roster of Members along with the July-August *Newsboy*. If you have any changes (hopefully, we get address changes as they occur) such as marital status, number of Algiers owned and other collecting interests, please contact Executive Secretary Robert E. Kasper at his address listed on Page 2.

# WANTED

The following Horatio Alger books (need not be original publications)

**Hardback:**

Ben Logan's Triumph  
Bound to Rise; or Harry Walton's Motto  
Finding a Fortune  
Jacob Marlowe's Secret  
Lost at Sea  
Mark Stanton  
A New York Boy  
Nothing to Do  
Nugget Finders  
Seeking his Fortune  
Tom Turner's Legacy  
Walter Griffith

**Periodicals:**

A Bad Lot  
Ben Barclay's Courage  
Bully of the Village  
A Child of Fortune  
A Diamond in the Rough  
Gerald's Mission  
Hermit's Heir  
Hugo the Deformed  
Island Treasure  
Kit Watson's Triumph  
Live and Learn  
Merchant's Crime  
Mr. Craven's Stepson  
Oliver the Outcast  
Robert Coverdale's Struggle  
Star of the Circus  
Successful Paul  
Tom Thatcher's Quest  
Trials of Bernard Brooks  
Up the Ladder

**Paperback:**

Abner Holden's Bound Boy  
Ben Stanton, the Explorer  
Bill Sturdy  
Both Sides of the Continent  
Dutiful Dan, the Brave Boy Detective  
George Carter's Legacy  
He Would Be a Mountebank  
How His Ship Came Home  
Never Despair  
Paddle Your Own Canoe  
Plucky Paul  
Straight Ahead  
Striving for Fortune  
Trials and Adventures of Herbert Mason  
Uncle Jacob's Secret  
Val Vane's Victory  
Wait til the Clouds Roll By  
Young Ranchman of the Missouri

## CONTACT:

David Collier (PF-943)  
1845 Crestmont Court  
Glendale, CA 91208  
(818) 246-2468  
Pager: (818) 542-2575

If you have any of these titles in another format, I still am interested.