



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.

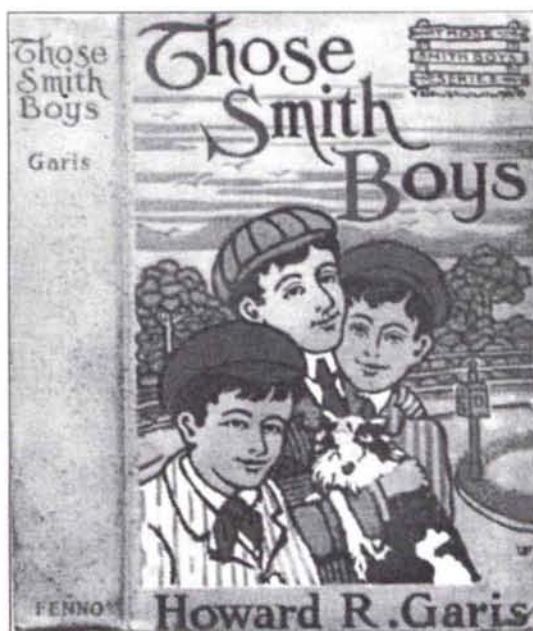
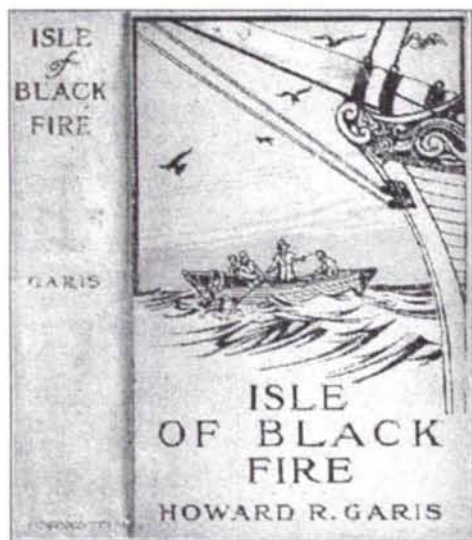
VOLUME XXXIV

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996

NUMBER 6

M.A. Donohue returns home!

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Other than Uncle Wiggily

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President's column

Well, the holidays have come — and gone. I haven't had any chance to go booking lately, but I will be in Illinois and northern Indiana for a couple of weeks, and I hope that I can hook up with Bill Gowen and Bart Nyberg to do a little scrounging. I like to go with them because when you are out book-hunting with two guys who already have almost everything, you can get to keep most of the good stuff that you find (heh, heh, heh).

Last time, I issued a "bring a friend" challenge for the 1997 convention in New Hampshire. I also mentioned a "very special prize" that would be awarded. Well, here it is. The very special prize is — a first edition of *Strive and Succeed*. This is a purple (or is it mauve?) edition in reasonably good condition. The spine is faded from ultra-violet and has a rectangular piece missing at the left-top of the spine. The piece looks like it was chewed out by one of nature's little creatures. It is about one-half the width of the spine and 1/4-inch high. The front cover has a spot about the size of a dime worn on the upper right-hand corner. It looks like a price sticker has been removed and tore the covering off the cardboard.

Other than that, the cover is in pretty good shape for a book that was printed in 1872. All of the pages are complete with only a small water stain on the first flyleaf. On the inside of the front cover is an inscription, simply "Miss Cheryl Sergent."

I am not a first-edition expert. I have checked it against all the standard references and it seems to meet all of them. We'll have all you experts look at it this year in New Hampshire. I found this book in Indianapolis at the Odds and Eads Bookstore during the Indianapolis convention in 1991.

Now, here are the "official" rules that will apply if I am to part with this treasure.

The First Annual "Bring a Friend" Challenge

To help build interest in book collecting in general, Alger specifically, and the Horatio Alger Society, I challenge each of you to "bring a friend" to the 1997 convention. If at least thirty percent (30%) of attending members bring a paying friend to the convention, a drawing will be held and the winner will be presented the *Strive and Succeed* first edition described above.

Our executive secretary, Rob Kasper, will total how many members are in attendance, and how many have brought guests. If at least 30 percent have brought guests, we'll put the names of the members and guests

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HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of *Strive and Succeed* that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes — lads whose struggles epitomized the great American dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

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Newsboy, the official 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 **Horatio Alger Society, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255**.

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, P.O. Box 70361, Richmond, VA 23255.

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 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Welcome home, M.A. Donohue!



Brad Chase (PF-412) checks the M.A. Donohue Alger collection at Northern Illinois University following his donation of the books to the H.A.S. repository last summer. Regarded as the most comprehensive collection of Chicago publisher M.A. Donohue's Alger reprints, it totals 743 volumes.

Photo courtesy Northern Illinois University

It was a homecoming of sorts last summer when Ann and Brad Chase (PF-412) visited the Horatio Alger Society's repository library, located in the Rare Books and Special Collections department at Northern Illinois University's Founders Memorial Library in DeKalb.

Last year, Chase, the leading authority on Alger reprint publishers, decided that his extensive collection of M.A. Donohue Algers (nearly 750 volumes) deserved a new home. What better place than the Alger repository, located just an hour from Chicago's Printers Row, longtime home of the M.A. Donohue Company?

Last June, the repository began receiving the Chase Donohue collection, and by the time Ann and Brad arrived on campus August 6, all the books and memorabilia had been received — a total of 13 boxes.

Having driven all the way from Enfield, Conn. to DeKalb, the Chases spent three days working with library staff members Jennifer Metras and Mark Williams, checking and double-checking all the books and arranging them on shelves according to Donohue's formats as described in Chase's book, *Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.* (1994).

Each one of Brad's donated books will have a book plate bearing his name as donor tucked inside the cover. All of the books are being catalogued with both electronic and paper tracings that indicate him as the donor.

Through the generous support of the Chase family, the H.A.S. repository is proud to have the most comprehensive collection of Donohue Algers in the world. A special reception expressing Northern Illinois University's gratitude to the Chase family will be held

during the 1999 Centennial Horatio Alger Society convention to be held in DeKalb.

The Horatio Alger Society Repository Endowment

The Northern Illinois University Libraries, on behalf of the Horatio Alger Society, wish to express sincere thanks to the following Particular Friends for their generous support of the H.A.S. Endowment:

Mr. and Mrs. William Baach (PF-492), Paul A Cripe (PF-633), R.J. Hatfield (PF-615), Samuel T. Huang (PF-963), Robert C. Lawless (PF-924), Mr. and Mrs. John J. Looney (PF-903), Raymond L. Murray (PF-546), Iddo Pittman, Jr. (PF-962), Robert E. Sawyer (PF-455) and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Young (PF-941).

In order to reach our goal for the full establishment of the H.A.S. Endowment by 1999, the repository is seeking additional contributions. If you would like to help achieve this goal, please send your contribution to:

Northern Illinois University Foundation
Lowden Hall
DeKalb, IL 60115

Checks should be made payable to Northern Illinois University, with notation that they are intended for the **Horatio Alger Society Repository Endowment**.

NIU asks that, should you decide to give, check with the personnel office of your employer to see if your company offers a "Matching Gifts" program which, in effect, doubles the donation to the Repository. Firms such as AT&T, Ameritech Corp., GTE, Commonwealth Edison, ITT, Kellogg, ITW, Time Warner and others will match an employee's or retiree's donation to an academic institution. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Editor's notebook

A few brief comments as we attempt to get *Newsboy* back on its regular publication schedule. I have been working on two issues concurrently, and the January-February issue will follow within a month. It's our annual convention preview issue, and many of the inserts and registration materials have been received from our convention host, Angelo Sylvester (PF-928).

First, a few sad notes to pass along as 1996 turns to 1997. Longtime member Ada V. Chase (PF-438) passed away last fall following a stroke. Mother of Partic'lar Friends Brad (PF-412) and Rolfe (PF-602) Chase, she remained an enthusiastic supporter of the Society right to the end. Brad told me in early September that his mother intended to renew her membership "so I can keep up with you boys!" — unfortunately, less than a week later she suffered her stroke.

Also, please keep in your thoughts president John Cadick (PF-858) on the death of his mother and director Carol Nackenoff (PF-921) on the loss of her father.

Turning to happier news, just a couple of weeks ago Sheryl Cadick, wife of president John Cadick, received a Grammy Award nomination for her song "Baby Love," on an album titled "Love Songs and Lullabies for Daddy's Little Dreamer." The CD was nominated in the "Best Musical Album for Children" category.

As a music critic in my non-Horatio Alger Society life, I can fully appreciate what an honor this is, win or lose when the final Grammy Awards are announced the third week in February. Sheryl has been writing songs all her life, with appearances on the "Peppermint Place" syndicated television show and songwriting trips to Nashville, Tenn. and New Zealand, along with performances in Dallas-area schools.

The other albums nominated in this category include collections of songs by such names as Linda Ronstadt, John McCutcheon and Tom Chapin.

In this issue: Jack Dizer (PF-511) gives us a guided tour through many of the lesser-known books by the prolific Howard R. Garis (Page 9). New information on early Alger dust jackets can be found on Page 5.

Next issue: We offer a follow-up by Peter C. Walther (PF-548) to his article "A Stratemeyer Necrology" and we present another chapter in our continuing series of the early Alger ("Carl Cantab") short stories appearing in the Boston *American Union*.

And, of course, the 1997 New Hampshire convention preview. See you soon.

New address for H.A.S.:

Send all dues payments, address changes and membership applications to:

**Horatio Alger Society
P.O. Box 70361
Richmond, VA 23255**

President's column

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into a hat and draw, and the winner will walk away with an Alger first edition. Note that only those members who bring paying guests will be included in the drawing. Spouses do not count as paying guests. Although they pay, and they are guests, we assume they would come anyway. What we want are Alger and other book enthusiasts who are potential new members of the Society.

So — there it is. Now, get to work on guests (I'm going to bring one, but I will not be eligible for the drawing).

Your partic'lar friend,
John Cadick
P.O. Box 495678
Garland, TX 75049-5578
E-mail: j.cadick@ieee.org

FOR SALE

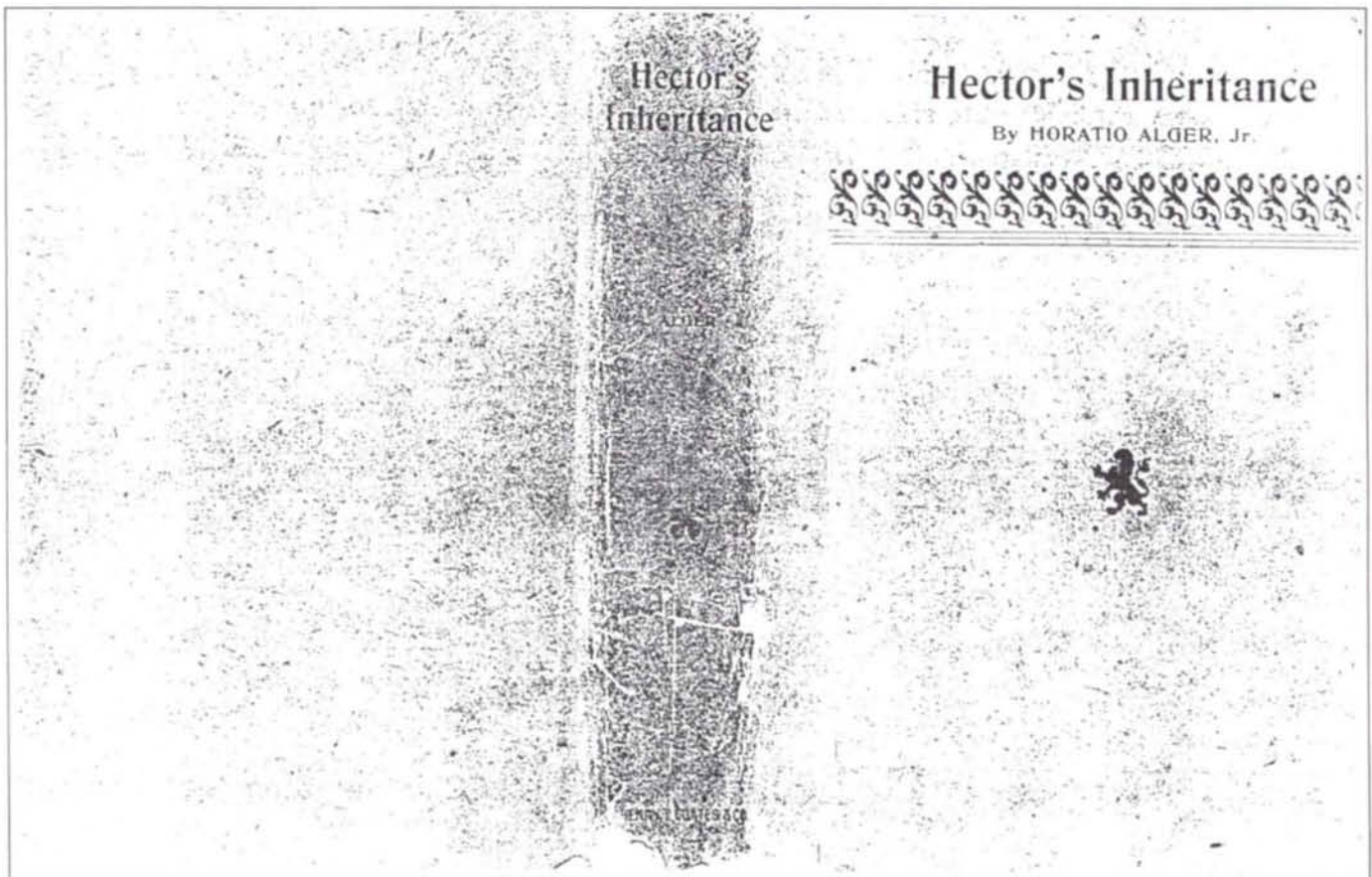
Striving for Fortune

The rare Street & Smith paperback (Alger Series, No. 42) in a bound facsimile edition with colored cover (reproduced by laser from the original paperback), 253 pp.

For Alger title collectors, this is an alternate title for *Walter Griffith*.

**Limited edition of 50 copies
\$24 each, postpaid**

David Collier (PF-943)
1845 Crestmont Ct.
Glendale, CA 91208-2619
1-818- 246-2468
(If not home, leave a message)



Ex. 1: The recently discovered dust jacket for *Hector's Inheritance*, for a reprint by Henry T. Coates.

Jacket jottings

Recent discoveries of Alger and Alger-publisher dust jackets

By Arthur P. Young (PF-941)

Original dust jackets published with the books they protect seldom survive long years of heavy use, neglect and exposure to the elements. It is the very fragility of most dust jackets that makes them all the more prized when they can be located.

Alger collectors know that the period after 1915 yields a fair number of dust-jacketed books, that the period between 1900 and 1915 is more difficult to obtain books with dust jackets, and that the period before 1900 is formidably difficult. I am pleased to report some new evidence about 19th century dust jackets, including jacketed Alger titles, dust jackets associated with Alger publishers, and jacket advertisements for Alger titles.

Several months ago I attended the Michigan Book Fair in Lansing and a John W. Lovell title, *Roanoke Island to Murfreesboro*, by William M. Thayer, a volume in

exquisite condition, caught my eye. It was of interest principally because it was a Lovell publication, the publisher of six Alger titles. The price was right and I purchased the volume, soon thereafter noticing a little strip of paper sticking out from, between the pages. I discovered to my very great pleasure that there was a complete dust jacket tucked inside.

The dust jacket is in very good condition. The front of the dust jacket was inscribed with the following text: Lovell's / Rugby Series, / or / Books for Boys and Girls / Illustrated / Roanoke Island to / Murfreesboro/By W. M. Thayer.

I can pin down the publication date of the reprint (the book was originally published in 1865) as between 1890-1892. The back of the dust jacket lists all of the titles in Lovell's **Rugby Series**. The three Alger titles are *Number Ninety-One* and *Tom Tracy*, both by "Arthur Lee Putnam," the Alger pseudonym; and *The Young Acrobat*.

The appearance of a Lovell paper dust jacket on a **Rugby Series** title lends strong circumstantial evidence that similar dust jackets were issued for the entire series, most certainly including the three Alger titles.

The September-October 1995 issue of **Newsboy** featured an article about known dust jackets for Alger first

(Continued on Page 6)

Alger's Renowned Books.

RAGGED DICK SERIES
Ragged Dick, or, Street Life in New York.
Fame and Fortune, or, The Progress of a Poor Boy.
Wells the Winner, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
Frank and Ready, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Detective, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
John and Mary, or, The Story of a New York Boy.

TATTERED TOM SERIES A continuation of the Ragged Dick Series.
First Series.
Tattered Tom, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
Paul the Peddler, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
Phil the Fisherman, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
Sam and Sue, or, The Story of a New York Boy.

TATTERED TOM SERIES Second Series. Illustrated. 4 vols. 18mo.
Johnny, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Outlaw, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
Tom's Chance, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Telegraph Boy.

CAMPAIGN SERIES. 12 novels. 3 vols. 18mo.
John's Campaign.
Paul's Campaign.
Sam's Campaign.

LUCK AND FLUCK SERIES. 12 novels. 3 vols. 18mo.
John's Luck.
Paul's Luck.
Sam's Luck.

LUCK AND FLUCK SERIES. Second Series.
John's Luck.
Paul's Luck.
Sam's Luck.

BEAVE AND HOLD SERIES.
John's Beave.
Paul's Beave.
Sam's Beave.

PACIFIC SERIES.
The Young Adventurer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.

ATLANTIC SERIES.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.
The Young Explorer, or, The Story of a New York Boy.

All the above Volumes are fully Illustrated.

PORTER & COATES, Publishers,
PHILADELPHIA.

Alta Edition.

BATTLES of the REPUBLIC.

Porter & Coates,
Philadelphia.

Ex. 2: This Alta edition of Henry W. Harrison's *Battles of the Republic* includes an advertisement for 36 of Henry T. Coates' Alger books.

Jacket jottings

(Continued from Page 5)

editions published prior to 1900. This select group included *A Boy's Fortune*, *Rupert's Ambition* and *The Young Salesman*, all published by the Henry T. Coates Company.

A Henry T. Coates reprint title, in jacket, has recently surfaced, which may lead one to conclude that many, perhaps all, Henry T. Coates Alger formats were issued with jackets. The title of the recently discovered reprint with a dust jacket is *Hector's Inheritance*, in what is commonly known as the "skyline" format. A gift inscription of May 1899 appears on the flyleaf.

The dust jacket is reddish-brown (probably due to age) and rather plain — no text on the back cover or flaps (see Ex. 1). The top section of the front of the jacket lists the title and Alger's name above a filigree design. In the center of the jacket is a small silhouette of a pouncing lion. The spine reads: *Hector's Inheritance / Alger / [silhouette of a flower] / Henry T. Coates Co.*

The inside of the jacket advertises 97 volumes of the *Roundabout Library*, including 12 Alger titles. Other authors in this series include Ballantyne, Castlemon, Ellis and Henty.

Another recent acquisition is a Porter & Coates volume titled *Battles of the Republic* by Henry W. Harrison, a reprint of an 1858 title. This paper dust jacket (see Ex. 2) is in excellent condition and was recently acquired from a dealer. The front of the jacket reads: *Alta Edition. / Battles of the Republic. / Porter & Coates / Philadelphia.*

The back cover of the dust jacket carries the heading, *Alger's Renowned Books*, and lists 36 Alger titles from nine series. The Library of Congress indicates that this reprint appeared as early as 1886, and the book in hand has a Christmas 1890 inscription. The only Alta edition Alger title issued by Porter & Coates was *Helen Ford*. It is reasonable to assume that if dust jackets were issued for at least one Alta edition, they also accompanied other titles in that series, including *Helen Ford*.

Since there is now a documented Porter & Coates paper dust jacket which lists Alger titles, we can cautiously speculate that other Porter & Coates books, Alger and non-Alger, were accompanied by dust jackets during this period. The dust jacket search may now proceed, invigorated by new evidence and fortified by an expectation of additional sightings.

Author's note: I would like to acknowledge the contribution and counsel of Rob Kasper (PF-327) in the preparation of these remarks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

I read with interest Alan Pickrell's article "All the world loves a fat boy — doesn't it?" in the September-October issue of *Newsboy*. Two other examples of fat boys as series book characters come to mind.

The character of Dan "Fatso" Murphy is well known to collectors of William Heyliger's *Jerry Hicks Series*. Rotund, clumsy Fatso is the quintessential fat boy, always getting himself and his chums into trouble. Because of his size he is often the target of practical jokes, and his friends find him a constant source of entertainment.

Fatso is, however, an integral part of the "gang." He is always included in their activities, whether it be forming a local baseball team, joining the Boy Scouts, or going on a hike. Unlike other fat boys, Fatso is not relegated to the sidelines of the stories. He is, perhaps, the funniest of all the characters in the *Jerry Hicks* books.

Fatso Murphy is also one of the most illustrated fat boys in series book literature. The four *Jerry Hicks* books contain a total of 16 plates, all by renowned artist Bert Salg. Nine of the 16 plates clearly depict Fatso, and he also appears on three of the four dust jackets (also by Salg). Obviously, the people at Grosset & Dunlap felt that depicting the antics of Fatso would help their sales.

The second example is actually not a series. *The Mystery of the Yellow Tie* by Laurence Dwight Smith was

included in Grosset & Dunlap's *Spotlight Books for Boys* series, a publisher's series that gathered books by several authors. The main characters of *The Mystery of the Yellow Tie* are three 18-year-old boys who have been fast friends for years. Hal Dodson, Josh Barr and Theodore "Tubby" Townsend are thrust into a mystery

which reads much like the better Hardy Boys stories. Tubby's character, which has all the elements of the classic fat boy, is nonetheless different, as he is an equal to the other two boys in all ways. The mystery is solved by the efforts of all three boys working together.

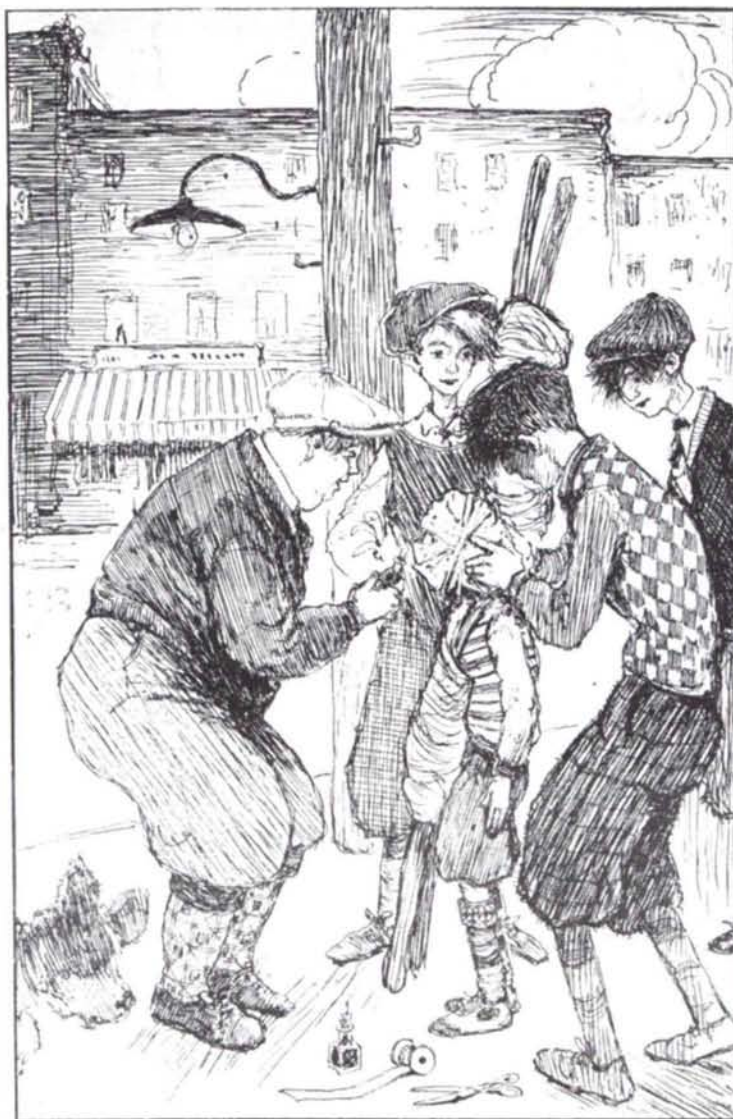
Although Tubby is described as a fat, food-loving fellow, he is not an object of derision by the other boys and their parents. (The crooks in the story, however, do like to call him Hippo!). The book's endpapers, drawn by noted illustrator Paul Laune, depict Tubby and the others very well. Indeed, after reading this title, I found myself wishing Smith had written more books about these characters.

I would also like to compliment Peter Walther on his *Stratemeyer* article. This is the kind of research which puts *Newsboy* on the cutting edge of popular literature publishing. Here's hoping he fol-

lows with a similar article on Everett T. Tomlinson!

Bart J. Nyberg (PF-875)
20W450 Rutgers Drive
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Editor's note: Peter C. Walther (PF-548) has already submitted an update to his article, "A *Stratemeyer* Necrology," which is scheduled for publication in the next issue.



FATSO BANDAGED UP THE FACE OF IZZY'S BROTHER WITH COMPLETENESS.
Jerry Hicks and His Gang. Frontispiece (Page 58)

Frontispiece from *Jerry Hicks and his Gang* (G&D, 1929).

MEMBERSHIP

New members

Bill Baab (PF-980)

2352 Devere St.

Augusta, GA 30904

Bill is a journalist who currently has 38 Alger titles in his library. His other interests include collecting antique bottles and Augusta paper memorabilia. He learned about the Horatio Alger Society through **Yellowback Library**.

Change of address

Horatio Alger Society

P.O. Box 70361

Richmond, VA 23255

All H.A.S. membership dues and official correspondence should be sent to this address.

Jeff Looney (PF-903)

7624-D Beth Road

Richmond, VA 23228-3543

(804) 266-1078

E-mail: jlooney@leo.usla.edu

Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

1524-F Split Oak Lane

Richmond, VA 23229

(804) 285-5050

Mark A. Preston (PF-453)

1124 Smithville Road

Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

S. Percy Dean (PF-753)

8010 Esperanza Way

Boynton Beach, FL 33436

(561) 736-1296

FAX: (561) 733-9394

E-mail: 73121.3551@compuserve.com

(New telephone area code, FAX number and E-mail address added to existing listing).

Jim Freiberg (PF-949)

2333 N. 62nd St.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 453-9814

E-mail: caj@its.mcw.edu

(New telephone number and E-mail address added to existing listing).

Mary Ann Ditch (PF-861)

4657 Mason St.

Omaha, NE 68106

(402) 551-5419

E-mail: maditch@aol.com

(E-mail address added to existing listing).

Paul F. Miller (PF-351)

Ruth W. Miller (PF-894)

4365 Belmar Terrace

P.O. Box 527

Vienna, OH 44473

(330) 394-2238

(New telephone area code for existing listing).

Carl B. Bromer (PF-878)

2141 Edelweiss Ct.

Dayton, OH 45459-1307

(937) 434-0013; FAX: (937) 291-2100

E-mail: stellar@erinet.com

(New telephone area code, FAX number and E-mail address added to existing listing).

Milton F. Ehlert (PF-702)

2017 Chesaning, S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

(616) 241-4759

E-mail: mebks@gr.cns.net

(E-mail address added to existing listing).

John R. Juvinall (PF-537)

820 N. County Line Rd.

Hinsdale, IL 60521

(630) 323-6112

(New telephone area code for existing listing).

New address, telephone area code or E-mail listing?

Send all changes or additions to new official H.A.S. address, above

Other than Uncle Wiggily

Or, the lesser-known works of Howard R. Garis

By John T. Dizer (PF-511)

In the field of popular culture Howard R. Garis is synonymous with Uncle Wiggily. To a much smaller number of researchers, Garis is Tom Swift. But mention *Tam of the Fire Cave*, *Chad of Knob Hill*, *The Venture Boys* or *The White Crystals* and you draw blank stares from most researchers into children's books.

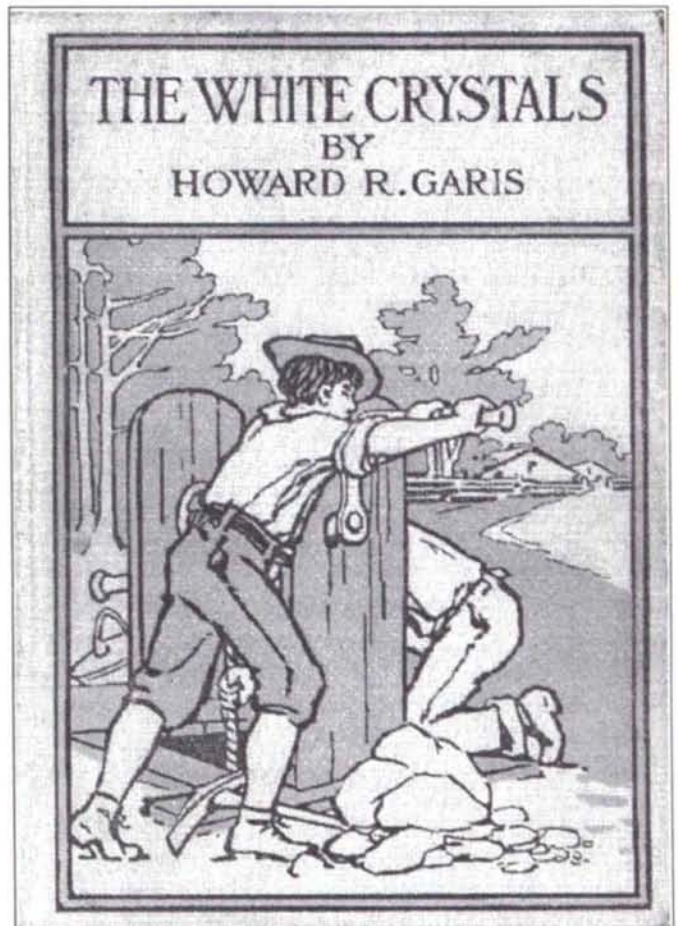
It is ironic that while Edward Stratemeyer has been the subject of several books, Howard Garis, who for over 50 years wrote about Uncle Wiggily and his adventures, and also wrote numerous popular children's books as well as the most successful of the early Stratemeyer Syndicate series, has yet to receive the critical attention he deserves. Since Garis by his own count wrote at least 250 books, it is obvious there is a tremendous body of work to examine.

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

In his long and productive life Howard Garis wrote for small children, young people, both boys and girls, and adults. He wrote sports stories for Gilbert Patten's *Tip Top Weekly*, he wrote the *Great Marvel* science fiction series for Stratemeyer and he wrote the classic science fiction spoof "Professor Jonkin's Cannibal Plant" for *Argosy*. The "Cannibal Plant" has been reprinted in numerous science fiction anthologies (Ed.: An inspiration for *Little Shop of Horrors*?). Garis also wrote all sorts of sports and adventure series books, and he wrote a number of single titles.

If we were to look at all of Garis' writings there would be five major areas which we could examine. The first, of course, would be Uncle Wiggily, Garis' most famous creation. Uncle Wiggily is a field of its own for study. Not only are the Uncle Wiggily stories still popular but thousands of children still play the Uncle Wiggily Game, invented by Howard Garis. There have been all sorts of additional spinoffs such as Uncle Wiggily china and toys for children. Identifying and collecting the editions of Uncle Wiggily stories, plus the Uncle Wiggily memorabilia, is a major enterprise.

Joel Cadbury, the leading collector and authority on Uncle Wiggily, will eventually publish his book on all aspects of the famous rabbit. The printing history alone



The White Crystals (Little, Brown, 1904), a story set in the central New York-Cardiff area, is one of the best-written of Howard Garis' early books for boys.

of the various compilations of Uncle Wiggily stories is extremely long and complex. We are talking about a total time span of close to 85 years, with between 35 and 55 individual titles, depending on your interpretation, and with many editions and publishers.

The second area would be books Garis wrote for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, books that were generally published under Syndicate house names. *The Motor Boys*, *The Racer Boys*, *Tom Swift*, *The Bobbsey Twins*, and on and on. The problems in dealing with this area are that no one as yet knows all the titles Garis wrote for Stratemeyer, and equally important, the titles which he didn't write in various series. We know Garis wrote a number of titles in a great many series but we cannot

(Continued on Page 10)

Editor's note: This article was presented as a paper on March 26, 1996 at the 26th annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association in Las Vegas, Nevada

Other than Uncle Wiggily

(Continued from Page 9)

accurately examine the content of his writings if we don't know exactly what he wrote.

We are, however, quite sure that Garis wrote 35 of the original **Tom Swift Series** and know that he wrote several series under his own name that were controlled by the Syndicate, notably the **Young Reporter (Larry Dexter) Series** and the **Dick Hamilton Series**.

Hopefully, a complete picture of what Garis wrote for the Stratemeyer Syndicate will emerge following the New York Public Library's cataloguing of the Stratemeyer and Stratemeyer Syndicate records, which it holds. However, that may be several years down the road.

A third and also basically unexplored area of Garis' literary career includes anthropomorphic series like the **Bedtime Stories**, with titles such as *Sammie and Susie Littletail* and *Buddy and Brighteyes Pigg*; and his **Circus Animal Stories**, including *Snarlle the Tiger* and *Umboo the Elephant*. Both of these series were written for younger children so we could include in this category other books for the younger set, such as **The Daddy Series for Little Folks**, which "...tell of a little boy and girl who go to various places with their dear Daddy."

A fourth area for research includes Garis' newspaper work, his plays, short stories and miscellaneous writings. That field is really wide open!

The fifth area, which is the focus of this article and one of particular interest to me, is the category of single titles and short series which Garis wrote during much of his lifetime. They were written under his own name and were published by a variety of publishers.

But first, a little bit about Garis himself.

Howard R. Garis was born in 1873 and died in 1962. Many years ago, he wrote his autobiography, *Chain in the Road*, a fascinating account of his early life in upstate New York. The book is still unpublished, although Roger Garis used some of the material in his own book about his father, *My Father Was Uncle Wiggily* (McGraw-Hill, 1966). Brooks Garis, grandson of Howard Garis, has very generously given me a copy of the unpublished



Howard R. Garis (1873-1962)

Chain in the Road and this book is my background source for much of the personal material included here about Howard R. Garis.

Garis was born in Binghamton, in southern New York, where his father was a telegraph train dispatcher on the Syracuse & Binghamton branch of the Lackawanna Railroad.

The family moved to Syracuse when Howard was about 5. In his autobiography he wrote several nostalgic chapters about growing up in central New York, stating, "My most vivid boyhood memories are around my life in Syracuse." He talked about Cardiff and Pompey and Manlius Center and his relatives who lived there. Rural New York appears in his books again and again, even to such names as Tom Cardiff, Unadilla and Chenango. Even after the railroad transferred his father and the family subsequently moved to New Jersey, Garis made many visits to his relatives in the central New York area.

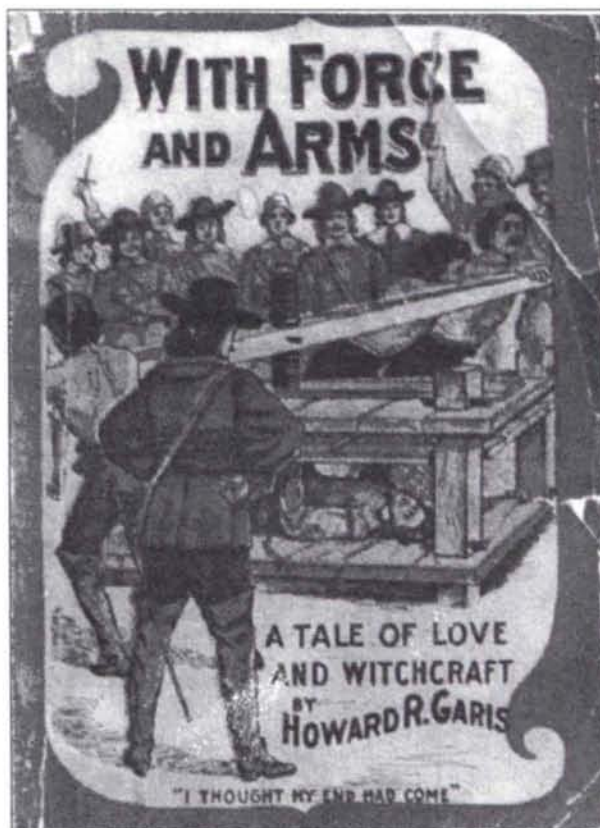
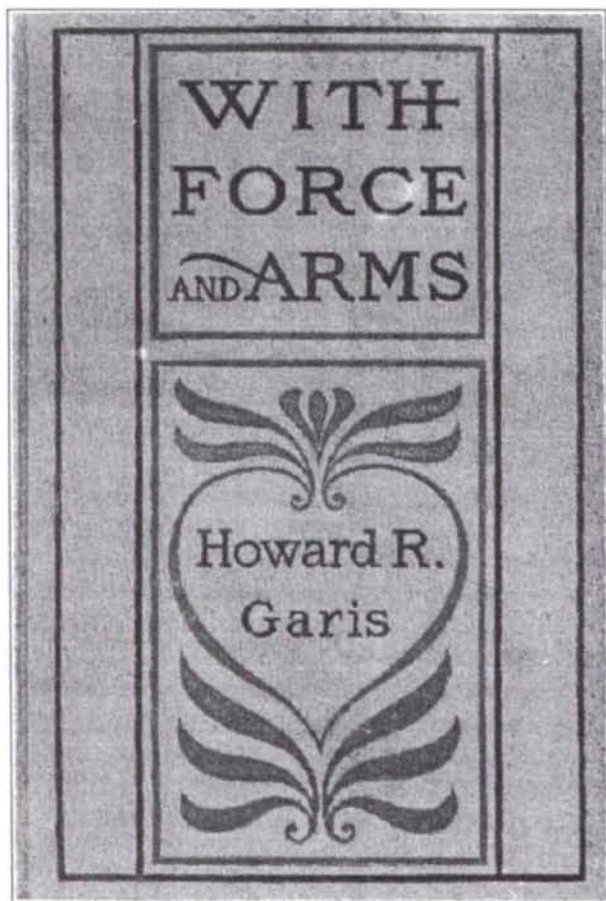
Garis' introduction to writing followed a tortuous route. His father sent him to the Stevens Institute in Hoboken, N.J., to become a mechanical engineer. The elder Garis did this apparently simply because he had a railroad pass from Newark to Hoboken. Howard flunked every subject except elocution and English and parted company with Stevens. He did learn a lot about engineering somewhere along the line as his Tom Swift books show.

Garis also studied printing, typesetting, plumbing and bricklaying and disliked them all. His first writing job was for a weekly called **The Sunnyside**. It was an undertakers' journal and Howard had to report on the latest things in caskets and embalming.

Eventually, he landed a day job on the **Newark News** and started writing stories and books in the evenings. His first book was called *A World Without Women*, which was rejected by Harpers as he said it should have been. "A girl he had asked out refused him, so he hated all females."

His first published book was titled *With Force and Arms*. It was published in 1902 by J.S. Ogilvie (in both hard-cover and paperback editions) and was written for adults. It was a book nominally about Salem and the witchcraft trials. The hero was an English nobleman who backed the wrong side in a political dispute, had been sentenced to be sold as a slave and had escaped to America. He fought the Indians and the Salem witch hunters, fell in love with the lovely Lucille and eventually was pardoned by the king, had his fortunes restored and married Lucille.

With Force and Arms is a very satisfactory romance and even today it reads well with a strong plot and vivid characterizations. The language of the book might be called pseudo-colonial but not excessively so. There are not many "behooves" and "fains" and "withals" as there



Garis' first book, *With Force and Arms*, was published by J.S. Ogilvie in 1902 in hard-cover and paperback editions.

are, for instance, in Percy Keese Fitzhugh's *The Galleon Treasure*. Interestingly enough, both Garis' and Fitzhugh's books are concerned with the Salem witch trials and involve the governor, Sir William Phipps, in the action.

Garis' second book, published in 1903, was *The King of Unadilla*. If you have read *With Force and Arms*, *Isle of Black Fire* and *The White Crystals* before you read *The King of Unadilla*, "Stories of Court Secrets Concerning His Majesty," the latter will be a surprise. As the book notes, "The stories of *The King of Unadilla* appeared originally in *The Sunday News* of Newark, N.J...." The stories were humorous and witty squibs about a bumbling king with a predilection for liquor. They are slight pieces and describe the king's problems with his court and the Emperor of Chenango.

As I noted earlier, both Unadilla and Chenango are New York locales which Garis appears to have remembered from his youth. The newspaper stories must have been popular enough that Ogilvie believed a collection of them would sell as a book.

The King of Unadilla is completely different from Garis' other early books and the stories' humor is quite

dated. This is the first paragraph of the book:

"You're a bunch of past occurrences," said the King of Unadilla, in contemptuous accents, to the Lord of the Treasury, the Keeper of the Swords and the Secretary of the Interior, who was the cook, that title having been conferred on him instead of raising his salary. The King used to say it cost him less and gave no false impression, at that.

The book was also made into an operetta, although we do not know if it was produced. Joel Cadbury has discovered the libretto in the Library of Congress. The title page reads:

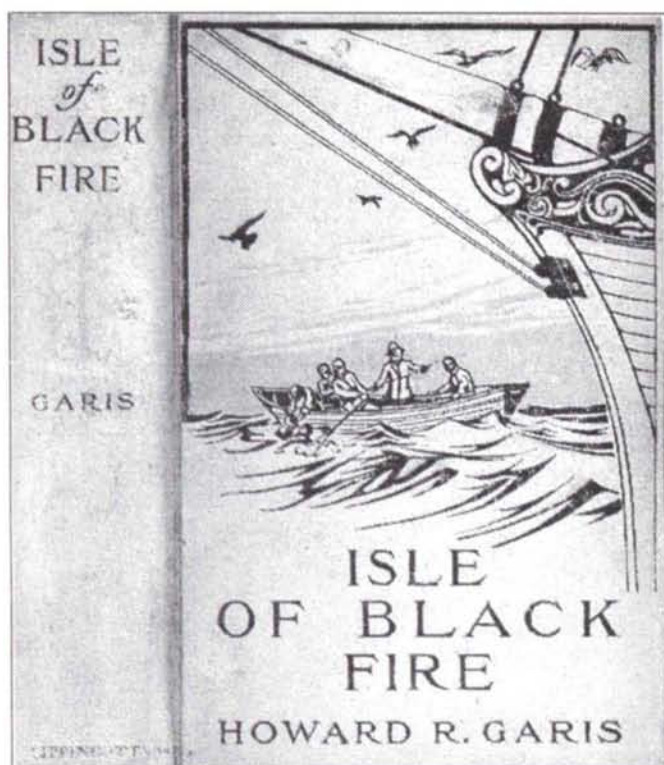
The King of Unadilla.

**A musical play in three acts by
Fred J. Graff.**

**Idea suggested by The King of Unadilla Stories
by Howard R. Garis.**

**(By permission J.S. Ogilvie Publishing Co. — New York.)
Music by Daniel F. Bradley.**

(Continued on Page 12)



Isle of Black Fire (Lippincott, 1904), was Howard Garis' first adventure book written for boys.

Other than Uncle Wiggily

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The play was copyrighted June 17, 1905. The libretto seems as dated in style as the original book.

At the end of both *With Force and Arms* and *The King of Unadilla* is a full-page advertisement which says in part, "When an Author has finished his work he is sometimes at a loss to know just how or where to get it published upon the best terms. To all such we desire to offer our services, **free of charge**, so far as giving advice, information, hints and helps to get a publisher who will publish and put the book on the market. We are in want of first-class manuscripts, and if accepted will publish them for authors upon very favorable terms, will purchase them outright, or publish them on royalty." "Correspondence solicited, and it will be **answered promptly**. Address all manuscripts and communications to J.S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, P.O. Box 767, 57 Rose Street, New York." An ad like this may have been Garis' first connection with Ogilvie.

Ogilvie also included in *The King of Unadilla* a full-page ad for *With Force and Arms*. It included nine favorable one-line reviews and notes, "This book is full of life and stirring incident and is founded on the Salem witchcraft craze. The tale is one of love, and of one man's warfare against another, all for a woman. The descrip-

tion of the days when the colonists were witch-mad is strongly done. There are a number of exciting scenes described in the novel, the style of which is clear and pleasing." The *Providence Telegram* review called it, "A book that will score immediate popularity and success."

Garis' next book, *Isle of Black Fire*, "A Tale of Adventure for Boys," was published by Lippincott in 1904. To show the company Garis was in, in the front of this book Lippincott advertised juvenile titles by James Otis, W.O. Stoddard, General Charles King, Frank R. Stockton, George M. Fenn, George A. Henty and others.

The adventurers in *Isle of Black Fire* were three American boys (one "a fat, jolly chap") who worked for a big importing house in New York. They longed for adventure and, mainly because they had learned about a proposed trip to look for "treasure" (it turned out to be radium) and their boss was concerned about their letting out the secret, they were included on the trip. Their parents gave their permission for the trip and the action of the book was all quite sedate, at least until the expedition crossed the equator and, during a terrible tropical storm, found the uncharted island for which they had been searching.

At this point the restless natives captured their guide (who had formerly been a prisoner on the island and had discovered the radium), the explorers were attacked by a plague of red fleas and snakes and the natives, so things were gloomy.

They got worse. Most of the ship's company was captured by the natives, who seemed to have no respect at all for civilized Americans. This is understandable, since before capture the Americans had used rifles, Gatling guns and steam hoses against the natives, all in self-defense, of course.

The natives seemed to have primitive inclinations but they lived in stone buildings and their prison had iron bars set into the window, indicating a certain level of Western sophistication. For various reasons the descriptions of the native establishment remind me of *Tom Swift in the City of Gold* and *Tom Swift and his Big Tunnel*.

Eventually, the "fat, jolly chap" was selected to be king, at least temporarily, and, as was to be hoped, through some rather convoluted plotting all the ship's company made it back to their ship. Unfortunately, they had inadvertently blown up the radium in their escape. But, as their boss and financier for the trip said on their return, somewhat sadly, "You had a good time, anyhow."

This was Garis' first boys' book. It is a good yarn and rather typical of the genre at that time. Natives were lowly creatures, archeological preservation was unknown and character development was minimal. I suspect the book really set the tone for many of Garis' later

adventure books. In overall quality I would call it very comparable to the Stoddard, Henty, *et al*, books published by Lippincott at the same time. It may be of interest to note that W.O. Stoddard also grew up in Syracuse, N.Y. and his book, *Saltillo Boys*, is a story of his childhood which was a few years earlier than that of Howard Garis.

The last of Garis' early books — books written before he started writing for the Stratemeyer Syndicate — was *The White Crystals*, "Being an Account of the Adventures of Two Boys." It was published in 1904, the same year as *Isle of Black Fire*, though in this instance by Little, Brown.

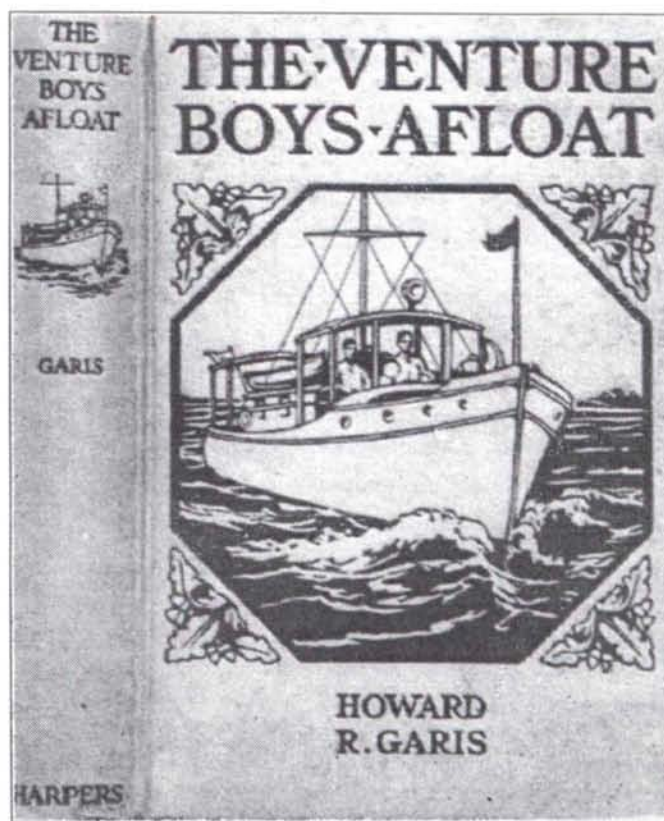
To me, *The White Crystals* seems a much better constructed book than *Isle of Black Fire*. It was about Cardiff, N.Y., an area Garis knew thoroughly. He even combined the names of his real Cardiff uncle and his Manlius grandfather for the name of the Cardiff uncle in the story.

The White Crystals is the story of a city boy, Roger Anderson, who is about 15 years old and who has to go to the country for a year to regain his health. He goes to live with his uncle and his cousin, who is about the same age, on a farm near Cardiff.

Garis describes country sports and activities, farming life and the joys of living in the country, in loving detail. He also writes about the Onondaga Indians, the Cardiff Giant hoax and the salt industry in Syracuse. "Big Johnnie Green," an Onondagan Indian, finds Roger when he is lost in the dark, shoots a wildcat which has attacked Roger, gives Roger and his cousin Indian bow and arrows, and in general gets a very good press from Garis. Roger has a good year. He loves the country life, he gets his health back and he foils the plotters who have found a salt spring on his uncle's land. His uncle receives \$35,000 and shares in the new salt company, pays off the mortgage on the farm and sets aside money to send Roger and his cousin to college. As boys used to say, "It's a rattling good book."

It is obvious that Garis loved central New York and his enthusiasm is obvious in his writing. Several of Garis' best boys' books are about central New York (even the fictitious Shopton, home of Tom Swift, is located there). Cardiff and other villages in Garis' childhood appear prominently in *The Venture Boys in Camp*, the second book of a 1917-18 two-volume series published by Harpers. This first volume, *The Venture Boys Afloat*, is a typical fast-moving boys adventure story in which the Venture Boys go cruising from their home on the Hudson River to Florida, looking for a derelict lumber-schooner. They find the schooner and have it towed to St. Augustine. This is a relief to the father of one of the Venture Boys, who owned both the schooner and its valuable cargo and needed the money rather badly.

In the second book, *The Venture Boys in Camp*, the



boys meet "Little Johnnie Green," who is an Onondagan Indian and lives "... in Onondaga Valley — the prettiest valley in the whole of New York State. It's up on a side-hill, between Tully and Cardiff, near Tisco Lake ..."

Johnnie is the son of "Big Johnnie Green," who, as we mentioned, was featured in *The White Crystals* and is an overseer for a concern "that's pumping salt out of Onondaga Valley to Syracuse."

Johnnie also looks out for the interests of the boys' uncle, who owns land in the area. The boys go camping in Onondaga Valley and, along with the camping, find valuable mica on their uncle's land. The salt industry, the Onondaga Indians, the Cardiff Giant and the geography of the area are all carefully described and are a prominent part of the book.

Cardiff and central New York appear for a third time in the 1926-27 two-volume **Tom Cardiff Series**, published by Milton Bradley. Tom Cardiff, the hero, took his name from the country village of Cardiff, "12 miles from Syracuse." Tom had been abandoned as a baby on the steps of the Cardiff church. Tom befriends an old Onondaga Indian. This doesn't sit at all well with his foster father, so Tom has to decide between the Indian and his foster father, so he leaves home.

Garis again writes well and movingly about the Onondagas and is quite detailed about both the life and plight of the central New York Indians. We know from

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Other than Uncle Wiggily

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his autobiography that in his youth he was very familiar with the Onondaga tribe of the Iroquois. Garis' statement, "Our government's shameful treatment of our Indians, whom we have robbed of their possessions, making them dependents, needs no telling," shows his attitude. It is quite different from the usual treatment of the Indian in literature of that period.

Anyway, Tom joins the circus and has a number of adventures which continue for two books while he travels with the circus around central New York. Garis carefully describes circus life and seems quite familiar with it. In this series also, Garis gives detailed accounts of the salt industry around Syracuse as well as much accurate local color.

One of the most famous fakes of the last century was the Cardiff Giant, found on a farm in Cardiff, N.Y. Garis mentions it in *The White Crystals*, gives its history in *The Venture Boys in Camp* and re-uses the story in *Tom Cardiff in the Big Top*. By the end of this book the Giant is the hit of Tom's circus and Tom is now a successful clown in the Big Top. Along the way, readers have been exposed to a lot of well-written and interesting background about central New York.

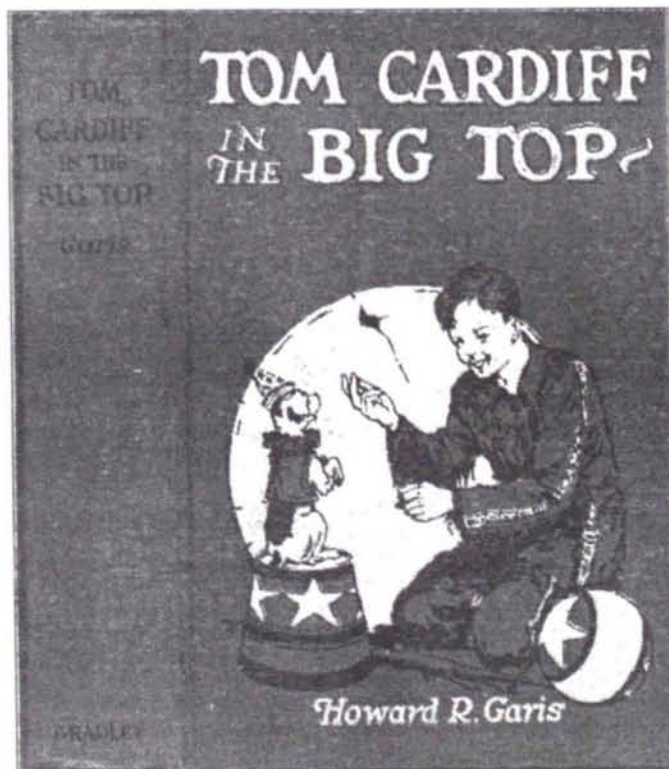
Roger Garis gives the impression that his father's early books were artistic but not commercial successes. In terms of royalties this may be correct but apparently

the books were popular and a number of copies were obviously printed. As mentioned, Ogilvie published *With Force and Arms* (1902) in both an attractive hard-cover edition as well as in paperback. This is not common for a limited printing. Ogilvie also published *The King of Unadilla* the following year. Lippincott published *Isle of Black Fire* and was still publishing it, in a different cover, in 1908. Reprint editions of *The White Crystals* also exist.

This certainly indicates some commercial success, though perhaps just for the publishers, and I suggest that since Ogilvie published two Garis books in successive years and two such prominent publishers as Lippincott and Little, Brown each published a boys' adventure story by Garis in the same year, that his writing and his stories must have been well-regarded.

Garis' early books not only show his writing capabilities but set the tone for many of his later books. As in *Isle of Black Fire*, his adventure stories with foreign populations and foreign locales are fast-moving and entertaining but generally not well researched or very realistic, at least as far as the natives are concerned. His lack of archeological and anthropological knowledge is evident in the books which touch upon these subjects, but the stories are still generally well-written and always interesting.

On the other hand, he obviously kept abreast of technical matters. We know that Garis wrote many volumes of various Stratemeyer Syndicate series with strong technical themes. These include most of the *Tom Swift*, *Motor Boys* and *Great Marvel* books. His *Base-*



ball Joe Series, also written for Stratemeyer, shows considerable knowledge of the sport. This series, incidentally, was written as competition for Gilbert Patten's **Big League Series**, written for Barse & Hopkins under the "Burt L. Standish" pseudonym. Patten, who at one time managed a minor-league ball team, is considered to be more of an authority on baseball than Garis but I doubt if boys who read both

series would notice much difference. Garis is never dull.

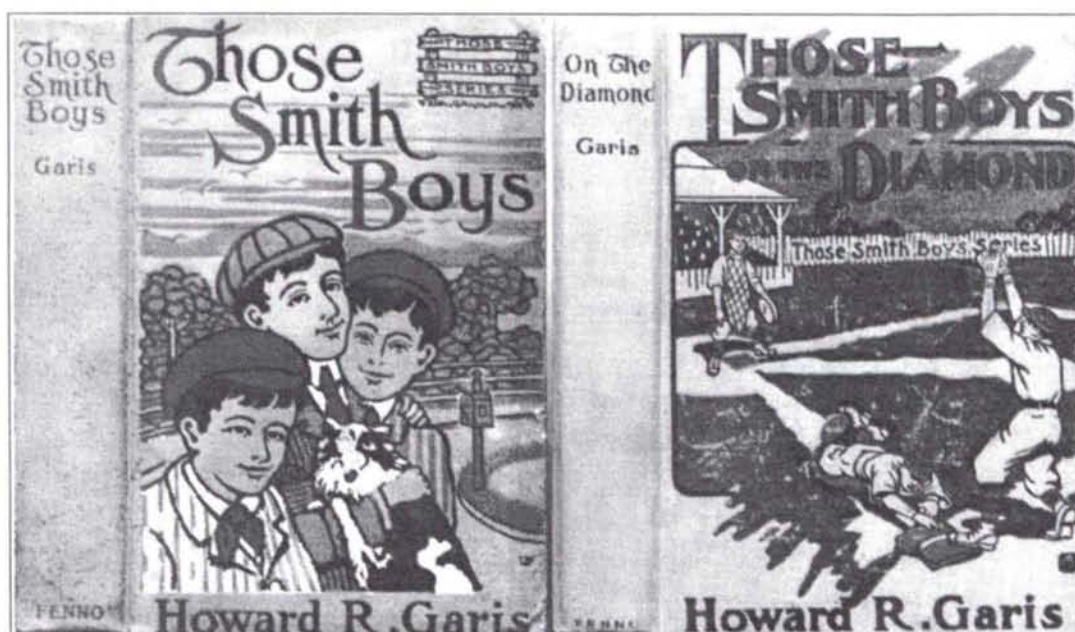
We know that Garis was writing for Stratemeyer by 1906 and probably before. Much of his effort went into books for the Syndicate, which were issued under house names. Garis did write two early series for Stratemeyer under his own name, but both series were owned by Stratemeyer. The first was the **Young Reporter Series** (1907-1915, six volumes, also known as the **Great Newspaper Series** and the **Larry Dexter Series**); and the second was the **Dick Hamilton Series** (1909-1914, six volumes).

Since we do not know how much direction with regard to plot, action and characters came from Edward Stratemeyer, it is difficult to make an accurate analysis of these series. Garis was a newspaperman and Larry Dexter, who is the young reporter of the series title, is well-portrayed. Dick Hamilton is a young millionaire and his adventures are somewhat more fanciful. Perhaps writers during that era didn't have that much contact with millionaires.

There are also three non-Syndicate series by Garis that are virtually unknown to readers and collectors. Two were published for R.F. Fenno during the same period Grosset & Dunlap was publishing the **Dick Hamilton** and **Larry Dexter** books.

One of these series was the **Those Smith Boys Series**, which relates adventures of three boys in the outdoors and in baseball. The three boys are Pete (nicknamed "Sawed-off" because of his short stature), William and the eldest boy, John, nicknamed "Cap" because his father was a captain. The series takes place in and around the town of Freeport, described by Garis as "a village in one of our Eastern states."

Those Smith Boys was published in 1910 and *Those*



Smith Boys on the Diamond in 1912. They were reprinted by M.A. Donohue, and it is these plain, cheap-quality editions that are usually found today.

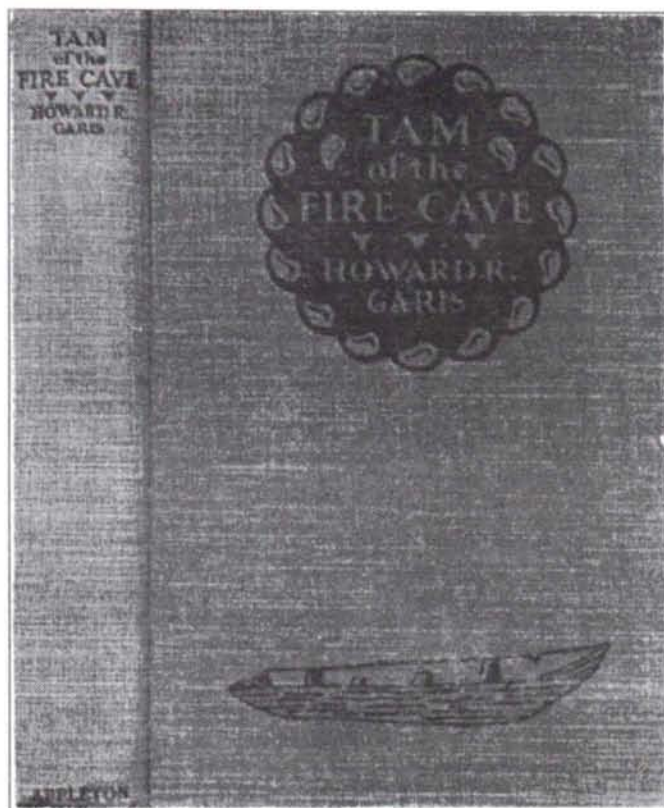
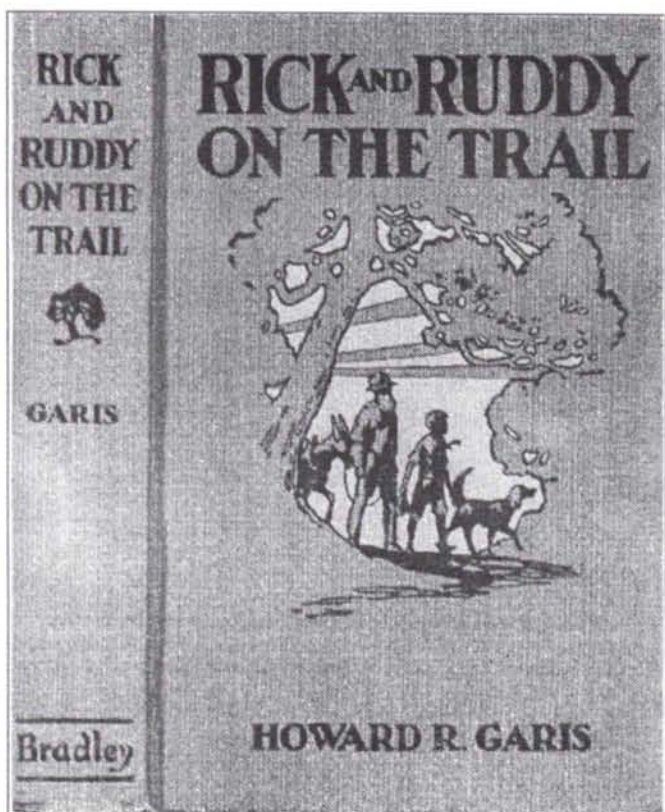
The second series produced by R.F. Fenno, **The Island Boys Series**, consists of only one book: *The Island Boys* (1912). A second title, *The Island Boys in Camp*, was advertised by Fenno but never published. The boys are named (believe it or not) Tom, Dick and Harry, three sons of a widowed mother who live with her on Beechwood Island located in the center of Modok Lake in a resort region of New York State.

The third somewhat obscure series came about two decades later: the two-volume **Mystery Boys Series**, published by Milton Bradley in 1930 and 1931. The stories in these books take place away from Garis' beloved New York, in the town of Bitter Creek, "...on the edge of Western cattle country." The boy heroes are Dirk Campbell ("Curly"), Fenwick Wilson ("Sandy") and Randy Heath, the obligatory heavy-set character.

It is simply not possible to analyze in detail the many other series Garis wrote. The bibliography at the end of this article lists 119 titles, exclusive of Uncle Wiggily.

There are many books for younger readers, the so-called "tots" books. The **Bedtime Stories** originally appeared in the **Newark Evening News**, "gave pleasure to a number of little folks and grown-ups also," and were collected and reprinted in hard-cover by R.F. Fenno. In *Neddie and Beckie Stubtail* we find the stories concern "... rabbits and squirrels and ducks and chickens. How would you like to hear about some little bear children? Not bad, savage Bears, you know, but nice, kind, gentle, tame ones who always minded the papa and mamma bears, went to bed when they were told,

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Other than Uncle Wiggily

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and all that."

The **Daddy Stories**, as in *Daddy Takes Us to the Woods*, are pleasant, innocuous and instructive tales about two little children, apparently about five years old who go on walks and learn "something of value about nature lore, outdoor sports and animal life."

The **Circus Animal Stories** are "Tales of wild animals of desert and jungle, telling how they are caught and trained to do circus tricks." In the animal's own words, I might add.

And in the **Happy Home Series**, the furniture also speaks, at least to other furniture. In *The Adventures of the Runaway Rocking Chair*, the rocking chair is most vocal about the constantly increasing weight of the fat grandmother who sits in it, so the chair runs away or more accurately, rocks away. But at the end of the story it safely returns, together with grandmother's glasses, which she had stuffed into the chair.

Garis wrote many series for somewhat older children, including such multi-volume series as **Two Wild Cherries**, **The Curlytops**, the **Buddy Books** and the **Teddy Series**. The Teddy books, as examples, were advertised as "adventure and mystery stories for boys and girls, ages 7-11 ..."

Turning to an interesting series written apparently

for the Tom Swift audience, we might mention the four-volume **Rocket Riders Series** (1933-1934, A.L. Burt). Quoting from the dust jacket blurb, "here is a new type of adventure for you — a new speed thrill story combining all the elements of adventure and mystery, together with the fascination with the newest form of transportation — rocket propulsion." The blurb continues with "The author has an unusual knack of creating exciting stories — stories that will hold your interest up till the last page and make you want more."

And this is correct. In *Rocket Riders Across the Ice*, the Rocket Riders defeat the "bully and his toady" and get thoroughly involved in rocket propulsion. The action is similar in the other three books of the series. They read much like Tom Swift, and, according to research by James D. Keeline (*Newsboy*, November-December, 1992), the books' story ideas were originally drafted for possible use in the **Tom Swift Series** before Garis stopped writing for the Syndicate in the early 1930s.

Garis' love of animals appears in the five-volume **Rick and Ruddy Series** (Milton-Bradley, 1920-1924). *Rick and Ruddy*, "The Story of a Boy and his Dog," tells about how Rick, who is "nine -goin'-on-ten" desperately longs for a dog. He wants a dog so badly that he decides to pray for one even though he thought he might get a cat instead. "I-I guess I'll take a chance," he whispered in the dark. And how Ruddy, the dog, wants a home just as badly. Fortunately, the two get together and have all

sorts of adventures, which Garis describes in his usual delightful style. Ruddy goes camping with the Boy Scouts, though he is a little young for the Scouts.

In the 1920s there was a great deal of public interest in Paleolithic culture. Norbert Casteret discovered and wrote about Stone Age statues for *The National Geographic*. Much appeared in the public press and, not surprisingly, there was a spate of books about early man, written for young people.

Irving Crump wrote *Og, Son of Fire*, and its sequels. Francis Rolt-Wheeler wrote *The Finder of Fire*. Howard Garis wrote *Tam of the Fire Cave*.

Tam, published by D. Appleton & Co. in 1927, is one of Garis' most unusual stories. It tells of a hunchbacked boy of the old stone age, his life and his struggle to find his place in the tribe. Garis seems unusually sensitive toward Tam and his needs and, it seems to me, develops the characters in a methodical and careful manner. Garis' emphasis is not on the macho warriors of the tribe but on the crippled boy and his future. Tam trains himself as a cave painter. The climax of the story comes when members of the tribe are allowed to see the cave drawings, which Tam has made. "Wonderful!" "When did man ever see the like of that?" "Sure, 'tis magic, though of a sort that harms not!"

And his father says, "There are enough others of us to fling spears and to shoot arrows. We need no more hunters or warriors in the tribe." The tribe is awed and respectful and Tam's place is assured.

Chad of Knob Hill, "The Tale of a Lone Scout," is, to me, Garis at his very best. It was published in 1929 and, like *The White Crystals*, by Little, Brown. It is not only a fine book for boys, it is one of the best books ever written about what Boy Scouting can really mean to a boy.

It is the story of a lonely orphan boy who lives with a disagreeable, narrow-minded and intolerant distant relative on a farm in the country. The location is not specified but it could well be central New York. Garis' graphic description of the hard work and trials of marginal truck farming are vivid and very well done.

One day, Chad is entranced by the sight of a troop of Boy Scouts marching past the farm and wants desperately to become a Boy Scout himself.

The Scoutmaster of the troop has a chance to talk briefly with him and gives him an application for the Lone Scouts. Chad looks over the application. "I can't go on like I been going forever! I got to join! O God," he prayed quickly, earnestly, and humbly. "Help me to be a Boy Scout — a Lone Scout!" (p. 66). "...he wrote a brief letter, filled out the Lone Scout application, and purchasing a fifty-cent money order, mailed it all to New York. "If they will only take me!" murmured Chad as he hurried back to his work on the farm. "If they only will let me join! O God! Let me be a Lone Scout!" (p. 68).

He becomes a Lone Scout after taking the oath at night by himself on the top of Knob Hill. "... then, all alone, standing up, a small black figure in the silvery sheen that bathed Knob Hill in wondrous radiance, Chad, looking toward God and the moon, held up his hands clasping the book, and said in a low voice, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law. I will do my best to help other people at all times. I will do my best to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

"He paused a moment and though expecting some manifestation, but the moon only shone on serenely, and a little wind rustled the trees. 'Now I'm a Lone Scout!' murmured Chad as he slowly lowered his hands and began to walk away. 'I'm Lone Scout Chad of Knob Hill!'" (pp. 99-100).

Chad really tries to live the Scout Law. Chad not only enlisted the hired man as a "friend and guide" but helps him cure his drinking problem. He studies the Scout handbook whenever he can and does his best to learn the Scout rank requirements.

Things seem to be finally looking up a bit for Chad. A small brown puppy has adopted him, though Chad hasn't told the farmer. Chad named the puppy "Scout." Chad uses his Scouting initiative to find a mineral deposit on the farmer's land and takes samples to a geologist, who determines that the deposit is carbonado. The farmer is in financial trouble and is being pressured to sell the land. Chad had built a log hut in the woods to hold his moth and butterfly specimens and other collections.

But before he has a chance to tell the farmer about the carbonado, he discovers that the farmer has found his hut, destroyed all his collections and his cherished relics and completely trashed the interior. Chad is devastated and plans to run away. He wrestles with his conscience about telling the farmer about the carbonado or letting him lose the farm. The Scoutmaster who had given Chad the Lone Scout application turns up at the hut to see how he is coming along and they struggle together about what is the right thing to do. They find Chad's Boy Scout handbook among the debris and open it.

"The Boy could not help reading, 'A Scout is trustworthy. A Scout's honor is to be trusted. if he were to violate his honor by telling a lie, or by not doing exactly a given task, when trusted on his honor, he may be directed to hand over the scout badge.'" (p. 271).

Chad fights a bitter fight with himself over his desire for revenge, but finally wins. He asks the Scoutmaster to go with him to explain to the farmer that "I had to tell the truth because — I'm a Lone Scout," and Chad took the official badge from beneath his coat and pinned it boldly in front where all could see."

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The two arrive just in time to thwart the money-leader from repossessing the farm. A geologist determines that the mineral rights are quite valuable, and tells the farmer, "... there's no reason why you shouldn't live easy on them the rest of your life." (p. 287).

There is an emotional scene where the farmer realizes how the Scout Law has affected Chad. The farmer says, "'An' what's more, Chad, I'll help you fit up that new shack of yours in any way you like. You don't need t' stick it way up on Knob Hill, either. You don't need to keep secret about it any longer. I'm for the Boy Scouts first, last an' always!'"

The farmer promises to deed Knob Hill over to Chad "t' have an' t' hold for ever an' ever, as th' deeds say!"

Not only that, but Chad's dog Scout shows up and the farmer pets him and says, "'You' part of th' farm from now on'..." (p. 293). Finally, the farmer says, "addressing everybody, 'What a great day this has been, hain't it? What a great day!' 'A wonderful day!' murmured Chad as he slowly walked away with his frisky pal leaping on ahead. 'A wonderful day.'" (p. 297).

This book is certainly one of the strongest endorsements of Scouting ideals ever written. It is Garis at the peak of his powers and shows how he could develop a theme and write a wonderfully absorbing story for boys.

After re-reading most of Garis' books I found it helpful simply to sit and think about the man and his books. In terms of personality, he consistently comes through to me as a kind and gentle person. He seems to have kept his sense of humor throughout his writing career and his humor often shows up in unexpected places. I find him a vital and forceful writer who never lost his creative drive. Both *With Force and Arms* and *The White Crystals* show Garis' early mastery of plotting, action and effective writing techniques. *The White Crystals* and *Chad of Knob Hill* are both superior books, in my judgment, because of Garis' intimate knowledge of his subjects and involvement with the plots. Some elements of Garis' humor appear in *The King of Unadilla*, but it is much more apparent in his Uncle Wiggily writings and other stories for younger children.

No superficial survey of the writings of Howard R. Garis can do him full credit. I find him much more complex than has been generally assumed and I consider him a very able writer. I think it is obvious that he wrote very successfully for widely varying age groups and I personally am convinced that it is time he received more recognition for his abilities.

I sincerely hope that his autobiography, *Chain in the Road*, will some day be published so that readers can see more clearly the kind of man he was.

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| 2. The King of Unadilla | J.S. Ogilvie | 1903 |
| 3. Isle of Black Fire | Lippincott | 1904 |
| 4. The White Crystals | Little,Brown | 1904 |

The Young Reporter Series*

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------|
| 5. From Office Boy to Reporter | Chatterton-Peck | 1907 |
| 6. Larry Dexter, Reporter | Chatterton-Peck | 1907 |
| 7. Larry Dexter's Great Search | Grosset & Dunlap | 1909 |
| 8. Larry Dexter and the Bank Mystery | Grosset & Dunlap | 1912 |
| 9. Larry Dexter and the Stolen Boy | Grosset & Dunlap | 1912 |
| 10. Larry Dexter in Belgium | Grosset & Dunlap | 1915 |

* Also known as the *Great Newspaper Series* or *Larry Dexter Series*.

Dick Hamilton Series

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|
| 11. Dick Hamilton's Fortune | Grosset & Dunlap | 1909 |
| 12. Dick Hamilton's Cadet Days | Grosset & Dunlap | 1910 |
| 13. Dick Hamilton's Steam Yacht | Grosset & Dunlap | 1911 |
| 14. Dick Hamilton's Football Team | Grosset & Dunlap | 1912 |
| 15. Dick Hamilton's Touring Car | Grosset & Dunlap | 1913 |
| 16. Dick Hamilton's Airship | Grosset & Dunlap | 1914 |

Those Smith Boys Series

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------|
| 17. Those Smith Boys | R.F. Fenno | 1910 |
| 18. Those Smith Boys on the Diamond | R.F. Fenno | 1912 |

Bed Time Stories Series

| | | |
|---|------------|------|
| 19. Sammie and Susie Littletail | R.F. Fenno | 1910 |
| 20. Johnnie and Billie Bushytail | R.F. Fenno | 1910 |
| 21. Jackie and Peetie Bow Wow | R.F. Fenno | 1912 |
| 22. Lulu, Alice and Jimmie Wibblewobble | R.F. Fenno | 1912 |
| 23. Buddy and Brighteyes Pigg | R.F. Fenno | 1913 |
| 24. Joie, Tommie and Kittie Kat | R.F. Fenno | 1913 |
| 25. Charlie and Arabelle Chick | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 26. Neddie and Becky Stubbytail | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 27. Bully and Bawly No-Tail | R.F. Fenno | 1915 |
| 28. Nannie and Billie Wagtail | R.F. Fenno | 1915 |
| 29. Jollie and Jillie Longtail | R.F. Fenno | 1916 |
| 30. Jacko and Jumbo Kinkytail | R.F. Fenno | 1917 |
| 31. Curley and Floppy Twistytail | R.F. Fenno | 1918 |
| 32. Toodle and Noodle Fist-Tail | R.F. Fenno | 1919 |

The Island Boys Series

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| 33. The Island Boys | R.F. Fenno | 1912 |
| 33a. The Island Boys in Camp | R.F. Fenno (phantom title) | |

Three Little Trippertrots Series

| | | |
|---|------------------|------|
| 34. Three Little Trippertrots | Graham & Matlack | 1912 |
| 35. Three Little Trippertrots — Travels | Graham & Matlack | 1912 |

Circus Animal Stories

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------|
| 36. Snarlle the Tiger | R.F. Fenno | 1916 |
| 37. Woo-Uff the Lion | R.F. Fenno | 1918 |
| 38. Humpo the Camel | R.F. Fenno | 1918 |
| 39. Umboo the Elephant | R.F. Fenno | 1918 |

The Daddy Series for Little Folks

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| 40. Daddy Takes Us Camping | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 41. Daddy Takes Us Fishing | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 42. Daddy Takes Us to the Circus | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 43. Daddy Takes Us Skating | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 44. Daddy Takes Us Coasting | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 45. Daddy Takes Us to the Woods | R.F. Fenno | 1914 |
| 46. Daddy Takes Us Hunting Flowers | R.F. Fenno | 1915 |
| 47. Daddy Takes Us Hunting Birds | R.F. Fenno | 1916 |
| 48. Daddy Takes Us to the Farm | R.F. Fenno | 1918 |
| 49. Daddy Takes Us to the Garden | R.F. Fenno | 1920 |

The Venture Boys Series

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------|------|
| 50. The Venture Boys Afloat | Harpers | 1917 |
| 51. The Venture Boys in Camp | Harpers | 1918 |

The Curlytops Series

| | | |
|--|----------------|------|
| 52. The Curlytops at Cherry Farm | Cupples & Leon | 1918 |
| 53. The Curlytops on Star Island | Cupples & Leon | 1918 |
| 54. The Curlytops Snowed In | Cupples & Leon | 1918 |
| 55. The Curlytops at Uncle Frank's Ranch | Cupples & Leon | 1918 |
| 56. The Curlytops at Silver Lake | Cupples & Leon | 1920 |
| 57. The Curlytops and Their Pets | Cupples & Leon | 1921 |
| 58. The Curlytops and Their Playmates | Cupples & Leon | 1922 |
| 59. The Curlytops in the Woods | Cupples & Leon | 1923 |
| 60. The Curlytops at Sunset Beach | Cupples & Leon | 1924 |
| 61. The Curlytops Touring Around | Cupples & Leon | 1925 |
| 62. The Curlytops in a Summer Camp | Cupples & Leon | 1927 |
| 63. The Curlytops Growing Up | Cupples & Leon | 1928 |
| 64. The Curlytops at Happy House | Cupples & Leon | 1931 |
| 65. The Curlytops at the Circus | Cupples & Leon | 1932 |

Rick and Ruddy Series

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|------|
| 66. Rick and Ruddy: A Boy and His Dog | Milton Bradley | 1920 |
| 67. Rick and Ruddy in Camp | Milton Bradley | 1921 |
| 68. Rick and Ruddy Afloat | Milton Bradley | 1922 |
| 69. Rick and Ruddy Out West | Milton Bradley | 1923 |
| 70. Rick and Ruddy on the Trail | Milton Bradley | 1924 |

Two Wild Cherries Series

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|------|
| 71. Two Wild Cherries | Milton Bradley | 1924 |
| 72. Two Wild Cherries in the Country | Milton Bradley | 1924 |
| 73. Two Wild Cherries in the Wood | Milton Bradley | 1924 |
| 74. Two Wild Cherries at the Seashore | Milton Bradley | 1925 |

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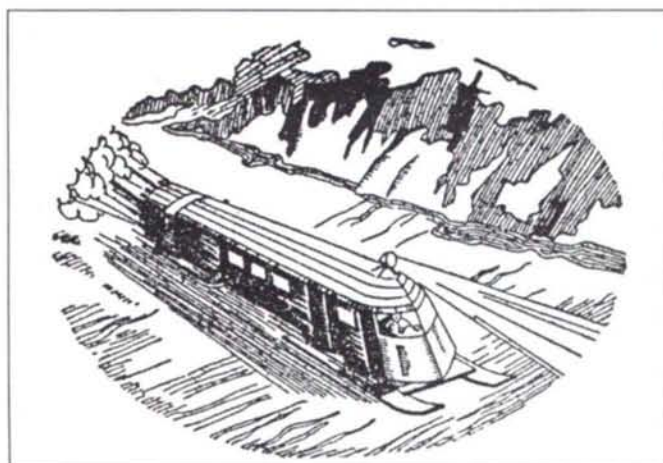
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| 76. Advent. of the Runaway Rocking Chair | Grosset & Dunlap | 1926 |
| 77. Adventures of the Sailing Sofa | Grosset & Dunlap | 1926 |
| 78. Adventures of the Sliding Foot Stool | Grosset & Dunlap | 1926 |
| 79. Adventures of the Traveling Table | Grosset & Dunlap | 1926 |
| 80. Adventures of the Prancing Piano | Grosset & Dunlap | 1927 |

Tom Cardiff Series

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|--------------------------------|----------------|------|
| 81. Tom Cardiff's Circus | Milton Bradley | 1926 |
| 82. Tom Cardiff in the Big Top | Milton Bradley | 1927 |

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| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------|
| 83. Tam of the Fire Cave | D. Appleton | 1927 |
| 84. Tuftoo the Clown | D. Appleton | 1928 |
| 85. Chad of Knob Hill | Little, Brown | 1929 |

**Title-page illustration: *Rocket Riders Across the Ice.*****The Buddy Books**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------|
| 86. Buddy on the Farm | Cupples & Leon | 1929 |
| 87. Buddy in School | Cupples & Leon | 1929 |
| 88. Buddy and His Winter Fun | Cupples & Leon | 1929 |
| 89. Buddy at Rainbow Lake | Cupples & Leon | 1930 |
| 90. Buddy and his Chum | Cupples & Leon | 1930 |
| 91. Buddy at Pine Beach | Cupples & Leon | 1931 |
| 92. Buddy and his Flying Balloon | Cupples & Leon | 1931 |
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| 99. Buddy at Lost River | Cupples & Leon | 1938 |
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| 102. Buddy at Red Gate | Cupples & Leon | 1941 |
| 103. Buddy in Dragon Swamp | Cupples & Leon | 1942 |
| 104. Buddy's Victory Club | Cupples & Leon | 1943 |
| 105. Buddy and the G-Man Mystery | Cupples & Leon | 1944 |
| 106. Buddy and his Fresh-Air Camp | Cupples & Leon | 1947 |

Mystery Boys Series

| | | |
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| 107. Mystery Boys at Ghost Canyon | Milton Bradley | 1930 |
| 108. Mystery Boys at Round Lake | Milton Bradley | 1931 |

Rocket Riders Series

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| 109. Rocket Riders Across the Ice | A.L. Burt | 1933 |
| 110. Rocket Riders Over the Desert | A.L. Burt | 1933 |
| 111. Rocket Riders in Stormy Seas | A.L. Burt | 1933 |
| 112. Rocket Riders in the Air | A.L. Burt | 1934 |

The Teddy Series

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|------|
| 113. Teddy and his Mystery Dog | Cupples & Leon | 1936 |
| 114. Teddy and the Mystery Monkey | Cupples & Leon | 1936 |
| 115. Teddy and the Mystery Cat | Cupples & Leon | 1937 |
| 116. Teddy and the Mystery Parrot | Cupples & Leon | 1938 |
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| 119. Teddy and the Mystery Goat | Cupples & Leon | 1941 |

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