



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 L

MAY-JUNE 2012

NUMBER 3

*Convention issue*

## 'Dash to DeKalb III'

- ◆ Convention report
- ◆ Auction results
- ◆ Treasurer's report
- ◆ Strive and Succeed Award
- ◆ Convention photos

-- *Complete coverage inside*



Michael Lozano of DeKalb High School receives the 2012 *Strive and Succeed Award* from convention host Lynne Thomas during the annual Horatio Alger Society banquet at Northern Illinois University. Photo by Barry Schoenborn

*Horatio Alger interviews Carol Nackenoff*

-- See Page 5

Book review: Edward Stratemeyer's *Victor Horton's Idea*

-- See Page 19

## President's column

Hi, Folks! Welcome to the start of summer! I'd like to give you a short update about all kinds of topics.

**2012 Convention.** Our annual convention (with auction and sale) is the high point of the Horatio Alger Society year. From May 3-6, 2012, we attended convention #48, "Dash to DeKalb III," in DeKalb, Illinois. This was a good one! The host was Lynne Thomas and Northern Illinois University. Lynne is Curator, Rare Books and Special Collections, and that's where the Alger repository is. My, oh my! It's easy to see why we return to DeKalb every five years or so. It's a thrill to see rare (and valuable) Algers and they're in wonderful shape! Please try to attend conventions. Your being there makes a big difference in the financial success of the Horatio Alger Society, plus you'll have a fine time.

**Book sale.** Talk about the value of Algers! Some years they're "worth" more and some years they're "worth" less, but they're always a treasure. Recently, someone (probably a member) sold *Timothy Crump's Ward* on eBay for \$11,500! Not pocket change, by any means.

**Gratitude from Kathie Williman.** Many of you will remember Bob Williman (PF-569). This year, H.A.S. did a great service to Kathie Williman, his widow. As she grew older, she needed to move. She wrote us: "In all that time, I never gave a thought to leaving our farm or, heaven forbid, finding a new home for his beloved Horatio Alger, Jr., book collection that lines our living room wall." Kathie went on to thank Ed Mattson (PF-067) for his assistance, appraising various collections, selling many of the books on eBay and at our auction, and taking nothing in return. Kathie and H.A.S. got the proceeds. The complete text of Kathie's letter can be found on Page 13 of this issue.

**Website Roundup.** As you know, a few months back, we launched our new website, <http://horatioalgersociety.net/>. There's lots of excellent content there, with more to come. We'll get some valuable technical help from Bob Huber this year, as well as continued feedback from members. Among them is Jeff Looney, who collects many authors in addition to Alger, and has excellent ideas about increasing the usefulness of the site. He knows a lot from being the Editor of the Thomas Jefferson Retirement Papers.

**Facebook Roundup.** The H.A.S. is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Horatio-Alger-Society/146015956296](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Horatio-Alger-Society/146015956296). Bob Sipes put up the first posts in October 2011. Great

(Continued on Page 4)

## HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr. and to encourage the spirit of *Strive & Succeed* that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes. Our members conduct research and provide scholarship on the life of Horatio Alger, Jr., his works and influence on the culture of America. The Horatio Alger Society embraces collectors and enthusiasts of all juvenile literature, including boys' and girls' series, pulps and dime novels.

### OFFICERS

BARRY SCHOENBORN	PRESIDENT
JEFF LOONEY	VICE-PRESIDENT
CHRISTINE DeHAAN	TREASURER
ROBERT G. SIPES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROL NACKENOFF	(2013) DIRECTOR
BART J. NYBERG	(2013) DIRECTOR
MICHAEL MORLEY	(2013) DIRECTOR
LEE SWITZER	(2014) DIRECTOR
ROBERT M. PETITTO	(2014) DIRECTOR
CARY STERNICK	(2014) DIRECTOR
DAVID J. YARINGTON	(2015) DIRECTOR
KENNETH BROADIE	(2015) DIRECTOR
RICHARD B. HOFFMAN	(2015) DIRECTOR
LEO "BOB" BENNETT (1932-2004)	EMERITUS
RALPH D. GARDNER (1923-2005)	EMERITUS

### PAST PRESIDENTS

KENNETH B. BUTLER	WILLIAM R. WRIGHT
JACK ROW	ROBERT E. KASPER
DR. MAX GOLDBERG	MARY ANN DITCH
STEVE PRESS	JOHN CADICK
JUDSON S. BERRY	CARL T. HARTMANN
LEO "BOB" BENNETT	ARTHUR P. YOUNG
JERRY B. FRIEDLAND	CAROL NACKENOFF
BRADFORD S. CHASE	ROBERT G. HUBER
ROBERT E. SAWYER	ROBERT R. ROUTHIER
EUGENE H. HAFNER	MICHAEL MORLEY
D. JAMES RYBERG	LAWRENCE R. RICE
GEORGE W. OWENS	ROBERT G. SIPES

**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 \$25 (\$20 for seniors), with single issues of **Newsboy** \$4.00. Please make remittance payable to the Horatio Alger Society.

Membership applications, renewals, changes of address and other correspondence should be sent to **Horatio Alger Society, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176**.

**Newsboy** is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography. You are invited to visit the Horatio Alger Society's official Internet site at [www.horatioalgersociety.net](http://www.horatioalgersociety.net).

**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, 1004 School St., Shelbyville, IN 46176.

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 advertisements or "Letters to the Editor" to **Newsboy** editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 23726 N. Overhill Dr., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. E-mail: [hasnewsboy@aol.com](mailto:hasnewsboy@aol.com)

## 2012 convention report

# ‘Dash to DeKalb III’

By William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The third time was indeed a real charm for “Dash to DeKalb III,” the Horatio Alger Society’s third visit to the quiet Illinois city of DeKalb, home of Northern Illinois University, on May 3-6, 2012.

This was the Horatio Alger Society’s 48th convention, the annual event dating back to 1965 when H.A.S. co-founder Kenneth Butler was our host in Mendota, Illinois. “Dash to DeKalb III” was the Society’s sixth convention in Illinois, with the first two “Dash to DeKalb” events in 1999 and 2004; Gilbert K. Westgard II hosting “Rosemont 12th Time” in Suburban Chicago in 1976 and Jack Bales hosting “The Jacksonville Jamboree” in 1978.

Northern Illinois University became a “colleague” of the Horatio Alger Society in 1994 when its University Libraries were chosen to become the official repository of an official Horatio Alger collection, a complement the library’s existing American Popular Literature and Albert Johannsen dime novel collections. Since the creation of its Horatio Alger collection, the NIU Libraries have added several other related collections, including the Edward LeBlanc dime novel collection and Arthur Sherman Edward Stratemeyer collection.

Currently, NIU’s Horatio Alger collection is the largest held by any library, comprising more than 4,000 volumes, including a near-complete first edition collection, reprint editions by numerous publishers, along with serials, manuscripts, letters and original illustrations. Many of these items have been digitized and are available to researchers through the library’s website.

Enough for history. As part of its mission to preserve, expand and “spread the word” about the Horatio Alger Society repository collection, NIU has invited the Society to periodically hold its annual convention in DeKalb. This year was the latest such event.

## Thursday, May 3

Registration for the convention began at 1 p.m. in the official H.A.S. hospitality room in Rare Books and Special Collections, Suite 402 in NIU’s Founders Memorial Library. Lynne M. Thomas, curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, served as our host for the weekend, and she and her staff had our registration materials and refreshments all set for us upon arrival. Our official souvenir was an NIU-inscribed USB flash drive, containing a selection of digitized Alger materials held at the library.



**Brad Chase introduces his latest book, *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*, on May 4 in DeKalb, Illinois.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn

Many Partic’lar Friends and their spouses arriving earlier in the day had lunch on their own at restaurants located on or off the NIU campus. Hotel check-in was very convenient, just a short walk from the library at the Holmes Student Center Hotel.

The Rare Books and Special Collections department proved to be a well-chosen venue for our hospitality suite, with plenty of comfortable chairs and tables around which to gather and reminisce with fellow Partic’lar Friends, many of whom we had not seen in a year or more. We also had access to the H.A.S. repository collections, located in an adjacent climate-controlled room.

The weekend’s major convention activities were scheduled for the staff lounge in the lower level of Founders Memorial Library, after it was decided that the Diversions

(Continued on Page 7)



## Editor's notebook

Putting together this edition of **Newsboy** has been quite an adventure, and though it is a few weeks late, I'm happy to be finished with it. The reason? A new computer, along with a new printer and scanner, plus with all new updated software. To say the "learning curve" has been extreme is putting it mildly, and I hope upcoming issues work out more easily.

As I write this, I am not sure how the final product will look, in particular the photographs. We'll all find out together, and if the pictures are not as sharp and crisp as in recent **Newsboys**, I'll try my best to find a solution.

Next, an important piece of H.A.S. business: Since leaving the presidency in 1994, Robert E. Kasper has been the Society's Executive Secretary (the title later changed to Executive Director). Now, he is retiring from that post, handing those duties over to outgoing President Bob Sipes. I wish Bob a lot of luck, because you don't know how tough a job is until you attempt to do it.

I recall the story of one of my cousins suffering a heart attack in the mid-1970s, and when he was away from work for several weeks to recuperate, his company found that it took five men to replace him, because he had done such a good job of integrating all of his various tasks into an efficient operation. Rob Kasper has been doing the job so long it had settled into a smooth operation. Following the legendary Carl Hartmann as Executive Secretary was a challenge, and Rob succeeded admirably. Now, Bob Sipes faces the challenge of following back-to-back H.A.S. legends.

The main thing each of you will notice is that our official address has changed from Richmond, Virginia (where Rob Kasper lives), to Bob Sipes' home address in Shelbyville, Indiana. Your annual dues envelopes will now have this new address, and all other correspondence should be sent there, starting with this issue if it is time to pay your membership dues. The new address is shown on Page 2 and Page 18.

Our next issue (July-August) is already planned as a color issue, honoring the 30th anniversary of the Horatio Alger commemorative postage stamp, which had its first day of issue in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, on April 30, 1982. Because Brad Chase was H.A.S. President at the time and was deeply involved in the long struggle to get this stamp issued, I asked him if he could write a retrospective on events of 30-plus years ago — events

(Continued on Page 6)

## President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

stuff out there, folks, including a listing of all past conventions, photos of the 2012 Convention ("Dash to DeKalb III"), and pictures of books. Please visit regularly, and post some things, too! We've got a few Facebook "likes," but *you* need to get out there, read the copy, post some copy, become a "friend," and "like" the page.

**New Directors.** This year we saw Art Young, Brad Chase, and Bob Huber complete their three-year terms on our Board of Directors. They "gave at the office," you might say. New directors are Ken Broadie, Dave Yarrington, and Dick Hoffman. In all cases, board members are scholars, collectors, and supremely interested in the well-being of the Horatio Alger Society. Another bonus for us is that Jeff Looney is our new vice president. Oh, and then there's me. I've read some author (can't recall his name) who believed that hard work pays off. I plan to work hard, so the Horatio Alger Society will grow and prosper.

**New Executive Director.** Bob Sipes is our new Executive Director. Rob Kasper, with his 20-plus years of service, is a tough act to follow, but Bob brings abundant experience to the job. Among other things, he's our immediate past president, and was vice president before that. He hosted the 2007 convention in Shelbyville, Indiana, and will do so again in 2013 in Indianapolis. And did I mention that he's a highly skill professional and technologist? We're on mighty solid ground here.

**So where are we going?** There's a reason for writing these items. We need to continue, to prosper, and to grow. We have 50-plus years of success, and we need to keep that going.

Why? First, book collecting is great fun, and it's more fun when collectors communicate. Second, we have a wealth of valuable knowledge lodged in our members. Third, we provide help (the Strive & Succeed award, the NIU endowment, and service to Mrs. Williman, for example). *But most important, we believe in the truth of the "rags to riches" story and the "American Dream,"* in a world that has grown far too cynical. That's very important. I tell you here and now, *we* carry the torch for what makes this country great, and *we* are on the right side of history.

Your Partic'lar Friend,  
Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)  
552 Brock Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530) 265-4705  
E-mail: barry@wvswrite.com

# Horatio Alger interviews Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)



**Editor's note:** On the 113th anniversary of Horatio Alger's death and his 180th birthday year, Horatio Alger returns to earth to interview H.A.S. members regarding their Alger collections. This is the second in a new series written by an anonymous author posing as Horatio Alger. Enjoy.

*Horatio Alger here. How are you, Carol?*

**Carol Nackenoff:** Wow, what a wonderful person to hear from; I'm fine.

**H.A.:** *I'm fine, too, for a 180-year-old man. How did you get started collecting my books?*

**C.N.:** As a political scientist, I was taken by an argument that Louis Hartz made back in the 1950s, in a famous book called *The Liberal Tradition in America*. In it, he kept talking about American political ideology or belief as a combination of liberal Lockean-Horatio Alger atomistic individualism. When I wrote my Master's paper in graduate school I was grappling with Hartz's view that American politics was based on consensus, not conflict. Hartz figured in my doctoral dissertation as well. I had never read one of your novels, but I picked one up in the University of Chicago library stacks and read it just for fun. That was in the 1970s. I have to admit, it's not the usual kind of fiction I read, but I enjoyed it. I think the first may have been *The Store Boy*. It was easy to read and I read a couple more.

I didn't start collecting right then. I actually picked up my first novel of yours to collect on my honeymoon in Cape May, N.J. in 1980, when we were casually going through a couple of antique shops. They had a couple of very beaten up old books of yours that I hadn't read. They were really falling apart. Then I picked up a few more, and a few more. I was struggling to turn my dissertation into a book, and put it down to write an article based on your books that became "Of Factories and Failures," published in **The Journal of Popular Culture**. Then I was hooked and kept on writing.

**H.A.:** *What books of mine do you collect now?*

**C.N.:** I have a rather big collection. I have 12 shelves full of your books. I was recently at Powell's in Portland, Oregon, looking for anonymous or pseudonymous books of yours, because those are the kinds of things I am missing. I'm not looking for anything in particular, just first editions or upgrades of what I have.

**H.A.:** *How many books do you have?*

**C.N.:** About 250. I have some of the rare ones, too.

**H.A.:** *Great. Where do you get them?*

**C.N.:** Well, Rob Kasper keeps an eye out for me. He's been a great help. A lot of members of Horatio Alger Society have helped me find things. I do not generally buy books



**Carol Nackenoff poses in front of her extensive Alger collection at her home in Swarthmore, Pa.**

on eBay. If I stumble upon something at a used book store, I'll buy it. One wonderful book, *Seeking His Fortune*, I got from a young lady who found it in her grandmother's attic. She asked members of the H.A.S. board what it was worth and I sent her several e-mails. She stopped by one day and I bought it on the spot.

**H.A.:** *How about that! Who is your favorite character in my books?*

**C.N.:** I like *Luke Walton* a lot. I'm very fond of Luke. I'm also fond of *The Young Book Agent*. Why? Because of one of the chapters in my book about you. (*The Fictional Republic*)

**H.A.:** *Guess what — I have it and I've read it!*

**C.N.:** Oh, great! One chapter is about how people acquired and read books during that time and I liked *The Young Book Agent* because here's a guy selling books door to door. I liked the Campaign Series pretty well, too.

**H.A.:** *What else can you tell me about your collection?*

**C.N.:** Well, I've got quite a few green and red Loring, including some first editions. I've got seven red Loring, but the red color doesn't hold up too well. I've got a bright *Ragged Dick* in a red Loring. I have *Bertha's Christmas Vision* in a

(Continued on Page 6)

## Horatio Alger interviews Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)

(Continued from Page 5)

place of honor. I have *Nothing To Do*, and *Grand'ther Baldwin*. Some first editions I just can't afford. After many years of collecting, I was persuaded by other collectors not to read first editions because of the wear involved. Can you imagine, Horatio, one of your books not being read because it's a good first edition? Back in your time, boys and girls probably didn't know they were reading a valuable first edition.

**H.A.:** *Heaven forbid!*

**C.N.:** I take pretty good care of your books. They are in my first floor library, many with Mylar wrappers. Many H.A.S. members saw my books when I hosted a convention in West Chester, Pa., in 2000.

**H.A.:** *How long have you been a member?*

**C.N.:** My first convention was in 1994 when I was invited to give a talk about my book. I joined shortly before then.

**H.A.:** *Do you have a daytime job?*

**C.N.:** Yes, I am a chaired professor (holds an endowed chair) of Political Science at Swarthmore College. I teach Constitutional Law, American Politics, Environmental Politics and some Political Philosophy at Swarthmore. This year I'm on

sabbatical leave, and I just finished co-authoring a book with a friend on State Building in the late nineteenth century. I'm also working on another book on citizenship and manhood in the United States.

**H.A.:** *Do you think my books relate to that?*

**C.N.:** Yes, I do. Your work got me started thinking about citizenship in the period.

**H.A.:** *Well, I hope you mention my name. I may be 180 years old, but I still have an ego.*

**C.N.:** I will.

**H.A.:** *Anything else you'd like to ask me?*

**C.N.:** How are you spending your time?

**H.A.:** *Interviewing H.A.S. members. I'm having a great time doing it.*

**C.N.:** One other thing -- I don't collect a lot of other authors as some members do. I specialize in Alger and that's it, with a few exceptions. For example I have a few first editions of authors I write about, like Jane Addams. I have 12 shelves of your books and only one shelf of others. Did you ever have a nickname, Horatio?

**H.A.:** *I think they called me Al at Harvard.*

**C.N.:** I didn't know that. I read some of your Harvard essays, one in Greek I had to have translated. You wrote about Cicero and the Sophists. I made copies at the Harvard Library.

**H.A.:** *That was back when I was a kid; I call that my Juvenalia. I don't remember much of that stuff.*

*Thanks for talking to me, Carol.*

**C.N.:** Enjoy your golden years!

## Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

which turned out to be a real soap opera using the Alger title *Wait and Hope*.

Well, Brad has come through with a wonderful article, which will be accompanied by several color illustrations and other historic documents. I hope my new computer and software will do these color-illustrated pages justice — I'm crossing my fingers.

At this point, I'm putting on my since-retired newspaper music critic's hat to comment about 2012 **Strive and Succeed Award** recipient Michael Lozano, who recently graduated from DeKalb High School and will attend Northern Illinois University this fall.

At the H.A.S. awards banquet, Michael invited me to attend his high school's production of "West Side Story," a fiendishly difficult Broadway musical, which the DeKalb High School theater department was presenting for six performances starting the week after our convention.

I accepted his offer and attended the second night's performance on May 11. It was terrific, well above what you would expect from high school students for a show that's a challenge even for professionals. Also helping the success of the show was the new DeKalb High School's state-of-the-art theater with professional-grade sound and lighting, along with a full-size orchestra pit. We certainly didn't have these kinds of facilities when I was in high school!

Michael's participation in "West Side Story" was interesting in that it was his first musical production, while his colleagues in the other leading roles already had three or four years' theater experience. But Mike (portraying Bernardo, the role that earned actor George Chakiris a 1961 Academy Award), displayed talent and charisma the equal of his fellow actors — and yes, he did a great death scene.

Suitably impressed, I went to another performance the following weekend to make sure my eyes and ears weren't deceiving me. This second performance was even better, and I told an excited Mike in the lobby afterward he had every right to be proud. If this is the career he has selected, he has indeed chosen wisely.





**Auctioneers Ed Mattson and Bob Huber seek bids on a group of Alger books.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn

## 'Dash to DeKalb III'

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Lounge in Holmes Student Center was too large for our group. The staff lounge included a kitchenette where coffee, soft drinks and snacks could be served, and the room was equipped with comfortable chairs, tables and a pair of wall-mounted large-screen television monitors for use with our presentations on Friday.

Thursday's first event was the annual Board of Directors meeting, which was held in the library's fourth-floor conference room. Chaired by H.A.S. President Bob Sipes, the meeting was called to order at 4:28 p.m. Items on the agenda included presentation of the treasurer's financial report, the Executive Director's report covering membership trends, including the increase of sustaining members over the past year from one to eight.

The **Newsboy** report was presented by editor Bill Gowen, whose handout showed that costs of producing the newsletter declined slightly over the previous year, due mainly to a decreased press run of 160 copies per

issue. The tradition of at least one full-color issue per year will continue, and additional savings will be made by purchasing mailing envelopes in bulk starting with the July-August 2012 issue.

Other agenda items in the meeting included future convention sites, with the tentative dates for 2013 set for May 2-5; a report on the **Strive and Succeed Award** fund and a vote by the board to award \$1,000 to the recipient selected by the convention host.

The directors also heard a report by the nominating committee, presenting a slate of three directors — David Yarrington, Ken Broadie and Richard Hoffman — to serve three-year terms; and the nomination of Barry Schoenborn as President and Jeff Looney as Vice President. All of the nominees were to be voted on by the membership at Friday's business meeting.

Lynne Thomas gave a report on the current state of the H.A.S. Endowment, and director Brad Chase gave an update on the structure of the Society's annual awards, noting that the awards will remain status quo, because to make changes would require a change in the H.A.S. constitution and by-laws.

Other agenda items included Barry Schoenborn's update on the progress on the new official website and the costs incurred therein over the past year.

• A complete, detailed report on the Board of Directors Meeting can be found on Page 16.

Thursday's dinner was on our own at nearby area restaurants, a list having been provided in our convention registration materials.

Another traditional event on Thursday night was getting the following day's auction materials organized and catalogued on the auction spreadsheet. Minus the books he had previously sold on the Internet (with a commission going to the Horatio Alger Society), Ed Mattson brought the large Robert Williman estate Alger collection from Maryland and already had the books arranged in lots in the staff lounge, which made entering the collection by President Bob Sipes on his computer a much easier task.

In addition to the Williman books, there were a couple dozen more auction items brought to DeKalb, which also had to be logged into the computer. A grand total of 170 lots were scheduled for Friday's auction.

### Friday, May 4

The Board of Directors gathered for breakfast shortly after 7:30 a.m. in the Holmes Student Center cafeteria, and several other Partic'lar Friends also took advantage of the wide selection of hot and cold breakfast foods available, before heading to the staff lounge at the library for the day's official activities.

At shortly before 9 a.m., President Bob Sipes and

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## 'Dash to DeKalb III'

(Continued from Page 7)

convention host Lynne Thomas gave an overview of the day's upcoming activities, which after the morning presentations included the annual business meeting and box lunch (catered by Panera Bread) in the Rare Books hospitality suite on the fourth floor. The auction was set for 1 p.m., back in the staff lounge.

The three presentations began shortly after 9 a.m., all three speakers using PowerPoint slides to illustrate their talks.

The first talk was by Nathaniel Williams, Ph. D., a postdoctoral English teaching fellow in the University of Kansas' College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Lawrence. His presentation was titled "U.S. Expansionism and the Editorship of Luis Senarens."

Of Cuban-American ancestry and often called "the American Jules Verne," Senarens (1863-1939) wrote science fiction stories for dime novels. Notably, in the early 1880s he introduced the character

of Frank Reade, Jr., as a continuation of the Frank Reade stories begun by Harry Enton in 1868; and in the late 1890s he wrote stories for Frank Tousey's publications.

The second presentation was by *Newsboy* editor Bill Gowen, titled "The Boys' Books of A. Hyatt Verrill." A prolific author in addition to being a naturalist, explorer and inventor, Alpheus Hyatt Verrill (1871-1954) traveled extensively in Central and South America, and wrote some 106 books, most of them nonfiction.

Verrill's 11 series books for boys are highly collectible, and they were discussed in detail during the talk. These series are *The Radio Detectives* (four volumes), the *Deep Sea Hunters Series* (three volumes), both for D. Appleton & Co; and *The Boy Adventurers* (four volumes) for G.P. Putnam's Sons. The covers of all 11 of these books were illustrated by slides, as were the covers of several other significant Verrill books.

The final presentation of the morning was Brad Chase's highly anticipated unveiling of his latest book about Alger publishers, *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*.

Capping several years of research, writing and editing, Chase used slides to illustrate how the project came about, how he received immeasurable help from Thomas Hurst's descendants (until now, little was known about this New York publisher), and how the book was researched and produced.

Chase had copies of the book (reviewed in the March-April issue of *Newsboy*) on hand, and he inscribed them throughout the weekend for those Partic'lar Friends adding it to their Alger reference collections.



**Lee Allen holds Northern Illinois University's copy of that most elusive of Alger books, *Timothy Crump's Ward*. He is joined by Lynne Thomas, NIU curator of Rare Books and Special Collections.** Photo by Barry Schoenborn

During the above-mentioned box lunch in the hospitality suite, the annual business meeting was held. Following the treasurers' report, *Newsboy* report and Executive Director's report was the election of officers. The slate of Barry Schoenborn for President and Jeff Looney for Vice President was nominated for two-year terms, followed by new directors Dave Yarrington, Ken Broad-

due and Dick Hoffman, for three-year terms ending in 2015. Outgoing directors Art Young, Brad Chase and Bob Huber were thanked and applauded by the membership for their three years' service to the Society.

All the nominees were elected by an enthusiastic voice vote.

A major agenda item at any convention is the selection of a site for the following year's convention. This was no different, as Bob and Wendy Sipes offered to host the 2013 convention in the Indianapolis area. Since they were the hosts as recently as 2007, the Sipes said they would pick a location nearer to Indianapolis than their hometown of Shelbyville (the 2007 location), so as to give attendees a new experience this time. A voice vote approved Indianapolis for the 2013 convention, with the preferred dates of May 2-5, 2013. Bob promised to have

(Continued on Page 15)





Nathaniel Williams, Ph. D., of the University of Kansas discusses "U.S. Expansionism and the Editorship of Luis Senarens."

## Convention snapshots



2011 convention host Bob Huber and 2012 host Lynne Thomas prior to the opening session of the 2012 convention in DeKalb, Illinois

*Photos by Barry Schoenborn*

From left, Rich Juvinall, Juanita Durkin and John Juvinall prior to the annual H.A.S. consignment and fund-raising auction.





**Keynote speaker Daniel Shealy of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte presents his talk titled “Such is Fame! Louisa May Alcott and the Real *Little Women*.”**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn



**Outgoing president Bob Sipes congratulates his successor, Barry Schoenborn, at the H.A.S. banquet.**

Photo by Bill Gowen



**The historic Egyptian Theatre in downtown DeKalb.**

Photo by Bill Gowen



**Gaylene and Lee Switzer during Friday's dinner at DeKalb's Hillside Restaurant.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn



**Milt Ehler looks over the book collection in the Horatio Alger repository at NIU's Founders Memorial Library.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn





**Brad and Ann Chase enjoy their book-signing session for *Thomas D. Hurst and his Publication of Horatio Alger Books*. New H.A.S. president Barry Schoenborn, left, writes a check to purchase his copy.**

Photo by Bill Gowen



**Bob and Channing Sipes.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn



**Rob Kasper and Carol Nackenoff discuss their favorite author.**

Photo by Bill Gowen

**Bob Sipes and Chris DeHaan organize books for the annual auction.**

Photo by Bill Gowen





# Special consignment auction summary

## Robert Williman Estate Collection

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price	Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Two misc. Algers	Hurst (black cap)	Juanita Durkin	\$7.00	Eight misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$8.00
Two misc. Algers	Hurst (sailor/boat)	Carol Nackenoff	\$22.00	Lost at Sea	Grosset & Dunlap	Debby Jones	\$1.00
<i>The Young Acrobat</i>	Hurst (flower pot)	Bob Sipes	\$8.00	Two misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Lynda Straus	\$1.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Hurst (flower pot)	Bob Sipes	\$6.00	Twelve misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$32.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Hurst (gear design)	Bob Sipes	\$18.00	Five misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$4.00
Three misc. Algers	Hurst (pastedowns)	Bob Sipes	\$20.00	Five misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$6.00
Four misc. Algers	Hurst (pastedowns)	Bob Sipes	\$11.00	Eleven misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Jennifer Greeley	\$5.00
<i>Luke Walton</i>	P&C (beehive)	John Juvinall	\$4.00	Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$13.00
(Lot) <i>The Erie Train Boy</i>	Street & Smith			Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>From Canal Boy to Pres.</i>	Federal	Bob Sipes	\$16.00	Three misc. Algers	Mutual Publishers	John Juvinall	\$2.00
(Lot) <i>Slow and Sure; Falling in with Fortune</i>	Mershon			Five misc. Algers	Hurst (gold oval)	Debby Jones	\$5.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$1.00	<i>In a New World</i>	Trade Publishing	Juanita Durkin	\$4.00
Two misc. Algers	Porter & Coates	Debby Jones	\$1.00	(Lot) <i>Mark Manning's Mission</i>			
Six misc. Algers	Porter & Coates	Barry Schoenborn	\$30.00	<i>Adrift in the City</i>	S&S Alger Series	Milt Ehlert	\$3.00
Seven misc. Algers	H.T. Coates	Debby Jones	\$8.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Debby Jones	\$7.00
Seven misc. Algers	Federal	Lynda Straus	\$10.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Jennifer Greeley	\$5.00
<i>The \$500 Check</i>	Caldwell	Debby Jones	\$8.00	Two misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	John Juvinall	\$1.00
(Lot) <i>Strong and Steady</i>	NY Book			Seven misc. Algers	Mutual Publishing	Debby Jones	\$1.00
<i>Farm Boy to Senator</i>	Ogilvie Favorite ed.	Bob Sipes	\$2.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Debby Jones	\$12.00
Six misc. Algers	H.T. Coates	Jennifer Greeley	\$5.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Jennifer Greeley	\$11.00
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	Caldwell	Bob Sipes	\$7.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Betsy Allen	\$6.00
Two misc. Algers	H.T. Coates	Bob Sipes	\$2.00	Three misc. Algers	Winston	Bob Sipes	\$1.00
<i>Dan the Newsboy</i>	A.L. Burt	Betsy Allen	\$5.00	Two misc. Algers	Stitt	Jennifer Greeley	\$3.00
(Lot) <i>Making His Mark</i>	Westgard			Three misc. Algers	Winston	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
Dedication address facsimile		John Juvinall	\$1.00	Seven misc. Algers	Winston	Lee Switzer	\$15.00
Seven misc. Algers	Modern printings	Juanita Durkin	\$5.00	Three misc. Algers	Winston	John Juvinall	\$3.00
Eleven misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Betsy Allen	\$15.00	Five misc. Algers	Hurst (knee patch)	Debby Jones	\$5.00
Three misc. Algers	Porter & Coates	Barry Schoenborn	\$15.00	Six misc. Algers	Winston	Debby Jones	\$25.00
Six misc. Algers	Porter & Coates	Debby Jones	\$10.00	Four misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$16.00
Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$12.00	Three misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Lynda Straus	\$10.00
<i>The Store Boy</i>	Trade Publishing	Juanita Durkin	\$3.00	Four misc. Algers	Burt (green tulip)	Debby Jones	\$23.00
<i>Opportunity Still Knocks</i> (2 books)				Three misc. Algers	Burt (gold tulip)	Lynda Straus	\$2.00
(Horatio Alger Awards Committee)		Bob Sipes	\$1.00	Two misc. Algers	Burt (3 circles)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>The Telegraph Boy</i>	McLoughlin	Betsy Allen	\$5.00	Three misc. Algers	Burt (3 circles)	Lee Switzer	\$26.00
Two misc. Algers	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$5.00	Four misc. Algers	Burt (diamond)	Lynda Straus	\$7.00
Five misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$1.00	Three misc. Algers	Burt (diamond)	Bob Huber	\$15.00
Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$22.00	Six misc. Algers	Hurst	John Juvinall	\$1.00
<i>The Errand Boy</i>	A.L. Burt	Bob Sipes	\$6.00	Four misc. Algers	Hurst	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
Two misc. Algers	Mershon	Bob Sipes	\$2.00	Six misc. Algers	Hurst	Juanita Durkin	\$5.00
Six misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Jennifer Greeley	\$4.00	Eight misc. Algers	Hurst	Debby Jones	\$10.00
Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$14.00	Eight misc. Algers	Mershon	John Juvinall	\$4.00
Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Debby Jones	\$11.00	Nine misc. Algers	Mershon	Debby Jones	\$8.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	Thomp. & Thomas	Richard Hoffman	\$5.00	<i>The Errand Boy</i>	Burt (gold tulip, blue)	Lee Switzer	\$10.00
Four misc. Algers	Porter & Coates	Debby Jones	\$3.00	<i>A Boy's Fortune</i>	Winston (library ed.)	Lynda Straus	\$5.00
Seven misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	John Juvinall	\$6.00	<i>Ben Logan's Triumph</i>	C&L (1st ed.)	Chris DeHaan	\$10.00
Ten misc. Algers	A.L. Burt	Lynda Straus	\$8.00	<i>Rough and Ready</i>	A.K. Loring	Betsy Allen	\$8.00

# Special consignment auction summary

## Robert Williman Estate Collection

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price	Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>Wren Winter's Triumph</i>	M.A. Donohue	Debby Jones	\$1.00	<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	Amer. Publishers	Jennifer Greeley	\$3.00
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	A.K. Loring	Bob Sipes	\$5.00	<i>Andy Grant's Pluck</i>	H.T. Coates (1st ed.)	Barry Schoenborn	\$135.00
<i>Luck and Pluck</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Bob Sipes	\$50.00	(Lot) <i>Julius the Street Boy</i>	Winston (partial d/j)		
<i>Ben the Luggage Boy</i>	A.K. Loring	Bob Sipes	\$11.00	<i>Paul Prescott's Charge</i>	A.L. Burt (partial d/j)	Milt Ehler	\$25.00
<i>Mark the Match Boy</i>	A.K. Loring	Juanita Durkin	\$6.00	<i>Helping Himself</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Barry Schoenborn	\$75.00
<i>Rufus and Rose</i>	A.K. Loring	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00	<i>Canal Boy to President</i>	Anderson (2nd state)	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Slow and Sure</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Juanita Durkin	\$30.00	<i>Ralph Raymond's Heir</i>	Lupton		
<i>Young Captain Jack</i>	Mershon (1st ed.)	Chris DeHaan	\$10.00	(4 copies; 2 are Stratford first editions)		Richard Hoffman	\$28.00
<i>Out for Business</i>	Mershon	Bob Sipes	\$18.00	(Lot) <i>Nothing to Wear</i> (5 copies)			
<i>From Farm Boy to Senator</i>	McKay	Bill Gowen	\$10.00	<i>Nothing to Do</i> (2 copies; non-Algers)		Bob Sipes	\$22.00
<i>From Farm to Fortune</i>	Stitt (1st ed.)	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00	<i>From Farm Boy to Senator</i>	Ogilvie	Debby Jones	\$2.00
<i>Facing the World</i>	H.T. Coates	Debby Jones	\$5.00	(2 copies; both Gardner 1st eds.)			
<i>Helen Ford</i>	Winston	Juanita Durkin	\$5.00	<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i>	A.L. Burt (1st ed.)	Barry Schoenborn	\$50.00
<i>Struggling Upward</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Lee Switzer	\$11.00	<i>Shifting for Himself</i>	A.K. Loring (1st ed.)	Lee Switzer	\$10.00
<i>Jed the Poorhouse Boy</i>	H.T. Coates (1st ed.)	Chris DeHaan	\$10.00	<i>The Backwoods Boy</i>	DeWolfe Fiske	Bob Sipes	\$26.00
<i>In a New World</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Lee Switzer	\$20.00	(Lot) Misc. Alger books	Various	John Juvinall	\$8.00
<i>From Farm Boy to Senator</i>	Federal	Bob Sipes	\$1.00				
<i>Do and Dare</i>	P&C (1st ed.)	Barry Schoenborn	\$75.00				
<i>The Western Boy</i>	Carleton (1st ed.)	Betsy Allen	\$50.00				
<i>The Young Salesman</i>	H.T. Coates (1st ed.)	Carol Nackenoff	\$20.00				
<i>The Western Boy</i>	Thomp. & Thomas	Betsy Allen	\$3.00				

**Lots sold: 119**                      **Total bids: \$1,470.00**  
**Commission to H.A.S.: \$294.00**  
**Internet sales commission as of May 1: \$749.00**  
**H.A.S. total commission: \$1,043.00**

## An expression of thanks

*Editor's note: The following letter was received by Horatio Alger Society President Robert G. Sipes on March 29, 2012:*

Dear Particular Friends,

It's been a very long time since my "particular friend" passed away. It's been over 16 years since my hubby, Bob Williman, left us rather suddenly. In all that time, I never gave a thought to leaving our farm or, heaven forbid, finding a new home for his beloved Horatio Alger, Jr., book collection that lines our living room wall.

Well, due to many, many circumstances, that time finally came and I found myself way down in Virginia at my daughter, Patti's, home recuperating from, among other things, back surgery. It hit me like a ton of bricks, but it was time to make my move. While I was there, I bought a wonderful home in a 55+ community and I love it.

Let me get to the point of this letter to you. My daughter, Patti, got in touch with the Horatio Alger Society, of which Bob was a member for many years, and we were introduced to our "Particular Friend," Ed Mattson of Baltimore. He came to me in a wonderful way and was really the only member close

enough to me to be able to help find a new home for Bob's bountiful book collection. I wanted them to go to someone or a place that they'd be appreciated. He roared into my life like a hurricane and pretty much took over and handled whatever needed handling, not just the books. He began "unloading" over 30 years of stuff, attic included, that had been collected and stowed away on our massive homestead, Rocking Horse Farm. A Herculean task, to say the least.

Ed couldn't have been the more perfect person to dig in and give me a much, much needed hand. He knew exactly what to do with the books and many, many other collections that were so plentiful. He also had friends that helped and could get loads and loads of stuff to the right places, even if it was the dumpster! He and his friends have become very good friends, family really. I'm just sorry I won't be in the area to see them much any more.

If anyone needs help, like I desperately did, Ed is the friend that can help. He's funny and kind and wonderful and I'm just sorry it took so long to meet this wonderful, exceptional man. Ed, thank you, from the bottom and top of my heart for all that you have done and all that you are! You are very special to me.

From my heart,  
Kathie Williman

# Annual H.A.S. fund-raising auction results

## Consignments (Lee Allen):

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Randy of the River	Grosset & Dunlap	Debby Jones	\$3.00
The Telegraph Boy	Winston	Richard Hoffman	\$8.00
Sam's Chance	Porter & Coates	Debby Jones	\$2.00
Dean Dunham	S&S Medal Lib.	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
The Young Boatman	Penn	Lee Switzer	\$50.00
The Nugget Finders	John F. Shaw	Robert Kasper	\$85.00
Phil the Fiddler	Thomp. & Thomas	John Juvinall	\$1.00
Victor Vane	Coates (1st ed.)	Lee Switzer	\$26.00
Julius	Winston	Bob Sipes	\$1.00
<b>Argosy</b> , Vol. 10, loose issues		Jennifer Greeley	\$30.00
Includes partial <i>Tom Turner's Legacy</i> and <i>Walter Sherwood's Probation</i>			
<b>Argosy</b> , Vol. 9, loose issues		Barry Schoenborn	\$150.00
Includes complete <i>Silas Snobden's Office Boy</i>			
<b>Argosy</b> , Vol. 8, loose issues		Bob Sipes	\$25.00
Includes partial <i>The Odds Against Him</i>			
<b>Argosy</b> , Vols. 10 and 11, loose issues		Bob Sipes	\$30.00

## Consignments (Debby Jones):

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
Gardner: <i>Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era</i>			
Scharnhorst: <i>Lost Tales of Horatio Alger</i>		Jennifer Greeley	\$1.00
Misc. modern Alger reprints		Betsy Allen	\$1.00
Custom Alger window frames		Brad Chase	\$10.00

## Consignments (Barry Schoenborn):

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<i>The Western Boy</i>	Carleton	Bob Sipes	\$40.00
<i>From Canal Boy to Pres.</i>	Anderson	Debby Jones	\$2.00

## Donations:

Title/Item	Donor	Buyer	Price
<u>Edward S. Ellis:</u>			
<i>Down the Mississippi</i> (Cassell)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$5.00
<i>Up the Tapajos</i> (Mershon)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>Lost in the Wilds</i> (Mershon)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$2.00
<i>The Phantom Auto</i> (Mershon)	Bill Gowen	Juanita Durkin	\$2.00
<i>Dorsey the Young Inventor</i> (Winston)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$8.00
<i>Limber Lew the Circus Boy</i> (Winston)	Bill Gowen	Nathaniel Williams	\$1.00

Title	Publisher	Buyer	Price
<u>Harry Castlemon:</u>			
<i>The Sportsman's Club Among the Trappers</i> (P&C/Carroll)	Bill Gowen	Debby Jones	\$3.00
<u>Arthur M. Winfield:</u>			
<i>The Putnam Hall Rivals</i> (Grosset & Dunlap)	Bill Gowen	Betsy Allen	\$10.00
<i>The Rover Boys in the Jungle</i> (Mershon)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
<i>The Rover Boys at Colby Hall</i> (Grosset & Dunlap)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$3.00
<i>The Rover Boys on Snowshoe Island</i> (Grosset & Dunlap)	Bill Gowen	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
<u>Horatio Alger, Jr.:</u>			
<i>Frank Fowler, the Cash Boy</i> A.L. Burt (Fez edition)	Bill Gowen	Debby Jones	\$4.00
<i>Joe's Luck</i> A.L. Burt (Fez edition)	Bill Gowen	Debby Jones	\$1.00
<i>Mark Mason's Victory</i> A.L. Burt (Diamond ed.)	Bill Gowen	Lynda Straus	\$8.00
<i>Rufus and Rose</i> (H.T. Coates)	Bill Gowen	Debby Jones	\$1.00
<i>The Erie Train Boy</i> (Federal)	Leo Cohen	Lee Switzer	\$11.00
<i>Adventures of a Telegraph Boy</i> (Federal)	Leo Cohen	Bob Sipes	\$6.00
<i>Bound to Rise/Risen from the Ranks</i> New York Book (double)	Leo Cohen	Barry Schoenborn	\$25.00
Six misc. Alger titles (Various publishers)	Leo Cohen	Lynda Straus	\$1.00
Six misc. Alger titles (Various publishers)	Leo Cohen	John Juvinall	\$2.00
<u>Miscellaneous donations:</u>			
Edwards: Jerry Todd, Detective (Bogus title & publisher)	Bob Huber	Bob Sipes	\$25.00
Alger Pairpoint cup plate	Bob Huber	Juanita Durkin	\$2.00
Alger dominoes, 1992 Waco convention souvenir	Bob Huber	Bob Sipes	\$20.00
Handmade blanket	Lee Switzer	Betsy Allen	\$15.00
Handmade blanket	Lee Switzer	Bob Sipes	\$10.00
Souvenir booklet, 1983 Columbus convention	Brad Chase	Jennifer Greeley	\$5.00
Boys' Book Buff, Issue 1	Brad Chase	Bob Sipes	\$6.00

## 2012 auction summary:

Donation total (all proceeds to H.A.S.).....	\$212.00
H.A.S. commission, all consignments.....	\$1,430.60
H.A.S. proceeds, all auctions (includes Internet sales) ...	\$1,642.60
Total bids, all auctions (excludes Internet sales).....	\$2,150.00



## 'Dash to DeKalb III'

(Continued from Page 8)

more details available as to location and hotel before the end of this year.

Following lunch and the business meeting, the annual auction took place in the staff lounge, lasting slightly more than three hours. The majority of the books were from the Alger estate collection of the late Bob Williman of Bowie, Maryland, host of the 17th annual convention, "The Capitol Caucus," in 1981. Most of the Williman first editions were sold over the Internet by Ed Mattson, with the consignment percentage going to the Horatio Alger Society. As of the weekend of the convention, the H.A.S. had received a commission of \$749 from the Internet portion of the sale, while those Williman books sold at DeKalb (118 lots comprising mostly reprint editions) brought in an additional \$294 in commission.

Mattson and fellow auctioneer Bob Huber moved the day's 170 auction lots swiftly, with total bids reaching \$2,150, the Williman estate books plus books consigned or donated by other members. Including the Internet sales, the H.A.S. received \$1,430.60 in consignment commissions, with the donated books earning an additional \$212 for the Society.

•For complete 2012 auction results, see Pages 12-14.

At around 5:30 p.m., we gathered at the library to organize into carpools for the ride to the "Dutch treat" Friday dinner at the Hillside Restaurant, a short drive away in downtown DeKalb. This was a switch from the originally planned Nats on Maple in the town of Sycamore, due to that restaurant's scheduling snafu. However, the Hillside proved to be a nice choice, with a reasonably priced menu offering a wide range of entree and dessert choices. The Hillside is located next door to DeKalb's historic Egyptian Theatre, a 1930s Art

Deco movie palace, which on this particular night was presenting a live version of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Several outlandishly costumed cast members chatted with us on the sidewalk as we were leaving the restaurant.

### Saturday, May 5

Saturday morning's traditional event is the annual H.A.S. book sale, which has grown smaller over the years as fewer books are brought to the convention. We were helped this time by Ed Mattson bringing a nice selection of dust-jacketed series books (**Tom Swift**, **Don Sturdy**, **Lone Ranger**, etc.), plus Alger first editions and other

older books. The sale afforded Brad Chase the opportunity to set up a table to sell and inscribe his new book. This gathering, in the staff lounge, also gave us the opportunity to enjoy coffee or cold drinks and to socialize in an informal setting.

Our second box lunch of the weekend again took place in the hospitality suite in Rare Books and Special Collections on the



**Strive and Succeed Award recipient Michael Lozano, right, with family members at the annual H.A.S. banquet. Left to right, Rudy Lopez Sr., uncle; Lynette Lopez, aunt; Raul Lopez, uncle; Lupita Lopez, cousin; Connie Lopez, grandmother.**

Photo by Barry Schoenborn

fourth floor, the food again provided by Panera Bread. The annual Alger Quiz, a tradition popularized by the late Ralph Gardner many years ago, was switched to Saturday because it was impractical at the Friday night dinner due to the high ambient noise in the restaurant. Since reigning Alger expert Rob Kasper had written the quiz and was thus ineligible to compete, Bob Sipes took top honors.

Saturday afternoon was free time, so several of us traveled to area antique and book stores. Your editor followed Bob Huber and Carol Nackenoff in a two-car caravan to Rockford, where we visited Toad Hall Used Books and Records (reopened under new ownership) and the Bookstall of Rockford. The pickings were pretty slim, the case at most used-book stores these days.

Of course, the culminating event of any convention is the Saturday evening banquet. As has become traditional

(Continued on Page 20)

# Horatio Alger Society Board of Directors Meeting

DeKalb, Illinois

May 3, 2012

## In Attendance:

Robert Sipes, President  
Barry Schoenborn, Vice President  
Chris DeHaan, Treasurer  
William R. Gowen, Editor  
Robert E. Kasper, Executive Director  
Bradford S. Chase, Director  
Robert Huber, Director  
Brad Chase, Director  
Carol Nackenoff, Director  
Lee Switzer, Director  
Lynne Thomas, Convention Host

## Absent:

Arthur Young, Director  
Bart Nyberg, Director  
Michael Morley, Director  
Arthur Smither, Director  
Bob Petitto, Director  
Cary Sternick, Director

Bob Sipes, President, called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m. No old business was noted.

Chris DeHaan, Treasurer, presented the annual financial report. Gross income for the previous 12 months was \$6,722.72 and expenses were \$7,491.25, resulting in a net loss of \$768.53 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2012. This loss was nearly identical to the \$763.19 loss incurred for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2011. The current loss was attributed to lower auction proceeds and declining membership dues. Total cash on hand includes \$5,832.02 in checking deposits and \$8,939.16 in a certificate of deposit for a total of \$14,771.18.

Robert E. Kasper, Executive Director, reported total membership at 135. This includes 105 Regular members, eight Sustaining members, eight Life members, four Honorary and 10 Libraries. There were four new members added during the previous 12 months and seven drops for a net loss of three members. This compares somewhat favorably to the previous 12-month period when we gained seven new members and lost 18.

The Sustaining membership category increased significantly from one member to eight. Most of the new members were recruited through the society website. Five current/new

members renewed their memberships online (via PayPal). There were no *Strive & Succeed Award* donations made online.

The **Newsboy** Report was given by William R. Gowen, Editor. The print run for **Newsboy** is currently 160 issues and will be maintained at that level for at least the next 12 months. The total annual expense for producing **Newsboy** declined slightly during the previous year (from \$4,042.80 to \$3,704.31). The primary reason is a lower print run (from 175 to 160) although postage and printing costs have increased somewhat. There was one color issue published during the previous year and at least one issue is contemplated during the next 12 months. Mailing envelopes will now be purchased in bulk, thereby increasing savings in the future.

Future convention venues were discussed, with Bob and Wendy Sipes offering Indianapolis as the most viable location. Tentative dates are May 2-5, 2013, with confirmation to follow after a suitable hotel has been selected. The board voted to present this offer to the members at the business meeting lacking any other feasible locations. A tentative offer for 2014 in either Columbus, Ohio or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was discussed.

The regular *Strive & Succeed Award* fund income for the previous 12 months totaled \$990.00, but the amount in the account was \$1,235.93 due to a beginning balance of \$245.93 left over from last year. The board voted to award \$1,000 to the recipient selected by the convention host.

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Bob Sipes in absence of the committee chairman. Nominees for the three directors are David Yarrington, Ken Broadie and Richard Hoffman. The directors will serve three-year terms. Nominations for president are Barry Schoenborn and Jeff Looney for vice president (two-year terms). Chris DeHaan was nominated for another two-year term as treasurer. Bob Sipes appointed Bill Gowen for another three-year term as **Newsboy** editor.

An honorarium of \$100 each to the executive director and **Newsboy** editor was approved.

Lynne Thomas reported that the H.A.S. Endowment balance at NIU totaled \$44,510.32 as of the end of April 2012. Income generated from the endowment principal last year was \$1,553.84, of which \$1,500 was used for last year's research fellowship. The application deadline is May 31, 2012, with research to be conducted between July 1 and December 31, 2012. Several applications are pending.

Brad Chase presented an update on the current society awards. It was decided that the current award structure will remain intact as the deletion of award categories requires a change in the H.A.S. Constitution. Various awards will remain dormant until suitable recipients can be identified.

Barry Schoenborn provided an update on the progress of the revised society website ([www.horatioalgersociety.net](http://www.horatioalgersociety.net)). Numerous topics were discussed, including website content

# 'Dash to DeKalb III'— Attendance list

**Lee T. Allen (PF-977)**  
Stone Mountain, Ga.

**Robert G. Huber (PF-841)**  
Uniontown, Ohio

**Barry Schoenborn (PF-1087)**  
Nevada City, Calif.

**Betsy Allen**  
Stone Mountain, Ga.

**Debby S. Jones (PF-1092)**  
Bellefonte, Pa.

**Lynda Straus (PF-1120)**  
Sacramento, Calif.

**Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)**  
Enfield, Conn.

**Rusty Black**  
Bellefonte, Pa.

**Bob Sipes (PF-1067)**  
Shelbyville, Ind.

**Ann Chase**  
Enfield, Conn.

**John R. Juvinal (PF-537)**  
Hinsdale, Ill.

**Wendy Sipes**  
Shelbyville, Ind.

**Chris DeHaan (PF-773)**  
Wayland, Mich.

**Rich Juvinal**  
Hinsdale, Ill.

**Lee Switzer (PF-882)**  
Fridley, Minn.

**Milton F. Ehlert (PF-702)**  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Juanita Durkin (PF-1096)**  
Justice, Ill.

**Gaylene Switzer**  
Fridley, Minn.

**Carol Ehlert**  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)**  
Richmond, Va.

**Lynne Thomas (host)**  
DeKalb, Ill.

**William R. Gowen (PF-706)**  
Lake Zurich, Ill.

**Ed Mattson (PF-067)**  
Baltimore, Md.

**Michael Thomas**  
DeKalb, Ill.

**Jennifer Greeley (PF-1110)**  
Great Lakes, Ill.

**Renee Mattson**  
Baltimore, Md.

**Nathaniel Williams**  
Lawrence, Kan.

**Richard B. Hoffman (PF-570)**  
Washington, D.C.

**Carol Nackenoff (PF-921)**  
Swarthmore, Pa.

**TOTAL: 29**  
**H.A.S. MEMBERS: 18**

and structure, posting PDF copies of older issues of **Newsboy**, adding links to member (and other) book sites, more posts to our Facebook site, creating a store subpage for sale of society merchandise and selecting a webmaster.

Barry Schoenborn reported that total development costs for the previous 12 months were approximately \$3,600, which was funded anonymously by two members. However, this funding will cease and future development costs will be funded from the \$1,000 approved last year by the board, of which approximately \$800 is available.

President Sipes adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert E. Kasper*  
Executive Director  
Horatio Alger Society



**Convention host Lynne Thomas meets with the H.A.S. board of directors in DeKalb, Illinois.** Photo by Bill Gowen



# TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2011-April 2012

## INCOME

Advertisements.....	\$17.00
Auction proceeds.....	2,427.00
Membership dues.....	2,693.30
Interest.....	66.25
Miscellaneous.....	0.17
Williman Consignment I.....	529.00
Strive and Succeed fund donations.....	990.00

**TOTAL INCOME .....**\$6,722.72

## EXPENSES

Auction consignment payouts.....	\$1,571.20
Convention:	
Advance.....	\$200.00
Award plaques.....	179.80
Total convention .....	\$379.80
Executive Director's expenses .....	447.19
Honorarium.....	200.00
Newsboy expenses:	
Printing.....	\$2,193.85
Postage.....	1,038.45
Supplies (envelopes, etc.) .....	472.01
Total Newsboy expenses .....	\$3,704.31
Illinois Secretary of State.....	10.00
Webpage .....	178.75
Strive & Succeed Award (2011) .....	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$7,491.55</b>
<b>NET INCOME .....</b>	<b>(768.53)</b>

## Balance sheet as of April 30, 2012

### ASSETS

Current assets (checking/savings)	
Certificate of deposit (CD).....	\$8,939.16
Checking account .....	4,596.09
S&S Award fund.....	1,235.93
Total checking/savings accounts.....	\$14,771.18
Total current assets .....	\$14,771.18
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$14,771.18</b>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity:	
Opening balance, equity.....	\$4,763.05
Retained earnings .....	10,776.66
Net income .....	(768.53)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY .....</b>	<b>\$14,771.18</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY .....</b>	<b>\$14,771.18</b>

*Submitted by Christine DeHaan*

*Treasurer*

*May 3, 2012*

## New official H.A.S. address!

*Direct all correspondence to:*

Horatio Alger Society  
1004 School St.  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

## MEMBERSHIP

### Change of address

Arthur P. Young (PF-941)  
9 Lennon Drive  
Dover, NH 03820

Jennifer Greeley (PF-1110)  
4139B Grayling Ct.  
Great Lakes, IL 60088

## BOOK REVIEW

**Edward Stratemeyer: *Victor Horton's Idea*. Annotated and edited by James D. Keeline (PF-898). San Diego, CA: 24 Palmer Street Press. 119 Pages, illustrated; hardcover with dust jacket. Story ©1889 by *Golden Days*; layout, introduction and annotations ©2012 by James D. Keeline. Available at [www.lulu.com/spotlight/24PalmerStreet](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/24PalmerStreet). Hardcover, \$24.99; paperback, \$14.99.**

**Reviewed by William R. Gowen (PF-706)**

This is an important book for several reasons.

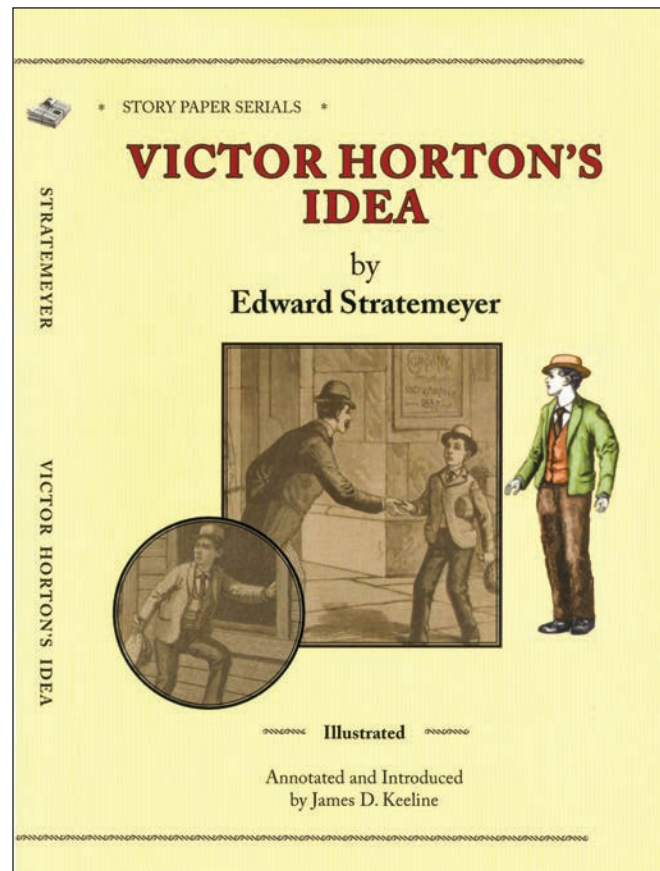
First, it is Edward Stratemeyer's first commercially printed book-length story, around 18,000 words, though shorter than most of his later efforts in the genre.

Second, this is the first time "Victor Horton's Idea" has been issued in book form. As most Stratemeyer devotees know, it was first published in James Elverson's Philadelphia-based weekly story paper, **Golden Days**, in five serial installments from Nov. 2 to Nov. 30, 1889. Many of us have read one or most of the installments either from crumbling original issues or from photocopies. Now, thanks to longtime Stratemeyer scholar James D. Keeline (PF-898), the story is collected in a handsome, reasonably priced book, print-on-demand from Lulu Press in both hardcover and paperback formats. And don't let the words "print-on-demand" deter you — this is a quality production, worthy of a traditional mainline publisher.

While the appearance of "Victor Horton's Idea" in book form is important in its own right, it is Keeline's supplemental material that makes this project especially important. His detailed introduction offers background on Stratemeyer's early writing career (dating back to his nascent efforts as an Elizabeth, N.J., teenager in 1876); about how he sold the story to **Golden Days**; and most interestingly, clarification of the so-called "brown wrapping paper" legend that first came to light in a 1927 interview of Edward by Edwin J. Barrett for the **Newark Evening News**, which actually used the phrase "store wrapping paper." The legend reached much wider circulation, as follows, in the famous April 1934 **Fortune** magazine article on Edward Stratemeyer and the Stratemeyer Syndicate, "For It Was Indeed He":

Stratemeyer's first story was a piece of 18,000 words which, just as Alger would have had it, he wrote on a piece of brown wrapping paper in between waiting on customers at his brother's tobacco store. *Golden Days*, a boy's magazine in Philadelphia, paid him \$75 for it.

The \$75 payment is true. His father, Henry J. Stratemeyer (1816-91), disdained Edward's desire to



pursue a writing career, but when the latter produced the check for \$75, his father was impressed: "Paid you that for writing a story? Well, you'd better write a lot more for them."

Keeline examines the "brown wrapping paper" story by reproducing images of the opening page of the young author's first two manuscript drafts of "Victor Horton's Idea," obtained from the Stratemeyer Syndicate Records Collection at the New York Public Library.

The first draft is written, not on brown wrapping paper, but in pencil on thick yellow paper similar to child's construction paper which, though unlikely, Keeline admits could have been used for the purpose of wrapping something. The manuscript is written on both sides of the heavy paper, with the pages hand-stitched together with thread. This version is written under Stratemeyer's "Arthur M. Winfield" *nom de plume*, which was to become the author's most popular personal pseudonym.

Stratemeyer's second draft of the manuscript is more formally presented in pen-and-ink on single sides of higher quality, lined paper, with each page carefully numbered. Stratemeyer's own name appears at the top of the first page, and this is the way the story

(Continued on Page 20)

## 'Dash to DeKalb III'

(Continued from Page 15)

in our visits to DeKalb, this event was held in the Sky Room on the top level of the Holmes Student Center, the dinner served buffet-style with several entrée and dessert choices.

The major event at the banquet is the annual presentation of the **Strive and Succeed Award** to a deserving area high school student. This year's recipient was Michael Lozano, a senior at DeKalb High School, a young man who has overcome difficult times in life, including the loss of his father at a very early age.

Presenting the award was convention host Lynne Thomas, with Michael receiving a certificate, a check for \$1,000 and a copy of Alger's *Strive and Succeed*. He plans to attend Northern Illinois University in the fall to study theater. He lives in the DeKalb suburb of Cortland with his grandmother's family, many of whom attended the banquet. He also keeps in close touch with his father's relatives in Chicago.

"Being a young adult, I must encounter obstacles first-hand, especially being a third-generation Hispanic," Michael said. "I realize I have made mistakes, but that same realization allows me to learn from those mistakes and eliminate the issue of them ever happening again. This will allow me to be more aware of myself and my surroundings, to come up with a solution whenever needed."

Michael, a typical teenager, played sports his first three years of high school, but as a senior he discovered a passion to be a performer. He auditioned — and won — the featured role of Bernardo in DeKalb High School's theater department production of Leonard Bernstein's classic American musical "West Side Story,"

which opened for six performances the week following the banquet.

The annual Horatio Alger Society awards are also a major highlight of the banquet and this year was no exception. The **Carl Hartmann Luck and Pluck Award** was presented by outgoing President Bob Sipes to Bob Huber, who hosted the successful 2011 H.A.S. convention, "Work and Win in Ohio," in Canton, Ohio.

The **Richard Seddon Award**, given annually to the Partic'lar Friend who personifies the personality and camaraderie of the late Dick Seddon, was presented by incoming president Barry Schoenborn to Lynda Straus (PF-1120).

The **Newsboy Award** was presented in absentia by Schoenborn to Frances Rodgers (PF-1119), who did major work in constructing the new H.A.S. website and is currently attending college in Oregon.

The **President's Award** was presented by Sipes to Rob Kasper, for his nearly two decades of service as the Society's Executive Director. Kasper has retired from that position, which has been taken over by Sipes.

Sipes also formalized the passing of the presidency to Schoenborn with a handshake (in place of the missing H.A.S. gavel), to the applause of the audience.

The banquet's keynote speaker was Professor Daniel Shealy, Ph. D., of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, whose talk was titled "Such is Fame! Louisa May Alcott and the Real *Little Women*." Shealy, whose academic area of interest is 19th Century American Literature, answered audience questions following his extremely interesting presentation.

Once the banquet was over, we all stuck around the Sky Room for a few minutes to say our goodbyes (many were leaving early Sunday morning), although several remained in town for a farewell breakfast at a nearby off-campus restaurant. And so, it was a hopeful expression of "See you next year in Indianapolis!"

## Book review: *Victor Horton's Idea*

(Continued from Page 19)

subsequently was credited in the **Golden Days** serial.

The other aspect of the "wrapping paper" legend concerns where the story was actually drafted. Instead of saying it took place at his brother's tobacco shop, Edward's own literary account book (pages reproduced here from the NYPL holdings), state that the story was "written at home," at the 24 Palmer Street address in Elizabeth, New Jersey, at which the Stratemeyer family resided between 1876 and 1890.

Keeline's book version of *Victor Horton's Idea* is profusely illustrated, including reproductions of the

original **Golden Days** engravings, along with numerous maps, photos and illustrations of the period. Also included are more than 20 pages of advertisements for Stratemeyer's early books issued by Merriam, Allison, Mershon, Lee & Shepard, Lothrop Lee & Shepard and other publishers. The handsome, full-color dust jacket was designed by Keeline's wife, Kim.

This is the first in a projected series of Stratemeyer-related books which will include additional serialized stories, along with short-story collections, unpublished manuscripts and other little-known items. Currently under way is a rare collection of Stratemeyer's 1890s holiday short stories originally appearing in the **Newark Sunday Call**.