



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.

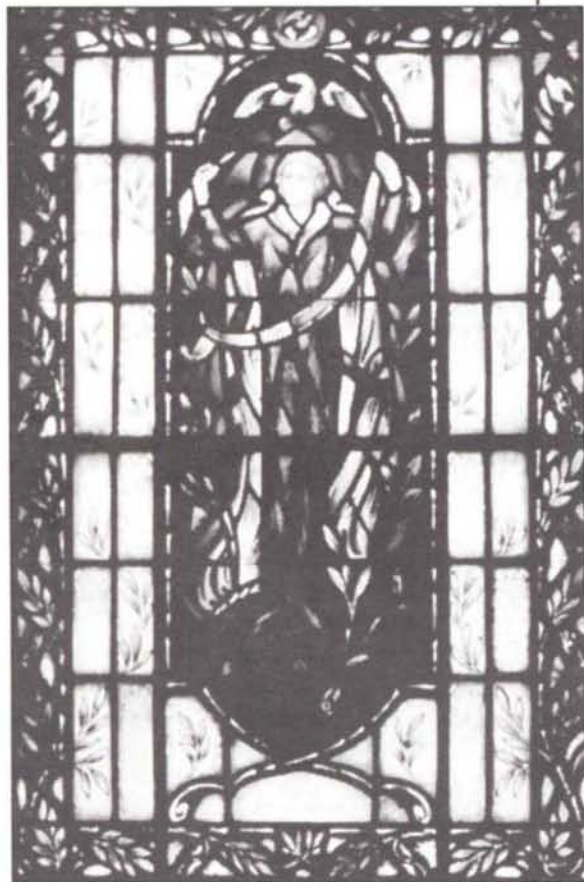
VOLUME XXX

MAY-JUNE 1992

NUMBER 3

Deep in the heart of Texas . . .

*Annual H.A.S.
convention issue*



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

ANN W. RICHARDS
GOVERNOR

April 27, 1992

Greetings:

As Governor of the great State of Texas, it is a pleasure for me to welcome the Horatio Alger Society to Waco for your 1992 meeting.

It is gratifying to see that Alger's message of opportunity and perseverance still reaches a wide audience today, and your society performs a great service to all Americans in helping maintain our understanding of this uniquely American author.

I am proud that you have chosen Texas for your 1992 meeting. It is a beautiful state, and I know you will enjoy your stay here. I hope that many of you from around the country will be inspired to visit the Lone Star State again.

All my best for a successful conference and continued success in the future!

Sincerely,

ANN W. RICHARDS
Governor



President's column

An introduction . . .

The 28th annual Horatio Alger Society Convention is over but the fond memories linger. The 1992 convention was held in Waco, Texas, on the Baylor University campus, and was ably hosted by Bob and Alys Collmer, and John Cadick. I originally was apprehensive about our convention being hosted by relative newcomers to the Society in a Southern locale, but my fears were quickly allayed as soon as I arrived at the convention site. Bob and John did a superb job of organizing and running the convention and I commend their hard work. The facilities provided by Baylor University (where Bob is the Dean of Graduate Studies & Research) were outstanding and added an enlightened atmosphere to our proceedings. The friendliness and hospitality of the university employees and local residents was most gratifying. It seems that the conventions get better every year. For more information about the convention see articles in this issue of *Newsboy*.

I guess at this point I should introduce myself. My name is Robert Kasper (PF-327) and I have been elected to serve as your president for the next two years. I am 36 years old and I have been a member of the Society for 21 years. As a long-time member I have had many ideas about the direction and goals of the Society. One of the most pressing needs, I feel, is to stabilize our current membership level and to attract as many new members as possible. Bill Gowen, our *Newsboy* editor, has gone a long way toward achieving the former by promulgating a first-class publication full of interesting articles. I believe that anyone with even a passing interest in Horatio Alger (or in juvenile and/or series books in general) would be attracted to our publication. I am confident that a visually appealing newsletter, published in a timely manner, will be instrumental in retaining any new prospects. I would be most interested in hearing from anyone with ideas about attracting new members.

I recently had lunch with Murray Levin (PF-851), who is busy making preparations for the 1993 convention. The convention will be held April 29th through May 2nd in the Philadelphia suburbs. Murray is very close to choosing a convention site and has already decided on the souvenir. He has also obtained a post office box specifically for registrations and donations for

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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 Executive Secretary Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

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.
- "Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era," by Ralph D. Gardner.
- "Publication Formats of the 59 Stories by Horatio Alger, Jr. as Reprinted by the John C. Winston Co." Compiled by Bob Sawyer (PF-455) and Jim Thorp (PF-574).
- "Horatio Alger Books Published by A.L. Burt," by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412).
- "The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.," by Gary Scharnhorst with Jack Bales (PF-258).

Newsboy ad rates: Full page, \$32.00; one-half page, \$17.00; one-quarter page, \$9.00; per column inch (1 inch deep by approx. 3 1/2 inches wide), \$2.00. Send ads. with check payable to Horatio Alger Society, to Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910. The above rates apply to all want ads plus 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 to Carl T. Hartmann or directly to editor William R. Gowen (PF-706) at 923 South Lake St., Apt. 6, Mundelein, IL 60060.

Baylor -- Class of '92

A report on the H.A.S. Convention

by William R. Gowen (PF-706)

The first thing you noticed was the weather.

Stepping off a plane at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was quite a shock for those Partic'lar Friends who had flown from northern climates, where winter was still giving way to spring. On April 22, it was 46 degrees in Chicago at departure and 86 in Dallas.

All of this was a prelude to the Horatio Alger Society's 28th annual convention beginning the following afternoon 100 miles south of Dallas at Baylor University in Waco, hosted by Robert Collmer (PF-866), Baylor's dean of Graduate Studies and Research, his wife, Alys, and John Cadick (PF-858), a resident of the Dallas suburb of Garland.

By the time the majority of the 45-plus members and guests had arrived Thursday afternoon at Waco, many of the traditional early arrivals had settled in at the official convention hotel, the La Quinta Inn. Ralph Gardner (PF-053), for example, had been in town since the first of the week and had already done media interviews as well as guest-lectured several classes at the invitation of Baylor University.

The first impression was the sheer beauty of the Baylor campus, which was the location of the majority of convention activities. Located to the east of Interstate 35 and just south of the Brazos River, Baylor is the oldest university, at 145 years, in continuous operation in Texas. All buildings on campus were within easy walking distance from the motel. Student activities were still in full swing as final exams were getting under way.

Reception and Library Tour

The only official convention activity on Thursday was a reception and tour of Baylor's Armstrong Browning Library, where the Society would be spending many hours over the course of the convention.

The reception was held in the Armstrong Browning Library's McLean Foyer, where refreshments were available. After a few welcoming remarks by Bob Collmer, the convention guests split up into two groups for a tour of the library (dedicated in 1951), which houses the world's largest collection of the works of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

One of the amazing features of the Armstrong Browning Library is its 54 stained-glass windows, the largest



A panel discussion on the state of juvenile book collecting was one of the major events of the 1992 convention in Waco, Texas.

secular (non-religious) stained glass collection in the world. Perhaps the most beautiful window of all is the "Pied Piper Window" dating from 1924 and located in an alcove in the library's Leddy-Jones Research Hall, a room set aside for daily use by Baylor students as a quiet study room.

The tour ended with a visit to the third-floor Elizabeth Barrett Browning Salon, which replicates the type of Victorian room in which she wrote many of her poems and sonnets. In fact, her original writing desk is prominent among the furnishings in the salon.

The remainder of Thursday evening was spent renewing acquaintances and talking books.

Following the annual directors' breakfast on Friday morning (the faculty dining room at the Bill Daniel Student Center was a most congenial setting), the convention began in earnest.

Panel Discussion on Book Collecting

The big event Friday morning was a panel discussion on the state of book collecting held in the Armstrong Browning Library's Hankamer Treasure Room. Serving on the panel were Eddie LeBlanc (PF-015) of Fall River, Mass., publisher of *Dime Novel Round-Up*, who spoke on dime novels; Jerry Friedland (PF-376) of Monsey, N.Y., on Alger first editions and other highly collectible series; Bill Gowen (PF-706) of Mundelein, Ill., on Stratemeyer Syndicate books 1906-1940, Bart Nyberg (PF-879) of Downers Grove, Ill., on the books of Ralph Henry Barbour, William Heyliger, Robert Schulkers, Leo Edwards and Clarence B. Kelland; Gil O'Gara (PF-627) of Des Moines, Iowa, publisher of *Yellowback Library*, discussing collectible series books of the post-World War II era; and Joe Slavin (PF-880) of Arlington,

(Continued on Page 10)

On the cover: The official letter of welcome to the Horatio Alger Society from Texas Governor Ann W. Richards; also, one of the collection of secular stained-glass windows at Baylor's Armstrong Browning Library, site of many H.A.S. convention activities.

Editor's notebook

Remembering Will Wright . . .

Just as this issue of *Newsboy* was going to press, I received word of the death of Will Wright (PF-639) less than three weeks after he had completed his two-year term as president of the Horatio Alger Society.

Will was a pillar of the Society in many ways -- through his collecting of Alger books, of course, but in a much more meaningful way as a true partic'lar friend who answered the call twice in recent years when the Society most needed him.

The first situation occurred back in 1988, when we were searching in vain for a host for the next year's convention. Will and his wife Nell stepped up and offered to host the '89 convention in Chillicothe, Ohio. Looking back at it now, it stands out as one of the best-run (and best-attended) conventions the Society has ever held. For instance, we'll never forget Thursday-night dinner at the Chinese restaurant and the performance of "Rufus and Rose" by English students from Chillicothe High School based on Will's own script adaptation from the Alger book.

Nor will we forget the visit the following day to Will's home (and his special library building that housed his vast collection), although the evening was interrupted by a typical May Ohio thunderstorm. Other highlights included the Stanley Pachon auction, one of the best

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H.A.S. president Will Wright (PF-639), right, discusses the planned agenda for "Indiana Bound, Hoosier Edition" with 1991 convention host Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524). Wright, who died on May 14, presided over both this convention and the recently held 1992 convention in Waco, Texas.



MEMBERSHIP

New members:

Rocco J. Musemeche (PF-897)

P.O. Box 11023

New Iberia, LA 70562-1023

Rocco is a retired newspaper man who is a collector of juvenile series books and pulp magazines and enjoys writing about them. He heard about H.A.S. from Bill Gowen (PF-706) at the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association convention in March in Louisville.

James D. Keeline (PF-898)

3201 Adams Ave.

San Diego, CA 92116-1654

James is manager of Prince and the Pauper, a store specializing in collectible children's books located at the above address. He collects series books, especially Tom Swift, and is currently researching and writing a comprehensive bibliography/history of that series. He is also working on other bibliographies, including one on Scott, Foresman's "Dick and Jane" readers. Other hobbies include computers, physics, model rocketry and listening to classical music. He learned about H.A.S. from Bill Gowen.

Change of address:

Daniel M. Petersen (PF-200)

3766 Tupelo Lane, Apt. 2608

San Antonio, Texas 78229-2216

Editor's notebook

(Continued from Page 4)

Saturday morning book sales we've ever had and, of course, the annual banquet, which was capped by Will and Nell's humorous western skit ("Old Silver").

Will again answered the Society's call in 1990 at the Catskill, N.Y. convention. After a previously announced candidate for president backed out at the last moment, the nominating committee was at a loss until Will agreed to accept the nomination to succeed George Owens. Will was elected by acclamation at the banquet.

One of Will's great qualities was his willingness to open his home to anyone, including fellow H.A.S. members. His library was always there for Alger collectors and researchers alike to visit. His goal was to obtain a copy of every Alger title in every format by every publisher. While he fell short, anyone visiting his "Alger room" could see that he was getting close. Each group of titles had a hand-lettered card attached to the shelf, listing the publisher; in Will's collection, Loring and Porter & Coates editions shared equal billing with the Winstons and Whitmans.

Soon after Will became president he started searching for a new editor for *Newsboy*, which at the time was being turned over from Jim Ryberg to executive secretary Carl Hartmann on an interim basis. During one of our phone conversations, Will asked me what I did for a living. When I replied "newspaper editor," I heard a gasp on the other end of the line. "Well, you're just the man I'm looking for," he said.

I turned him down for a number of reasons, most notably because I didn't have the kind of computer equipment I knew was necessary to do the job properly. However, by the time the Indianapolis convention rolled around in 1991, a computer was on order and knowing that Will's search for an editor was still not fulfilled, shortly after registration I asked for a meeting with him, Carl and then-vice president Rob Kasper. I volunteered for the job.

At the annual business meeting the following morning, Will wasted no time in proclaiming that his long search was over.

Hopefully, the "new" *Newsboy* is as much a tribute to Will as it is to all those other partic'lar friends who contributed to the publication over the years who are no longer with us. I took with a great sense of pride one of Will's comments at last month's annual banquet as he passed the gavel to new president Rob Kasper: "If I accomplished nothing else as president, at least I found an editor."

If any other members have thoughts about Will Wright they'd like to share, we'll publish them in the

Letters to the Editor section of the July-August issue. Just send them to me at the address listed at the bottom of Page 2. They must be received by July 10.

In this issue...

Full convention coverage is included, including a report on the Moore-Camp book auction by Ivan McClymont (PF-722), a complete list of auction results, both from the book auction and the annual fund-raiser, along with photos and other highlights.

This issue also inaugurates our new feature, "Other authors...other books." Jack Dizer (PF-511) launches the series on Page 8 with "So who wrote Tom, Swiftly?" which looks at authorship of the early Tom Swift books.

There's also Alger from a different perspective -- that of the historian -- as Notre Dame University's Vincent DeSantis offers on Pages 12-14 a treatise titled "Whatever happened o Horatio Alger?" H.A.S. members may find Professor DeSantis' opinions controversial, to say the least.

Coming in July-August...

More good stuff is on the way, including a humorous treatise on the Putnam Hall Series by new member Rocco Musemeche (PF-897), an article on Alger by Ralph Gardner (PF-053) and an analysis by Brad Chase (PF-412) on the current state of Alger book collecting.

Stay tuned.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bill:

Who was Clara Augusta, the short-story writer of the mid-to-late 19th century periodicals? Do any of the *Newsboy* readers have a pedigree on this writer?

On the reverse of this high-class stationery I have copied part of Page 9 of Vol. III, No. 1, the issue of Jan. 4, 1862 of *Gleason's Literary Companion* (Editor's note: reproduced at right). I feel sure this is not an actual portrait, since quite a few of the illustrations in the 1862 run of *Gleason's Literary Companion* have the same features on the female characters.

But in the 52 issues of that Vol. III, there are 40 issues that contain at least one short story; one issue that contains a poem; one issue that contains both a short story and a poem. Then there is a serialization that runs through six issues, and three of those six issues contain a short story as well.

Then comes Vol. IV, 1863, of *Gleason's Literary Companion*. In this volume, there are 52 short stories in a running of "Aunt Keziah's Umbrella Brigade." Each of these 52 short stories bears the title of "Aunt Keziah's Umbrella Brigade," plus "No. 1, No. 2, No. 3," etc. through "No. 52."

Of the 41 short stories in Vol. III mentioned above, we find 20 with "Aunt Keziah" somewhere in the title.

From then on, Clara Augusta appears regularly as a writer of short stories and poems off and on through *Gleason's* into the 1880s; of course, never again with the quantity impact of Vols. III and IV. I don't know either how many of the stories in succeeding volumes are reprints, since *Gleason's* was averse to repeats in succeeding issues where popular short-story writers were concerned.

Who was Clara Augusta???? Please let me know if you have any information.

Sincerely,
Paul F. Miller (PF-351)
4365 Belmar Terrace
Vienna, OH 44473

Dear Carl:

Enclosed is my check for \$20 for Alger Society dues. I won't be able to attend the conference in Texas.

I've enclosed some things you may find of interest. I teach a course in Mass Media at Dutchess Community College. The textbook I've been using for some years now, "MediaAmerica" by Ed Whetmore, devotes a page to the importance of Horatio Alger. Needless to say I enjoy lecturing on Alger and I read to my students from one or two of the books.

I was reviewing a new text recently and was pleased

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CLARA AUGUSTA.

Written for *Gleason's Literary Companion*.

A TRIBUTE TO

CLARA AUGUSTA.

When truth guides the pen, there's virtue in the mind.

Accept, dear girl, this tribute from a friend,—
No fulsome eulogy to thee I send;
I know thee not—save by thy talents rare,
With which, but few can at thy years compare.

The subject matter of thy pen, which toll
Of Aunt Keziah,—and her lov'd umbrell!
The patriotic zeal thy lines impart,
Has won the love of every union heart.

May every blessing through this transient life,
Alight on thee as maiden, or as wife!
May bright conceptions still adorn thy mind,
And ever be to usefulness consign'd.

May all good angels guard thee on thy way,
May no fell demon e'er thy trust betray;
May virtue's mantle ever wrap thy form,
And safely shield thee from each bitter storm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(May 1, 1991 - April 18, 1992)

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	\$3501.92	Misc. postage (a)	\$352.36
Ads	28.00	Newsboy postage	1,343.37
Mchdse. sales	16.00	Newsboy typing (b)	944.00
Book sales	735.05	Newsboy printing	2503.48
Donations	222.00	Editor's misc. expenses	213.69
Misc. inc. (A)	3,525.08	Other misc. expenses (c)	363.60
Interest	79.60	Aldinder (labels)	143.52
		Amereon (Gardner book)	1,000.00
Total		Total	
Income	\$8,107.65	Expenses	\$6,864.02
Net income for reporting period		\$1,243.63	

Notes:

(A): Miscellaneous income includes:

-- Receipts of \$2,469 from 1991 Indianapolis convention, including auction receipts.

-- Balance of \$763.91 forwarded in July 1991 from former treasurer Alex T. Shaner.

-- Final 1991 convention balance of \$140 forwarded in August 1991 from host Bernard Biberdorf.

-- Balance received in Oct. 1991 from savings account closeout.

(a): Miscellaneous postage expenses include all H.A.S. mailings made by the Executive Secretary other than the mailing of **Newsboy**.

(b): **Newsboy** typing expenses @ \$236 per issue were incurred four times during the reporting period. As of late 1991 because of the changeover to a desktop publishing system, this expense has been eliminated at a savings of more than \$1,400 per year to the Society.

(c): Other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the reporting period included costs of printing checks for the new treasurer's H.A.S. account, the fee for filing the Society's annual report with the State of Illinois, flowers sent to the family of Dale E. Thomas (PF-315) and costs of printing the 1992 convention bid sheets.

Dear partic'lar friends:

The lion's share of our income came from dues (43%) and last year's annual convention proceeds (30%)

Not surprisingly, the bulk of our expenses are **Newsboy**-related. Including postage, typing (an expense which editor Bill Gowen's new system has recently eliminated), printing, labels and the editor's operating expenses, **Newsboy** costs totaled \$5,148.08 and accounted for 75% of our spending.

We close this fiscal year with \$1,243.63 in our checking account. Mr. Alger would be pleased to observe that the organization which bears his name has managed to combine fiscal responsibility with a progressive look to the future!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Roobian-Mohr
Treasurer



Outgoing president Will Wright (PF-639), left, who passed away on May 14, poses with new vice president Mary Ann Ditch (PF-861) and president Robert E. Kasper (PF-327) at the H.A.S. banquet.

President's column

(Continued from Page 2)

the H.A.S. auction. Please give some thought about which items you would like to donate. More information about convention events will appear in future issues of **Newsboy**.

It is unfortunate that my first column as your president is the bearer of sad news. The Society's very best friend, Will Wright (PF-639) passed away on Thursday, May 14. Will was our most recent past president and presided over our conventions in Indianapolis and Waco. He was one of the most likeable and amiable persons in our group and I looked forward to seeing him at every convention. He will be sadly missed. Please see the Editor's Notebook for more about Will and what he meant to the Horatio Alger Society.

Your partic'lar friend,
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
585 E. St. Andrews Drive
Media, Pennsylvania 19063

So who wrote Tom, Swiftly?

by John T. Dizer (PF-511)

A reviewer once succinctly summed up a performance of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" with one sentence: "The bloodhounds were poorly supported by the cast."

The same kind of review is appropriate, in my mind, for the "Smithsonian" article of last fall on Edward Stratemeyer. The pictures were great but poorly supported by the article.

(Editor's note: The 10-page article, by Bruce Watson, is titled *Tom Swift, Nancy Drew and Pals All Had the Same Dad*. It appeared in the October 1991 issue of "Smithsonian" magazine).

I shouldn't have been surprised and, to be honest, I wasn't. As a charter subscriber to "Smithsonian" I remembered all too well earlier articles on Alger and Merriwell. I have no idea what kind of review process "Smithsonian" uses for manuscript accuracy but in these cases it was obviously inadequate. My concern, and that of others who are concerned about shoddy scholarship, is that if we can recognize so many errors in articles in a field with which we are familiar, how many unrecognized errors may there be in "Smithsonian" articles in other fields?

The focus for this vituperation is the statement in the Watson article that, "As with all series, Stratemeyer himself wrote the first three Nancy Drew mysteries."

He did not. Stratemeyer never wrote a Nancy Drew, he never wrote a Hardy Boys and he never wrote a Tom Swift. He not only never wrote them, he never claimed to have written them. And nobody except the most superficial and ignorant writer would claim that Stratemeyer actually wrote these books.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of superficial and ignorant writers in this world who maintain the level of superficial ignorance by pirating from earlier articles of the same caliber. For some reason this seems not only more prevalent but also more socially acceptable in the kiddie lit field. I hope it is not a reflection on either the intelligence or the level of training of those in the field.

Ignoring Nancy and the Hardys (although I would bet that 80 per cent of Alger collectors could tell you the real authors of the first three books in each of those series without looking them up), let's take a cold, hard look at good old Tom Swift.

Not only do some "authorities" say that Stratemeyer authored the first several Tom Swifts (the "breeder set" consisted of the initial five titles in 1910), but they say he wrote all of them. He didn't of course, but he did create Tom, he probably created Tom's friends and he certainly

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



Howard R. Garis (and friend) at the typewriter creating another of his many children's books.

was responsible for the whole young inventor idea. He also owned the rights and marketed the Tom Swift series. And so over the years the writing was attributed to him as well.

There have been some fairly scurrilous attacks on the late Harriet Stratemeyer Adams for her supposed claims to authorship of Syndicate books. Ignoring Mrs. Adams' memory problems -- which I am presently finding come with the territory -- Mrs. Adams never claimed to me in either letter or interview that her father wrote the Tom Swifts. She was frank to say that it was Howard R. Garis who wrote the books until after Stratemeyer's death in 1930. Garis' obituary when he died in 1962 also gave him credit for Tom Swift. But old myths die hard as we see in the "Smithsonian" article.

So can we prove, once and for all, that Edward Stratemeyer did not start the Tom Swift series and that Howard Garis did? The answer is "yes" -- at last.

It was the long-standing policy of the Stratemeyer Syndicate to have authors, upon payment for a story, sign a release which waived rights to that story. Brooks Garis, grandson of Howard Garis, has sent me releases signed by his grandfather for the first two Tom Swift books. Those releases are printed here in *Newsboy* for the first time, courtesy of Mr. Garis.

I suspect that these releases are the first published evidence concerning early authorship of any Syndicate stories. They prove beyond a doubt that Stratemeyer owned the plots and titles of the Tom Swift books and that Howard R. Garis (also the creator of the famous non-Stratemeyer Syndicate "Uncle Wiggily" stories)

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Newark, N. J., Feb. 17, 1910.

For and in consideration of the sum of seventy-five dollars and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which are hereby acknowledged, I hereby sell, transfer and set aside to Edward Stratemeyer, of Newark, N. J., all my right, title and interest in a certain story written by me on a plot and title furnished by said Edward Stratemeyer, title of story being,
Tom Swift and His Motor Cycle.

In making this transfer I affirm that my work on the story is new, and I hereby give to Edward Stratemeyer full right to print under a trade-mark pen name belonging to him or his publishers, or both, and I agree not to claim any right in such pen name or attempt to make use of the same in any form whatsoever.

Howard R. Garis

Newark, N. J., Mar. 10, 1910.

For and in consideration of the sum of seventy-five dollars, and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby sell, transfer and set aside to Edward Stratemeyer of Newark, N. J. all my right, title and interest in a certain story written by me on a title and outline furnished by said Stratemeyer and called,

Tom Swift and His Motor Boat, or The Rivals of Lake Carlopa.

In making this transfer I hereby affirm that my work on the story is new and original, and I hereby give to Edward Stratemeyer full permission to print the story under any trade-mark pen name that may be his property or that of himself and his publishers combined and I agree not to claim any right in said pen name and agree not to make use of the same in any manner whatsoever.

Howard R. Garis

These release forms offer proof that Howard R. Garis authored the first two Tom Swift books.

wrote the books.

I could add that Garis not only wrote the Tom Swifts but did much of the plotting as well. The releases also show that Garis received a flat fee of \$75 (later raised to \$100, then to \$125) for each book, books which sold in the millions and made Tom Swift a household name.

Fortunately for Howard Garis, he was not only a

capable and entertaining writer but a very rapid writer. According to his son Roger (author of the biography "My Father Was Uncle Wiggily," McGraw-Hill, 1966), Garis could write an entire book in three weeks while working full-time at his newspaper job.

So to answer the question in the title, Howard R. Garis wrote Tom, Swiftly!

Baylor -- Class of '92

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Va., on girls series books.

After a brief presentation by each panel member, the symposium was opened to questions from the large audience in attendance.

Lunch on Friday was held in the ornate second-floor meeting room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The guest speaker was Baylor President Emeritus Abner McCall, who headed the university from 1961 to 1981, also served as dean of Baylor's law school and as a judge on the Texas Supreme Court. A former "Outstanding American" honoree by the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Dr. McCall spoke on the continued importance of the free enterprise system as exemplified by Alger's "Strive and Succeed" philosophy.

Friday afternoon was devoted to the special auction of the Walter J. Moore (PF-131) and Robert Camp (PF-408) collections and several items donated by the wife of the late H.A.S. president Jack W. Row (PF-101). Starting at 2 p.m. at the Armstrong Browning Library, this event saw the dispersal of more than 200 lots that brought \$4,963 in live and mail bids (for a full report on this auction see Pages 17-19). Jerry Friedland handled the yeoman four-hour task of auctioning off the books.

Annual Business Meeting

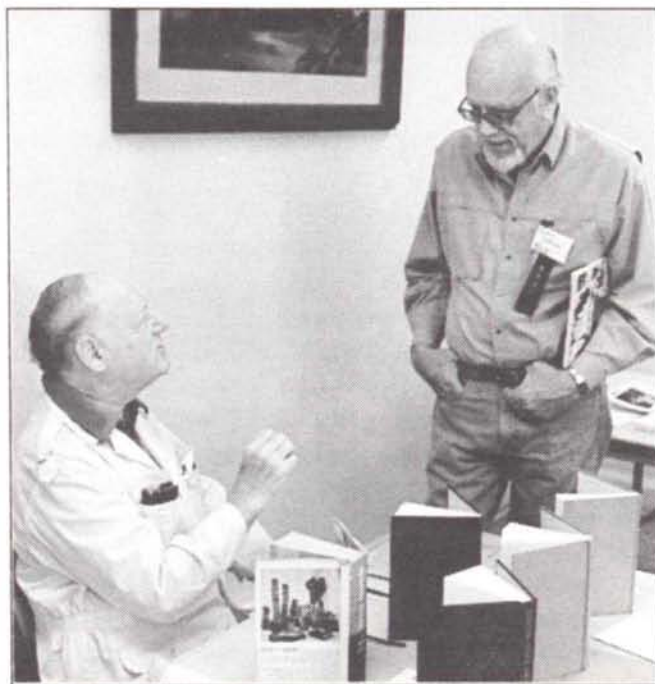
The annual business meeting took place following an excellent seafood dinner served at the Harrington Faculty Center, a beautifully restored on-campus Victorian home located just a block from the motel.

The main order of business was the nomination and election of a new president and vice president for the next two years, as well as the election of three directors to three-year terms.

Chairman Jerry Friedland presented his nominating committee's slate of officers and directors, as follows: Robert E. Kasper (PF-327) as president and Mary Ann Ditch (PF-861) as vice president, terms to run through the 1994 convention; and as directors, Bob Huber (PF-841), Bob Collmer (PF-866) and John Cadick (PF-858), terms to run through the 1995 convention.

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers and was seconded and voted by the membership, with the installation of the new officers to take place at Saturday night's banquet.

In other new business, president-elect Rob Kasper read a letter from Murray D. Levin (PF-851) of Jenkintown, Pa., offering to host the Society's 1993 convention in the Philadelphia suburbs. A motion was made and seconded to accept this offer and a vote of the membership ratified the Philadelphia area as the 1993



Convention host Robert Collmer, right, talks Alger with Ralph Gardner at the annual book sale.

convention site. Dates of the convention will be April 29-May 2, 1993.

Outgoing president Will Wright (PF-639) then read a letter from Christine DeHaan (PF-773) of Wayland, Mich., offering to host the 1994 convention in the Grand Rapids, Mich. area. It was moved and seconded that the Society accept her offer, with actual convention dates to be determined.

Executive Secretary Carl T. Hartmann (PF-102) read the treasurer's report as submitted by treasurer Judy Roobian-Mohr (PF-849), showing a balance in the H.A.S. treasury of \$1,243.63 as of April 18, 1992 (a summary of the treasurer's report is on Page 7).

Carl also reported that an updated membership directory will be available for distribution this summer, the first new directory since 1989.

In other business, Wright read an invitation from the Society of Phantom Friends to attend that group's annual get-together, to be held July 9-10 in conjunction with the Betsy-Tacy Convention in Mankato, Minn. The Phantom Friends is a society devoted to the collection of girls' series books.

The annual business meeting concluded with the annual H.A.S. fund-raising auction, which raised a total of \$470 (a summary of this auction is on Page 11).

Annual Book Sale

Saturday morning's annual book sale was held at the Armstrong Browning Library and offered a selection of Alger and non-Alger books, along with executive secretary Carl Hartmann's sale of official H.A.S. memorabilia

(Ralph Gardner's book, membership pins, cup plates, etc.) Although there were fewer members selling books than usual, the sale provided an additional opportunity for members to get together and "talk books."

The remainder of Saturday was free time, which was utilized to walk the Baylor campus, attend the annual Brazos River Festival or see some of Waco's attractions, including the Texas Ranger Museum, the Dr. Pepper Museum and John A. Roebling's 1879 suspension bridge.

Saturday afternoon was also devoted to bookhunting, which involved trips to Austin (90 minutes to the south) or Dallas (the same distance north) of Waco. One intrepid band of Series Sleuths packed themselves into John Cadick's van and headed to Dallas. Included on this safari were your **Newsboy** editor, Gil O'Gara, Joe Slavin, Bob Huber, Bart Nyberg and Henri Achee. All of us picked up a goody or two along the way, which included stops at various bookdealers and antique malls.

Banquet and Awards Presentation

We all made it back just in time for the annual H.A.S. banquet, again at the Harrington Faculty Center.

The main events of the evening were the official "passing of the gavel" from outgoing president Will Wright to new president Rob Kasper, an ovation for convention hosts Robert and Alys Collmer, and John Cadick, followed by the annual H.A.S. awards.

Kasper presented the first two awards. The **Luck and Pluck Award** went to Bill Gowen (PF-706) for his work in the redesign of **Newsboy** over the past year; and the **Dick Seddon Award** was given to Bernie Biberdorf (PF-524), the 1991 convention host who along with his wife Marcy has spent much of the past year traveling and visiting several H.A.S. members not able to attend the annual conventions.

Ralph Gardner then announced the winner of the 1992 **Newsboy Award** as former H.A.S. president and 1983 convention host Bob Sawyer (PF-455) of Columbus, Ohio, to whom the plaque will be forwarded.

Following his presentation of the Newsboy Award, Gardner spent the rest of the evening drawing caricatures of members and guests, with donations going to the Society. Ralph's portraits (also drawn during Friday's dinner) raised a total of \$64 for the treasury.

The banquet concluded with a reading by Bill Gowen of a slide presentation titled "How Tom Swift Invented Everything," given February 10 by Jack Dizer (PF-511) at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago.

With the banquet over it was time to say "goodbye" for another year. The 1993 Philadelphia convention promises to be one of the best-ever, but few who were in Waco will ever forget the beauty of the locale and the warm Texas hospitality that made "Baylor -- Class of '92" one the Society's most memorable conventions.

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

Item	Donor	Buyer	Price
Sam's Chance	J. Friedland	Will Wright	\$75.00
Book bag	M. Bieberdorf	Velnor Dunning	6.00
Walking cane	J. Walter	George Dunning	4.00
3 Alger prints	B. Murrell	Velnor Dunning	10.00
Afghan	R. Walter	Evelyn Grebel	35.00
"Texas" Vols. 1-2	I. McClymont	Bill Murrell	20.00
Afghan	N. Wright	Paul Cripe	12.00
"Amos & Andy" tapes	J. Juvinall	Gil O'Gara	8.00
Frank Merriwell book	E. LeBlanc	Gil O'Gara	3.00
Jack Benny tape	J. Juvinall	Gil O'Gara	10.00
Book - Newsboy	H. Gravbelle	Bernie Biberdorf	5.00
H.A.S. banner	G. Owens	Bernie Biberdorf	12.00
Blank audio tapes	R. Walter	Bernie Biberdorf	5.00
Canal Boy to President	M. Ditch	Robert Kasper	20.00
Red Skelton tape	B. Biberdorf	John Cadick	16.00
Business card file	M. Biberdorf	Mary Ann Ditch	6.00
Quill pen	G. Owens	Carl Hartmann	6.00
300 stamps	I. McClymont	Jean Hartmann	3.00
"Look at America" book	I. McClymont	Jean Hartmann	2.00
Farm Boy to Senator	O. Cobb	Bart Nyberg	12.00
Pillow	M. Biberdorf	Jerry Friedland	20.00
Carved wooden top	J. Walter	Jean Hartmann	1.00
The Young Book Agent	O. Cobb	Ivan McClymont	19.00
"Canada" book	I. McClymont	Jean Hartmann	10.00
Alger stamp souvenir	F. Schnell	Carl Hartmann	15.00
"Nervous Newsboy" book	H. Gravbelle	Jean Hartmann	2.00
DuPont book	I. McClymont	John Cadick	3.00
Ham	F. Martin	Jerry Friedland	30.00
100 transit tokens	R. Banks	Will Wright	30.00
Framed Rockwell print	H. Gravbelle	Nell Wright	15.00
Jack Benny tapes	J. Juvinall	Will Wright	10.00
The Young Miner	O. Cobb	John Cadick	20.00
Canal Boy to President	M. Ditch	Rohima Walter	15.00
Rupert's Ambition	M. Ditch	Eddie LeBlanc	10.00

Number of items donated: 34

Total raised: \$470.00

Whatever happened to Horatio Alger?

Those tales of "rags-to-riches" are out of fashion now as historians write a eulogy for the myth of the "self-made man."

by Vincent DeSantis

From the nation's earliest days, Americans have believed that by their own efforts they could make of their lives what they wanted. In the American popular imagination, ambition was considered the essence of character -- the prerequisite for making it from rags to riches.

Among the influences that produced this distinctly American credo were the puritan ethic, which put religion at the service of profit; industrial progress, which freed people from backbreaking toil; and a dream of dynasty, in which rewards would be passed along to multiply through the efforts on one's children.

"The gospel of success has been a noisy one through all our history, and thousands of evangelists have been enlisted in its service," wrote historian Irvin G. Wyllie in *The Self Made Man in America*. "The pulpit, the platform and the press have overflowed with its catchwords, its aphorisms and its instances. Across the land, from Benjamin Franklin's day to our own, young men have sought direction and inspiration in its glittering lore."

When Wyllie wrote those words in 1954, they were still largely true. The Horatio Alger myth may have seemed a little dated in the postwar world, but its underlying assumptions were still firmly in place.

Some time between then and now, Americans as a group stopped taking Alger seriously. Two social observers, Joseph Epstein and Celeste MacLeod, in 1980 books about ambition and the American dream, commented on the change. As they saw it, business success was being looked down upon as tacky. In its place, ambitious people were going in for self-improvement: speed-reading, assertiveness training and the study of books about looking out for number one. Ambition now connoted "a certain Rotarian optimism," wrote Epstein, "a thing unseemly, in very poor taste, rather like a raging sexual appetite in someone quite elderly."

That view of ambition is a genuine cultural change for Americans. Over most of the last century, the country virtually enshrined the cult of the self-made man. Rags-to-riches was the national success story, and the lives of presidents and kings took a back seat to stories of poor boys who made it to the top. Those who did, especially

those who made it big, were regarded as national heroes. Such figures as Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller and Cornelius Vanderbilt were admired as examples of the American dream brought to fruition.

The roots of these attitudes can be traced back to early American Puritanism, when guides to the conduct of life linked good works to salvation and emphasized material success as a sign of the diligent performance of the callings God issues to men. Benjamin Franklin reinforced such beliefs in his influential contribution to success literature, *The Way to Wealth*.

By the post-Civil War years, there was widespread belief that the nation's captains of industry -- or robber barons, as some called them -- had clawed their way up from poor, immigrant, rural, uneducated families, and that they had achieved wealth and power by adhering strictly to the Calvinist ethic of hard work, thrift and abstinence. It wasn't entirely true, of course, and soon became even less so.

Studies of the American business elite of the 19th century by Pitrim Sorokin in 1925 and C. Wright Mills 20 years later showed that only 40 percent of the industrial giants started life poor or had their origins in the lower classes. The figure dropped to 5 percent of top business leaders by the early 20th century. Later research by William Miller revealed that the bulk of U.S. captains of industry actually came from white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, urban, northeastern, educated professional and business families. It appears that the doors of business success in the last century were not open very wide to immigrants, from farm boys or youths with poor education and background.

Nonetheless, the successful men of the 19th century and their boosters stressed certain things that characterized the self-made man: industriousness, perseverance, frugality, sobriety, punctuality, obedience, reliability, energy and, especially, hard work. If you wanted to make a mark in the world, you had to roll up your sleeves.

Manuals and guides told Americans how to become successful and rich. If any youth of the Gilded Age failed to achieve a position of wealth and eminence," wrote historian Louis B. Wright. "It was not for a lack of printed advice. Handbooks and manuals pointing out the high road to prosperity flourished as never before." Of all the success manuals published before 1900, four out of five appeared shortly after the Civil War. These manuals assured any male youth who was honest, industrious, frugal and sober that he could become a millionaire. The advice was always given to young men;

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aspiring women were expected to marry big money, not to make it.

Also supporting this gospel were Protestant clergymen who taught that godliness was in league with riches and also sanctioned the get-ahead values of businessmen. Russell Conwell, a leading Baptist minister, in his widely heard "Acres of Diamonds" sermon confidently asserted that it was one's "Christian and Godly" duty to seek wealth.

With such assistance from churchmen, business tycoons could sleep more easily on their accumulated wealth, their slumbers undisturbed by the biblical saying that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven. Rockefeller, for example, brushed aside his critics by simply declaring that it was God who had given him his money.

Even more influential than the self-help manuals and the "strive-and-succeed" sermons were the rags-to-riches stories of Horatio Alger, Jr. (1832-1899). These stories of poor boys achieving success popularized the idea of the self-made man.

Americans generally perceived that Alger's books made a connection between hard work, study and perseverance on the one hand, and certain rise to success on the other. But new literature about Alger showed that his books did not really make that connection. While his heroes -- poor but honest boys making it to the top -- were hardworking and did succeed, they seldom did it on their own. Just about all their successes were "the result of the wildest coincidences or lucky happenstances," wrote Bill Blackbeard recently. According to John Cawelti, who seems to have read all of the more than 100 Alger novels, "his newsboys and other urchin-like characters depend heavily on being discovered and assisted by the successful businessman who will launch them on their way."

Nor, according to new literature about Alger, was he a strong partisan of rugged individualism. And only "within narrow limits was he an admirer of pecuniary success." On closer examination, his heroes turn out "to be dominated less by the spirit of buccaneer capitalism than by that of middle-class scrupulosity." They have what Cawelti calls "employee virtues: fidelity, punctuality and courteous deference." Alger is now considered by some writers to be "a teacher of traditional manners and morals rather than an exponent of free enterprise."

Nevertheless, the Horatio Alger tradition developed into a genuine American myth, embodying the virtues of thrift, education and hard work as the highway to success. This is still the popular view. Even though few of Alger's books are read or remembered today, his name and myth are firmly fastened upon American history.

Successful self-made men found further support for

their ideas in the doctrine of Social Darwinism. Herbert Spencer, a British philosopher widely read in the United States in the late 19th century, applied Charles Darwin's biological theory of natural selection to economic and social life, assuring his grateful readers that those who rose to the top were the fittest. This view was especially attractive to successful American businessmen, who could thus feel that they were the finest flower of evolution.

The rags-to-riches idea also supported the folklore that opportunities for advancement were unlimited in America. This popular view was given voice in 1883 by John W. Britton, a New York manufacturer and banker, when he asserted, "A man here may be a common day laborer, but if he has the right material in him there is no reason why he should not occupy the best place in the nation."

There is not much evidence to justify such optimism. The belief in boundless opportunities and unlimited upward economic mobility is not supported by studies. Few unskilled workers rose beyond the ranks of the semiskilled, and virtually none achieved middle-class status.

Despite their durability, the traditional notions of ambition and success were already being undermined in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the more complex economic and social organization of American life and by the large numbers of immigrants coming into the country. Woodrow Wilson in *The New Frontier* noted that "the originative part of America, that part into which the ambitious and gifted working man makes his way up...is being more and more squeezed out by the processes when we have been taught to call processes of prosperity."

Also beginning in the late 19th century, a new figure came along to articulate the cause for success. "Neither minister, nor writer, nor even necessarily experienced businessman, the success specialist arrived on the scene," observed Joseph Epstein. Such a man did not so much lay down principles or practical advice as he taught techniques. "The new success boosters (Bruce Barton, Dale Carnegie and Norman Vincent Peale, among others) continued to emphasize competition, but the former values of character -- self-discipline, the avoidance of temptation and the cultivation of virtue and self-improvement -- became less important in their writing than self-confidence, aggressiveness and a sharp sense for the "commercial kill."

The person built for success now had "a successful personality -- he was a go-getter, had magnetism, possessed that mysterious but nonetheless unmistakable 'certain something' that caused him to win through." These boosters continued to tell Americans there were

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Whatever happened to Horatio Alger?

(Continued from Page 13)

still unending possibilities in a land of unbounded opportunities. Success was for everyone who had enough nerve and ambition to look for it.

Enthusiasm for that gospel was weakened by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Since the gospel had always thrived on opportunities, real or imagined, that devastating economic and social catastrophe raised doubts among believers. What's astonishing is that the faith did not disappear entirely. Eighteen public opinion polls from 1935 to 1946 showed Americans still confident that opportunities for the next generation would be as good as they had been in the past, and probably better.

By the 1970s, the gospel of success was being viewed in a different way than ever before. Epstein and McLeod document a decline in the status of ambition and in the Horatio Alger tradition. Ambition no longer enjoyed its former esteem. The new men who arose to seize it were increasingly looked upon as "grubby, narrow, without vision, unlike the heroic pioneer generation with its integrity, honor, heroism." Some naysayers went so far as to claim that "only the swinish succeed, that the day of men of character is past."

The game for many no longer seemed worth the effort. Americans were told to be "wary of ambition, one's own and the next fellow's, especially where it contends against things of the spirit." One writer believed "most people" had now gone well beyond wariness into a crippling ambivalence about ambition.

On top of this, the two interlocking premises that underlay the American dream -- unlimited opportunity and an endless frontier -- were on their way out. Now there were no more frontiers or undiscovered continents to conquer, and we needed a different dream.

All this suggested, at least to one writer, "a people that had lost its way, its energy, its dreams -- in a word, its ambition." Time magazine offered that judgment in 1981, adding, "The rise in T-shirt aggression and bumper sticker bravado reflects an increase in frustration and confusion."

How did the change come about? Reasons advanced by social commentators include the humiliation of being outproduced by former wartime foes Germany and Japan and of being overcharged by a Third World cartel (OPEC); the inflation that narrowed the way to middle-class affluence; the usurpation by the state of most of the capital-accumulating and distribution systems functions of the old industrial class; the decline of successful families to emulate; and a sustained attack on worldly success by writers and intellectuals.

Wrote Epstein, "Antisuccess has been perhaps the strongest strain in American literature of the past half-century. And to be against success is to put ambition itself in grave doubt." While living well themselves, modern writers questioned the aims of money and

power, and created a dark version of the American success story that made its way through American culture and thus affected the general attitude toward success.

For example, in a recent American Express pamphlet aimed at college students, John D. Arnold, a social psychologist and counselor to leaders of business and industry, told his young readers that "success is measured by your own personal fulfillment on the job -- not by monetary rewards or lofty titles."

But just when the Alger success myth and the American dream seemed to be coming to an end, they were lavishly praised by a social observer in the mid-80s. George Gilder in *The Spirit of Enterprise* likened the revival of venture capitalism and entrepreneurialism to "The struggles of men and nature on the old frontier." He extolled today's Horatio Alger successes in these words: "Bullheaded, defiant, tenacious, creative entrepreneurs continued to solve the problems of the world even faster than the world could create them. The achievements of enterprise remained the highest testimony to the mysterious strength of the human spirit."

It is not only authors like Gilder who are keeping the Horatio Alger spirit alive and bright among new generations of Americans; so is the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Founded in 1947, this group annually honors at least 10 outstanding Americans as modern-day heroes who, in turn, agree to travel to schools and talk to students about making careers.

The association gives \$5,000 college scholarships to promising young students from needy families who are recommended by high schools that hold "Horatio Alger Days." It also plans to organize Horatio Alger clubs in high schools across the country, with the idea of encouraging students to be active in charitable work in their communities and to be role models for younger students.

"The spirit of Horatio Alger is very much in vogue right now among students who can be a very positive influence on others, and who can set an example by their own behavior," says Love Smith, executive director of the association.

All this suggests that the idea of the "self-made man" and the American dream has not disappeared. As for Horatio Alger himself, he might have been comforted in his last days had he been able to foresee the endurance of the myth named after him. He may also have found comfort in an epitaph he once fashioned for himself out of the titles of some of his books:

"Six feet underground reposes Horatio Alger, Helping Himself to a part of the earth, not Digging for Gold or In Search of Treasure, but Struggling Upward and Bound to Rise at last In a New World, where it shall be said he is Risen from the Ranks."

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the winter 1990-91 issue of *Notre Dame* -- the University of Notre Dame alumni magazine, and was submitted by S. Percy Dean (PF-753). Vincent DeSantis is professor emeritus of history at Notre Dame.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 6)

to see that another author, Stan Wilson -- in Mass Media, Mass Culture -- also devoted a sidebar to Alger. I've enclosed copies. Both texts are popular so that means that college students throughout the country are still being introduced to Alger.

Enclosed, too, is some material about my latest work. Two of my plays are now published by Samuel French, Inc. and I'm working on two Alger adaptations for possible publication with French. I've enclosed a copy of "my" page from the French catalog.

My new lecture area is humor. Enclosed are some articles. And I keep busy lecturing on my Rip Van Winkle research.

My warmest regards to anyone who may remember a former president of the Society.

Cordially,
Steve Press (PF-164)
R.R. 2, Box 104
Poughquag, NY 12570

Editor's note: The Alger blurb from Edward Jay Whetmore's "MediaAmerica" is reproduced on Page 16.

Dear Carl:

Enclosed is an item I found in the McGill News, Spring 1992, which may be of interest to you and the readers of Newsboy.

It is a review of a book which is reminiscent of "Phil the Fiddler." I believe I will send away for a copy of this book as it sounds as though it could be extremely interesting.

Sincerely,
Jean-Maurice Poitras, M.D.
(PF-637)
107 Edgerton Road
Towson, MD 21204

Editor's note: The review submitted by Dr. Poitras follows:

In the Little Slaves of the Harp: Italian Child Street Musicians in Nineteenth-Century Paris, London and New York (McGill-Queen's Press, 1992, 206 pp., cloth, \$34.95).

McGill historian John Zucchi tells, in vivid detail, of the extraordinary trade in children who were plucked from villages in Italy to serve their *padroni* on the streets of far-off cities. The *padroni* were not always cruel task masters, but the children often lived in appalling conditions. In the 1841 census, *padrone* Luigi Rabiotti, 31, was found to have 26 young musicians living in his house in Clerkenwell, London.

A report in the medical journal *Lancet* later described the basement which Rabiotti let to organ-grinders in this way: "It is a sort of kitchen, with shelves along the walls where the

barrel-organs might be deposited, a long table for the rolling out of macaroni... The floor, ceilings and walls were black with smoke and dirt." As Zucchi shows, the authorities eventually stopped this exploitive trade not so much out of concern for the children as to maintain law and order, to prevent street noise, and, particularly in America, to encourage the waifs to seek -- often less pleasant, more dangerous -- jobs in factories.

Dear Bill:

I received letters from quite a few attending the ACA/PCA meeting telling me the "Pranks" paper was entertaining as well as informative, including one this morning from Arizona State University requesting a copy and sorry he missed this Louisville get-together.

I concur that he really missed out on as interesting a panel as could be devised. For myself, I can say it took almost a full year of study on the Putnam Hall series before I was able to come up with a "different" topic, an almost never-before attempt to point out the hilarious aspect of the pranks as they convey to us today but were such wide-eyed antics when read as teenagers and pre-teenagers.

I did enjoy plucking this one out of all the topics this series provides, enough to set me burning the midnight oil in quest of another seldom-done paper or article.

I did on March 23 mail out a money order in the amount of \$20 to the Horatio Alger Society, c/o Carl Hartmann, and my membership card was received pretty pronto.

Enclosed is a copy of the paper. I hope the H.A.S. membership will enjoy it.

Sincerely,
Rocco J. Musemeche (PF-897)
P.O. Box 11023
New Iberia, LA 70562-1023

Editor's note: Rocco's paper, "Pranks: A Curriculum at Putnam Hall," was presented on March 21 in Louisville, Ky. at the annual joint convention of The Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association of the United States. It will be published in the July-August issue of *Newsboy*. I hope all our partic'lar friends join me in welcoming Rocco into the Society.

Dear Bill:

I wanted to write you and congratulate you on the fine appearance of *Newsboy*. It has dramatically improved -- we all now have access to the technology that was not available when I edited our publication from 1974-1986, and you really have done a good job. My hat's off to you. You have printed, by the way, some top-notch articles that show some real research. I enjoyed reading them very much.

I recently received a phone call from Indiana Univer-

(Continued on Page 16)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 15)

sity Press, and they will be bringing out a paperback edition of Gary Scharnhorst's and my "The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr." I was pleasantly surprised, as it's been so long since the book came out, but the publisher still feels there's a solid market for the book. Scharnhorst, by the way, has uncovered some more Alger poems and short stories and a hundred or so new book reviews. If you can download from Word Perfect, perhaps sometime I can type them all up for you and you can use my own disc.

By the way, I'm hard at work on my new book for Macmillan, a critical study of novelist Kenneth Roberts. 'll be spending part of my summer in Kennebunkport, Maine, Roberts' home town, speaking on the author.

Again, Bill, congratulations on the fine job!!!

Cordially,
Jack Bales (PF-258)
1 Greenbrier Court, #203
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

BOOK MART

Ed Mattson (PF-067)
One Center Rd., 1A
Towson, MD 21204
Tel.: 1-410-825-8967

The following Alger books are for sale. All first editions are based on points by Bob Bennett.

No.	Title	Publisher/condition	Price
1.	A New York Boy	S&S HC/Good	\$17.50
2.	Bernard Brooks' Adven.	Burt-1st/VG	40.00
3.	Bernard Brooks' Adven.	Burt/VG in VG DW	30.00
4.	Facing the World	P&C-1st/Good-plus	75.00
5.	From Canal Boy to Pres.	S&S HC/VG	20.00
6.	Helen Ford	Loring-1st/Good	70.00
7.	Helen Ford	Loring-2nd/VG-plus	40.00
8.	Nelson the Newsboy	Mershon-2nd/Good	22.50
9.	Out for Business	Mershon-1st/Good	65.00
10.	Rupert's Ambition	H.T. Coates-1st/Good	65.00
11.	Store Boy	P&C-1st/VG	65.00
12.	Wait and Win	Burt-1st/VG	80.00
13.	The Young Outlaw	Loring-1st/Good-plus	80.00
14.	Andy Grant's Pluck (This is one of the rare titles)	Coates-1st/VG	200.00
15.	Horatio Alger biblio.	Bennett/As new	22.00

HORATIO ALGER AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Perhaps the most successful of all the 19th-century novelists was Horatio Alger (1834-99). Though the literary merit of his work was subject to criticism, his writings were both abundant and widely read. His 120 titles sold about 30 million copies. The name Horatio Alger became synonymous with the American struggle for upward social mobility. Here's the philosophy of the Alger novel in a nutshell, taken from his first book, *Ragged Dick*: "I hope, my lad," Mr. Whitney said, "you will prosper and rise in this world. You know in this free country poverty is no bar to a man's advancement."

Alger's belief in piety, purity, frugality, and hard work was a legacy from his conservative father, a Unitarian minister in Revere, Massachusetts. For a time Horatio thought he too would have a career as a minister. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School before his success with *Ragged Dick*.

Alger eventually moved to New York and became somewhat of a celebrity, lending his name to a number of reform and antvice crusades, including the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice.

All the Alger novels celebrated the self-made man. The hero was "a bright-looking boy with brown hair, a ruddy complexion, and dark blue eyes, who looked, and was, frank and manly." The villain was often another boy, son of a rich but corrupt family. He often had a "slender form and sallow complexion, and dressed with more pretension than taste." Inevita-



OUR HERO

bly, the hero triumphed.

Alger's own life story mirrored the success of his heroes. Though his books brought him fame and fortune, he did know sorrow. Alger's father talked him out of marrying his "one true love" at 17 because he was too young. Some biographers have contended that Alger was gay. Whatever the case, he said on a number of occasions that he longed to write "one great book," to be applauded by the critics who scoffed at his "boys' stories." That book was never written, though he once chose a title: *Tomorrow*.

The important cultural contribution of the Alger novel had nothing to do with literary quality. Popular media reflect the emotions and ideologies of their times. Alger's ideas were already in the thoughts and feelings of Americans. Although his medium and message may no longer dominate the social landscape, the implications of Alger's work have helped form our cultural legacy. His millions of readers have grown up and passed that legacy along to succeeding generations.

This overview of Alger and his books appears in the college textbook "MediaAmerica" by Edward Jay Whetmore (Belmont Calif.: Wadsworth Publishing Co.), in the chapter "Books: The Permanent Press." It was submitted by former H.A.S. president Steve Press (PF-164), who is on the faculty at Dutchess (N.Y.) Community College.

Alger book auction at Waco

by Ivan McClymont (PF-722)

The very successful 1992 convention at Waco, Texas included the auction of the Alger collections of Walter J. Moore (PF-131) and Robert W. Camp (PF-408), along with a number of items submitted by Beth Row, widow of former H.A.S. president Jack W. Row (PF-101).

A total of \$4,963 was realized from the auction, with the Society receiving \$744.45 of the total (15 percent).

Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann personally picked up Walter Moore's books last fall at his Urbana, Ill. home. Meanwhile, Jerry Friedland and Gil Kapelman went to Connecticut and picked up Bob Camp's books. Shortly thereafter, Jerry and Gil met in Cleveland with Carl and his wife Jean, where they examined, appraised and catalogued the collections. Carl then prepared the lists and bid slips that were enclosed in subsequent issues of *Newsboy* and then packed and shipped the books to host Robert Collmer in Waco in time for the 1992 convention.

Beth Row's donation of items from Jack's collection was made to Carl in January. Included were nine leather-bound volumes containing *Newsboy* issues from the very first year of publication (1962) through 1981.

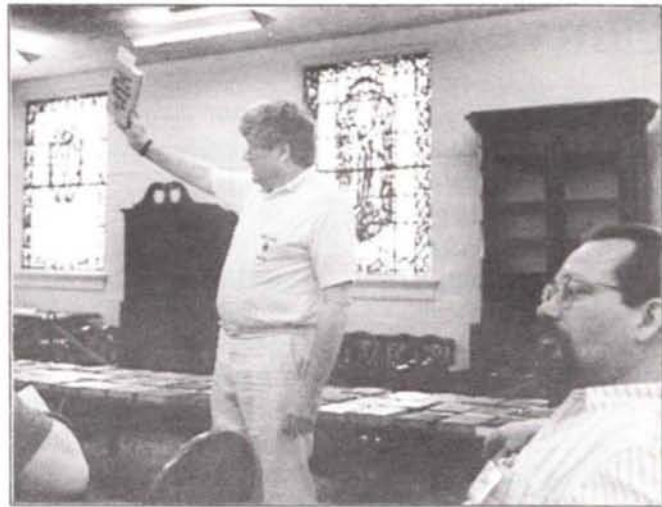
The auction was conducted on Friday afternoon in a room of the Armstrong Browning Library on the Baylor University campus. Jerry Friedland did an excellent job as auctioneer as he kept us entertained while doing his usual fine job of selling. Acting as clerk in recording the bids was Anita O'Gara, with Rob Kasper and John Cadick assisting Jerry in bringing the books to the front of the room for bidding. Carl did the bidding for the mail-bidders (more than 100 mail bids were received) as well as getting in a few bids of his own.

The auction proved to be an excellent opportunity for collectors to obtain new titles or to upgrade old ones. The bidding was spirited and while some got bargains, others paid over existing retail prices for their choices if we could judge by the expression on Jerry's face as he knocked them down to the successful bidders. All appeared happy with their new acquisitions despite the fact that some of us spent somewhat more liberally than we intended.

The two highest-priced items were sold to Bob Huber of Madison, Wis., who bought two Loring copies of "Ragged Dick," one a Gardner first edition and the other a Bennett first, for separate winning bids totaling \$500.

The highest successful bid from among the mail bidders was \$100 submitted by Irving Leif (PF-395) for a Loring second edition of "Paul Prescott's Charge."

This is an excellent way to dispose of a collection as the seller (or his family) obtains much more than most



Auctioneer Jerry Friedland in action at the Friday book auction at the Armstrong Browning Library.

dealers would offer, with the additional advantage that the Society receives a commission.

An auction of this type also adds much interest to the convention as those attending will find books at reasonable prices that would take a great deal of time and effort to obtain from the retail trade. **Editor's note:** The most money raised by the Horatio Alger Society through an auction of this type took place at the 1984 convention at Nashua, N.H., when the collection of the late Dick Seddon brought in more than \$12,000, of which \$1,800 went to the Society.

The 1993 convention will include the auction of the collection of Ralph W. Anderson (PF-144) of Iowa, who has generously donated all proceeds (not just a percentage) to the Society. Gil O'Gara (PF-627) of Des Moines has consented to make the arrangements.

On Friday evening the annual fund-raising auction of donated items took place following dinner at the Harrington Faculty Center. The auction was smaller than at most conventions but with Jerry once again the auctioneer, some \$470 was added to the Society's treasury. The great variety of items offered for bids ranged from Rohima Walter's large afghan to a fine G & D copy of "The Young Book Agent," which found a new home here in Ontario.

Both auctions added much to the fun of the convention. Many thanks are due to those who helped set them up, and also to all who donated articles and -- of course -- the bidders, whether successful or not.

A complete list of auction lot numbers, book titles, winning bidder and price follows on Pages 18-19. Those interested in editions, condition and other details of the books should refer to the auction list that was enclosed in the November-December and January-February issues of *Newsboy*.

Convention '92 -- Alger book auction results

Lot	Title	Buyer	Price	Lot	Title	Buyer	Price
1.	Ragged Dick	Bob Huber	\$175.00	51.	Randy of the River	Bob Huber	\$50.00
2.	Ragged Dick	Gil O'Gara	12.00	52.	Ben Logan's Triumph	Bob Huber	40.00
3.	Mark the Match Boy	Bob Huber	25.00	53.	The Young Book Agent	Truman Holland	25.00
4.	Rough and Ready	Gil O'Gara	2.00	54.	The World Before Him	Eugene Bartlett	68.00
5.	Ben the Luggage Boy	Bill Murrell	10.00	55.	Rupert's Ambition	Bill Murrell	15.00
6.	Rufus and Rose	Carl Bromer	6.00	56.	The Young Salesman	Paul Cripe	25.00
7.	Helen Ford	Bob Huber	100.00	57.	A Rolling Stone	Irving Leif	44.00
8.	Ben the Luggage Boy	Carl Bromer	10.00	58.	The Young Musician	Lee Switzer	10.00
9.	Tattered Tom	Bob Collmer	72.00	59.	The Young Explorer	Ivan McClymont	11.00
10.	Paul the Peddler	Eugene Bartlett	50.00	60.	Young Boatman of Pine Point	Ivan McClymont	11.00
11.	Phil the Fiddler	Gil O'Gara	2.00	61.	The Young Bank Messenger	Eugene Bartlett	70.00
12.	Slow and Sure	Bob Huber	65.00	62.	The Young Adventurer	Bob Collmer	11.00
13.	Sam's Chance	Paul Cripe	7.00	63.	Frank Hunter's Peril	Bob Huber	55.00
14.	The Telegraph Boy	Bob Huber	10.00	64.	Frank and Fearless	Mary Ann Ditch	14.00
15.	Luck and Pluck	Eugene Bartlett	35.00	65.	Frank Fowler	NOT SOLD	
16.	Sink or Swim	Eugene Bartlett	17.00	66.	Advent. of a Telegraph Boy	John Cadick	9.00
17.	Strong and Steady	Eugene Bartlett	31.00	67.	The Young Acrobat	Bernie Biberdorf	7.00
18.	Strive and Succeed	Irving Leif	90.00	68.	A Debt of Honor	Bill Murrell	12.00
19.	Try and Trust	Mary Ann Ditch	26.00	69.	Silas Snobden's Office Boy	Carl Hartmann	6.00
20.	Brave and Bold	Irving Leif	76.00	70.	Cast Upon the Breakers	Ivan McClymont	7.00
21.	Frank's Campaign	Gil O'Gara	4.00	71.	Tom Thatcher's Fortune	Chris Novak	10.00
22.	The Young Miner	Eugene Bartlett	51.00	72.	Tom Temple's Career	Bill Murrell	13.00
23.	The Young Circus Rider	Will Wright	9.00	73.	In Search of Treasure	Bob Huber	130.00
24.	Do and Dare	Paul Cripe	37.00	74.	Ben Bruce	Carl Bromer	33.00
25.	Hector's Inheritance	Gil O'Gara	12.00	75.	Ben Bruce	Bob Collmer	12.00
26.	Helping Himself	M.R. Royer	13.00	76.	Adrift in the City	Carl Bromer	33.00
27.	Bob Burton	Bernie Biberdorf	8.00	77.	Joe's Luck	Chris Novak	7.00
28.	Struggling Upward	Bob Huber	20.00	78.	From Farm Boy to Senator	Carl Bromer	27.00
29.	Digging for Gold	Eugene Bartlett	45.00	79.	Mark Manning's Mission	Bob Collmer	22.00
30.	The Western Boy	Mary Ann Ditch	155.00	80.	Nothing to Eat (not Alger)	Bill Murrell	5.00
31.	The \$500 Check	Jerry Friedland	55.00	81.	Nothing to Do (not Alger)	Bill Murrell	5.00
32.	Randy of the River	Tom Brady	7.00	82.	Nothing to You (not Alger)	Bill Murrell	4.00
33.	A Cousin's Conspiracy	Will Wright	1.00	83.	Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy	Richard Easterbrooks	66.00
34.	Advent. of a N.Y. Tele. Boy	John Cadick	2.00	84.	Bernard Brooks' Adventures	Carl Bromer	25.00
35.	Robert Coverdale's Struggle	Eugene Bartlett	5.00	85.	The Errand Boy	Sol Saks	15.00
36.	In a New World	Will Wright	1.00	86.	Mark Mason's Victory	Ivan McClymont	20.00
37.	Both Sides of a Continent	June Land	4.00	87.	Dan the Newsboy	Ivan McClymont	20.00
38.	Grit	Bob Huber	5.00	88.	Tom the Bootblack	Larry Robinson	10.00
39.	Rufus and Rose	June Land	6.00	89.	Harry Vane	Bill Murrell	25.00
40.	The Backwoods Boy	Carl Hartmann	10.00	90.	Facing the World	Gil O'Gara	2.50
41.	Luke Walton	Gil O'Gara	2.00	91.	Walter Griffith	June Land	11.00
42.	Tom Brace	Mary Ann Ditch	10.00	92.	Number 91	Bob Huber	25.00
43.	Making his Mark	Chris DeHaan	46.00	93.	Timothy Crump's Ward	Bill Murrell	15.00
44.	Walter Sherwood's Probation	Will Wright	55.00	94.	The New School Ma'am	Bill Murrell	15.00
45.	A New York Boy	Irving Leif	73.00	95.	Hugo, the Deformed	Bill Murrell	10.00
46.	Out for Business	Jerry Friedland	40.00	96.	Nothing to Do	Bob Collmer	10.00
47.	Falling in with Fortune	Truman Holland	14.00	97.	G. Baldwin's Thanksgiving	Bill Murrell	25.00
48.	Nelson the Newsboy	Truman Holland	17.00	98.	Tom Tracy	Carl Bromer	20.00
49.	Jerry, the Backwoods Boy	Bill Murrell	1.00	99.	The Disagreeable Woman	Bill Murrell	25.00
50.	Joe, the Hotel Boy	Bob Collmer	55.00	100.	Alger Street: Poetry of Alger	Paul Miller	8.00

Baylor class of '92 -- a final glance

Alger books were in available in abundance at the April 24 auction of the Walter Moore and Robert Camp collections.



Wallace Palmer (PF-612), left, and Ralph Gardner (PF-053) at the annual banquet.

Photos courtesy of J.T. Slavin III (PF-880)



Eddie LeBlanc (PF-015), right, and Joe Slavin (PF-880) during Friday's panel discussion on book collecting.



"What am I bid for this first-edition copy of 'Joe the Hotel Boy?'"