



THE HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
NEWSBOY



Horatio Alger, Jr.

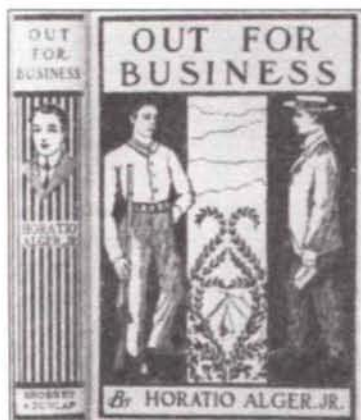
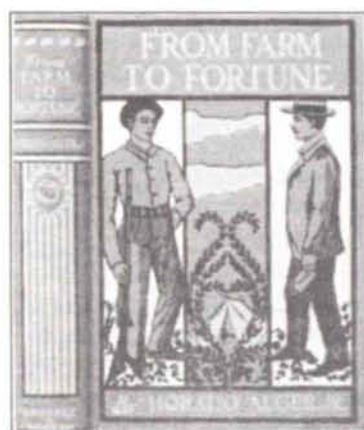
1832 - 1899

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

VOLUME XXXII

MARCH-APRIL 1994

NUMBER 2



Grosset & Dunlap's Algers

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President's column

Preparations are now complete for the 30th annual Horatio Alger Society convention, to be held April 28 – May 1 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Included in this issue of *Newsboy* is a convention registration form (blue sheet, which should be mailed directly to Chris DeHaan) and a complete agenda (light yellow sheet). The hotel registration card was sent with the January-February *Newsboy*. If you haven't already done so, fill it out and mail it directly to the Harley Hotel as soon as possible.

It is important to send Chris your convention registration as soon as possible so that she and co-host Milt Ehlerl can provide the hotel with an accurate head count for our Saturday night banquet. For more news about convention activities and transportation, see Page 3.

By the time you read this column the convention will be only a few weeks away, so send in your registration now!

During the convention we will be electing three individuals to the Board of Directors. Each director serves a three-year term. We also will elect a new president and vice president, each serving a two-year term. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact me any time before the convention.

I will recommend to the board that a new membership directory be published this summer. Please make sure that the information in the 1992 directory is accurate. If you joined the Society after 1992, then the information contained on your membership application will automatically be included. Please send any corrections to Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann, or to my attention. We have exciting plans for the new directory which will be announced in the May-June *Newsboy*.

This will be my last column as your president. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Society for the last two years and I believe we have accomplished many goals, including a new and improved *Newsboy*, increased membership and awareness of Horatio Alger, Jr. along with substantial progress in determining the feasibility of establishing a repository to preserve Alger's works (see Brad Chase's article on Page 3).

I look forward to serving the Society in other capacities in the future.

Your partic'lar friend,
Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)
585 E. St. Andrews Drive
Media, PA 19063
(610) 891-9015

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 (PF-265).
- "Horatio Alger or, The American Hero Era," by Ralph D. Gardner (PF-053).
- "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.

'In Search of Treasure'

-- A 1994 convention update

by Christine DeHaan (PF-773)

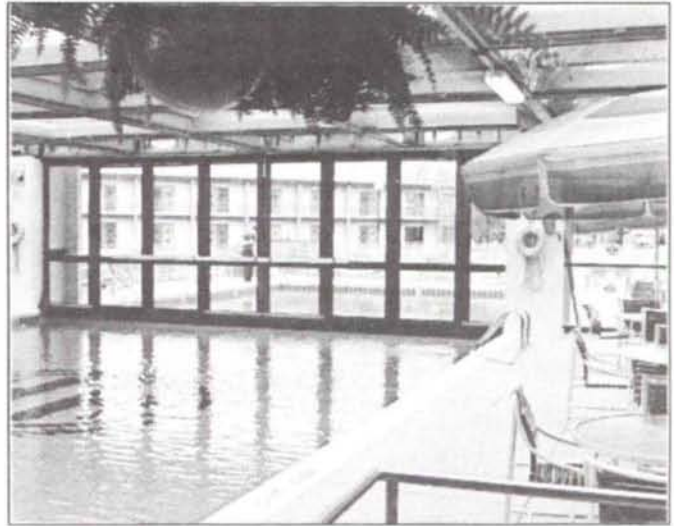
Convention time is not far away! Time flies, so be sure to get your reservations in soon.

Let us know if you need a pickup from either the bus or train station, and we'll be glad to oblige. There are nine airlines serving Kent County International Airport in Grand Rapids: American, Chicago Express, Continental Express, Delta, Midwest Express, Northwest, Skyway Airlines, United and US Air. If you are flying in, call the Harley Hotel and let them know when you'll need to be transported to the hotel and they will give you a complimentary trip. Incidentally, the Harley will also give complimentary transportation to local shopping outlets, etc. Just make reservations at the desk.

If you are arriving by train, Amtrak's Pere Marquette arrives in Grand Rapids from Chicago at about 11 p.m., so you may want to arrive Wednesday evening. You can also take Amtrak to Kalamazoo and arrive in the afternoon. Call for details as we're not sure if we can arrange a pickup from the Kalamazoo station.

The Harley is located off I-96 on the northeast side of Grand Rapids. If you are traveling from the south or west, take U.S. 131 north to the I-96 interchange, and then take I-96 east to Exit 40A. From the east you can take I-96 directly into Grand Rapids. Be sure not to confuse I-96 with Highway 196, or you may end up in Holland.

We are pleased to announce that new member and author Carol Nackenoff will be our keynote speaker for our Friday seminar. She will speak on Alger themes, and Newsboy editor Bill Gowen will give a talk about Gilbert Patten. Diane Johnson will address the issue of caring for and displaying collections and she has developed a computer program for cataloguing book collections (or



The Harley Hotel in Grand Rapids is equipped with an indoor-outdoor pool and patio.

accumulations!). Other possibilities in the works for presenters are Ed Mattson on book prices and perhaps something on Sam and Beryl Epstein. This is subject to change, of course.

Sightseeing possibilities for Friday and Saturday afternoons are: The Gerald Ford Presidential Museum (Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4:45 p.m., \$2 admission); John Ball Park Zoo (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, free admission); Grand Rapids Public Museum (open daily, nominal fee); the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Heritage Walking Tour and a fish ladder on the Grand River which enables salmon to get past the Sixth Street Dam.

For baseball fans, there will be a Saturday afternoon game at the city's new minor-league stadium featuring the Grand Rapids Whitecaps.

If you want to venture to Holland, that Lake Michigan city will be one week away from its famous Tulip Time

(Continued on Page 4)

The Horatio Alger Society repository: a report

by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

Establishing an Alger repository is a really neat idea! The more I work with the repository resolution passed last spring at our annual convention, the more I'm convinced our Society is headed in the direction of creating something very special and lasting.

Picture, if you will, rows and rows of Alger books, carefully preserved files and material of all sorts relating to Alger as well as indexed peripheral information about the ideas and ideals of Horatio Alger, Jr. and his role in promoting and dramatizing the concept of the "American Dream."

All this would be accessible in a place where research-

ers, scholars and ordinary collectors like you and me, students, business people and civilians from all over the world could visit, use and become totally exposed to the wonderful world of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Envision a place where one can leaf through and study hundreds of Alger books as originally produced up to 100 years and more ago by well over 70 publishers. A place where collectors could see and handle all three Ogilvie firsts, together; thumb through copies of the different editions of "The Nugget Finders;" sort through letters from Alger to literary luminaries of the day or even finger an extremely rare Loring paperback "Timo-

(Continued on Page 17)

Editor's notebook

House-hunting in Chicago . . .

You turn a corner, expecting to reach your goal and all you find is a vacant lot. That may be a metaphor for life, but I have a real vacant lot story to tell.

If you've already read Brad Chase's article titled "Donohue Brothers: The Mystery Solved," on Pages 7-8, you know that Brad this spring will be completing his latest book, "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co." He wanted photographs for the book and since I live just outside Chicago, I volunteered.

The Donohue commercial properties in Chicago are well-known, particularly the 701-733 block of South Dearborn St., which housed the firm after 1911. But Brad wanted a photo of Michael A. Donohue, Sr.'s residence from 1898 through his later years.

Chicago city directories gave the address as 4547 Grand Boulevard. "Because of Donohue's age, wealth and the fact that he had several of his children living with him as well as a housekeeper, I would expect this to be a big house on a wide tree-lined street," Brad said.

I immediately looked at my Chicago street map and found no Grand Boulevard listed. There is a Grand Avenue, which runs east and west from near Navy Pier into the west side industrial district. "That can't be it," I said to myself, nonetheless taking an early-February Thursday drive out Grand Avenue with camera loaded with film and ready to go.

When I got to the 4500 block of West Grand Avenue, I found an auto wrecking yard and various warehouses. It was not the kind of neighborhood where a wealthy entrepreneur like Donohue would have lived.

I thought back to my limited knowledge of Chicago history, remembering that most of Chicago's wealthy businessmen (the Armours, Palmers, etc.) lived on the South Side. I remembered that Martin Luther King Drive (renamed in the 1970s) exactly fit Brad's profile of the kind of street he envisioned for Donohue's residence. But was its former name Grand Boulevard?

Before I had a chance to call a library for assistance, I attended a Sunday morning book sale in Aurora, at which one dealer had on display a turn-of-the-century Chicago street map. A quick glance and comparison with my street map confirmed that Martin Luther King Drive and Grand Boulevard were one and the same.

Two days later, on a cold snowy day, I turned that corner from 47th Street north onto King Drive. A block and a half up the street, I saw a row of brownstone

'In Search of Treasure'

(Continued from Page 3)

Festival. If the weather is favorable, you can see literally thousands of tulips in bloom.

Holland also has a wooden shoe factory as well as an authentic, operating Dutch windmill and tulip gardens. Dutch Village combines an old world theme park along with outlet shopping. There is a \$5 fee to enter the Village itself but the outlet stores are accessible from the outside. Also in the Holland area, Ottawa Beach State Park is open daily until sundown and fishing is permitted from its pier.

Other area points of interest include Blandford Nature Center and the Amway Corporation headquarters in Ada. Amway has free tours Monday through Friday.

About an hour to the south is the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum, which is open 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. weekdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays through April and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily beginning May 1. The more than 40 World War II aircraft on display include Grumman Wildcat and Hellcat fighters and a Curtiss P-40N Warhawk.

The Kalamazoo Aviation museum is located at Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport at 3101 E. Milham Rd. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and \$3 for children ages 6 to 15.

Antique shoppers can visit the villages of Lowell, Schoolcraft, Three Rivers and Niles, which have many antique malls and shops. Smaller clusters exist in other communities.

If you'd like other information, just ask! Please remember to send or bring donations along for the annual H.A.S. auction. We have received some nice items already, but we need more!

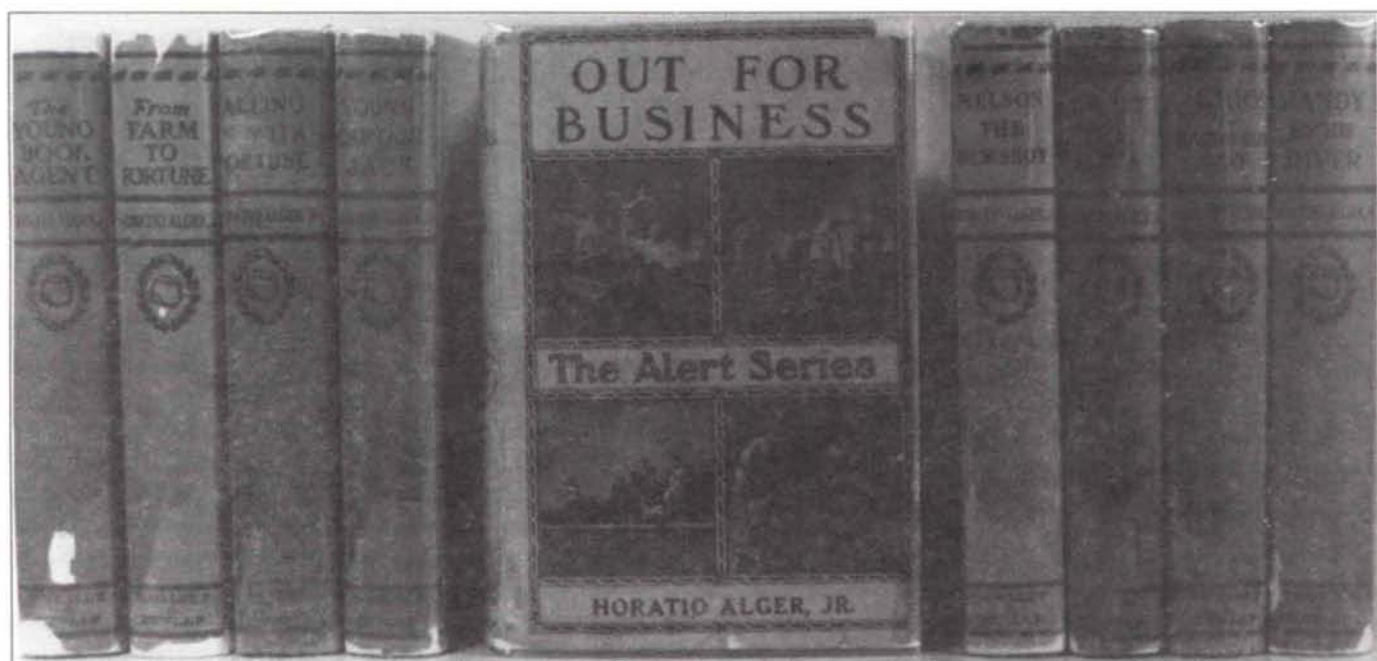
Hope to see you there! For more information about the convention, feel free to call me at 1-616-792-2009.

mansions, set back from the four-lane, parkway-like street. The first house I came upon was numbered 4543, the second was 4541. Both 4545 and 4547 were missing from the sequence; they had become vacant lots!

I took some photos of the existing mansions (now part of a rundown, low-income neighborhood), had them developed and mailed them (along with photos of the Dearborn Street commercial buildings) to Brad. Even though Donohue's former home had fallen victim to fire or the wrecker's ball, Brad was pleased nonetheless.

It was quite like the feeling I had when I recently bought a nice Chatterton-Peck copy "Randy of the River" and found that I missed a scarce first edition because just one of the four crucial "points" failed to match.

So close and yet so far.



The Grosset & Dunlap reprints of the Stratemeyer-Alger titles came in several dust jacket formats.

Great Grossets!

The G&D Stratemeyer-Algers

by Robert E. Kasper (PF-327)

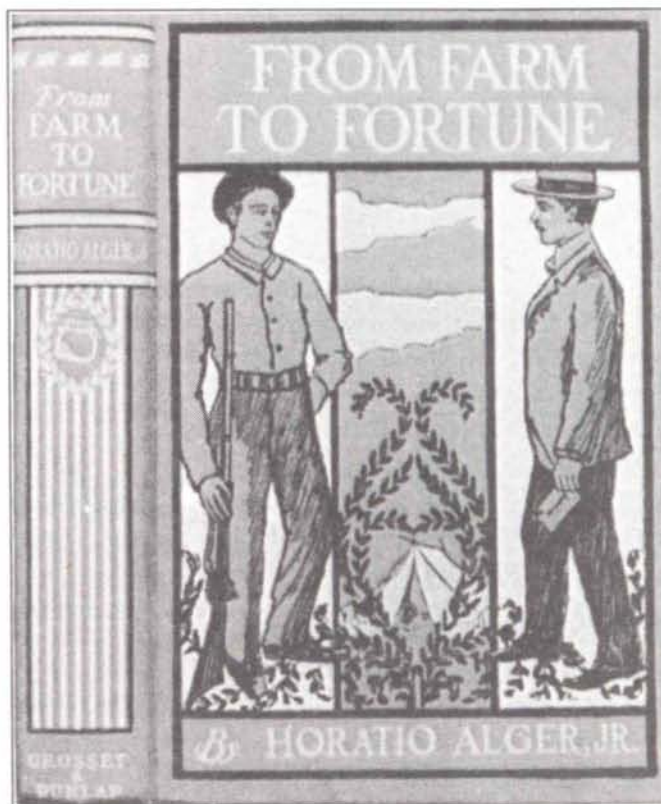
As a first-edition Alger collector who long ago ran out of items to add to my library, I have tried to maintain my interest in Alger by branching out into non-first items.

One set of books that has always interested me is the group of titles published by Grosset & Dunlap of New York. These books are relatively easy to locate, often in fine condition or better. Once I started collecting these books, it took only two years to complete the set of 11 titles. Along the way, I managed to obtain one title in dust jacket and I decided at that time to try and get all 11 books in dust jackets. Little did I know how formidable a task that would be.

Alger at first glance

The 11 Stratemeyer-Alger titles published by Grosset & Dunlap were issued in three different bindings with at least five separate and distinct dust jackets during the period 1908-1915. Fortunately, Grosset and Dunlap was liberal with advertising its product line both in the books and on the jackets, so it is easy to determine the publishing sequence and dates.

The first binding utilized by Grosset & Dunlap, sometime during 1908 (see Example 1), is an olive or green cover design almost identical to the Mershon/Stitt/



Ex. 1: The first binding used by G&D is almost identical to the Mershon/Stitt/Chatterton-Peck printings.

Chatterton-Peck printings. This is the familiar tri-panel cover with two boys facing each other on the front and a spine illustrated with vertical stripes and a wreath.

(Continued on Page 18)

MEMBERSHIP

New members:

Robert Hendrickson (PF-478)
810 Morrison St.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 (414) 563-6225

Robert is a retired professor of education and a former H.A.S. member who is rejoining the Society. He has 103 Alger titles in his collection and lists among his other interests the activities of his 10 grandchildren, five sons and daughters-in-law.

Cary Sternick (PF-933)
26 Chestnut Hill Ct.
The Woodlands, Texas 77380 (713) 363-9900

Cary is a neurologist who collects a wide variety of boys' series books but calls himself a "novice collector" of Alger. His other collecting interest is stereo views. He learned about the Society from Gil O'Gara (PF-627).

Michael Morley (PF-934)
4676 Wheeler Drive
Fremont, CA 94538

Mrs. Patricia M. Wilson (PF-935)
309 Revilo Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Patricia is a retired librarian whose main interest in Alger is collecting and reading the books, of which she now has 50 titles. She also enjoys gardening.

James Francis O'Donnell (PF-936)
10939 Waldemire Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19154 (215) 637-4219

Change of address:

Bob Sawyer (PF-455)
6470 Post Road, Apt. 121
Dublin, OH 43017 (614) 764-4909

Jack Bales (PF-258)
422 Greenbrier Ct.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5517

Raymond L. Alger (PF-911)
72 Outlook Dr., #24
Worcester, MA 01602 (508) 795-7668
(New phone number)

Moving?

If you are changing your address or phone number, or if your current H.A.S. roster listing is incorrect, send your new address and phone number immediately to Executive Secretary Carl Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, MI 48910.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear friends and relatives of Tom Brady:

Some of you may be aware that Tom Brady died on December 19, 1993.

Tom was a very close friend of ours and visited with us at least a couple of times a week and often stayed for dinner. The circumstances of his death were both shocking and frightening to us.

My wife and I had been in Portland for two or three days Christmas shopping, and when we returned our housekeeper advised us Tom had not been around to pick up my *Wall Street Journal*, which he usually did twice a week. When we went to check on Tom we found him lying dead in his front room. His attire was only his night clothes. The death certificate states Tom died with a heart attack, and death was immediate.

Tom, as you well know, had an aversion to doctors and hospitals. I believe he told me he hadn't seen a doctor for over 20 years. It was always his wish and prayer that if he did become ill he would not linger in either a hospital or nursing home. His wishes and prayers were certainly answered.

I have taken the liberty of writing everybody whose name and address was in his personal address book. If for some reason you know of someone whom we might have missed I would appreciate it if you would pass on this information.

The service for Tom was on December 27th, and some of his relatives and a good number of his friends in this area attended. The service was dignified and the church altar beautifully decorated. The homily was delivered by his good friend and the pastor of the Catholic church in Seaside, who later officiated at the interment service at the cemetery in Portland. His American Legion post from Portland conducted the flag ceremony while Taps was played.

Tom's life was centered around his church. He was a daily communicant, a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Legion of Mary. He frequently made retreats to the Portland area.

Tom certainly enjoyed traveling and visiting. In the last few years he had been to Europe more than once. He visited David Carlson for several months in California a

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Donohue Brothers: *The mystery solved*

by Bradford S. Chase (PF-412)

According to the April 14, 1900 *Publishers' Weekly*, a book publishing company called Donohue Brothers was established that year at 407 Dearborn Street, Chicago.¹ It lasted only a year, publishing many boys' books that are found on the shelves of used-book stores today. On March 30, 1901, *Publishers' Weekly* reported that the Donohue Brothers firm was succeeded by M.A. Donohue & Co.²

In 1900, Michael A. Donohue, Sr., who had been in the book business for 39 years since 1861 with several partners, had no brothers in the book business. So, who were these brothers and how were they related to Michael Donohue and his businesses? This was a mystery to me as well as to others, that I think is now solved.

For several years I have been doing research on Donohue in preparation for my new book titled "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co.," which will be published sometime this spring.³

Others also interested in turn-of-the-century publishers of children's books have wondered aloud to me about the Donohue Brothers firm as well. I have just uncovered and related several pieces of information, which enable me to fairly confidently draw conclusions about this mystery.

My information shows that in 1900, at least three years before Michael A. Donohue had produced his first Alger book, he was 59 years old and a very successful businessman. He lived on Grand Boulevard (now Martin Luther King Drive), a wide, tree-lined street of brownstone mansions on Chicago's south side. He owned his own home, having no mortgage, and he and his wife had six of their seven children and two servants living at home with them.⁴

From 1861 to 1887, Donohue was essentially in the bookbinding business with other partners. His bookbinding partnership with William P. Henneberry expanded in 1887 to include printing, and then expanded again in 1891 to include publishing as well. So by 1900, the Donohue & Henneberry firm was well established and performing printing, binding and book publishing activities.⁵

Four of Donohue's seven children were boys who were all actively involved with their father in his book businesses over the years. In 1900, John, the oldest son, was 34 and Edgar, the youngest, was 25; William and Michael, Jr. were in the middle.⁶ I suspect they were eager and anxious at that stage of their lives and careers to try their own hands in the book business. That is exactly what I have found happened. I can now fairly confidently conclude that at least two of these four Donohue

boys are the brothers in the company known as Donohue Brothers.

Publishers' Weekly of April 14, 1900 states:

*"Donohue Brothers, who have succeeded to the business of the corporation formerly conducted as Donohue, Henneberry & Co. at 407 Dearborn Street, Chicago, have purchased the entire stock of sheets and plates of the W.L. Allison Co., of New York. They will continue all the important lines formerly put out by the Allison Co., with material additions."*⁷

I believe that a few years before the Donohue Brothers firm was created in 1900, two Donohue book companies existed at the same time:

**Donohue & Henneberry; and
Donohue, Henneberry & Co.**

The Donohue & Henneberry firm, located at 407-429 Dearborn Street, had been in existence since 1878 and had been involved with bookbinding from then until 1887. At that point the firm added printing activities and, in 1891, expanded again to include publishing and was eventually absorbed into the M.A. Donohue & Co. business in 1901. It is important to note that the Chicago City Directory shows that the Donohue & Henneberry firm gave up its publishing activity in 1900, concentrating on printing and binding activities. City directories show the second firm, Donohue, Henneberry & Co., starting in 1892, as being located on the third floor of the 407, 415-429 Dearborn Street address (shown above as it looks today), listing William F. Donohue as Manager and having primarily a publishing activity. It is this second firm that was succeeded in 1900 by Donohue Brothers as



The 400 block of Chicago's South Dearborn Street was the home of the various book firms of Michael A. Donohue, Sr. and his sons until 1911.

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Donohue Brothers: *The mystery solved*

(Continued from Page 7)

noted in the quotation above.

Essentially, here is what I think happened. William F. Donohue, Michael A. Donohue, Sr.'s second son, was Treasurer of Donohue & Henneberry for two of the years that company was part of John W. Lovell's United States Book Company trust.⁸

Then, in 1892, William Donohue and someone named E.A. Weeks apparently set up the Donohue, Henneberry & Co. firm on the third floor of 415 Dearborn Street primarily to **publish** books. In 1893, Michael A. Donohue, Jr. joined his brother William in that firm as clerk, then cashier and finally as assistant manager in 1899. I suspect that there was strong backing in this venture by their father and the Donohue & Henneberry firm, which continued to print, bind and publish books as well.

Then, in 1900, a number of significant activities occurred:

- * Donohue & Henneberry have up their **publishing** activities;

- * The boys purchased the stock and plates of the W.L. Allison Company;

- * The boys shed the Donohue, Henneberry & Co. corporation;

- * Finally, the boys created the Donohue Brothers firm primarily to **publish and sell** books using the Allison and other plates just acquired.

I can only guess that the reason Donohue Brothers was created and the boys did not continue on with the Donohue, Henneberry & Co. corporation was that they wanted to be on their own, so they set up a new business to do so. But at this point, that is only speculation.

I'd also guess that their father and Mr. Henneberry printed and bound the Donohue Brothers books (in the same building; also, printing and binding was their long-standing forte) and the boys, now operating as Donohue Brothers, **published and sold** the books as they rolled off the Donohue & Henneberry presses.

The relationship between the Donohue & Henneberry, Donohue Brothers and M.A. Donohue & Co. firms is identified on pages 902 and 903 in the March 30, 1901 issue of **Publishers' Weekly** as follows:

*"M.A. Donohue has purchased and entire interest of Mr. W.P. Henneberry in the **printing and bookbinding** business formerly conducted as Donohue & Henneberry, and the business will be continued and will be combined with the **publishing and bookselling** business of Donohue Brothers, all under the name of M.A. Donohue & Co. He will have associated with him in the management of the new Company his sons as follows: J.W. Donohue, W.F. Donohue, M.A. Donohue, Jr. and E.T. Donohue. The facilities enjoyed by the firm of Donohue & Henneberry and Donohue Brothers for the*

*manufacturing and publishing of books, will be immediately enlarged..."*⁹ (my emphases).

So there you have it: the solution to the mystery surrounding the Donohue Brothers firm. For those collectors who own books published by Donohue Brothers, perhaps this information makes them a little more meaningful.

On Oct. 5, 1915, Michael A. Donohue, Sr. died at age 74. As **Publishers' Weekly** noted in the 1901 quotation above, and for many years thereafter, the four Donohue sons (and later grandsons) held major positions in the M.A. Donohue & Co. firm.

For example, the 1915 Chicago City Directory shows M.A. Donohue, Sr. as president, William F. Donohue as Secretary, John W. Donohue as Vice President, Edgar T. Donohue as General Manager and M.A. Donohue, Jr. as Treasurer.¹⁰

The company disappeared in the 1970s. The buildings that housed the Donohue firms on the 400 block and later the 700 block of South Dearborn Street, remain today as landmarks in Chicago's historic Printers Row district.

NOTES

1. **The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book Trade Journal**. New York, Vol. LVII, No. 15, Whole No. 1472, April 14, 1900, p. 208.

2. **The Publishers' Weekly, The American Book Trade Journal**. Vol. LIX, No. 13, Whole No. 1522, March 30, 1901, p. 902.

3. Chase, Bradford S. "Horatio Alger Books Published by M.A. Donohue & Co." Enfield Ct.: Chase Publishing; to be published Spring 1994.

4. Campbell, Eleanor A., Genealogist. Letters and charts to Scott B. Chase detailing a genealogical search of the Michael Ambrose Donohue family, February 1986.

5. Donnelley, Reuben A., compiler. **Annual Directory of the City of Chicago**. The Chicago Directory Company, various years from 1861.

6. Campbell, Chart 1. Also, there appears to be some confusion in the literature about the youngest son's name: Edgar T. or Edward T. I have used Edgar since it was given as such on the census charts and by family members in a 1976 interview with Gilbert K. Westgard II.

7. **The Publishers' Weekly**, April 14, 1900, *Ibid*.

8. Stern, Madeleine B. "Publishers for Mass Entertainment in 19th Century America." Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1980. p. 120.

9. **The Publishers' Weekly**, March 30, 1901, *Ibid*.

10. Donnelley, 1915. p. 447, cited in Campbell's letter, p. 1. Also, thanks go to Gilbert K. Westgard II (PF-024) of Boynton Beach, Fla. for providing me with the results of an interview he had in 1976 with Marcus A. and Richard J. Donohue, grandsons of M.A. Donohue, Sr., which I have used to confirm information gleaned from other sources.

For freedom and the American way

Robert Sidney Bowen's World War II heroes: Dave Dawson and Red Randall

by M. Paul Holsinger

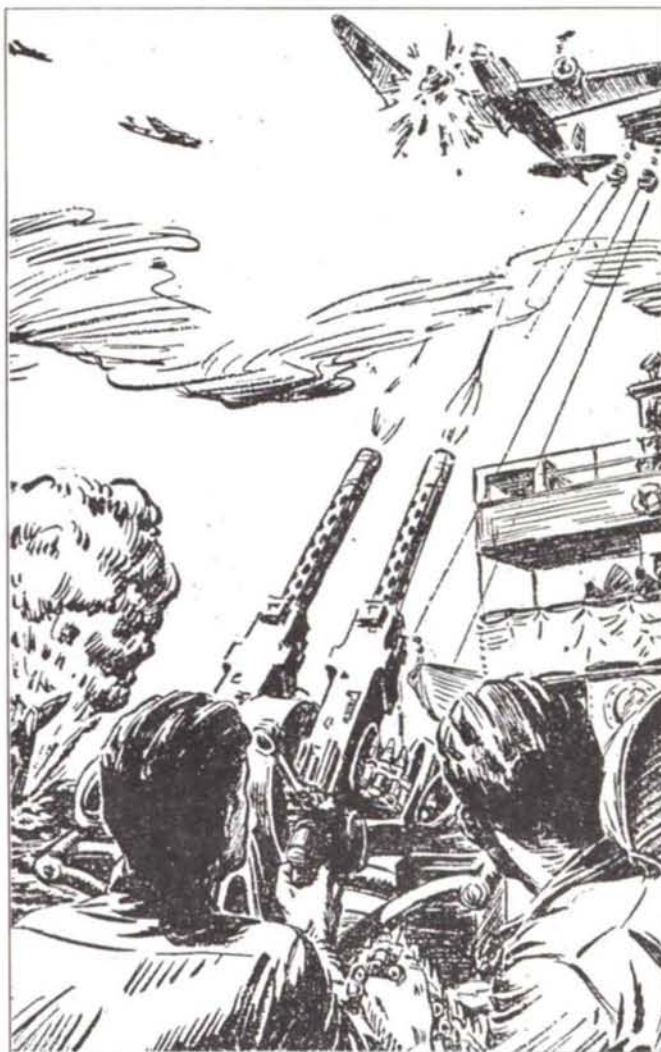
Robert Sidney Bowen (1900-1977) was one of the most prolific authors of children's and young adult fiction in the middle part of the 20th century. Over more than 35 years, Bowen published 77 volumes of mainly "young boy" stories that totaled more than 20,000 pages. These stories' themes ranged widely. More than 20 of his books dealt with baseball, eight centered on football and still another eight "hot-rod" cars and racing. There were books about flying, horse racing and even some serious nonfictional studies dealing with the lives of great men of sciences and other historical themes.¹

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

By far the most popular of all Bowen's novels, however, were the Dave Dawson and Red Randall series. These books, officially called by their publishers the "War Adventure Series" and the "Air Combat Series," respectively, were all issued between the years 1941 and 1946. Using two sets of teen-age "air aces," Bowen took his readers, mostly boys ranging in age from 10 to 16, to every World War II battlefield being talked about on the front pages of the press.

Dawson and his English friend, Freddy Farmer, or Randall and his pal Jimmy Joyce, fight in these theaters of war and invariably to the impossible to save Western Civilization from either the Nazi menace of the "Jap-rat" hordes. These books had an enthusiastic audience, not only throughout the United States, where they rarely stayed on dealers' shelves for more than a few weeks, but in Canada and Great Britain as well.

Preparing these volumes was in many ways a "natural" for Sidney Bowen. As a young teen-ager himself, he had dropped out of school in Boston to go to France to drive an ambulance for the American Field Service on the Western Front during World War I. Quickly sent home because of his youth once the United States joined the war, he lied about his age and enlisted in the British Royal Flying Corps instead. Many years later, he claimed that he was not only the youngest member of the R.A.F. but its youngest ace as well, shooting down eight German planes and several aerial balloons. Such a claim is probably untrue. A contemporary biography of World War I offic-



Red squeezed the trigger as another Jap swooped down to strafe the transport. "Red Randall in Burma," frontispiece.

ers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts makes no mention of any downed planes, though Bowen did write in one letter home that his plane took 33 bullets in it. He noted that he *may* have shot down two German aircraft just before the Armistice. Still, before his tour of duty was over, Bowen, at only 18 years of age, had served in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Egypt, India and British Somaliland.²

At times, his fictional characters, 16-year-old Farmer, 17-year-old Dawson, and the two 18-year-olds, Randall and Joyce, seem bigger than life, yet it is obvious that many of their exploits are based upon the same type of excitement that Bowen himself experienced 25 years before.

Bowen's young heroes are hardly typical of the Ameri-

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Editor's note: M. Paul Holsinger is Professor of History at Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.

For freedom and the American way

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can boys of their day — or any other day, for that matter. Dave Dawson, who, more than any of the others, seems modeled on Bowen himself, is a track star at Boston Latin High School and an All-American in 1940 when he is first introduced to readers in "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk."

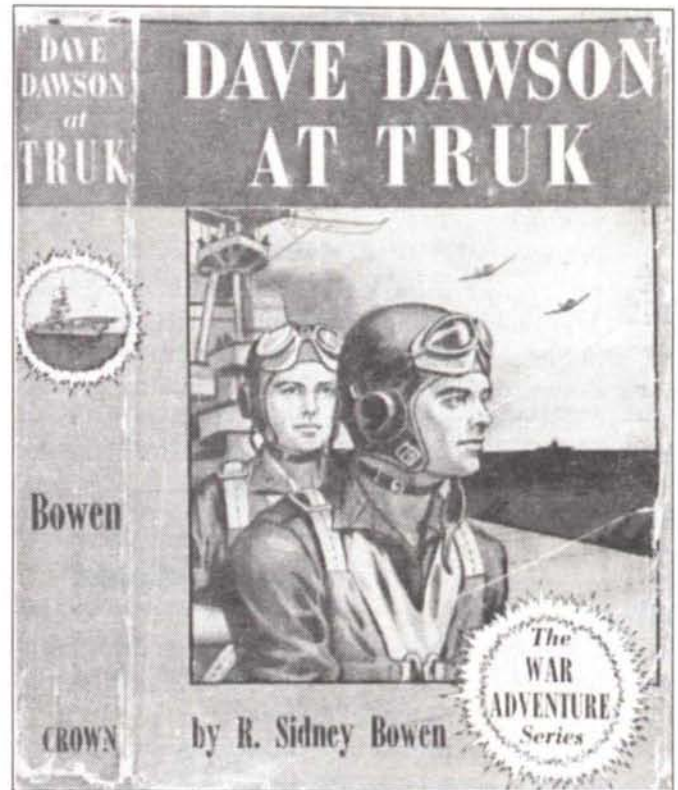
His father, Richard C. Dawson, is an important American diplomat involved in high-level negotiations for this country in Europe. Red Randall has lived all over the world with his Army Air Force officer father and Jimmy Joyce's parent is a Naval aviation ace who has also apparently taken his son around the globe. Farmer, the only non-American of the four, comes from upper middle-class stock and has been attending private schools on the European continent at the beginning of the war.

All four boys are expert pilots, having had private lessons in the air and having soloed before their entrance into the fighting. They do not smoke and each has been a Boy Scout, gaining knowledge that comes in handy repeatedly as they outmaneuver either German, Italian or Japanese foes. None of the boys seemingly has a mother or, if they do, there is never so much as one mention of her in the stories. Young women who might offer romantic entanglements are also conspicuously missing. One would assume that virile teen-aged boys would have some interest in the opposite sex but Bowen virtually ignores that possibility. Though Dave Dawson does supposedly have a girl friend early in the war, she has vanished without a trace by the later novels and Dawson even gets embarrassed thinking about women and blushes a beet red when the subject comes up.

Character development, however, was not a priority to Bowen in any of his wartime novels. As a former newspaper reporter for both European and American papers and as the last editor-in-chief of *Aviation Magazine* and *Flying News*, his primary concern was to interest his young readers in the "adventure" of war. Realistic descriptions of air combat and the planes on both sides of the conflict are the main ingredients of every volume.

Each book is set in a newsworthy center of the war: Dunkirk, Singapore, Libya, the Russian Front, Guadalcanal, Casablanca, the Aleutians, Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, and more. And, of course, in the true spirit of all prewar juvenile fiction, justice always triumphs. Almost single-handedly, the two sets of boys make possible victory after victory for the Allies.

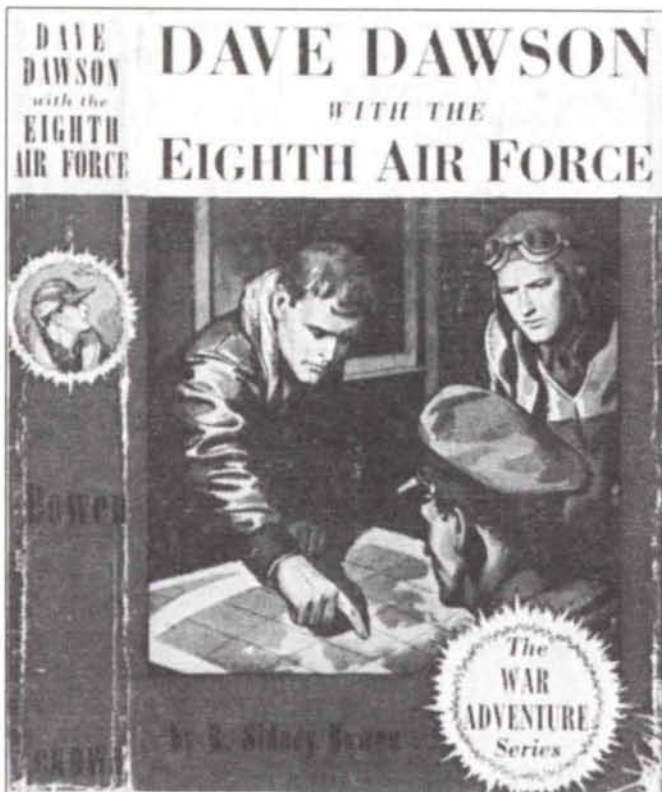
The evacuation of the British Expeditionary Forces at Dunkirk, for instance, would have been impossible without Dave Dawson and Freddy Farmer's help. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and all his American aides would have been killed before the Casablanca conference except for



the same two boys. Great Britain is saved repeatedly and before the series is ended in 1946, "the entire civilized world" was in debt to these youngsters.³ Red Randall and Jimmy Joyce, though in only half as many stories,⁴ do almost as well. Douglas MacArthur would surely have been killed along with his entire staff had not the two teen-agers blown up not one, but two Japanese destroyers on their way to intercept the general as he was heading to Australia from Corregidor in March 1942.⁵

The Japanese control of the Aleutians is broken, a second more-devastating attack on Pearl Harbor is thwarted when Red and Jimmy fly directly over Tokyo itself, and the American invasion of Leyte in 1944 is able to take place because of their individual efforts. If one were to take these books at their face value — which, hopefully, few did — it quickly becomes evident that the world we live in today would have been entirely altered were it not for the exploits of Dave Dawson, Red Randall and their associates during World War II.

Bowen made it clear from the publication of his first volumes in 1941 — several months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor — that the role of the United States and Americans was to help crush out totalitarianism in the world. When Dave Dawson finds himself involved in the Dunkirk campaign, the United States is, as he knows, still neutral but "a fierce anger at the injustices wrought (by the Nazis) sprung up within him. He wanted to do something about it. What, he did not know. But today there had been born in him a blazing



desire to do what he could do to spare Europe and perhaps the world from the bullets and bombs and the tyranny of the Nazi legions.⁶ After the evacuation of British forces from the beaches, Dawson and his new friend, Freddy Farmer, join the Royal Air Force because, as Dave tells his father, "it's just that nothing else seems important now, except trimming the pants off the Nazis. And I want to help, no matter what kind of help it is."⁷

"The American spirit knows no such as defeat," Dave later says,⁸ and that belief motivates him to accomplish everything "in the name of liberty and world happiness."⁹

Americans were, in Bowen's view, leaders of the modern world with a "clear light in (their) eyes" and "the good old USA rosiness in (their) cheeks."¹⁰ Not only could Americans "knock the stripes off any (enemy)" but "what's more, do it with one hand tied behind (their) backs."¹¹ They were, as all the enemy clearly realized, "a superior race,"¹² as race that stood "for the most cherished thing (of) all: Liberty."¹³ The United States was "a great nation that would fight to final and complete victory with everything in its power."¹⁴ "I hope and pray that before long," Dave tells Freddy in late 1941, "what she stands for will extend around the world and to each of the Poles."¹⁵

In Bowen's patriotic fervor, the American forces, their leaders and their allies could do no wrong. There are few better examples of "my country right or wrong, my country" in young boy literature than these two series.

The boys never question the policies of their superiors; they always assume that the Allies are correct. Douglas MacArthur is singled out for special praise. When Red Randall hears that the general has been ordered to Australia, he is stunned. "I bet it breaks his heart," he says. "That man is all soldier. The best darn soldier we've got out here."¹⁶

In another time and place, Freddy Farmer agreed: with General MacArthur in command, "No place would be a pushover...He's one of the finest generals of all time."¹⁷

J. Edgar Hoover also gets top marks: the FBI will always be the best intelligence branch in the world, one of the boys says, as long as Hoover "continues to run it so perfectly."¹⁸ Josef Stalin and his Russians are seen as unusually brave, and surprisingly, committed to Christianity.¹⁹ Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Chinese are "a splendid leader (and) splendid troops."²⁰ The British, led by their "fighting Prime Minister at Number Ten Downing Street"²¹ were "so far above (their enemies) in fighting heart, in spirit, and in real fighting ability that there wasn't any room left for comparison."²²

If Americans and, indeed, their British, Russian or Chinese allies, could do no wrong in Bowen's and his heroes' eyes, their enemies are always viewed as detestable in the extreme. Nazis were "funny and dopey"²³ and "incredibly stupid."²⁴ There was nothing "sane about the Nazi mind, let alone their actions,"²⁵ and though Bowen grudgingly was willing to admit that the Germans could be "cunning and fiendishly clever beyond words," such cleverness was always tempered by their "ruthless and barbaric" actions.²⁶ Adolph (Slaughter the women and children too) Hitler is described as "The lowest form of life ever to be born"²⁷ and his followers always displayed a "cowardly yellowness" whenever they "no longer (held) the whip hand" over some downtrodden group.²⁸ They knew "deep down in (their) black heart(s) that "in the end (they) would be caught in the wheels of right and justice and be ground to a pulp."²⁹

The few Italians who appear in the novels fare even worse than their Nazi allies. "Italians just haven't got the brains" to wage war and were instinctively cowards.³⁰ Pilots in the Italian Air Force usually could be expected automatically to "run away" from any fighting. At best, they were "tough on pigeons and maybe crows, but that's about all."³¹ Benito Mussolini — "Muzzy the Fuzzy" as Dave Dawson calls him,³² will give our grandchildren a lot of laughs! What a big bag of wind."³³

Of the three Axis powers, however, none receives as much hatred and contempt as do the Japanese. They were "savages,"³⁴ heathen³⁵ and "butchers"³⁶ whose "strutting around was a sight to make any Christian's heart weep blood."³⁷

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For freedom and the American way

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Bowen's heroes repeatedly express an undying antipathy for all things Japanese. Red Randall, for instance, admits to a "blind rage at everything Japanese," a rage that shakes him "with fury from head to foot."³⁸ These "monkey-men of the Far East"³⁹ had made war on "decent people"⁴⁰ and must be exterminated as a result. Randall frequently notes that he hopes to shoot every "Jap-rat" from the skies "and when there aren't any left in the air, then smack all their heathen brethren on the ground and keep smacking until there aren't any of them left."⁴¹

For every American killed in the Pacific, a thousand Japanese needed to die in retribution.⁴² Japanese soldiers seemed "like a bunch of cross-eyed street urchins dressed up for a cops and robbers masquerade"⁴³ and when they were killed, they ceased to be humans in the minds of any of Bowen's main characters. Freddy Farmer, after machine-gunning some Japanese, notes that it was "as easy as knocking over frozen birds perched on an icy telephone wire. The little Japs went down like ten pins."⁴⁴ Randall says that shooting Japanese is like "shooting fish in a barrel" although he admits he feels no sorrow "for a darn one of them."⁴⁵

The war with Japan in Bowen's mind matched "civilized white men"⁴⁶ against "beasts and fiends who knew no rules."⁴⁷ Japanese were "slow-thinking"⁴⁸ and "in countless things... unquestionably the stupidest people on the face of the earth."⁴⁹ With their "singsong jabbering"⁵⁰ that sounded like "somebody putting sheets of tin to a buzz saw blade,"⁵¹ Japanese military men repeatedly displayed "the lustful desire to kill and maim and torture for the sheer diabolic pleasure of so doing."⁵²

To murder people in cold blood was easy for the Japanese soldier since he was "the type who would slay his own mother just for the thrill of it."⁵³ They were "the world's best" at "ruthless slaughter,"⁵⁴ but, because "war was honorable."⁵⁵

Americans always needed to abide by different standards. Red Randall once has the opportunity to shoot down an enemy plane unnoticed but he aims high and deliberately misses in order to give fair warning to his opponent. Shortly after that, he happily blows the Japanese plane apart in the sky but with an exhilaration of doing it the American way.⁵⁶

Dave Dawson, who readily admits that he hates the Japanese "worse than the Nazis,"⁵⁷ also finds that he cannot kill them without direct provocation, though it "would be so very, very simple."⁵⁸ Considering that these "bloodthirsty savages of Nippon"⁵⁹ were little more than "dirty killing skunks"⁶⁰ in the eyes of the Bowen heroes, "clever devils"⁶¹ with "not one speck of decency



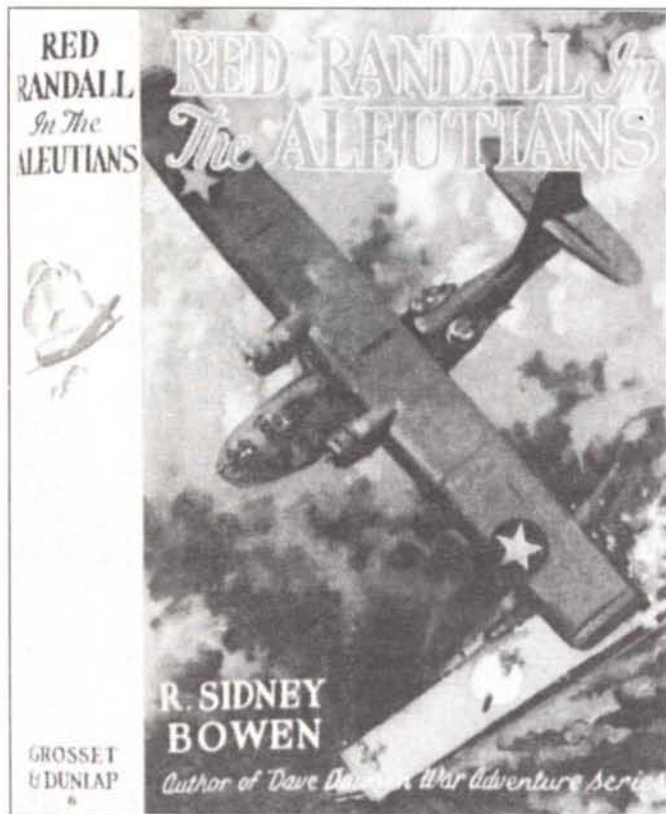
in the whole race,"⁶² the contrasts between the two groups are dramatic.

None of the 13 volumes in the two series that use the Pacific theater of war as a setting ever manage to find anything positive to say about the Japanese. Although Japanese military officers or spies frequently outwitted the four heroes at the start of every book, such victories were always short-lived and in the end, Dawson, Randall and their sidekicks always triumph, more often than not with massive bloodshed along the way.

If Jimmy Joyce, whose father had died aboard the USS Arizona at Pearl harbor, was never able to kill the one million Japanese he hoped to in revenge,⁶³ he and the other Bowen boys in the Pacific do account for at least a thousand deaths. No one reading of such slaughter could arrive at any conclusion other than the fact that whites were clearly superior to the Japanese with "their ugly buck teeth and vicious eyes."⁶⁴

But then, killing Japanese was nothing special. As a minor character in "Red Randall over Tokyo" says, thousands of people in Japan are dying every year "but they (are) Japs...so that (is) good. All Japs (are) better dead."⁶⁵ On another occasion, Red goes even further. "Killing is too good for the Jap rats! We ought to catch them alive and burn them in oil. All of them!" he says with vigor.⁶⁶

William Tecumseh Sherman may have been right in his assertion that "War is all Hell" but one would never get that impression from reading any of Robert Sidney



Bowen's books dealing with the Second World War. Although Freddy Farmer does say in 1942's "Dave Dawson with the Air Corps" — "Blast war, I say! How I hate the whole rotten business!"⁶⁷ he also confesses to being "blood-thirsty" in his desire to kill as many Nazis as he can.⁶⁸

All the other heroes agree. Perhaps it was because "the cause of justice and civilization"⁶⁹ was under attack, but each boy at one time or another glories in the war. Dave Dawson, for instance, is thrilled to the very depths of his soul to be able to be a part of (the Allied war effort), to do his share and fight and fight and fight until the war-thirsty dictators were no more.⁷⁰ "The fighting spirit of Lexington and Concord flames up in his chest"⁷¹ as it does in ex-Boy Scout Jimmy Joyce.⁷² "The fewer Germans I can leave living in this world, the better I'll like it," Dave says early in the war.⁷³ Red Randall pledges on his father's aviator's wings that in the months after Pearl Harbor "he would fly and fight to the death that the world might be a far, far better place to live for all nations, all peoples and all races and creeds."⁷⁴

If killing and death are not exactly fun sports, they, at times, approach that level. The boys bravely face odds that no self-respecting bookmaker would take: 100-to-1; a thousand-to-1; a million-to-1; even once, a billion-to-1. But without fail they win out in the end, their guns always "hammering out made-in-America doom."⁷⁵

After he has helped to blow apart a Japanese bomber

in midair, Randall's "joy is wild" as he watches the plane's left wing fall off.⁷⁶ Later, in the same novel, after being temporarily captured by the enemy, he decides that "he would gladly have given ten years of his life for a machine gun and plenty of ammunition" so that he could kill as many Japanese as possible.⁷⁷

Watching Japanese die seems almost lyrical to the two friends. After blowing up three Japanese Zeros in one dogfight, Red gushes "Man, oh man, do those rats evaporate when you get them just right." Jimmy agrees. "I do love to see them evaporate," he says with pleasure.⁷⁸

Dave Dawson's "blood boiled with anger" when he watches the Japanese gun down trapped civilians. He becomes obsessed with "the thought of hammering (the enemy) into the ground as long as his plane and guns could hold out."⁷⁹ With some pride, he tells Freddy Farmer after setting a Japanese plane on fire with his sharpshooting: "Boy! Did he burn up and go down quick...That was certainly the chinchiest thing I ever tackled."⁸⁰ A "cold rage filled his heart" and he repeatedly feels a "bitter hatred" of the Nazis.⁸¹ Freddy notes that he wishes he were flying bombers because "I'd love to dump bombs on Berlin,"⁸² and Dave, looking at Nazi guards who have taken him prisoner, "sees red" and "a wild, completely insane recklessness steal(s) through his body."⁸³

It is impossible to figure out how many enemy soldiers, sailors or air force personnel the four boys are responsible for killing during the war years but the number is almost astronomical. Dave Dawson and Freddy Farmer are by far champions in genocide with over 2,500 deaths to their credit. This includes not only individual planes shot down or men killed in hand-to-hand combat but two Japanese heavy cruisers, a Japanese submarine, a German cruiser, a German raider, an entire Nazi air base manned by hundreds of German technicians and pilots, and a second German base and a massive Nazi airplane factory.

Randall and Joyce are less sanguine yet they average almost 150 enemy deaths per volume as compared with the Dawson-Farmer record of nearly 200. In contrast, the four youthful heroes of these series emerge from their battles occasionally bloodied, usually superficially but otherwise intact. Dawson fares the worst. He breaks his left arm and severely wrenches his left leg in the last book of the series — this only after smashing his plane full-speed into that of a spy trying to warn the Japanese garrison on Truk of the impending Allied attack on that base.⁸⁴ On another occasion he has his pilot's wings driven into his chest by a bullet that miraculously hit them, but his usual fate, like that of his comrades, is to be knocked unconscious for a day or more because of his last-minute heroics.⁸⁵

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For freedom and the American way

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Compared with the death and destruction that Dawson and the others mete out, their few personal injuries pale into insignificance. It does not take a perceptive analyst to see the moral here: war may be terrible but not for the Americans (who are almost never killed). War is indeed hell, but only for the other side.

Bowen's two series obviously never got the support of any professional group such as the American Library Association or the national P.T.A. The massive bloodletting in every story almost guaranteed a negative review whenever one appeared in any newspaper or magazine. Few Boys seemed to care.⁸⁶

Although there are other popular series such as Al Avery's "Yankee Flyer" books or Canfield Cook's "Lucky Terrell" stories, Bowen's books were far and away the best-selling juveniles of the war years. With the end of the war, however, it soon became evident that almost everyone was trying to create a just peace. Though several volumes, previously contracted, did appear in 1946, both Crown and Grosset & Dunlap, Bowen's publishers, quickly stopped printing further installments in the series.

At least one book, "Dave Dawson over Berlin," announced by Crown as ready for publication, was canceled. Dave and Freddy, along with Red and Jimmy, disappeared from view forever. This was probably just as well for it is hard to imagine the much-decorated 22-year-old Dave Dawson trying either to adjust to sock hops, malt shops and American college life at State U. or joining some worldwide peacekeeping force to right the evils of new totalitarian dictators.

With the deepening of the cold war, it also became impossible to have books that praised the Soviet Union and Josef Stalin (Dave and Freddy had, after all, been personally honored by him).⁸⁷ Once the Nationalist Chinese had been overthrown, there was also no way to keep glorifying a confirmed loser in Chiang Kai-shek. As the United States discovered that the Germans and Japanese could be useful economic allies, the venomous attacks on the two former enemies had to be canceled. Libraries that might have had copies of any of the volumes, soon began to pull them from their shelves. As peace replaced war, even individual owners bundled the books up to be consigned (hopefully at best) to attic crawl spaces, or (at worst) weekly trash pickups.

Today, with 50th anniversary observances of World War II in full swing, Dave Dawson, Red Randall and their pals suddenly are everywhere. It is the rare flea market or antique store that does not have one or more of the books for sale — usually at 10 or 20 times their original 50-cent purchase price.



Pointing the SOC's nose downward, Randall sprayed the Japs on the shore below. "Red Randall in the Aleutians," frontis.

But the 23 Bowen-authored World War II books should not be seen as simply relics of a rapidly fading past. For better or perhaps for worse, they helped to shape the ideals of young men who were to be so deeply involved in other wars a few years later. They told us that America and Americans were invincible, that killing for "our cause" was good, that blind obedience to orders was necessary, that our enemies were always destined to lose. Sadly, it took Korea and Vietnam to teach us differently.

Robert Sidney Bowen was certainly not a great writer. No biography of him appears in any standard reference work of this country's most well-known, skilled juvenile or children's authors. His hundreds of short stories and many books are all, at best, no more than good escapist fiction.

Yet if he is remembered by anyone today, it is because of his Dave Dawson and Red Randall series. It is an interesting legacy.

NOTES

1. "Bowen, Robert Sydney [sic] 1900-1977." **Contemporary Authors**, pp. 73-74, and **New York Times**, April 14, 1977.
2. Dust jacket, "Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant." New York: Crown Publishers, 1941.
3. "Dave Dawson on Convoy Patrol" (1941), p. 246.
4. There are eight Red Randall volumes in the Grosset and Dunlap-published "Air Combat Stories" and 15 in the interchangeable Crown and Saalfield editions of the Dave Dawson books. A 16th volume in the Dawson series, "Dave Dawson over Berlin," was announced for late 1946 but apparently never issued.
5. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944).
6. "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" (1941), pp. 71-72.
7. "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" (1941), p. 249.
8. "Dave Dawson on the Russian Front" (1943), p. 40.
9. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 20.
10. "Dave Dawson with the Eighth Air Force" (1944), p. 56.
11. "Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant" (1941), p. 162.
12. "Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant" (1941), p. 197.
13. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 14.
14. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 214.
15. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 14.
16. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1941), p. 129.
17. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 152.
18. "Dave Dawson at Casablanca" (1944), p. 40.
19. "Dave Dawson on the Russian Front" (1943).
20. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 23.
21. "Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant" (1941), p. 65.
22. "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" (1941), p. 238.
23. "Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant" (1941), p. 236.
24. "Dave Dawson on Convoy Patrol" (1941), p. 127.
25. "Dave Dawson on the Russian Front" (1943), p. 33.
26. "Dave Dawson with the R.A.F." (1941), p. 91.
27. "Dave Dawson with the Eighth Air Force" (1944), p. 52.
28. "Dave Dawson on the Russian Front" (1943), p. 77.
29. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), pp. 132-133.
30. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 54.
31. "Dave Dawson in Libya" (1941), p. 99.
32. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 15.
33. "Dave Dawson in Libya" (1941), p. 17.34. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944), p. 110.
35. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 115.
36. "Red Randall in the Aleutians" (1944), p. 163.
37. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 178.
38. "Red Randall in Burma" (1945), p. 187.
39. "Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal" (1943), p. 171; "Red Randall at Midway" (1944), p. 41; "Red Randall on New Guinea" (1944), p. 29.
40. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 229.
41. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944), p. 7.
42. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 74.
43. "Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal" (1943), p. 171.
44. "Dave Dawson at Singapore" (1942), p. 181.
45. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 101.
46. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 225.

The Dave Dawson Series*

1. Dave Dawson at Dunkirk..... Crown..... 1941
2. Dave Dawson with the R.A.F. Crown..... 1941
3. Dave Dawson in Libya Crown..... 1941
4. Dave Dawson on Convoy Patrol Crown..... 1941
5. Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant Crown..... 1941
6. Dave Dawson at Singapore Crown..... 1942
7. Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet Crown..... 1942
8. Dave Dawson with the Air Corps Crown..... 1942
9. Dave Dawson with the Commandos Crown..... 1942
10. Dave Dawson on the Russian Front Crown..... 1943
11. Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers Crown..... 1943
12. Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal Crown..... 1943
13. Dave Dawson at Casablanca Crown..... 1944
14. Dave Dawson with the Eighth Air Force.... Crown..... 1944
15. Dave Dawson at Truk..... Crown..... 1946
16. Dave Dawson over Berlin** Crown..... 1946

*Also called The War Adventure Series.

** "Phantom" title.

The Red Randall Series

1. Red Randall at Pearl Harbor G&D 1944
2. Red Randall on Active Duty G&D 1944
3. Red Randall over Tokyo G&D 1944
4. Red Randall at Midway G&D 1944
5. Red Randall on New Guinea G&D 1944
6. Red Randall in the Aleutians G&D 1945
7. Red Randall in Burma G&D 1946
8. Red Randall's One-Man War G&D 1946

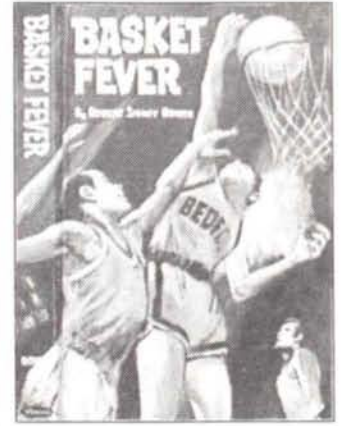
47. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 145.
48. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 200.
49. "Dave Dawson at Singapore" (1942), p. 98.
50. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 171.
51. "Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal" (1943), p. 171.
52. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 119.
53. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 47.
54. "Dave Dawson at Truk" (1946), p. 98.
55. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 145.
56. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 163.
57. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 163.
58. "Dave Dawson with the Pacific Fleet" (1942), p. 225.
59. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944), p. 110.
60. "Red Randall on New Guinea" (1944), p. 41.
61. "Dave Dawson at Truk" (1946), p. 57.
62. "Red Randall's One-Man War" (1946), p. 169.
63. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 215.

(Continued on Page 16)

Robert Sidney Bowen: After the war, other heroes

The following list of Robert Sidney Bowen's post-World War II books was compiled from the **Cumulative Book Index** by Bart J. Nyberg (PF-879). Books under Bowen's pseudonym James Robert Richard are noted:

Make Mine Murder	Crown	1946
Murder Gets Around	Crown	1947
Winning Pitch	Lothrop	1948
Fourth Down	Lothrop	1949
Player-Manager	Lothrop	1949
Ball Hawk	Lothrop	1950
Blocking Back	Lothrop	1950
Club Team (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1950
Hot Corner	Lothrop	1951
Touchdown Kid	Lothrop	1951
Canyon Fury	Lothrop	1952
Fighting Halfback (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1952
Pitcher of the Year	Lothrop	1952
Behind the Bat	Lothrop	1953
Quarterback All-American (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1953
Infield Spark	Lothrop	1954
Million Dollar Fumble	Lothrop	1954
Phantom Mustang (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1954
Big Inning	Lothrop	1955
Last White Line	Lothrop	1955
Purple Palomino (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1955
Appaloosa Curse	Lothrop	1956
Fourth Out	Lothrop	1956
No Hitter	Lothrop	1957
Snow King, Lipizzan Horse (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1957
Big Hit	Lothrop	1958
Double M for Morgans (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1958
Joker, the Polo Pony (J.R. Richard)	Lothrop	1959
Triple Play	Lothrop	1959
Pennant Fever	Lothrop	1960
Hot Rod Angels	Chilton	1960
The Airport, Our Link to the Sky	Whitman	1961



Million-Dollar Rookie	Lothrop	1961
Bat Boy	Lothrop	1962
Flight into Danger	Chilton	1962
Wings for an Eagle	Chilton	1962
Dirt Track Danger	Doubleday	1963
Perfect Game	Lothrop	1963
They Found the Unknown	McCrae-Smith	1963
They Flew to Fame	Whitman	1963
Hot Corner Blues	Lothrop	1964
Hot Rod Rodeo	Criterion	1964
They Flew to Glory	Lothrop	1965
Rebel Rookie	Lothrop	1965
Hot Rod Patrol	Criterion	1966
Man on First	Lothrop	1966
Hot Rod Showdown	Criterion	1967
Lightning Southpaw	Lothrop	1967
Hot Rod Outlaws	Chilton	1969
Infield Flash	Lothrop	1969
Wipeout	Criterion	1969
Hawaii Five-0: Top Secret	Whitman	1969
Basket Fever	Whitman	1970
Born to Fly	Criterion	1971
Hot Rod Doom	Criterion	1973

For freedom and the American way

(Continued from Page 15)

64. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 134.
65. "Red Randall over Tokyo" (1944), p. 179.
66. "Red Randall on New Guinea" (1944), p. 61.
67. "Dave Dawson with the Air Corps" (1942), p. 33.
68. "Dave Dawson with the Commandos" (1942), p. 56.
69. "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" (1941), p. 121.
70. "Dave Dawson with the R.A.F." (1941), p. 65.
71. "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" (1941), p. 125.
72. "Red Randall in the Aleutians" (1944), p. 171.
73. "Dave Dawson with the Commandos" (1942), p. 56.
74. "Red Randall at Pearl Harbor" (1944), p. 216.
75. "Dave Dawson with the Commandos" (1942), p. 77.
76. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944), p. 21.

77. "Red Randall on Active Duty" (1944), p. 115.
78. "Red Randall at Midway" (1944), p. 54.
79. "Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers" (1943), p. 218.
80. "Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal" (1943), pp. 86-87.
81. "Dave Dawson at Casablanca" (1944), pp. 154-155.
82. "Dave Dawson on Convoy Patrol" (1941), p. 15.
83. "Dave Dawson with the Air Corps" (1942), pp. 221-222.
84. "Dave Dawson at Truk" (1946).
85. "Dave Dawson on Guadalcanal" (1943).
86. Even today, nearly 50 years later, I can still remember how upset I was when, no matter how hard I looked, the latest "Dave Dawson" was sold out in the bookstores of my native Philadelphia. Other grown men, now in their late 50s or early 60s, no matter where they might have lived in the early 1940s, say the same thing.
87. "Dave Dawson on the Russian Front" (1943).

The Horatio Alger Society repository: a report

(Continued from Page 3)

thy Crump's Ward" or original Alger letters. Envision a place having hundreds of Burts, Donohues, Winstons, Porter & Coates, etc., standing tall in rows on shelves maybe even categorized by title for each format.

Perhaps historians would be very interested in actually seeing and feeling Alger books as originally published nearly 100 years ago. It was these types of books which were so readily available and eagerly devoured by the youth of that day, potentially influencing the values they would later carry with them as they built 20th century America. Such a permanent location housing a full collection of Alger's life work for use by us and future generations is now but an image, a dream that your repository committee has been working hard to bring to fruition since last May.

Feasibility is the key. The committee was essentially charged with the mission of determining whether or not it is feasible that an Alger repository could be established. Would any credible organization or group having potential as a permanent location for such a repository be interested in working with us on such a project? What are the Society's needs and requirements for such a repository and what are the key criteria to be used in identifying and choosing an appropriate place?

These are the types of questions your committee has been working on since May and here is where we had progressed as of January 1994:

Last July, 21 potential repository organizations were identified by the committee, drawing heavily on the background, knowledge and experience of individual committee members. These organizations were contacted by letter, told of our interest in establishing an Alger repository and each received a copy of the Society's resolution.

Eleven of the 21 responded; six of those were positive responses. The committee then established a goal statement and series of criteria which set out the committee's interests and purposes for an Alger repository. These were sent to the six organizations which had responded positively, for their information and review. The six institutions are (in no specific order) Northern Illinois University, University of Wyoming, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Minnesota, University of South Florida and The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. As the new year begins, the committee looks forward now to determining how close we really are in matching mutual repository goals and objectives.

The committee anticipates bringing a recommendation to the Grand Rapids H.A.S. convention for possible

action by the membership. Make no mistake, however; we may not be able to reach an agreement with the organization and may report that establishing an Alger repository at this time is not feasible. But if we do find an organization with which we can agree, and — if a positive recommendation that we proceed is passed at the convention — it would likely mean that the Horatio Alger Society would use its offices to encourage, promote, direct and in every other way support the growth and development of a permanent location at a specific site for Alger's life work and other relevant Alger-related material.

This is indeed exciting stuff and something we can all feel really good about. It is one way we as collectors can leave a heritage package for the benefit of those who follow.

As many of us march proudly into older age, we better understand the concept of heritage and we wonder softly to ourselves about the preservation and maintenance in the years to come of the collections we have worked so hard, and had so much fun, in building. The image of much of Stanley Pachon's massive collection sitting in boxes at the curbside being auctioned off piece by piece and box by box, almost willy-nilly thrown to the winds, personally frightens me. Sharing our collections with generations to come at a specific location as part of a larger Alger (or perhaps including other authors of boys' and girls' books) library seems at this time not only reasonable but almost an obligation to those who follow us who have an interest in Alger, his work and his influence.

An Alger repository would offer us another choice of what to do with our collections once our interest in them has ceased. At present we can offer or sell our books to others to add to their individual collections; if the repository existed, we could offer our collections to the repository where their contents would be available for many to see and enjoy. There is no right or wrong in this choice, but having a repository option certainly adds dimension to what we can do.

A permanent place where future generations can easily discover Alger is truly a neat idea and one your committee will continue pursuing with excitement and enthusiasm. It is something substantive and lasting, and we, as a society, now have an opportunity to take a significant step forward.

Be assured, your committee (Jack Bales, John Cadick, Bob Collmer, Randy Cox, Jack Dizer, Ralph Gardner, Rob Kasper, Eddie LeBlanc and myself) will be working hard these next few months to put appropriate recommendations in place.

Great Grossets!

The G&D Stratemeyer-Algers

(Continued from Page 5)

closing a money sack. I have seen copies with both red and cream-colored lettering. I have also seen this edition with a dust jacket, although I do not have one at hand. I remember this jacket as being the common white or off-white uncoated paper commonly used at that time that had faded to a light brown color.

Two years later, Grosset & Dunlap reprinted the Stratemeyer-Algers on brown (tan) boards with red and black embossing (Example 2). This design did not change throughout all subsequent printings except for different ad pages, or no ad pages at all, in the rear of the books. The book's cover is nearly identical to earlier printings with only the spine slightly changed (a boy's head replaces the wreath and money sack emblem).

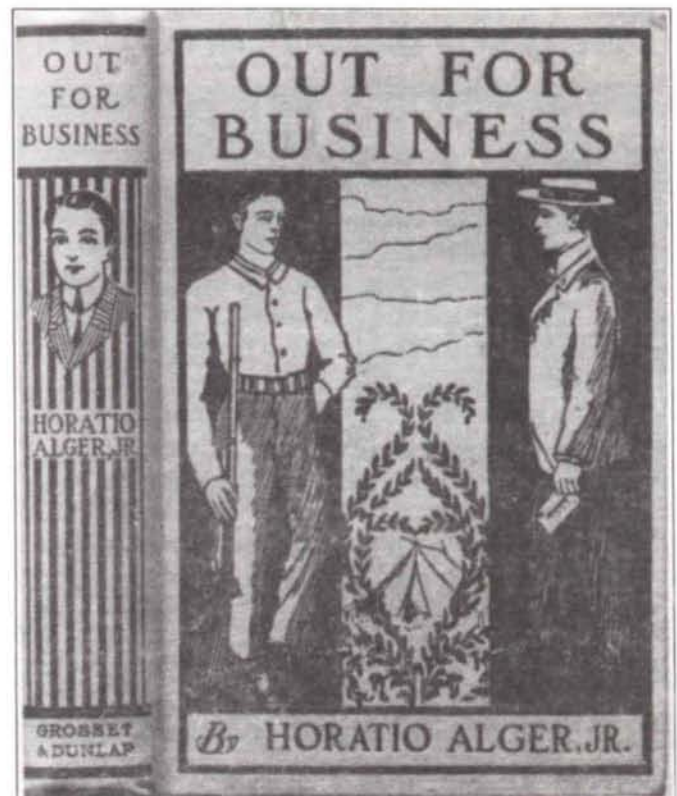
The second dust jacket is printed on light brown paper (i.e., faded, off-white uncoated paper similar to newsprint) with the lettering and pictures stamped in red. The advertisements on the back cover of this jacket show the first five Tom Swift titles as being in print, which would date this jacket no earlier than 1910. My copy of "From Farm to Fortune" contains a bona fide November 1910 inscription.

The third dust jacket format came out the following year as indicated by 10 Tom Swift titles being currently available (the first five Tom Swifts were published in 1910 and the second five in 1911). This jacket was printed in red on light gray paper and is identical in all other respects to the second format except that in addition to the Tom Swift ad, other series are advertised with 1911 being the latest titles listed. Both jackets list the first nine Stratemeyer-Alger titles as being part of The Rise in Life Series on either the front flap (format 3 – gray jacket) or rear flap (format 2 – light-brown jacket). The above Tom Swift ads are reproduced on Page 19.

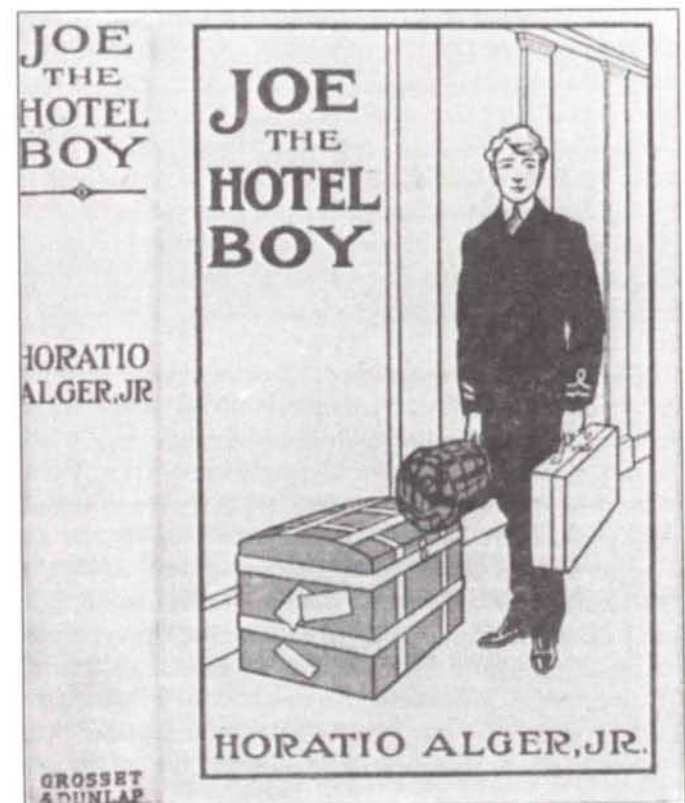
Sometime during 1912 or 1913, Grosset & Dunlap finally obtained from Edward Stratemeyer the rights to publish "Joe the Hotel Boy" and "Ben Logan's Triumph." These two Stratemeyer-Alger titles were first published by Cupples & Leon in 1906 and 1908, respectively. I would guess that Cupples & Leon retained the copyrights to these stories and was producing reprints up to 1911. My G&D copy of "Joe the Hotel Boy" lists in its ad pages the last Tom Swift title as "Great Search Light," which was published in 1912.

The G&D covers for "Joe the Hotel Boy" (Example 3) and "Ben Logan's Triumph" are identical to the original Cupples & Leon bindings except for the Grosset & Dunlap

(Continued on Page 19)



Ex. 2: The second G&D cover format was in tan cloth with black lettering and had a different spine design.



Ex. 3: G&D's "Joe the Hotel Boy" (above) and "Ben Logan's Triumph" copied C&L's first-edition covers.

POPULAR COPYRIGHT JUVENILES

Full crown size, each volume with half-tone frontispiece, handsomely bound in cloth, and with attractive colored wrappers.

Price, 40 Cents per Volume.

THE TOM SWIFT SERIES.

By VICTOR APPLETON.

Every youngster is filled with the marvels of invention displayed in motor cars, motor boats, submarine boats, and airships. It is the purpose of these spirited tales to convey in a realistic way the wonderful advances in land and sea locomotion. Stories like these impress themselves on the youthful memory—being to it like a born—and their reading is productive only of good.

- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR CYCLE;
Or, Fun and Adventure on the Road.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR BOAT;
Or, The Rivals of Lake Carlops.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS AIRSHIP;
Or, The Stirring Cruise of the Red Cloud.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBMARINE BOAT;
Or, Under the Ocean for Sunken Treasure.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS ELECTRIC RUNABOUT;
Or, The Speediest Car on the Road.

THE GENERAL CHARLES KING SERIES.

These stories are as military as can be—which is saying a great deal. General King writes with a personal knowledge, as he has had more military experience than any known author, except perhaps Caesar. Rattling good stories of army life that are full of fresh and vivid material; with plenty of plot and exciting realistic incident. The characters stand out in fine and finished detail.

- FORT FRAYNE
- FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES
- A GARRISON TANGLE
- TRUMPETER FRED
- WARRIOR GAP
- A WOUNDED NAME
- NOBLE BLOOD AND A WEST POINT PARALLEL

GROSSET & DUNLAP PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK

BEST BOOKS FOR BOYS

Full crown size, each volume illustrated and handsomely bound in cloth, and with attractive colored wrappers.

Price, 40 Cents per Volume.

THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH SERIES (New)

By GRAHAM B. FORBES.

A new series that the boys will read with deep interest. The rivalry of the towns along the river was of the keesets, and plots and counterplots to win the championship at baseball, football, track athletics, etc., were without number. Any lad reading one volume will want the others.

- THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH;
Or, The All Around Rivalry of the School.
- THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH ON THE DIAMOND;
Or, Winning Out by Finks.
- THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH ON THE RIVER;
Or, The Boat Race Plot that Failed.
- THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH ON THE GRIDIRON;
Or, The Struggle for the Silver Cup.
- THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH ON THE ICE;
Or, Out for the Hockey Championship.

THE OUTDOOR CHUMS SERIES (New)

By CAPT. QUINCY ALLEN.

The outdoor chums are four wideawake lads, residing in a small city located on a lake. The boys love outdoor life, and are greatly interested in hunting, fishing, and picture taking, and during their vacations go everywhere and have all sorts of thrilling adventures.

- THE OUTDOOR CHUMS;
Or, The First Year of the Red, Gun and Camera Club.
- THE OUTDOOR CHUMS ON THE LAKE;
Or, Lively Adventures on Wildcat Island.
- THE OUTDOOR CHUMS IN THE FOREST;
Or, Laying the Ghost of Oak Ridge.
- THE OUTDOOR CHUMS ON THE GULF;
Or, Rescuing the Lost Ballonists.
- THE OUTDOOR CHUMS AFTER BIG GAME;
Or, Perilous Adventures in the Wilderness.

THE TOM SWIFT SERIES.

By VICTOR APPLETON.

Every youngster is filled with the marvels of invention displayed in motor cars, motor boats, submarine boats, and airships. It is the purpose of these spirited tales to convey in a realistic way the wonderful advances in land and sea locomotion.

- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR CYCLE;
Or, Fun and Adventure on the Road.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR BOAT;
Or, The Rivals of Lake Carlops.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS AIRSHIP;
Or, The Stirring Cruise of the Red Cloud.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS SUBMARINE BOAT;
Or, Under the Ocean for Sunken Treasure.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS ELECTRIC RUNABOUT;
Or, The Speediest Car on the Road.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS WIRELESS MESSAGE;
Or, The Castaways of Earthquake Island.
- TOM SWIFT AMONG THE DIAMOND MAKERS;
Or, The Secret of Phantom Mountain.
- TOM SWIFT IN THE CAVES OF ICE;
Or, The Wreck of the Airship.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS SKY RACER;
Or, The Quickest Flight on Record.
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS ELECTRIC RIFLE;
Or, Strange Adventures in Elephant Land.

GROSSET & DUNLAP, PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK.

name at the foot of the spine. Although I have never seen a dust jacket for these two titles, I believe that Grosset & Dunlap followed its usual practice at that time of issuing dust jackets that matched the binding cover (for example, the "quadrant" Tom Swift jackets of that period).

If these jackets exist, and I'm sure that they do, then this format would be the fourth known dust jacket printing of the Stratemeyer-Algers.

The fifth-format dust jacket, appearing around 1915, is significant for several reasons. Foremost, the dust jacket, now multicolored



The dust jackets for the G&D printings included the 1910 version, left, on uncoated off-white paper which faded to brown, and light gray paper, right. A clue to the Algers' publication dates is provided by the advertisement for the five 1910 Tom Swift titles printed on the back of the brownish jacket and 10 Tom Swifts (including the five 1911 titles) advertised on the light gray jacket. All lettering on both jackets is in red.

(black, orange and blue), is completely redesigned, depicting four sporting scenes on the front cover and a different spine (Example 4). The rear of the dust jacket reveals 18 Tom Swift titles available, ending with "Aerial Warship," which was published in 1915.

Secondly, these Alger titles are now incorporated into Grosset & Dunlap's Alert Series, which lists 30 titles on the front jacket flap. This series includes the 11 Stratemeyer-Alger titles, the eight-volume Stratemeyer-controlled Enterprise Books series, three other Roy Rockwood

(Continued on Page 20)

Great Grossets!

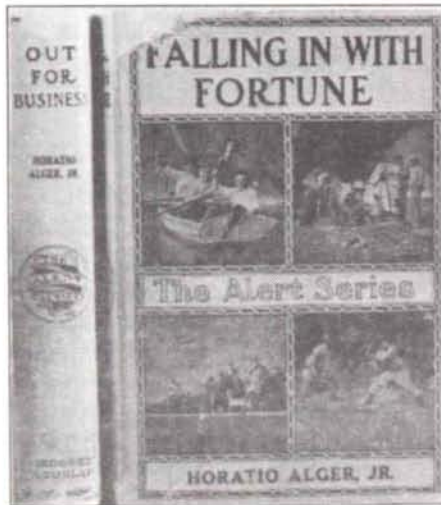
The G&D Stratemeyer-Algers

(Continued from Page 19)

titles formerly published as the Deep Sea Series (also Stratemeyer-controlled), along with eight Edward Ellis titles.

Finally, this is the first dust jacket format which advertises all 11 Stratemeyer-Alger titles as a group, although it is no longer called The Rise in Life Series. I would speculate that the two C&L titles retained their distinctive binding covers but were now issued with Alert Series dust jackets uniform with the other nine Stratemeyer-Algers.

According to my calculations, Grosset & Dunlap published 20 variations of three book designs (nine in the 1908 green format, nine in the 1910 brown format and the two C&L titles) and at least 40 dust jackets. After six years of continuous searching, I only have 12 books and 11 dust jackets. At this rate I'll probably complete my set sometime in the year 2010.



Ex. 4: The G&D Alert Series dust jacket (1915, top) lists all 11 of the Stratemeyer-Algers while the earlier jackets (above) listed only nine titles because rights to "Joe the Hotel Boy" and "Ben Logan's Triumph" had yet to be transferred by Stratemeyer from C&L to G&D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 6)

year or two ago and last year spent three months with David in Boca Raton, Florida. Just prior to his death he told me he was getting ready to take another trip to Florida.

As far as I believe Tom knew, he had no health problems of any kind and was feeling very good. He was particularly interested in macrobiotics and their diet, and for over 25 years he joined their outing, camping in the high Sierras during each summer.

Tom had a thirst for knowledge, and was an avid reader with a good library. In addition, every term at the local community college he took a course or two. In fact, at the time of his death my wife and I were classmates with him on the Great Decisions course concerning international problems.

Tom also liked good music, and just about a month before his death he was in Eugene for a Bach festival.

He was a good friend and an outstanding example of a good Christian man. In over 50 years I have known Tom Brady I never heard him speak an ill or disparaging word about anyone. He will be missed, but more importantly, he will be remembered for making this world a little better because he lived.

Sincerely,
Ben Niedermeyer
487 Fairway Ct.
Seaside, OR 97138

Editor's note: Tom Brady (PF-836) had the enviable reputation as the Partic'lar Friend who would travel the farthest to attend our annual conventions, including last year's cross-country trip from Oregon to the Philadelphia area.

'In Search of Treasure'

Plans are nearly complete for the Horatio Alger Society's 1994 convention April 28-May 1 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the state that hosted the 1969 and 1972 conventions. In addition to meeting old friends and picking up a scarce book or two, you will have an opportunity to visit historic sites like the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

To sign up, just use the blue registration form in this issue of **Newsboy**. Cost is \$45 for adults, or \$30 for children age 12 and under.

For hotel reservations, fill out and return the room registration card from the Harley Hotel that was enclosed in the January-February **Newsboy**.

Don't delay, make your convention and hotel registrations today!