

THE HORATIO ALGER

Vol. 1 No. 4
Distribution 400

October 1962

A Newsletter



Newsboy CLUB

5868 PILGRIM KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Published for the enjoyment of Readers, Collectors and Dealers of books written by Horatio Alger, Jr. Prepared and distributed at the expense of Forrest Campbell, Ed.

Creetings! Members and Friends! to our new Readers, Welcome! 100 of you have been added since the last edition! Our business is to bring together through the medium of this newsletter all people interested in any way, in Horatio Alger, Our Hero!

Our project to stock the Public Library in Revere, Mass. The birthplace of our Hero, must be reviewed for the benefit of our new Readers. The Librarian, Mrs. Mildred Stowell, has given us the green light and will keep the donated books under or behind glass enclosures where they will be preserved and protected from handling. Donations should be made in the name of our Club and mailed from your home; but first check with me before mailing so that no books will be duplicated. Books donated thus far are as follows:

- 1-Risen from the ranks - Forrest Campbell
- 2-The Erie Train Boy - Kenneth B. Butler
- 3-Jack's Ward - George Setman, III
- 4-Strong and Steady - George Setman, III
- 5-The Young Outlaw - George Setman, III

To conserve space, these will not be listed again. Please save this record. The next reference will begin with item #6.

Items in the local news of national interest: Kalamazoo; Our oldest citizen, William (Dad) Eddington, age 123 has just recently passed on to his eternal reward. Dad has been the public eye here for the past 13 years and we are proud of the record he has attained! Kalamazoo: Two Discount Stores here end Sunday openings! Topps and Spartan Department Stores are cooperating with public demands. These two stores are a part of a national chain and are new to our Community. Kalamazoo; Storm Dismissal Creates New Problems at Public Schools; The local Board of Education has learned something from the recent dismissal due to threatening storm reports authorized by official Weather Bureau personnel. All children were dismissed and sent home and it was discovered that there were no school crossing guards on duty at this unscheduled hour. Students accustomed to school bus transportation were turned loose on our city streets. Children unexpected at home, found locked doors and no parent to protect them. School officials feel that the parents should have the custody of the children during emergencies. Does your Community have a school dismissal program in event of emergencies?

Some of our Readers have been asking for a list of rare books which collectors are looking for, and it might be well to list the 15 books that Ken Butler claims hard to find; They are as follows:

Your replies are becoming more interesting by the day and coming from 44 states of our nation. If you know of some one residing in Alaska, Wawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada or New Mexico who might like to receive copies of the newsletter, I would be very happy to oblige as I would selfishly like for every state to be represented on my mailing list.

Beginning alphabetically, this month we have heard from one of our newest Readers, Harry M. Boniece 8340 Marlowe Avenue Detroit 28, Harry writes..."certainly I was just about the most surprised and pleased person in the world.. when I received.. your.. newsletter. I have been a devotee of.. Alger.. since boyhood.. have quite a number.. almost a complete set.. stored.. in Lansing, Mich. I would consider it a privilege to be enrolled as a member.. etc. Harry offers the following suggestion... Leave sufficient margin, so the sheets may be bound in book form. (I think the suggestion is a splendid one and I am attempting to comply).

Robert Fuchta, age 14, yes that's right! of 29209 Everett, Southfield, (near Detroit) Michigan has expressed an interest in our Club and newsletter. Bob, as he calls himself has been collecting Alger and other books for about 4 years. Mrs. I. Gurman gets the credit for this new recruit Welcome! Bob. and thanks to Irene! Bob wants to contact collectors who have a surplus or duplicates of Alger, Optic and Castlemon.

Kenneth Butler, one of the best friends we will ever have, designed, produced and presented us with the above heading! and without fanfare! Three cheers for Ken and his Enterprises, The Wayside Press and the Kenneth B. Butler & Associates, Advertising Agency!, Ken already has the easy ones collected, just recently added "MARK STANTON", his collection is up to 126 and his want list is down to 15! Ken recently entertained our 19 year old Gilbert Westgard of Park Ridge; Gilbert was escorted through the WAYSIDE PRESS and given a ride around town in a 1923 Ford Depot Hack! Ken is currently away in his depot hack on the ANNUAL GLIDDEN TOUR OF ANTIQUE CARS which will include French Lick, Ind. and Louisville, Ky.

Our friend Shirley Cohn, (Sept. Sec. 1) one of my most reliable correspondents, keeps me posted on what is going on in Bookland, U.S.A. She calls to my attention, the popularity of the Tom Swift Jr. series. Shirley also urges me to have the name of our Club copyrighted for our own protection. Yes, Shirley is a native

Ben Barkley's Courage; Both Sides of the Continent; Dan, The Detective; Forging Ahead; Grandfather Baldwin's Thanksgiving; The Merchant's Crime; The Nugget Finders; Nothing to do; Number 91; Siles Snodden's Office Boy; Seeking his Fortune; Timothy Crump's Ward; Victor Vane; Walter Griffith and The Young Boatman. (I have a copy of The Young Boatman, published by Penn but to my knowledge, I have no first editions and am perfectly satisfied with a good Winston) I suggest that we adopt a policy of putting the number of books in our collection after our names, such as: Kenneth B. Butler, (126) O.K.?

While my Alger books were on display at the Industrial State Bank here in Kalamazoo, I opened a savings account in the name of RAGGED DICK; Just recently another dollar has been added to this account. Perhaps someday we will be able to assist a present day RAGGED DICK to a more comfortable life!

We have the date of our Hero's birth and the date of his death and what actually happened in between is beginning to come to light! One of our Readers has contributed this Column:

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

That the Alger family is of French origin? That there is a street in Paris named Rue d'Alger? That our Hero's first American ancestor, Thomas Alger settled in Taunton, Mass. in 1665 and married Eliz. Packard, Nov. 14, of the same year? That as a boy, our Hero was known as Holy Horatio? That our Hero could turn out a book in 13 days? That our Hero in early life acquired a habit of stammering? That our Hero's books were banned in many libraries of the U.S. in 1907? That our Hero, while attending Harvard, fell in love with a pretty girl named Patience Stires? That our Hero's father broke it up and they never saw each other again and neither married? (The donor of the above column wishes to remain anonymous. His wishes will be respected, but in due time, due respect and credit will be given to him).

Since I have decided to accept financial aid from our Readers in the form of a subscription fee of \$2.00 annually, 10 Readers have responded and George Setman, who also has several members who belong to his HORATIO ALGER CLUB (Quakertown, Pa.) is making these subscribers honorary members of his Quakertown Club as fast as I inform him of such contributions. Thanks George! I expect more subscribers as our needs become known. Expense of one mailed newsletter is 5¢. To 400 Readers, the total expense is twenty dollars. We are growing and have a few growing pains but your letters of appreciation are more essential than your money! Several nice things have happened to us this month! and for your enjoyment! First: The nice NEWSBOY HEADING designed and furnished by Kenneth Butler! Second: To those of you who have never received the very first edition, A second printing copy is included in this mailing! Third: We now have an Associate Editor; Mrs. I. Gurman, 23498 Parklawn, Oakpark 37, Mich.

of San Diego and the daughter of a retired U.S. Navy man; Her father retired in 1948 with 38 years of service, and remaining true to the Navy, Shirley's husband also did a six year hitch in the U.S. Navy and is now almost due for retirement under U.S. Civil Service. They plan to open a book store! What else?

I have in my office, a copy of Helen Ford, (Hurst) It belongs to Charles Clapp, Furnace Brook Parkway, Quincy 69, Mass. I think it is for sale or exchange; Please write to him.

Two of my correspondents have urged me to send newsletters to Edna L. Dessery and Mrs. James (R) Dunaway. "Where do they live I asked" "Don't know complete address, they reply" Edna lives in Santa Ana and Mrs Dunaway lives at 6912 Washington, somewhere in Missouri! O.K. Hold the phone! (I happen to have a hobby of saving my old Kalamazoo phone books which have come in handy on several occasions) So, knowing that our local library has directories of all major cities, I did a little detective work and now they have their newsletters!

We have received a letter of inquiry from Henry Dammeyer 3512 65th Street, Woodside, N.Y. and an order for some of our surplus Tom Swift Series from Arthur E. Dobin, (Sept. Sec. B) Another letter and a newspaper clipping from Miss Ruth Eriksen 8 Upton St., Fitchburg, Mass. The first time Ruth wrote, she saw my name in the Boston Herald and did not know my address so she used the name NEWSBOY for an address! I got the message! I have the book, MARK, THE MATCH BOY in my office but it belongs to Mrs. Richard Fanning, 115 Rebekah, Woonsocket, R.I. If you are interested in this book, Mrs. Fanning will sell! Please write to her! A card from Ralph Gardner informs me that he has been away, just in case you haven't heard from him; (like me). He wants to contribute something of interest soon to our Readers! You are always welcome Ralph! Everyone knows how to get in touch with Ralph, don't they?

Martin Gately (Sept. Sec. B) sends in this gem: (I had previously told him that we once slept in a motel near the Jersey end of the G. Washington bridge which is almost in his back yard and it reminded him of this incident) He once slept on the lawn of the State Capitol Bldg. in Springfield, Ill. thinking it was where A. Lincoln first began his political career. My reference last month to Vandalia has corrected his long misunderstanding. He also adds that once, some of his southern Kinsmen arrived in Bogota unexpectedly. Martin and family were out of town, Martin says, (quote) We never had locked our house, day or night, even when we were away.. it is that kind of a Community. Leaving my wife's cousin, Bernard in charge, we departed. Our southern Kinsmen chagrined at being locked out, spent the night in a neighborhood motel at a total cost of \$33.00. It seems Bernard had locked up. Even Martin and family were locked out upon their return (it is unreported whether or not Martin and Bernard locked horns!) Martin has sent me a fine library edition of TATTERED TOM (Winston) on an exchange basis He suggests that a book be evaluated by

Irene is making her debut in this edition and next month, her column will be on the opposite side of the page; I am sure that you will find Irene's commentary very interesting and I hope you will direct some of your letters and inquiries to her. She can lighten the burden of my workload!

And to those of you who have been informed of a coming surprise announcement, here it is:

SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT!

I AM GOING TO WRITE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE NEWSBOY, AN ALGER TYPE STORY! It will be written on an installment basis; There will be one chapter each month on an inserted sheet in this newsletter. It will be inserted only with newsletters going to paid subscribers or supporters on record as of January 1963 or upon receipt of financial support. The first installment will be inserted with the January issue of the NEWSBOY. The title of the story will be: THE YOUNG POSTMASTER and you, the Readers will select the names of the characters, location and the year! The cast will begin at least with these Characters:

- Our Hero, The Young Postmaster
- Our Hero's father, (deceased and former Postmaster)
- Our Hero's mother
- Our Hero's brothers and/or sisters
- Our Hero's best girl friend
- Our Hero's loyal boy friend
- Our Hero's adult friend and advisor
- The village Squire and holder of a mortgage on our Hero's home.
- The village Squire's son and village Dandy, Snob, Bully, etc.

I reserve the right to name the village Squire because he is a mean old man and I just might give him my own name so that no one can take offense in the naming of this unloved and undesirable character. I do want you, the Readers to name the other characters. My decision will be final but will be based upon your choice. If I select your choice of location for our Hero's home town be prepared to furnish me with fictitious locations and addresses and the general layout of your selected site. You may select the year, (preferably before 1900) but again, be prepared to furnish me with supporting historical events to date the period. These choices may be made only by paid subscribers or supporters of the NEWSBOY. The plot of the story will start as soon as your selections start coming in. This story and profit, if any will become the property of the NEWSBOY CLUB and its members! Now you have the ball; Let's have a hit!

In my idle moments this month (of which there were few) I prepared and delivered a twenty minute sermon in the absence of our minister at our Church; I have been requested to mention it. Yes it is printed and available to you, upon request. My friend Martin Gately confided in me how our Hero recently drove him to drink; and here is how he tells it (al most verbatim) "I found 20 Algers in mint condition on the shelves of a merchant who seemed cautious and caustic in his re

trading units; for example, a NY Book Co. copy or equivalent equals one trading unit; A Hurst, Burt and some Winstons, two units. An extra good book, Winston or better, three or more units. So far as Martin and myself are concerned; we have adopted it. With my copy of TATTERED TOM, I now have 91 titles!

We have just recently received from Max Goldberg, 728 Worcester St. Natick, Mass. a warm and friendly letter which includes his best wishes to us and to his many Jewish friends for a happy and healthy New Year! Max operates the PINK SPINNING WHEEL and has extended the hospitality of his establishment to my wife and I when next we visit the East. (It won't be until June, Max) We intend to make the circuit again but hope to take more leisure time next year!

A nice letter has just been received from J.G. Freiburger, Lcdr. U.S.N. (Ret.) 4348 Lynd Ave. Arcadia, Calif. He writes that he has a few Algers which he is anxious to trade for certain early and rare variety of books and early American paintings. He also is curious of Alger's rare and scarce books. (See list in this issue, Section 2) You're welcome!

Miss Margaret A. Gustafson, a free lance writer of 213 N. 1st st. Lindsborg, Kans. writes that she has had some Alger books and may get more. Please keep in touch with her.

Miss Martha Harris, a High School librarian in Cunningham, Tenn. says that she has enjoyed reading the NEWSBOY very much and has started her own library with 40 of my duplicates. She adds that she is pleased with the books and plans to add to her collection when she can. Martha is a paid subscriber of the newsletter.

Mrs. N.D. Heestand operates the GOLDEN EAGLE ANTIQUES 457 W. Cambridge, Alliance, O. She has in my humble opinion, a first edition of FROM FARM BOY TO SENATOR and is willing to sell it. She also has other Alger books. She enjoys the NEWSBOY and is very appreciative for receiving it. You're Welcome!

Mrs. Eleanore Lynch, Woodstock, N.Y. is anxious for our Alger lists; If you have a list; kindly send a copy to her.

Mr. Edward G. Levy, Pleasant Hill, Woodbridge, Conn. is anxious to contact all Alger Collectors who have duplicates; I was unable to furnish anything which he needed. Perhaps you can! Mr. Levy tells me that he is a retired publisher and has sent me a few copies of his former publication "REAL WEST" Mr. Levy is also a member of long standing in the DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP Group. and is also a paid subscriber to the NEWSBOY! Welcome aboard. Mr. Levy!

William Michaels 28 Woolston St. Mattapan 26, Mass. has a lot of Algers to sell or trade and is interested in our Club and newsletter.

We have just heard from the ATWOOD TREASURE COVE operated by Mildred and Harry Newell, Box 315 Stone Ridge, N.Y. They have a supply of Algers on hand. Our most recent inquiry comes from Mrs. Leo Simmons 537 N. Weller, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Mrs. Thelma Romanik of Shewchanko St. Millville, N.J. is one of my most loyal correspondents. She has a long list of Alger titles and also has other interests and hobbies; Name something! She probably has it or can get it! We plan to make stops in New Jersey next year!

marks and I suspect as greedy for cash as I was for Algers. At first, he asked 25¢ per Alger, not really expecting to get it. With as much control as I could muster over my stepped up heart beats and orbiting pulse, I agreed. He stared suspiciously, batted his eyes, and stared again. Suspecting he was about to change his mind, I reached for my wallet to close the deal before it was too late. I don't know whether he saw my trembling hands or not. But I recall what a setback it was, and how it increased the suspense, when I discovered a twenty dollar bill was the smallest I had. And he had no change. "I'll get it," I said, and forced myself to walk away calmly, though I felt like running. The blazing lights of a tavern across the street were the only ones on that street; All other stores were dark. Out of the Merchant's sight, I dashed across the street, the twenty clutched in my hand. It was Friday night; The Tavern was jammed and I could not change a twenty without buying something. I do not drink. "A whiskey" I said and put the twenty down fast and the whiskey down faster. And I do not think I even counted the change. My mind raised dark images of the Merchant changing his mind, doubling, aye, tripling the price, as I raced back. I got my breath and hoped he wouldn't refuse to sell altogether and entered the store; but the deal went through without a hitch and I went out of there with the Algers. And that is how Horatio (our Hero) drove me to drink!

I have promised to furnish our newsletter to all of George Setman's Horatio Alger Club members (Quakertown, Pa.) Did you know that Dwight D. Eisenhower is on his Honorary membership list? Did you know that Broox Sledge, Macon, Miss. writes a column called Travels in Bookland?

Jean Steiner is just about the busiest girl in West Va., But still finds time to add to her collection; But she wants good books! She started with HELEN FORD in June and now has a rating of 55! Good Girl Jean!

Van Allen Bradley (Chicago Daily News) has challenged us to allow him to mention us in his Column "GOLD IN YOUR ATTIC" This is indeed a challenge! shall we continue to hide our light under a bushel?

Mrs. Anton (Mildred) Van Ry, a former MICHIGAN MAID, (Sept. Sec. C) is waiting patiently for some of you to send her your duplicate list; In the mean time, she and I are trading household hints; She tells how she rids her lawn of nasty 'slugs'.... (bare back snails to us) with the spring (pincher) type clothes pins (they are too nasty to handle). then I tell one... I explain how I chase house flies with the Vacuum sweeper hose! (You can see that we've nothing else to do!). Last but by no means, the least, Mrs. Virginia M. Viera, (Sept. Sec. C) (and thank you for the advance birthday greeting) has access to many interesting items besides books! If you can't find what you are looking for. Ask Virginia! (Martin! send me the name of this Merchant! He sounds like a real nice guy to me!)



Mrs. Irene Gurman, Assoc. Editor, 23498 Parklawn, Oakpark 37, Michigan

THE HORATIO ALGER NEWSBOY CLUB
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Kalamazoo, Michigan

Mr. Milton R. Salls, ()
Herkimer Home,
Little Falls, New York

From the Alger File.....

"There aren't as many people actually working as you may have thought, at least, not according to this survey. The population of the country is 160 million, but there are 62 million over 60, leaving 98 million to do the work. People under 21 total 54 million, which leaves 44 million to do the work.

"Then there are 21 million employed by the government, and that leaves 23 million to do the work. Ten million are in the armed forces, leaving 13 million to do the work. Deduct 12,800,000, the number in city and state offices, and that leaves 200,000 to do the work. There are 126,000 in hospitals, insane asylums and so forth, and that leaves 74,000 people to do the work.

"But 62,000 of those are bums or others who will not work, so that leaves 12,000 to do the work. Now if you are interested to know that there are 11,998 people in jail, so that leaves just two people to do the work.

"And that's you and me, brother, and I'm getting....tired of doing everything myself!"

And so, I left my last job.

Forrest Campbell, we hope this doesn't happen in your case. Up to this point he "has done everything himself, including dipping into his own pocket for postage and the cost of materials used in publishing to see that we all have a good time reading the news in the Alger-collecting world. I doubt if anyone has been bored, judging by the growth of the paper. He can proudly say, "These are my people".

For those who wish to contribute... Don't do as I did...send a letter of praise for the good job he did, and wax eloquent about the contribution enclosed for the benefit of the NEWSBOY!....then dine on crow because you forgot to include it with the letter! The editor's only comment was, "with such a nice letter, who needs money". I daresay, he's headed for the diplomatic corps. I might add, all such should be sent directly to Kalamazoo to Mr. Campbell and not to humble assistant in Oak Park. What you can send by the bushel basket is, comments, experiences, trades, titles needed, titles for sale, this Department will eat them up and you'll see them appearing in the many issues to come, the more the merrier, and I wouldn't have to sit here chewing my nails to write something worthy of the great following the Chief has drawn under his "wickiup"....in other words, I have to earn my salt. So write, all of you from everywhere!

* * * * *

Below is the story of heartbreak of a lonely, sensitive man who preached with a pen and whose name became a household word...

A COTTAGE BY THE SEA
by Horatio Alger

In a cottage by the sea,
By the ever-rolling sea:
Where the surges rage and roar.
As they dash along the shore,
With their foaming crests of white,
Sparkling with reflected light:
Where the winds are moaning low
To the water's ebb and flow;
In the pleasant days gone by,
Fled--alas! how silently!
In the cottage by the sea,
Dwelt a maiden fair with me.

I remember how of yore
The twain wandered on the shore,
How we gathered from the strand:
Sea-shells mingled with the sand;
How we listened all the while,
As in some cathedral-aisle,
To the music, soft and low,
Of the waters in their flow:
While the organ of the sea
Played for us a symphony,
Or anon, with lighter strain,
Breathed a musical refrain.

O, I loved her passing well,
Dearly loved my Clairbel;
But the days flew quickly by,
As the clouds along the sky;
As the stars that gem the night
Fly before the dawn of light.
Gone are all my hours of pleasure
Vanished with my vanished treasure;

For a deathly shadow fell
On the brow of Claribel:
In my Cottage By the Sea,
No one dwelleth now but me!

(Swiped from "Gleason's Pictorial
May 7, 1853" by
this writer.)

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There is much to be gained from reader-collector-dealer alike so I would encourage your sending in your experiences and below is a letter I got from a lady: "My mother's brother was Robert Coverdale". I await reply to my myriad of questions: "What are the circumstances that he chose to write about her uncle"? "What can she glean from family tales and their relation to the author of "Robert Coverdale's Stuggle"? She is doing research and it will be shared gladly with the readers when it is received.

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My apology for these comments being mine and not necessarily those of the management...a stencil in the mail "fill these up....return no later than 36 hrs. Tempus fugits....lucky for me the post-office down the pike is open until 7.00

