

THE HORATIO ALGER

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A Newsletter

**Newsboy CLUB**

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 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. and the support of paid Subscribers (Three months free trial period to our Friends). Associate Editor, I. Gurman, 23498 Parklawn, Oakpark 37, Mich. Copyright appl. for. *****

I hereby express my appreciation and also acknowledge your remembrances on my recent birthday and especially my Uncle Sam, who gave me a raise beginning on that day! In answer to inquiries, "How can I afford to pay the expenses of this hobby?" I quit smoking on February 8th, but I have saved my ash trays for my will power-less Friends. Altho the past newsletters have been prepared and distributed at my own expense I am losing this distinction fast! With postal rates due to increase soon, I will be forced to rely mostly on the aid of paid subscriptions. there are 30 paid subscribers at this writing. More are expected when the need becomes known. The suggested fee is mentioned in the heading above. Our policy will remain to be NO ADVERTISING and the limited space available for reader comments will be reserved for our paid subscribers. With the assistance of our Associate Editor, we shall have a variety of interesting items to offer you as well as the women's touch. A full page and a half will be allotted to her every month. She will welcome your lists, comments and inquiries the same as I do!

Michigan is in the news, both weather-wise and (n)otherwise! We have had a galoshes snowfall which stayed three days! The dandelions wern't thru blooming yet! The Stickney's of Coldwater, who already have 3 children, are now the proud parents of quads, all boys! May we suggest naming one of them Horatio?

The recent strong winds in the Northwest, caused us some concern for two of our newsletter reader-families until we were informed of their safety. Mrs. Van Ry of Aberdeen was fortunate to have her coast guard husband off-duty during the storm but their power was off for twenty six hours! Mrs. John King of Tacoma, was concerned about the safety of others who suffered but she says she really enjoyed the storm! (quote) "I've been in the midst of hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning storms, just about every kind of weather and I enjoy them." But she added hastily, "When I'm not out in them, that is!"

Our 8mm film library of Alger subjects and people has grown to four 50 ft. reels and is available to anyone having access to a projector. What! no screen? We pull down a window shade for ours!

Our project to stock the Public Library in Revere has all but come to a stand-still! This project was the result of our learning of their sincere desire to display (protected) behind glass, the Works of our Hero and their No. 1 Son!

If you have an Alger book which you would donate in our behalf; Let me know the title before you mail! Avoid duplication!

Our "Ragged Dick" savings account has enjoyed a small increase with the following deposits:

Donation No. 3	\$1.00
Donation No. 4	\$2.00
Total	\$5.00

When this fund reaches fifty dollars, one trustee will be named. It is my desire that some day we shall sponsor some worthy child in true Horatio Alger style!

My proposal to publish an Alger type story exclusively for the readers of the NEWSBOY has aroused some interest. I have chosen THE YOUNG POSTMASTER for the title and have asked the readers to create the setting with the time, the place and the naming of the cast. I have enjoyed some response in this respect, in fact a name has been suggested and accepted for the village. This name or any other name shall not be revealed until the January Issue, when credits will be given. There is still time for you to take part in this project.

The cast is as follows:

- 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 still need a general layout of the village. The time is also important; preferably before 1900 and be prepared to furnish me with supporting historical events to date the period. Choices will be accepted only from paid subscribers. The proposed story will be an insert, beginning with the January Issue of the newsletter and will be mailed only to paid subscribers. New subscribers during 1963 will receive back issues, but subscription will be retroactive back to January!

The reverse side of this sheet will be reserved for readers comments; Code: (S-00) Subscriber-books in collection; (July, Sec. A) for address; Given only once to save space. Save your copies!

FROM AND ABOUT OUR READERS

(B) Don Beck, (S-37) 1828 Ida Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana will buy, sell or trade and also has a collection of Presidential political pins. (now where did I put that old Willkie button) How about an Alger button?

Judson S. Berry, (S-00) 714 W. 5th St., Canton, S.D. is a dealer but has no Algers; He does want to stock them; So send him your list. He will send his list upon request. Let us hear of your progress, Jud!

Harry M. Boniece, (S-?) (Oct. Se. A) Silent this month. Let us hear from you!

Robert Buchta, (S-78) (Oct. Sec A) Also collects Optic & Castlemon (I had the pleasure of meeting Bob and his folks recently; He is our youngest subscriber, (this date) age 14! Congratulations Bob!

Kenneth Butler, (S-126) (July) Ken is known in so many circles, he needs no introduction; Still needs more books, has some duplicates for you! Ken recently participated in the ANNUAL GLIDDEN TOUR OF ANTIQUE CARS in southern Indiana and Kentucky and has been assigned the tremendous task of arranging for next year's tour in the Finger Lakes region of N.Y. And he too, spoke from the pulpit of his local church on Layman's Sunday! IF YOU NEED SOMETHING DONE, GET A BUSY MAN TO DO IT! In his spare time, Ken runs the WAYSIDE PRESS in Mendota, Illinois.

(C) Charles L. Clapp, (S-77) (Oct. B) Always has an eye out for anything pertaining to Alger. He recently sent me a post card picture of the church in Brewster where our Hero used to preach! Charlie has books to sell or exchange.

Shirley Conlon, (S-?) (Sept. Sec. 1) Consultant; Pland to open bookstore after retirement. She is now assisting me in securing copyrights on the newsletter and my proposed story.

Robert Coyle, (S-?) (Sept. A) Bob has Alger books and is anxious to trade for old coins; Bob recently enabled me to add A BOY'S FORTUNE to my collection; I have a Winston RUPERT'S AMBITION in my office which Bob is willing to sell or trade. If interested, inquire of Bob.

Forrest Campbell, (E-93) spent an enjoyable Sunday at the home of our Assoc. Editor, I. Gurman, recently and took more movies. Recently shoveled snow off the driveway, then later on, mowed the lawn. (D) Henry G. Dammeyer, (S-?) 3512 - 65th St., Woodside 77, N.Y. Anxious to buy good conditioned books and has this to say.... "Three cheers for that wonderful heading, to Ken Butler! Our Hero would have been right proud and happy with it! Please do not use your name for the village squire, it would be ridiculous; I believe you should never, never accept ads...keep it a newsletter as you planned it and not a shoppers guide!"

(E) Morton S. Enslin, (S-?) says progress has been slow and appeals to us for assistance. He wants first editions only! His address, 16 Prospect St., Canton, N.Y.

(F) Max Friedman, (S-?) 732 Douglas Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan was the very first person to subscribe to the NEWSBOY!

MOST LOYAL OF ALL 'N HAS THE LEAST TO SAY! DOESN'T WRITE, 'CAUSE I SEE HIM EVERY DAY!

(G) Martin Gately, (S-?) (Sept. B) Silent this month. What are you reading? Martin! Max Goldberg, (S-?) (Oct. C) Silent this month.

I. Gurman, (S-?) Assoc. Editor; Read her commentary on the following page. (H) Martha Harris, (S-42) (Oct. C) recently purchased 40 of my dupes. still reading? (L) Eddie Le Blanc, (S-?) 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. and I have exchanged subscriptions. He is Editor of the DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP.

Edward Levy, (S-80) (Oct. C) Retired Publisher of REAL WEST MAGAZINE sent me his want-list and \$25.00 then took off for sunny Italy! Can't fill his order! Sorry Ed. Did you have fun on your trip? (N) Mildred & Harry Newell, (S-?) operate the ATWOOD TREASURE COVE, Box 315, Stone Ridge, N.Y. Have Alger books to sell and at least one rare one; If I didn't already have it, I would buy it myself! (S) Milton Salls, (S-?) R3, Little Falls, N.Y. is anxious to buy and would like to hear from you!

George Setman, (S-?) Secretary of the HORATIO ALGER CLUB (Quakertown, Pa.) is issuing Honorary membership cards to all of our subscribers and we are sending our newsletter to all of his members! George and his wife have recently opened the BUCKS COUNTY GLASS MUSEUM (Antiques and Country Store) and handles a wide variety of interesting items including a KALAMAZOO brand pot bellied stove! You'll find Quakertown on your roadmap, just north of Philadelphia!

Mrs. Margaret Smeltzer, (S-00) 290 Bickley Road, Glenside, Pa. also collects old glass, stamps, coins and quilts!

Mrs. Ellis (Jean) Steiner, (S-55) (Oct. D) also collects wooden potato mashers; She has 17 of all shapes and sizes. Ellis conducts an Information Agency by mail; He can furnish information on almost any subject; I plan to consult with him regarding the background for my story!

(T) Morris Teicher, (S-?) (Sept. C) in his recent letter, mentions many interesting Alger books and other Alger items he has picked up. Too numerous to mention!

(W) Mrs. Ethel Walbridge, (S-?) RFD Cambridge, Vermont says Alger books were forbidden to me as a girl, so of course I manage to read most of them, one time or 'nother

Don Wallace, (S-?) 1254 Edmund, St. Paul 4, Wis. A policeman with 26 years of Service, predicted that he is our one and only; (right!) Wants to hear from you!

Gilbert Westgard, (S-?) (Sept. 1&3) recently sent me a copy of FORTUNE magazine April, 1934 which contains an interesting article on Stratemeyer, alias Winfield, etc. Gilbert was recently dethroned as our youngest collector and has bowed to Bob Buchta!

Eleanore Wiese, (S-?) R1, Bonduel, Wis. has just sent book #6 to Revere Library, It is TOM, THE BOOTBLACK; Thank you, Eleanore!

Ivan Wilson, (S-?) Mechanicsburg, Ill. Just trying to accumulate as many books as possible, so he can read when he retires!

Austin Windsor, (S-14) Sept. C) has also filled the pulpit of his church! He wants to hear from you collectors!

PORTRAIT OF THE NEWSBOY AS A YOUNG MAN: SOME REMARKS ON THE ALGER STORIES

By John G. Cawelti

SUBLITERATURE is, in general, shortlived. It fills some passing idea or fashion and then fades into an obscurity only occasionally disturbed by curious historians in search of information on popular attitudes. Sometimes, however, a writer of subliterate retains his hold over a culture, and defies the forces of time and change over a long period of time. Such is the case with Horatio Alger. Despite generations of criticism and condemnation, his name lives on as a household word, and his books, though largely unread, continue to be objects of reverent sentiment in many circles. While I was in the process of preparing this paper, "Luke Walton, or, The Chicago Newsboy" was serialized by a major metropolitan daily, The Chicago Daily News. Yet, there is little danger that Ragged Dick or Grit, the Young Boatman of Pine Point will replace Gone With The Wind or Peyton Place on twentieth century best-seller lists. Though Alger's books are occasionally reprinted with great éclat, this is the exception rather than the rule. They are often defended or criticized, but rarely read. Still, Alger's name itself is probably more widely known among adults today than it was at the time his books were enjoyed and loved. As the late R. Richard Wohl pointed out in an excellent article on Alger, we are confronted with the paradox of a widely known and respected author whose books are almost totally unread.

The usual explanation of this persistence of Alger's reputation stresses Alger's association with the theme of success, the rise of the poor young man from rags to riches. Thus, it is argued that as "the dream of success" has persisted as a theme in American Culture, so has the name of Alger, its chief exponent. The trouble with this explanation, as more sophisticated observers have noted, is that Alger was neither the only, or even the chief exponent of success, nor did his stories embody the values of individualism, enterprise and vigorous competition with which they are usually credited. The social and economic values reflected in Alger's stories were not those of unbridled success, but the traditional middle-class virtues of industry, integrity, piety, social respectability, neatness, punctuality, temperance, kindness, and generosity. These virtues had formed the major content of didactic literature since at least the 17th century, and can be found with equal force in Alger's forgotten predecessors.

Wohl has suggested that 20th century advocates of success borrowed Alger's name and slogans and transferred them "as something known and esteemed, to a new explanation, a new rhetoric of persuasion." This, I think, suggests the process by which Alger the writer was transmuted into the Alger contemporary symbol of success and free enterprise, but does not explain why Alger, and not some more obviously appropriate figure--some hero of business perhaps--was chosen to occupy this important symbolic role.

Somehow Alger made an impact on the generations who read him of such a kind that he was remembered favorably when others associated with the theme of success were either forgotten or had fallen into public disfavor. Probably one important factor was Alger's very traditionalism. His stories presented the triumph of simple virtue at a time when the brutal competition of large corporations with its accompanying manifestations of political corruption, depression, monopoly and industrial warfare were shaking the nation. Alger's successful heroes suggested that traditional values were still operative, and thereby helped reassure a frightened middle class that social change had not made their traditional ideals obsolete.

However, such explanations do not fully take into account the fact that Alger wrote for children and presumably made most of his impact on a juvenile audience. In this discussion, I want to suggest some sources of Alger's appeal quite different from either his advocacy of the gospel of success or his expression of traditional virtues, by considering his work in the context of children's literature.

(End Part I.)

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Mr. Cawelti is presently engaged in research on Alger for a book he is writing on the "ideals of the self-made man in America". We are proud to welcome him into our Club....thank him also for a bit of light thrown on Elizabeth Oakes Smith, author of the "Newsboy" back in 1854...."the wife of Seba Smith, famous humorist and creator of Major Jack Downing, whose costume was apparently the original inspiration for the cartoon figure of Uncle Sam".

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The editorial staff sends a kind thanks this month to....Mr. Leslie Fishel, Jr., Dir. of State Historical Society of Wisconsin;

Mr. William Converse Haygood, Editor, Wisconsin Magazine of History for official permission to print in full "Portrait Of The Newsboy As A Young Man" by John G. Cawelti, University of Chicago.

We honor the subscribed members in Oct.....Dr. Norton S. Enslin, 16 Prospect St., Prof. Biblical Languages, St. Lawrence U., Canton, N.Y., an elder statesman in the field of Alger, 50 yrs. of collecting..... Ethel Walbridge, RFD, Cambridge, Vt., hobbies, Alger and herbs and teas from all over the world.....Eleanore Weise, who corresponded with us earlier..... Don Wallace, 1254 Edmund, another Alger fan is with the Police Dept in St. Paul, Minn.....Eddie LeBlanc 87 School St., Fall River, Mass, editor of "Dime Novel Round-Up" he could tell something about collecting.....good friend Edward Levy at this writing, touring the blue Mediterranean for a month.....Shirey ConLon also a former correspondent from San Diego, Calif.....Milton Salls, Herkimer Home, Little Falls, N.Y., another old friend.....most of you I know from private correspondence, and before long will get to know and write to more of you, like Eddie LeBlanc to whom I'm indebted for a renewal of "Dime Novel Round-Up". Let's hear from all you, and a NICE THANKSGIVING!



Every job has it's jokes peculiar to the trade and Ed. Buchta told this one: "A clerk in a book-store gazing nonchalantly out of the window pointing to the Algiers lawang in the bin, said, 'You can have the books by Horatio Alger, Jr., the really valuable ones were written by the Old Man'".

We have two letters of appreciation one from H.B. Paddy, 1425 - 15th St Huntington, V.Va., who reads Algiers. Thank you for your kind words in praise of the "newsy Alger magazine".....another from Judy Johns, 502 N. 33rd St., Omaha, Nebr., she enjoys the NEWSBOY very much. We hope she continues reading it and will keep in touch with us.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

IF you are requesting information from another collector it is courteous to enclose a stamped-self-addressed envelop for reply..... send him a list of what YOU want rather than expect him to list items he has...barnfull maybe? Dealers who fail to reply when stamp is enclosed, are stumbl-over dollars, picking up dimes.

hat's all from I. Gurman, Assoc. Ed.

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