

THE HORATIO ALGER

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A Newsletter



Newsboy CLUB

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5868 PILGRIM KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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Our forty-five subscribers are forty five good reasons why I am thankful, and now that Thanksgiving Day is over, I suppose you will want to talk turkey and ask about those unanswered letters upon my desk; For this, I am sorry and my Uncle Sam is going to keep me busy for the rest of this month too, and it's going to get worse before it gets better. By Christmas Eve, I will have handled about ten thousand Christmas cards and so while I still have the Christmas spirit, I will wish you all now, a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! Beginning with January 1st, there will be a change in the postal rates and a change in the minimum size of envelopes which will be 3 X 4 1/2 inches. I have also found an interesting news item for the attention of postal card and stamp collectors which originated in Owensboro, Kentucky, dated November 25th: Two cent Postal Cards which have been out of print since 1958 are now worth up to \$250.00 to stamp collectors. Speaking of news items, clippings and letters; What is news? I do not think you will find my definition in the encyclopedia or dictionary but it is so simple, you probably will say, "Now why didn't I think of that!" The four letters in the word, news are the same as the four points of the compass, North, East, West and South; So news is reports from the north, east, west and south! Simple isn't it! Kalamazoo.... We not only claim to have had the oldest living man; We now claim to have in the flesh, the oldest woman! Miss Sharon Sue Ruse has a bonifide birth certificate issued by the Michigan Department of Health which states that the date of birth was May 30th, 1497; Of course this is an error. The issuing clerk didn't catch it at the time, but probably will now! If this had been proof-read, their faces wouldn't be! Sharon protested and claims she is really not that old, but then all women object to reveal their true age, anyway! Northhampton, Mass.... HOWARD R. GARIS, a famous juvenile writer, died early in November. He was the creator of the popular Uncle Wiggily stories and was equally famous among juvenile readers for his Dick Hamilton and Larry Dexter Series. His whole family, his wife, Lillian and his children, Roger and Cleo were at one time known as the writing Garis. Garis was born in 1873 and was eleven years younger

than Edward Stratemeyer. Milton Salls, a subscriber from Little Falls, N.Y. sent a clipping from an eastern state newspaper which stated that Garis wrote the Tom Swift and Motor Boys Series' which could be correct if he worked as a ghost writer for the Stratemeyer Syndicate. Victor Appleton wrote the Tom Swift Series and Clarence Young wrote the Motor Boys Series; Of course these were only pen-names of Edward Stratemeyer. Lapeer, Michigan... Alvin P. Rezelman, one of our newest readers to express an interest in our newsletter. He is an advanced Algebra teacher in the Lapeer Senior High School and was recently hospitalized unexpectedly and our newsletter helped to brighten his stay there. He sends me an advertisement from a recent NEW YORKER magazine; The ad was purchased by the GRIT Publishing company and showed two postmarks which were very interesting; One from Horatio, Arkansas and the other from Alger, Kentucky. Kalamazoo... Just recently, I was given a copy of Ballou's Monthly Magazine, Volume #69 and in the February 1889 section, I have just discovered a short, short story written by our Hero entitled A SNOWBALL FIGHT AND WHAT CAME OF IT. Slightly over two thousand words and a typical Alger story, A setting, a plot, a reprimand which turned out to be a reward and good fortune followed our hero and his widowed mother for the rest of their days! Kalamazoo.... I was recently involved in what proved to be an interesting experiment. A former Postal employee wrote from Mesa, Arizona asking me for the address of another who has also transferred. I placed the request upon our bulletin board and invited his former postal workers to comply with his reasonable request and also say hello to Jacob. Usually official bulletins are defaced by wise-crackers, with doodling and what have you! Would they add a word for Jacob? THEY WOULD NOT! On rare occasions, I have heard of Postal clerks and carriers who were able to forward and deliver a piece of mail to the right person even tho there was no name or no address on the envelope! Well, I tried it; In a recent STATE FARM Insurance advertisement, there was a picture of a pretty blue antique automobile and it gave me an idea; I cut out the picture, pasted it on one of my NEWSBOY envelopes and typed Mendota, Illinois under the picture and what do you suppose happened to it? That's right!

It was delivered without delay and to the person it was intended for; Kenneth B. Butler, collector of antique automobiles! Ken was surprised but very pleased and is having a lot of fun, showing the letter to his friends! I received a surprise letter, myself recently. A correspondent from whom I had heard nothing since April, Mrs. Marjorie Larson of Astoria, Oregon; She has informed me by way of her left hand, that her right arm and hand (writing hand) has been in a cast most of the time and could not write; This was one time I didn't mind getting a left handed compliment. After she gets back on the payroll, she will subscribe; Until that time, Marjorie, consider yourself an Honorary member! and also from Oregon comes this news item! Oregon's claim to the largest fir tree in the world, went down before the recent high winds that reached 100 miles per hour along the Pacific coast. This tree was almost $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter and 200 feet and six inches tall and was supposed to be a 1,000 years old and stood in Clatsop County, the home of Lefty Larson. (mentioned above) There has been a friendly rivalry between the States of Oregon and Washington over their trees. Washington now claims the title with dimensions of 202 feet tall and about $14\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter. Incidentally, the first United States Post Office to be established in the Oregon Territory was located in Astoria, in 1847. Astoria being the County Seat of Clatsop County, and if spelled backwards, it spells postal C! Do you suppose there is any significance? I will soon, not only be able to see the bottom of my desk but will be able to see below the bottom. My glass dealer is selling salvaged plate glass from store windows and while in his office, I discovered that he has a collection of paper weights. He was not present to give the interesting details, but I learned from the office staff that there are 181 in the collection and to use my own words, "a riot of variety!" He also collects interesting old glass and 'Open Salts'; If you have an interesting paper weight, why don't you write to John Koerts, Kalamazoo Glass Works, 301 N. Church St., Kalamazoo. My mail lately has contained many interesting items and I want to mention as many as space will permit. First, I want to make this announcement; In the October Issue of the NEWSBOY, I printed a short column entitled: DID YOU KNOW THIS? It was prepared and contributed by one of our subscribers but due to a misunderstanding, I failed to give proper credit. The article was prepared and contributed by Max Goldberg, 728 Worcester St., (THE PINK SPINNING WHEEL) Natick, Mass. Max's contribution for January will be a poem written by our Hero, Horatio Alger, Jr. entitled "DEATH OF LITTLE ALICE" from Gleason's Pictorial Magazine of 1853. In Max's most recent letter, among other things, are two pictures, $4\frac{1}{2}$ X $6\frac{1}{2}$; One is of the familiar Alger Portrait and the other is a group scene of Horatio, A.P. Cheney and Louis Schick, dated Aug.

7th, 1889; The scene was taken in a room of a home or office; This picture is a photostatic copy obtained by Max from the South Natick Museum. Thank you Max! I shall treasure these and also long remember the source from whence they came! Max, at my request is writing a biography of our Hero, Horatio and when he is ready, it will be published in this newsletter! Thanks again, Max, old pal! Gilbert, K. Westgard, II recently dethroned as our youngest collector, has added two more titles to his list; One of them, I envy myself, is The Young Book Agent. Gilbert's total now is 88 titles. Gilbert has completed an index of first lines from Alger stories as far as his available title will permit. This information will enable him to link different titles to the same stories. Gilbert recommends the following books to be used as reference about New York City in Horatio Alger's time. (1) THE SECRETS OF THE GREAT CITY by Edward W. Martin; (2) SUNSHINE AND SHADOW IN NEW YORK; by Matthew H. Smith; (3) A TOUR AROUND NEW YORK AND MY SUMMER ACRE by John F. Mines; (4) KING'S HANDBOOK OF NEW YORK CITY by Moses King; (5) INCREDIBLE NEW YORK by Lloyd Morris. Gilbert has mentioned many others and has given great detailed information regarding what they contain. If further information is needed, please contact Gilbert at 1433 N. Hoffman, Park Ridge, Ill., Harry and Mildred Newell of Stone Ridge, N.Y. remembered my mentioning my now dormant newspaper collection hobby and sent me a copy of CINCINNATI Division Colconda, dated July 4, 1919; Thank you Harry and Mildred; I was too young for the first one and too old (?) for the second World War and so I am not a veteran; but perhaps this will bring memories to some of our readers. AND WHO SENT ME THE 'INTERNATIONAL CONSUMERS MAGAZINE' from Winnipeg? I just might want to become a convert! George Setman sent me a copy of 'COMMERCE' the June issue of the (Chicago) Land Voice of Business and in it is an Article entitled "IS HORATIO ALGER DEAD?" by Sophia P. Gerber; I wrote for and could get only three additional copies (1) in my office. (2) in Assoc. Editor's Office. (3) in Kenneth Butler's office. Setman's copy was returned to him. With proper permission, we may be able to run this in a future edition after the current Cawelti Article is concluded. Are you reading it? Our thanks to John who is now one of our subscribers. One of our newest subscriber's is also a song writer and has sent me a copy of his latest creation, entitled: "A Soldier's Victory" by V. Luther Cowles; To us he is known as Vernon L. and can be reached at 102 Russell St., Hamden, 17, Conn. There are many of our subscribers who were already members of the Quakertown Horatio Alger Club of which George Setman is the Secretary and some of these members have also sent in a \$2.00 subscription which would not have been necessary under an agreement with Setman; However your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Mrs. Alla T. Ford of 114 South Palmway, Lake Worth, Florida is a member of the Club and she is a widow who is in business (a Dealer in Rare books) If you need or can furnish any of the OZ books or any by L. Frank Baum, write to her!

PORTRAIT OF THE NEWSBOY AS A YOUNG MAN:
SOME REMARKS ON THE ALGER STORIES
By John G. Cawelti

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Assoc. Editor-
I. Gurman

PART II.

Alger began his career at a time when American children were, for the most part, confronted with a choice between parentally approved juvenile literature of a strongly didactic character, European fairy tales, and the stories of romantic adventure found in shilling shockers and dime novels. Even Jacob Abbott, the best of the early 19th century children's writers, had no doubt that moral and religious instruction was the central purpose of books for children. Though Abbott's Rollos and Calebs manifested their creator's love for and understanding of his young heroes, his stories were always built around a series of episodes in which the central character learned an important moral lesson from benevolent adults. In "Caleb in the Country", for example, the entire story was devoted to the narrative of how the hero learned to work through the gradually increasing dosages administered by a wise and kindly uncle. To a contemporary reader, most of Abbott's works seem more like manuals for parents than books for children. One can easily see why children turned with delight from this strenuous moralism to the excitement of fairy tales and adventure stories. Yet, most of these tales were either wholly of the supernatural or set in far-away lands and times beyond the experience of American children. Children who had outgrown the fairy-tale stage and who wanted more realistic stories must have found much that perplexed and dissatisfied them in the romantic adventure tale.

Alger was one of a number of enterprising children's writers who set out to create a juvenile literature native in setting and exciting in incident, with enough didactic flavor to win the approval of parents. Though the basic framework of most of the Alger stories did show a virtuous young man's rise from poverty and obscurity to social respectability, thus containing an obvious moral message, it should be emphasized that the major portion of the narrative presented adventures which had little relation to this didactic scaffolding. Hairbreadth rescues, narrow escapes from the plots of villainous criminals, the defeat in combat of brutal bullies, the hero's revenge on those who had snubbed and cheated him, these presented in terms readily comprehensible to young children, were the real heart of the Alger story.

Along with other enterprising writers like Oliver Optic and Harry Castlemon, Alger transformed the romantic adventure story into a form more meaningful to 19th century American children and more acceptable to their parents.

But Alger went even further in his appeal to children than his successful contemporaries by adopting, probably unconsciously, a child's perspective on the world. An analysis of the plot and characters in Alger's stories suggests very strongly that the major source of their appeal lay in Alger's ability to express and resolve some of his juvenile audience's deepest ambivalences toward the adult world.

The Alger plot presented a boy-hero who overcame the villainous machinations of a group of adults, winning for himself the coveted status of manhood. Every Alger book began with the hero not only impoverished, but also suffering under the tyranny or treachery of one or more adults. The story itself was devoted to the suspenseful narration of how the hero overcame this enemy, and it was always accomplished in the same fashion. By some act of personal bravery and daring--for example, an exciting rescue from runaway horses--the hero encountered a benevolent elderly patron who helped him escape from the plots of his enemies. Sometimes this patron was a wealthy merchant, who gave the hero a start in business, but in many of the stories an elderly well-to-do lady filled this position. The importance of this patron in the Alger books is a source of some difficulty if we try to interpret the stories in the light of the contemporary Alger symbolism, for the hero of free enterprise is supposed to make his way alone and unaided, not on the coattails of sweet old ladies. Only if we examine their actual function in the stories do these patrons make sense. The major role of the patron was to accord adult status to the hero, by giving him dangerous and responsible missions, by treating him as an equal and asking his advice, and by presenting him with such symbols of adulthood as a gold watch and a new store-bought suit. It is significant, I think, that the patron was always an elderly person; Alger was probably reflecting here the special relationship of sympathy that often grows up between grandparents and children.

End of Part II - Watch for Part III
in January 1963



Our project to stock the Revere Public Library with our Hero's books is progressing at a snail's pace, so if you have a nice volume which you would like to donate in the name of the Newsboy Club, here is what you should do; DO NOT SEND THE BOOK TO ME! but just let me know what book you have available; To avoid duplication, I must know; If your title is not already on display, I will advise you to mail in care of Mrs. Mildred Stowell, Librarian, Revere Public Library, Revere, Mass. Books sent to any Library can be mailed at a much cheaper rate than to any other person. Our most recent donations are as follows:

- 6 Tom, The Boot Black - Eleanore Wiese
- 7 Rupert's Ambition - Robert Coyle
- 8 Shifting for Himself - Ernest Sanford

Our "RAGGED DICK" savings account is growing gradually; the latest donations are as follows:

Donation No. 5	\$1.00
Donation No. 6	1.00
Total	\$7.00

In August, this account was opened to start a fund for some unfortunate child to be selected in the future. This child will have all of the qualifications of a typical Alger hero who needs a little start in the right direction. When this fund reaches \$50.00 a Trustee will be named. Do you have any Alger type Hero's in your neighborhood? Perhaps I do; I am not sure; You should recognize him if you meet him as I do in this little rhyme:

"School children charging four abreast;
One steps aside, but not the rest!"

I have had some very helpful responses in the naming of the cast of my proposed story, "The Young Postmaster" which will begin with the January Issue. The first chapter is already written but there is still time if you have a brainstorm of an idea. Naturally, I won't be able to use all names suggested and I do hope you will not be offended if your suggestion is not used. Two things are now decided for sure; (1) The name of the village or our hero's home town. (2) I will play the part of the village Squire and you will probably hate me while I am in character. If you do, please write and tell me so, then I will know that I am getting through to you with my story.

The story will take concentration and so beginning immediately our Associate Editor will take over as much of my correspondence as is possible. I want to hear your comments and my answers no doubt will appear in the monthly newsletter. For reference material for the story, I am indebted to the Steiners for services rendered. They have sent me clippings from an 1890 Harpers magazine and the fashion page from the DELINEATOR of 1889; Did you know that it was considered fashionable for little boys to

wear dresses? I think perhaps that I did until I rebelled. I think I could throw just as neat a tantrum as any child. The Steiner Information Agency (I call it) is going to be a big help.

Some of our latest subscribers are: Gardner F. Dalton, Fish Creek, Wisc. He has about 99 different titles; Vernon L. Cowles, mentioned in this issue, in addition to song writing, he conducts a mail auction on books; For this project, he uses the name: American Advertising Agency, same address as his home address. Jenny Breedveld, Staff writer for the Revere Journal, Revere, Mass. by subscription, wants to keep in touch with us. She gave us our very first newspaper publicity, which spread to the Boston Papers. George B. Clark, P.O. Box 835 Asbury Park, N.J. operates the Clark Cinema Service and says..."in constant search for missing titles; Please send me your list of duplicates..." "trying to build up a film Library of 8mm and 16mm silent and sound films..." "Have you ever heard of a motion picture story taken from an Alger book? If so I'd like to know the title, the Star and who released it! I'd sure like to own some Alger stories on film!" (I have never heard of any, George; If the readers have, I'm sure they will let you know). Morris Teicher, 169 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn 12, N.Y. is one of the Quaker-town members who has also paid the full subscription fee; He says he is constantly getting in interesting and rare items. From Betty Lacey, I have just picked up "Dan, The Newsboy" and this made title no. 94 for me; Betty has been collecting just about everything except our Hero and now she says she is getting interested. She wants to locate some of Carl Sandburg's Folksongs. From Ernest Sanford, I have just picked up "Luck and Pluck" a beautiful library edition, published by Winston, this makes title No. 95 for me. Mrs. Marjorie King of 4033 East Howe, Tacoma 4, Washington is anxious to get a copy of "The Water Babies" by Charles Kingsley and probably published by A.L. Burt Co. Mrs. Irma Scofield, Box 457, Ridgefield, Conn. is new in the field of collecting Alger but has been collecting old toys and penny banks, both still and mechanical and belongs to the Association of Mechanical Bank Collectors. She wants to know what rare books we are looking for so she can be on the look-out! Well, I don't have the title, "The Young Book Agent" and I envy those of you who do have! I hope that I have not neglected nor missed anyone for I do not want to intentionally offend anyone. I can't afford to lose a friend. I'm collecting them and I have none to spare. I have just one enemy and that is me! I am my own worst enemy for I don't know enough to quit when I'm ahead. If you don't hate me now! You will after you read the first few chapters of "The Young Postmaster", where I portray the meanest man in the village of... oops!

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MAY GOD
BLESS YOU ALL UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

Ramblings From the Alger Foxhole:

WELCOME!! the newest member of a NEWSBOY member who hasn't quite arrived yet ---- the bairn is expected on Christmas Eve -- in the 1840 house of Margaret and Keith Thompson, 154 S. Country Rd. Bellport, LI, N.Y. Keith is a new member as of November. We wish the new mother, the new baby and new NEWSBOY a special holiday cheer for the coming New Year.

We wondered why this Dept. had not heard from our friend in Astoria, Ore..... Marjorie Larson had major surgery on her right hand, but managed to type up a "hunt and peck" letter with her left to let us know the cause of delay and thank the Chief for his kindness in sending NEWSBOY so she could keep up with all the things that are happening. We wish her a complete recovery and look forward to her joining the ranks as an active member. The Larson's are in the lamp business and collect bottles. I have an oldie from a 'yo. pioneersite impressed "Sheep-Dip-Scab-Cura", (I keep my best Scotch in it.... the "hard-liquor boys" go to the tea-totaling dept. when they see it during the holidays!)

Have a letter of thanks from Mr. John S. Chatfield, Middlebury, Vt., who enjoys reading the NEWSBOY and has been inspired to start collecting again.

We see this bulletin is doing what it set out to do. Frankly, we don't care WHAT you collect, just so YOU receive the therapy and joy that Dr.'s don't have in capsules today. There is great adventure in beating the tall grass and poking under rocks for new items to add to a collection. I know a man whose sea-shell collection was so important it was written up in National Geographic; a glass cane collector-friend had the world's largest collection of glass walking-sticks; everything from a Be-Deep's 5' crook interlaced with colored threads to amber icicles and by probing odd places he was able to find over 150 of them. We have important collectors of Alger in our midst.....Dr. Morton Enslin whose collecting has earned him a great deal of renown.

But the real thrill comes from having found an item that seemed to have been purely imaginary and it is difficult to express your innermost thoughts when it is smack-dab in the bookcase in the order in which it belongs. Then it starts all over again until we find the next, and the next. With that accomplished we begin to seek out our ragged copies and try to improve on them. We hear of another issue that was

alien to us and we pursue this to the bitter end, learning as we go, or picking up another hobby like the Alger collectors who find themselves picking up Edgar Rice Burroughs, Zane Grey, G.A. Henty which fascinate me. There are the colorful characters of the Alger-Era, Col. Ingraham, Gil Patten, O. Henry, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and Edw Stratemeyer who edited and wrote for many of the early Street & Smith publications under various and sundry names such as Jim Bowie, Nat Woods, Jim Daly, Capt. Ralph Bonehill, Julie Edwards to give the gals something to read while the boys read the blood-and-thunder stories he wrote for them. Other names he used were Arthur M. Winfield, Victor Appleton, and Clarence Young. He moved to Grosset&Dunlap and was the only one out of the lot of dime novel writers to enjoy his wealth until the day he died in 1930, aged 68. Some collectors have some misgivings about the stories, 11 of them, that he finished of Algers'. The titles:

Ben Logan's Triumph
Falling In With Fortune
From Farm To Fortune
Jerry, The Backwoods Boy
Joe the Hotel Boy
Lost at Sea
Nelson the Newsboy
Out For Business
Randy of the River
The Young Book Agent
Young Capt. Jack

Accredited to Horatio Alger....so we collect them.

* * * * *

Our members are at present, scattered from New York to California and Minnesota to Nebraska and West Virginia. When you become a member of NEWSBOY, no matter which direction you travel in, you will be able to drop in and have personal visits with Club correspondents with the same common interests as you have, COLLECTING--books, pots or beetles. You will at once be put at your ease in any city or hamlet if both are in the NEWSBOYS CLUB ---- There will never again be a "lonesome old town" on your vacation route and collectors can mutually plan to meet by corresponding in advance. Just tell them you're coming, and tell them who you are! If you're headed for Detroit, stop in at "HALF-WAY HOUSE", where the door is always open and the coffee pot is on -- that's ye 'umble abode of I. Gurman, and WELCOME! Or, you can announce your trip in the
-NEWSBOY-

* * * * *

We have a host of new members for November. . . .Morris Teicher 169 Blake, Brl'n, N.Y., . . .Don Beck 1828 Ida Ave. Ft. Wayne, Ind., . . .Margaret Smeltzer, 290 Bickley Rd., Glenside, Pa., . . .

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New Members continued...

Jack Stoeffel, 2511 Carter, Wilmington, Del., ... Mildred Van Ry, Star Rte, Box 176, Aberdeen, Wash., John G. Cawelti, 5528 Blackstone Chicago, ... Ernest P. Sanford, 736 Aspen N.W., Wash. D.C., ... Mrs. C. A. Scofield, Box 457, Ridgefield, Conn., ... Edwin Sommers Rt. 1, Prattsville, N.Y., ... Thelma Romanik, Millville, N.J., ... Donald F. Wilkins, 3031 N. Wilson Royal Oak, Mich., ... Harold C. Farmer, 123 E. Elm, Lansing, Mich. and Betty Lacey, 14349 Lawndale, Midlothian, Ill. We're all happy you're "in like Flynn".

Henry G. Dammeyer has a point in not making a shopper's guide out of the paper with a lot of ads... however, no harm can come of directing an itinerant book-seller to an itinerant book-collector or trader, so we shall mention the people who have written to say a few are available for the price of a stamp. (Don't forget to stock up, the price goes up in the New Year.) Mrs. H. J. Schumacher of 4733 - 3rd Ave., Mpls., Minn... Mr. Clarence T. Crowley, 2358 Lawton Toledo, O., ... Mrs. V. H. Hunley 449 Argyle Dr., Alexandria, Va.

When quoting, give title, publ. condition and price. Remember, a CLUB is only as active as its members! So let's get with it!

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For the juvenile book-collectors give them something they are in search of. There are still many days for Christmas shopping. If it must be new, then let it be a NEWSBOY sub, it will let the sun in for an elder shut-in, or it will delight and inspire the young... or even YOU who are among the 400 who have been receiving the paper up to now... and enjoyed it, we know... But if the gift has to be an old book, then let it be good and old!and for the holiday season a thought from Gurman's Foxhole:

"Old wood to burn,
Old books to read,
Old wine to drink,
Old friends to trust"



HORATIO ALGER NEWSBOY CLUB
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