

THE HORATIO ALGER



Newsboy

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Although we are only at the half way point in our fiscal year reckoning, many of us with the beginning of this new calendar year, will review our past achievements, and strive to fulfill our self-made goals. During the year 1965, we have made much progress, made many new friends and acquaintances. Let us resolve to make many more this year. Our ultimate goal is membership representation in all fifty states. And we hope to meet many of them in Milwaukee this year.

January 13th is an anniversary of Alger's birthday. Remember to send a commemorative postal card (with message on the front) to Vice President Langlois at the address given above, in recognition of this anniversary. Why not also send a reminder to your local newspapers, reminding them of this event, and be sure to state correct year of birth --1832. Often the year 1834 listed in certain encyclopedias, is incorrectly used.

Our thanks and appreciation for the many beautiful greeting cards received during the past Holiday season. Our apologies for not returning one in exchange. Due to our many correspondents, it seemed advisable to express our Holiday Greetings in the December Newsletter.

AVAILABLE FORMER ALGER MATERIAL

The available supply of Ralph Gardner's Biography and Bibliography - HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, will soon be exhausted. The WAYSIDE PRESS, through courtesy of our President, has agreed to hold in reserve the last ten available copies for future new Society members.

ALGER STREET, a collection of poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr. edited and arranged by our own Gilbert Westgard, PF-024, and published by J.S. Camner & Co., Boston, 1964, is still available, I am sure.

Such volumes submitted for autographing at our MILWAUKEE EVENT will be honored.

THE YOUNG POSTMASTER recently concluded as a story supplement in the monthly newsletter is still available to Society members upon request, plus fifty cents for postage and handling charges. Certain chapters are now out of print. Make inquiries to the editor.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

THE BOOK MART --- A few more members are using this useful feature in the Newsboy to offer, without charge, surplus or duplicate copies for sale to other members. There is also evidence that the offers are drawing more inquiries. It takes time to establish a feature. If you are collecting, we urge you to check the titles against your want list, and make inquiries. If you have surplus books, why not offer them to fellow members?

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT --- Your President is happy to announce the appointment and acceptance of Regional Director for the Allegheny Region. He is Keith H. Thompson, of Bellport, Long Island, New York. Mr. Thompson is associated with the famous Brookhaven National Laboratory, on Long Island. He is an inveterate collector, but one of his greatest continuing interests is Alger. He has all the titles except Timothy Crump's Ward, and the book edition of Seeking His Fortune. Many of his titles are first editions, or nearly so. Our editor will give a further interesting profile of his interesting experience as an Alger collector. His address in Bellport is 21 Otis Lane. He is the brother of H.A.S. member Dr. David Thompson, of Salinas, California.

MORE RESEARCH ON ALGER --- I feel that there is a lot of wonderful information on Alger tied up in the notes and memories of our members and that we need to bring this to light through the columns of our newsletter. I am familiar in a vague way with the existence of an organization of Sherlock Holmes fans who call themselves the "Baker Street Irregulars". Further, I see in print occasionally, results of some of their studies. They have left no stone unturned in relating the eccentricities, foibles, statistics, and oddities that can be gleaned from reading and study of Conan Doyle's famous detective character. And so, to inspire some of the same in the Horatio Alger Society, I invited Member Richard Lundsted, of Holden, Mass., to research and tell us about some interesting facet of Alger's writings. He has accepted. Next month I hope to present a list of possible topics for study and to invite volunteers to investigate and write us their findings. (Presidential Ponderings continued page 3)
PLAN TO ATTEND THE MILWAUKEE EVENT IN MAY

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

- PF-139 Dr. Martin H. Boone, Jr. T-040
210 North "C" Street,
Midland, Texas 79704
- PF-140 Mr. Carlyle Strickland T-000
2107 Ledbetter, Apt. #135
Dallas, Texas 75224
- PF-141 Mr. William Herbits T-000
4 Worthington Road.,
Brookline, Mass. 02146
- PF-142 Mr. Daniel J. Fuller T-022
1118 Catalpa Circle #D
Madison, Wisconsin 53713

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

- PF-093 Mr. Leslie Langlois, Vice Pres.
175 North Elmridge,
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Note: Our Vice President has not moved. The above address is his residential address, where he and "Bertie" will be spending more time now during their semi-retirement. Their former mailing address was one of their two Health Food Stores, where they spent much of their time. Brookfield is a suburban residential area on the west side of Milwaukee. When attending the MILWAUKEE EVENT, you will find most of the motels on Bluemound Rd., (Highways 16-18-30 between Milwaukee and Madison) The address of the SANDS MOTEL, (our headquarters) is 11811 Bluemound Rd. It is just west of Highway 100. Elmridge is west of the motel on Bluemound. Turn SOUTH on Elmridge, second block, right side of street. As usual many attending members will bring their duplicates which will be offered for sale. Les writes that his current stock of 80 duplicates will be offered for sale at cost, 50¢ to \$2.00.

PARTIC'LAR FRIEND NUMBERS

The numerals originally were subscriber numbers in the order received by mail. These numbers are a form of registration, and will always be assigned to you, unless otherwise changed by vote of our members. About a year ago, borrowing a term used in the RAGGED DICK story, the subscriber term was dropped in favor of Partic'lar Friends. Such reference to our members seems to be acceptable to the majority of you since you are using the expression when writing. There are gaps in the numbers resulting from inactive members. The question has been raised, Shall we close these gaps? Or do you prefer to keep your originally assigned number? This question may be resolved at our Milwaukee Event. Further, I suggest that we start our Second Fiscal Year with a 200 series, designating those coming in during the second year. 300 series for the third fiscal year, etc. This also may be resolved at the Milwaukee Event. Aside from making new acquaintances, and having a wonderful time, there will be some serious business transacted.

Martin comes to us by way of Jack Row, through a book dealer in Rowan, Iowa. Martin is a physician and surgeon, age 41, graduate of University of Pennsylvania, 1948. Married, wife, Rose Marie, five school age children - Bill, Jane, Ann, Ben, and Julie. Martin read the Alger books as a boy, from his cousin's collection of 20 or so. Since his affiliation with us he is now the proud owner of Gardner's book. Martin enjoys horse-back riding. (We have another M.D., Martin, --Dr. Herman Van Ark, PF-117).

Carlyle comes to us by way of William Murrell, our Southwest Regional Director. Carlyle is Vice President of Business Affairs, Dallas Baptist College. His primary interest, (quote) "is in the basic theory projected by his books -- that, of course, being the consistent striving for, and the ultimate achievement of success." He writes that he is an avid collector in this particular field, but has no Alger books -- yet.

William comes to us by way of Max Goldberg, our New England Regional Director. William is Max's brother-in-law, and a Boston Attorney. He is a veteran of World War I, mustered out as a Captain and was presented with a beautiful gold watch by his Company. He worked his way through Harvard and the Boston Law School. He is also a Civil War Buff, and interested in Alger because of the nostalgic manner in which he climbed the ladder of success.

Daniel is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, and teaching assistant. He is specializing in 19th century American Literature and history. Dan says that among other things he collects beer steins, and has written a paper on the Dime Novel. Dan heard of us through correspondence with Gardner, and later with Butler. Dan writes "I was a former newspaper boy, and worked my way through college. I have always wanted to find a group of people who are interested in the same things...I have nourished a hidden desire to join the Baker Street irregulars." He is looking forward to meeting us in Milwaukee.

Stanley Pachon writes, that among other organizations, he belongs to the Inter. Wizard of Oz Clubs. It was organized, he believes, in 1957 and currently they have 534 members in such scattered places as Australia, Chile, India, Holland and the Virgin Islands, to name a few places. Stanley says Baum's wife and son are still living. Our member Alla T. Ford, PF-129 specializes in Baum, and has written an article or two on the subject. Stanley offers to do an article for us on the Alger titles that appeared in Nickel Novel Libraries. I am sure it will be accurate and complete, and we may be forced to spread it over several issues. Stanley wrote a 35 page bibliography on a similar subject in 1962.

BOOK MART

PF-104 (Herbert L. Risteen, P.O. Box No. 161, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 offers:

G 4H&C, G 5JCW, G 17S&S, E 19JCW,
E 23MAD, E 25MAD, G 30FEC, G 32JCW,
G 44JCW, E 45H&C, G 46McK, G 48JCW,
G 48ALB, F 62JCW, E 75JCW, F 76MAD,
E 78MAD, F 78BBC, E 83MAD, E 85ALB,
G 88H&C, G 95JCW, G121JCW, F125JCW,
G125VPC, G126MAD, E128H&C, G132VPC,
F132AKL, E135HTC, F139P&C, E140JCW,
G147JCW, E147 MC, E148JCW, G154ALB,
E165H&C, E168MAD, F177MAD, E190MAD,
Out of place----- E 39ALB,

Note: First editions are underlined. See Special supplement to September Newsletter for title code. (Condition: E excellent, G Good, F Fair, P Poor) Helpful note --McK Mc Kay.

Risteen writes that he has decided to concentrate on only one set of Algers, and is offering his entire stock of duplicates (above) for sale.

Jack Row, who listed only two titles last month writes that he had several inquiries: From, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, California, Alaska, and Cotonou, Dahomey.

Harland Eastman, Cotonou, (Maine, when at home) wrote inquiring for F3CH&C (Group B last month). I was sorry to inform him that it was sold. This leads me to wonder if (item #30) is a rare and scarce item. Of course the title is a reissue of item #61 but I have never heard of it offered in anything better than H&C. Have you? Do you have a good item #30, H&C or better. There is no used book store in Harland's area. Can you help him?

AND NOW CANADA

John Mc Connell, Toronto, Ontario, the proud owner of a Gardner book, met Ralph in New York City in 1964 and heard of our group. He has been on our prospect list since then. I was pleasantly surprised to have him call upon us December 29th, at which time he applied for membership. The official record will be announced in the February Issue. Partic'lar Friend John is 61 years of age at this writing, and operates a news stand in front of Toronto's leading Department Store, T. Eaton Co. John is a prolific reader and admirer of Alger and likes to think of himself as one of Alger's newsboys. Giving himself a week's vacation, he chose to spend it by traveling by bus to Kalamazoo. Although John lives a frugal life on his earned income of \$25.00 a week, he is one of the heirs of the celebrated Montreal tycoon, Jown W. Mc Connell, and receives a monthly inheritance. John's newsstand is on James Street where he sells Toronto's leading daily papers, the Telegram and Star. We are pleased to have extended our membership beyond continental boundry lines.

THE YOUNG POSTMASTER --- I hope all of you have followed the fortunes of The Young Postmaster, by our editor. It was almost sad to arrive at the end of the string of chapters of this fascinating story, written so clearly in Alger style, and so carefully researched by the author. The final chapters were regular cliff hangers. I know that many members were saving the installments to read all at once. Now you can enjoy this treat, for the young Postmaster is well on his way up the ladder of success. The spirit of Alger still lives!

MEMBERSHIP --- The beginning of the new year finds us just about at the 70-member point and well on our way. We are elated to be receiving membership applications through some of our Regional Directors. We have them from William Murrell, Jack Row, and Max Goldberg just in the last few days. Member Ralph Gardner feeds us tips on possible new members, gleaned from his extensive mail. We follow up on them, and in addition to some successes we have a prospect list. We have doctors, teachers, newspaper men and women, lawyers, accountants, business-men, and students. Some are retired and follow Alger as a hobby. We are still hopeful that some of those who were newsletter subscribers before our formal organization, failed to join due purely to oversight. The ranks are open. We are heading for the 100-mark!

Your Partic'lar Friend,
KEN BUTLER, President.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Keith Thompson, PF-035, and his wife Margaret have two pre-school age boys, ages 3 & 1½. Keith was born in Indiana (1930), attended grade school in Rochester, Michigan, High School in Idaho, and then University of California. When he enrolled as a subscriber to our newsletter he was Research Associate at Cornell U., Ithaca, N.Y. At that time the records show that he had all titles but two. In the meanwhile he has managed, no doubt, to upgrade his collection and acquire some nice duplicates. In 1962, Keith wrote me: "My great uncle, Sam Thompson, was a player on the Detroit World Series Team of 1887."

Robert Johnson, PF-080, P.O. Box 1732, Bisbee, Arizona, Linotype operator for the Bisbee Daily Review, and music teacher, has just published the third in a series of children's booklets. I have complimentary copies of all three, and they are autographed. His latest work is entitled "Three Great Adventures" and sells for fifty cents.

Ken Butler has added a new title to his collection, Dan The Detective, for a total of 133, or perhaps 134. Ken has been working hard, Algerwise, with several irons in the fire at all times. His latest is an inquiry directed to the Post Master General on the subject of an Alger Commemorative postage stamp, suggesting his best seller, RAGGED DICK (1863).

CONTRIBUTED ALGER ITEMS QUOTED

From inquiries received by our members regarding Society membership, books offered for sale, and acknowledgements of general interest in Horatio Alger Jr., comes interesting tid bits which have been offered for your reading pleasure, and perhaps educational.

(Idaho - 1965) "...I too, am an Alger Fan...I never owned an Alger book, though I've read many many Algers when I was a girl. I borrowed them from a neighbor... ..To own one or two would be wonderful, and to have them for my grandson would be even better. It's time we are getting those 'kinds' of stories back in the hands of young people. My grandson, who is six years old, came in the other day and said, 'Grandma, do you know what I am going to be when I grow up?' I said, gayly, 'No, what are you going to be when you grow up?' 'A Robber' he said. 'A robber!' I exclaimed. He turned around with the most puzzled look on his face and said, 'Yes, I am going to be a robber and shoot the mean old 'sherrif'.' I was dumbfounded. Where did he get an idea like that?! Since then I've been watching T.V. through the eyes of a six year old and now I know. May God send us another Alger soon." (EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer was given an application blank and invited to join our Society. To date, she is still on our prospective member list).

"A recent ad in Antiquarian Bookman contained an Alger-wanted ad for 'Maud Parker'. Ralph Gardner points out that this is from the 'Mabel Parker' manuscript noted in his book. He states that this never appeared in book form and with mistaken 'Maud' could now become another 'ghost' that will haunt Alger want lists in the future. A good tip, Ralph, and members can save wasted time looking for it." (EDITOR'S NOTE: contributed and quoted).

"How active in circulation at libraries are books by Alger? Not very much any more, according to Mrs. Muriel Fuller, librarian of the Oxford, Maine, library. She keeps records on book circulation. She says the readers are usually young people. The best year in recent times was 1958 when 13 of their 29 volumes were taken out once; one title was taken out twice; and one book four times. She did not report which story was borrowed four times." (EDITOR'S NOTE: contributed and quoted. If any of our members know of libraries with Alger books in actual circulation, please inform us for publication purposes. News items for publication should be sent direct to the editor no later than 20th of the month preceding month of publication).

 There will not be a "Third sheet" this month due to the fact that only one column was submitted. We hope to have a full third page in the next issue of the newsletter.

OBITER DICTA ABOUT THE PRAIRIE REGION

We were privileged and pleased during a recent trip to Washington, D.C. to visit many Alger "Partic'lar Friends". Motelled overnight at the Kakusha in Mendota (site of the 1965 Alger Society meeting). Dined with Ken Butler and Doris Sibigt both -- Ken and I spoke "Alger" for about six straight hours -- and only scratched the surface. After discussing various methods of indexing, shelving, displaying, cataloguing, pricing and special interests. We were convinced that there are vast uncharted seas to explore in the province of Algeriana.

The next day put us in Kalamazoo, where we were house guests of Forrest & Rachel Campbell. Admired Kalamazoo's downtown mall and its famous modern building of all purposes -- museum, library, observatory, etc. Forrest's exhibit of Alger lore in the museum was outstanding, and enjoys a prominent spot in its glass display case. His vocation is the Horatio Alger Society. I don't know where he finds the time to do all he does. He works part-time for the U.S. Post office Department. Carl & Jean Hartmann (PF-102) of Lansing were to join us that evening for Alger chatter, but tornado warnings kept them at home. Visited with Carl via telephone. Forrest and Rachel are hosts extraordinaire -- and belong in Duncan Hines.

Detroit has the answer to perpetual motion in the person of Irene Gurman, (PF-010). It shames me, a 30 year Alger fan, to see how Irene has amassed such a quantity of Alger titles, first editions, and information -- in less than 5 years! Irene has "researched the researchers" and has compiled a spate of facts about Alger and his books to stretch the imagination. Hope she writes the next Alger book -- or at least collaborates on it.

Ernest Sanford (PF-032) of Silver Spring, Maryland, whom I talked to while in Washington, tells me that he was able to purchase "The Nugget Finders" (British edition of "In A New World") in Canada. Perhaps we should cross the border to search for this and the other two titles that were published in England, "Digging For Gold" and "Ben's Nugget".

Stayed with George & Mae Knudson, PF-136 in Bowie, Maryland while attending meetings at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington. George lives next door to the ancestral mansion of the first governor of Maryland, who frequently entertained George Washington as a house guest. George has a journalism degree from the U. of Wisconsin, as does Ken Butler. Both will no doubt cast jaundiced eyes at this column attempt; but I'll write more next month anyway. -30- Jack W. Row, PF-101 T-118

 Jack Reports that T.H. Chrischilles, PF-138 is recovering from a stroke. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, T.P.