



# Newsboy

Vol. 4 No. 10

April 1966

This newsletter published monthly except July and January for Society members.

Incorporated 1965 (Non--profit)

588 Heath Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002

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**GOING TO MILWAUKEE? WE ARE:**

**PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS**

In addition to those listed last month, the following have announced their intentions if not prevented (\*).

- PF-102 Carl & Jean Hartmann
- PF-126 Paul & Frances Soini\*
- PF-153 Darel Leipold

We feel confident that there are others who plan, at least hope to attend, but hesitate to make the decision too far in advance. We understand, but it is better to be prepared for you than not to be prepared for you. The picnic planned at the Langlois home is free. They will hire caterers to serve us. You owe Leslie and Bertie the courtesy of announcing your intentions. May I list your name in the next issue? Drop a card to the editor before May 1st. If you have not yet sent in your reservations, be sure to identify yourself with the Society.

**ALL ROADS LEAD TO MILWAUKEE**

The date of the event is May 20-21-22, Friday, Saturday and Sunday Morning Farewell breakfast. The address of the SANDS MOTEL is 11811 West Bluemound Road, and is located on the south side of the street. Brookfield is located west of the motel. Milwaukee is located east of the motel. Highway 100 runs north and south in the Milwaukee area and crosses Bluemound, the junction point of routes 16, 18 & 30. The Motel is west of Highway 100. Elmridge is west of the motel. It begins at Bluemound and runs south. 175 is on the west side of the street and is in the second block. Les may have a sign out to identify his house. One of the surprises which Les thought best to reveal now, is that the SANDS MOTEL marquee will read WELCOME, HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY.

Les announces that a short business session has been scheduled for 1:00 P.M. Friday afternoon, with tours to follow. The Sands Motel will provide extra tables in our rooms upon request for book display purposes. If you want your Gardner book autographed (and who doesn't?), then bring it with you. The Milwaukee Journal Green Sheet (March 14th) has already given us some advance publicity. Their Photographers and Newsmen will also cover the Event as it happens. Two awards are to be announced. Jack Row is secretly  
(continued on page six)

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT** --- I am most happy to announce another regional director appointment, bringing to ten the number of Regions now functioning. The new director is Gilbert Gardner, of Greenwich, New Jersey, who will direct the destinies of the Eastern Seaboard Region which comprises the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North and South Carolina.

Gilbert is a staff writer for the Atlantic City Press covering Bridgeton and portions of Cumberland County, working out of the paper's Vineland office. A graduate of Washington & Lee University, Gilbert has spent more than 20 years in newspaper work. He has worked on Chicago and Milwaukee papers, as well as doing public relations and free-lance writing. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalism society.

His interest in our Society stems from the fact that Horatio Alger was a personal friend of his grandfather, the late Lemuel Gardner, of Bloomsbury, N.Y. Alger named one of his heroes "Bert" after Gilbert's father.

Gilbert says he is going to start the regional buildup by calling on his competitor, Ralph Brandt, Editor of the Bridgeton News, to try to win him into the Society.

**WOMEN IN THE HOBBY** --- Though Horatio wrote mostly about boys, the hobby definitely appeals to women. We have twelve feminine members in the organization, and quite a number of our men state freely that their wives are equally interested.

**LIBRARIES INTERESTED** --- In our expanding activity, we are gaining the interest of reference libraries. Through Gene Wagner, Librarian, the State University of New York at Morrisville has become a subscriber to Newsboy on a subscription basis. We have also sent a sample copy at request of the Memorial Library of Wisconsin at Madison, who apparently are considering receiving Newsboy as a reference periodical.

**MEMBERSHIP GROWING** --- As of date of going to press, we have 85 members and a number of interested prospects. Of our total, 36 have been recruited since the  
(continued on page three)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-151	Mr. Raymond W. Miottel 1845 Stanhope Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. 48236	
PF-152	Mr. John E. Edwards 19 Salem Street, Cos Cob, Conn.	T-113 06807
PF-153	Mr. Darel J. Leipold P.O. Box No. 6 Long Lake, Minnesota	T-054 55356
PF-154	Mr. Kenneth L. Warren 1216 Dumont Richardson, Texas	T-000 75080
PF-155	Mr. Harold H. Detlefsen 284 West Main Street, Bellevue, Ohio	T-020 44811

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Raymond heard of us almost a year ago through publicity in which Ed Levy's name was mentioned as Chairman, and recently replied to a survey of interest in Alger as prepared by our president. Raymond is a partner in a firm who is a member of the New York Stock Exchange. As a young man he took a keen interest in the Alger books and used the morals expounded in them as stepping stones to his career in the stocks and bonds business.

John heard of us through Ken Butler and mention of our Society in AB. He is the proprietor of ARDENT BOOKFINDERS (same address). Inventory reveals a current stock of over 300 Algers and a vast stock of old, rare and out of print books. John was born March 31, 1943 and is a close runner-up for the title of "youngest member" since Gilbert Westgard was also born 1943, on September 4th. John started his business seven years ago. He is still single, and oddly enough, is also interested (like Gilbert) in the origin and history of the Mormons. John says he is pleased to become a Society member and hopes to meet the group. (we hope you can make it to Milwaukee, John)

Darel and Ken Butler are old friends through their mutual antique car hobby, but Ken didn't know about Darel's interest in Alger until it was revealed through Ralph Gardner. When Darel learned of our Society, and an old acquaintance as its president, he joined immediately. Darel is a high school teacher, and wants to learn as much as possible about Alger and to meet others with the same interests. He will be in Milwaukee.

Kenneth's application was received without the usual letter. We assume that he is an acquaintance of Bill Murrell, or perhaps Carlyle Strickland, or Dr. Boone. But then we have proven to be poor guessers. We are anxiously waiting to hear from you Kenneth. We want you to be more than a name on an application blank.

Harold heard of us through Collectors News. He is owner and publisher of RFD NEWS (a farm Journal) of Bellevue. Harold is interested in reading and re-reading the Alger stories and learning more about the author. He has been active in journalism since 1938, with time out for overseas duty in WW II, and never loses an opportunity to speak or write about the great world of Horatio Alger, Jr.

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With Darel's membership we recover the state of Minnesota, giving us a total of 28 states where we have active members, counting Maine as Eastman's address when he is at home.

The Society is receiving some wonderful publicity (thanks to Collectors News), and promises of more to come from other sources. If we can capture the interest of a reasonable percentage from the inquiries we are getting, we should achieve our goal of 100 members soon.

Our public thanks for the many clippings received, for which we have not had sufficient time to acknowledge personally.

BONER AND APOLOGY DEPARTMENT

In the March Issue I made an error in transcribing material provided by our president wherein it concerned Dr. David Thompson, PF-112. Herewith is the corrected statement: "Dr. Thompson received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at University of Idaho, and his Ph. D. from Cornell University in 1960." I am also informed that Dr. Thompson is not married. The editor's note referring to Mrs. Thompson is hereby rescinded with my apology.

The following "rebuttal remarks" comes from Ralph Gardner regarding Stanley Pachon's reference to ADRIFT IN NEW YORK in the March Issue. "I must stand by my guns in his disagreement with me. Just as published in my book, Adrift In New York was first published in a bound form as a two-part supplement to Comfort Magazine in May and June, 1902. That is more than a year before it appeared in Brave and Bold, issue of October 31, 1903. I have both of these items before me as I write this" (EDITOR'S NOTE: What is the issue here? Date of first issue anywhere? Or date of first issue in one volume?)

Cal Noell, PF-082 provides some interesting statistics on the New York Post Office in the days of Horatio Alger:

"Ground was broken for the construction of the post office at City Hall Park on August 9, 1869. The first story was finished November 17, 1871. The fourth story was added October 1, 1873, and the structure was first occupied August 25, 1875. Completed October 1, 1878. Source: Stokes, I.N. Phelps. "ICONOGRAPHY OF MANHATTAN ISLAND." New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1908. Volume 6, Page 542. New York Libr."

BOOK MART

PF-131 (Leo F. Moore) 2420 N. Bristol Street, Santa Ana, California 92706 offers:

G 12ALB, G 12MC, F 19ALB, G 19HTC,  
F 21ALB, G 25ALB, E 25HTC, E 25P&C,  
G 26JCF, G 32ALB, G 39ALB, G 60JCF,  
F 61ALB, G 74HTC, E 75P&C, E 77P&C,  
G 77AKL, G 78HTC, G 81HTC, G 85ALB,  
E 95HTC, E100H&C, G106HTC, G106P&C,  
G116PPC, G118JCF, E121P&C, G122P&C,  
E122HTC, P123AKL, E123HTC, G125AKL,  
G128HTC, P133AKL, E133P&C, G135HTC,  
G135ALB, E135CPC, E137P&C, E14OP&C,  
P145AKL, E145P&C, E145P&C, E147P&C,  
G155ALB, G157ALB, E160ALB, G162ALB,  
E165ALB, G168HTC, E177CPC, E178HTC,  
G185HTC, E185P&C.

NOTE: If more than ten titles are offered for Book Mart listing, they should be prepared in advance, numerically and in code.

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## THOSE BURT EDITIONS

The A.L. Burt Company published some of the Alger stories in very attractive and varied variety of bindings which makes it possible for dealer or collector to identify the first editions by the cover alone.

Five Alger stories previously published in serial form were later published for the first time in paper cover form by A. L. Burt. Eight other Alger stories previously published in serial form were later published in hard covers by A.L. Burt. The paper covered first editions were all identical. There were no variations. The paper covered editions are rare and it is not likely that you will find them offered. If you do, they should be in excellent condition, beware of books without covers, or evidence of repair.

The hard cover editions were released in five variations of cover design on their first editions. The most common variety, with many variations beneath the cover, is the cover divided into three panels. The top panel being horizontal, bears the title. The other two panels are vertical. The left panel shows a picture of a boy. The right panel shows a design. The Spine and End Papers will vary, so beware. However, at reprint prices, these are highly desirable because of the quality.

Another variation of the above description shows a different design on the right panel and includes the author's name in the top panel. In each case the design on the front matches the design on the spine.

Still another variation of the two mentioned above, shows the title in the center  
(continued on page four)

Mendota Affair last May. Two months to go before the Milwaukee Event. Can we reach 100 by then?

WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN ALGER --- There is widespread interest on the part of the public in the nostalgia of reading about Horatio Alger, his heroes, and the hobby. Jack Row has been especially successful in Iowa in getting radio interviews, and illustrated newspaper stories. The avidity of editors and broadcasters on this topic shows that any member or regional director who wishes to generate interest in his area, should broach the subject to newsmen and to agree to supply information. The publicity turns up names of other collectors, to say nothing of hidden caches of Alger titles.

MILWAUKEE WEEK-END --- A fun week-end is in store if you plan to spend the May 20 week-end at Milwaukee. Lots of sight-seeing, Alger talk, book swapping, enjoying Alger exhibits, food, and good company. Will we be seeing you there?

A MODERN HORATIO? --- Members still quietly search directories to determine if a Horatio Alger lives today. Alla Ford, our member in Lake Worth, Florida, sends a postcard advising she has been checking, so far unsuccessfully. We still have our West Coast members to hear from.

NEGROES IN ALGER TALES --- Milton R. Sells, of Little Falls, N.Y. writes in response to our query on references to negroes in Alger stories. There's "Clip" in the opening page of Bob Burton. On page 211 (G&D chapter 25) of "Falling in with Fortune" Robert Frost is explaining the segregation of trains in the south, there being "coaches for white folks", "cars for colored people." In "Lost at Sea," page 141 (G&D chapter 19) the narrative describes that "near the canoe stood fully twenty natives, almost black in color." The black savages became friends throughout the remainder of the book. Milton points out that slavery is discussed many times in "Farm Boy to Senator" and in "Backwoods Boy." Your Partic'lar Friend, Ken Butler

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Just a few lines to tell you that I found your NEWSLETTER most interesting. I note where you ask about the mention of negroes in Alger's stories. I know a negro was featured in ADRIFT IN NEW YORK and again in ADRIFT IN THE CITY. Off hand, I can't recall any others at the moment except YOUNG CAPTAIN JACK which may have been a Stratemeyer, but was well done. Personally I think IN A NEW WORLD was one of the best. I rank that, YOUNG CAPTAIN JACK and SLOW & SURE as the top Alger's. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Milwaukee and hope to grab up a few more books.

Your Partic'lar Friend, Irving Poznan  
(EDITOR'S NOTE: Irv is on the News Staff of KSD & KSD-TV, St Louis, Missouri)  
WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BURMA-SHAVE SIGNS?

THOSE BURT EDITIONS continued:-

ter. The top panel includes two circles with a boy's face in each. The lower panel has only one such circle. The spine has still a different design.

The quality of these three designs is good, and they are highly desirable items as reprints.

A fourth cover design which is in the also highly desirable grouping is the leafy vine design accompanied with the title and boy with skull cap enclosed in a diamond shaped design. This variation also has fancy end papers, and Burt used this cover design for some of their other publications, and was identified as The Alger Serie For Boys. The advertisements in the book include Otis, Ellis, and Castlemon.

Beyond these four variations, the quality is cut to meet competition. There is an attractive set which is similar to Hurst editions, since they have pictorial covers. The spines are always identical with a criss-cross of lines forming many diamond shaped meshes. The title page includes the boy with skull cap which easily identifies the publisher.

Then comes a number of variations (I have four) which in my opinion, compare with Donohue quality.

The lowest in quality, compares with New York Book or lesser quality, and although the cover design is similar to a Burt, and the title page bears the imprint of the boy and skull cap, the publisher is Superior Printing Co.

So, beware of Burt, when ordering by mail. The name Burt is not enough. Ask for complete details. It may save you some disappointment and a dollar or so.

## TITLES OR PUBLISHERS?

An Alger collector is more than a title collector. He is vitally concerned about the publisher, the condition, and the price asked. Many inquiries received are often extremely brief. For example: "I have an Alger book. What is it worth?"

Now, an Alger collector knows that he must be willing to gamble a bit, and he cannot afford to ignore such inquiries, for who knows when another copy of "Tim" will show up. An Alger collector wants to be fair, especially a Society member, but the next thing is to try and prove it.

There is not a uniform or standard price on any and all Alger books. The only book that an Alger collector would be interested in by title alone is of course "Tim" and few people know that Alger's name does not appear on it. In this case the publisher is the big  
(continued above)

## TITLES OR PUBLISHERS? continued:-

factor. Of course there was only one publisher, but few people know who it was.

"We don't have any Alger books" is another familiar reply to inquiries. How can one avoid offending them, when you want to ask, "Do you mind if I look?"

Another form of inquiry comes from an overly cautious person. "I have a book by Horatio Alger, Jr. Are his books as valuable as his father's?"

Like most anything else the value of Alger books is determined by the law of supply and demand, but an informed Alger collector will be quick to add "depending upon publisher and condition of course."

The cheaper quality editions were produced in such large quantities that they are still in plentiful supply but they are in less than good condition since they were not designed to withstand the ravages of time.

The better quality are in demand, and to some degree could be considered rare items. When we speak of quality, actually we are thinking in terms of publishers, for some publishers strived to maintain quality where others made no attempt to do so.

An Alger collector cannot determine scarcity of a certain title by his own experience alone. A title which I have difficulty in acquiring may be plentiful in another area. If the title is not known to exist in any area, then the demand is greater than the supply and the title may be deemed a scarce item.

Certain titles can be supplied in cheaper editions, which we already have, and hope to upgrade. So, we become selective in our choices. We want a certain publisher.

All Loring editions are not first editions. Copyright dates do not date the book in which you see the date. A book published several years later than the first edition could carry the same copyright date. DO NOT BE MISLED.

Many inquiries coming to my attention have revealed that the books were purchased for speculation and resale. Usually, these are rejects or remainder after the books have been picked over, and the uninformed buyer for speculation is the victim. The cheaper editions should be purchased for reading purposes only and not for speculation purposes. I have had to disappoint many people by revealing the truth about the demand for the cheap editions, for they bought in good faith and knew very little about values, and the difference between a desirable item and an undesirable item.

From this day forward, be more conscious of publisher and condition, and remember, ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD.

## OBITER DICTA ABOUT THE PRAIRIE REGION

Had the privilege of recording an interview for NBC "Monitor" recently. The announcer, Lee Kline, used it on WHO radio Saturday, March 12. He said he wouldn't know if it played on week-end "Monitor" until he got his check for \$33.60 -- so, if anyone hears it, please let me know.

During a recent visit to Fort Dodge, Iowa, I visited with Ed Breen, owner of KCTV and KVFD stations. He has me scheduled for a half-hour TV interview on Alger Monday April 4th, 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. The Fort Dodge Messenger (daily paper) wants to do a feature on Alger for a Sunday edition soon. I'll hold up on it until the Des Moines Register has their feature.

As I mentioned last month -- most Alger collectors specialize in something. How about bringing your specialty to Milwaukee for display? Someone has the largest number of Hursts, Winstons, paperbacks, etc., and such displays should be of interest to us all.

Ralph Gardner just cleared up a question I had regarding titles, and how they should be counted -- even those that did not appear in book form. One title I was in doubt about was "A Fancy of Hers" -- this is one that should be counted.

It's too bad that book dealers don't know more about Alger and title variations. The last four books I ordered were misrepresented, which is disappointing -- when you think you are adding a new title. One I ordered was "Making His Mark", -- the title I received was "Making His Way", and it was a poor Goldsmith edition worth about 50¢ instead of \$3.00 -- Live and Learn!

With the help of Ralph Gardner, who edited the list of 190 titles for me, I hope to revise the title list, and furnish copies to all Society members. Titles such as "Mabel Parker" will be eliminated, and all stories and paperbacks will be designated. This new list should simplify Book Mart ads and make hunting easier by cutting down the number. The revised list will show 176 titles. -- 30 -- Your Partic'lar Friend, Jack W. Row #101

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Upon further questioning, Jack assures us that the dealers in question were not Society members, and that the usual guarantee of satisfaction was honored with a prompt refund)

Jack also reveals that he and Beth become in-laws on June 4th when their eldest son Jack II, takes a wife. Congratulations! You haven't lost a son, you've gained a new daughter. Actually, it's something like adding a new title -- to the family, that is. Here's to Jack & Beth. Iowa, we-o-a and u-o-a lot to them.

To: Mr. Andrew A. Fisher, WORLD ALMANAC, New York City, March 29, 1966

Dear Mr. Fisher: During recent weeks I've received letters from some knowledgeable students of Horatio Alger, Jr. asking that I try to convince you that the birth date of this famed author, as it now appears in The World Almanac, is incorrect. I do not have a World Almanac, but can tell you this: the only correct date is Friday, January 13, 1832.

A number of so-called "standard reference sources" indicate the year as 1834. They are wrong. All of them are copying an error that first appeared some eighty years ago in an encyclopedia of American authors. However, a number of Alger biographies published in recent years do have the correct date.

I spent a dozen years researching my book, "Horatio Alger or The American Hero Era", published in 1964 by Wayside Press, Mendota, Illinois. My factual birth date comes not from standard references but from careful examination of Alger family and church records; Horatio's letters and other documents.

The easiest confirmation you'll find is a page of personal information in Alger's hand-writing in the Harvard Class Book of 1852.

There are, of course, other simple checks. For instance, the birth of Horatio's younger sister, Olive Augusta, in November 1833, makes it unlikely he was born less than three months later, as indicated in the World Almanac.

Accordingly, you should reconsider the present World Almanac date. This may persuade other reference books to follow your example and set the record straight. I might point out that it makes no difference to me what date you show. But it should make a big difference to you.

Because the date you've got now is wrong. RDG/ml Sincerely, Ralph D. Gardner.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ralph's reply was in response to a request originating from our President. There has never been a difference of opinion in this respect among Society members, especially those who have made an effort to investigate, such as Goldberg, Westgard, Gardner and myself. World Almanac has been strangely quiet on this subject since my personal challenge. It's a simple case of deduction).

Have you ever examined closely the picture of Ralph and his books on the dust jacket of HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era. I have asked him: "What are you holding? And where is Tim?" He Replies: "I'm holding Wait & Win (in d.j.). Tim is one of the 3 books in cases standing in foreground." (next to Tim, Seeking his Fortune, seems to be the most elusive. It's probably in one of the other two cases. Wonder what's in the third case?)

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MILWAUKEE continued

withholding the name of the recipient of the NEWSBOY award, if one has been selected. However, he points out that this award is not necessarily an annual award, depending entirely upon the material deemed worthy of the award.

Les Langlois is in charge of the RAGGED DICK award, but he does not know, nor will any of us know, until this committee reports in Milwaukee. We do know that a Milwaukee high school student's name will be submitted for our approval. The committee is the Milwaukee Public Library Librarian, the principal of Boy's Tech, and Vice President Langlois. We may have an opportunity to meet the young man at our banquet. The award is \$100.00

Our By-Laws Committee Chairman, Carl Hartman, PF-102, and Regional Director of The Great Lakes Region will submit a complete set of By-Laws for our approval.

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WE WIN THE FIRST SKIRMISH

The following is a reply to Ralph Gardner's letter printed on page five:

Ralph Gardner, New York March 30, 1966

In recent weeks I also have received a number of letters, yours being the most recent, concerning the birth date of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Faced with an ever increasing amount of evidence, I concede the battle. You have won. Mr. Alger will do the impossible and become two years younger\* in the next edition of the World Almanac. We will make the change from 1834 to 1832.

It is obviously impossible for us to check the birth record, where such exists, of every person listed in the Almanac. We are necessarily forced to rely on "standard reference sources" for certain types of information such as birth dates. However, we are willing to take your word that you have checked the documents of the Alger family and are convinced that Horatio was born January 13, 1832.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Fisher (World Almanac)

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above reference to 'younger' is a miscalculation I am sure.)

With World Almanac as the first target in our project of "setting the records straight" our President fired the opening shot to draw their fire. They returned the fire and thereby revealed their position. Your editor fired from the right, and Ralph fired from the left, effecting a complete surrender. But the battle has only begun. We hope we have stirred up something like a hornets nest. We shall determine a new target and set out to conquer it. We are determined that the public shall know the truth, and armed with the truth, we cannot fail.

"Setting the records straight" on the matter of the correct birth date may seem to be an insignificant item, but it is an important item. The historical records on the life of Horatio Alger have been allowed to crumble with uncertainty and disrespect within the lifetime of millions of people who read his stories and liked them, and loved the man for his principles and what they stood for, yet as individuals we were helpless to defend him.

Through the medium of our Society we can combine our individual defenses and mold them into a mighty weapon to combat a wave of untruths which until recently, have been allowed to remain unchallenged.

We do not claim that Horatio was a literary genius. We do claim that his style of writing appealed to, and was accepted by millions of people. Certain organized efforts were successful in labeling his literary efforts as "trash." Today, in another generation, this label is being questioned. Personally, I think the charge was directed at the cover of the book, rather than the content of the book. Deluxe bound volumes were priced and sold equal with other popular books. However, while Horatio was at the peak of his popularity, publishing houses flooded the market with cheaply bound volumes selling for as little as ten cents. With this label in effect, the trash in the cheap covers as well as the deluxe editions suddenly disappeared. Today, they are coming out of hiding and being rediscovered as gold in your attic.

Our Society can do more than "set the record straight". We can do more than buy and sell for a profit. Remember, as individuals we are helpless, but as we grow in membership, we can restore the respect Horatio Alger once enjoyed. Already, the Press is yielding to our still small voice. We'd love to be quoted, but please Mr. Editor, "get the record straight."

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Some of our members may be fortunate in having the January 1962 issue of Friends magazine which includes a two-page spread on Ralph Gardner and his Alger collection. If you have, please compare the picture of Ralph and his collection with the one on the dust jacket of his book. Although the pose is the same, the pictures are not identical. I have always supposed they were one and the same. If you look closely, you will discover a big difference. I also note on the dust jacket picture that he has at least two NYB's. Can you spot them?

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Max Goldberg suggests that our Alger Memorial Service be held on Sunday, July 17th instead of Monday, July 18th. His reasoning is sound. I see no reason why it need be on the exact date. Why not officially adopt the week-end prior to July 18th? A week-end attendance would be more convenient for many of us.