



Newsboy

Vol. 4 No. 11

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5868 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002

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 Sec'y-Treas: - Mrs. Blanche G. Lloyd, 471 1/2 N. Grant St., West Lafayette, Ind. 47906
 Editor: Forrest Campbell - Adult membership \$5.00 Junior membership \$3.00 Fiscal Yr.

GOING TO MILWAUKEE? WE ARE:

In addition to those mentioned in the March and April Issue, the following have announced their intentions:

- PF-024 Gilbert, Helen & Eddie Westgard
- PF-142 Dan and Molly Fuller
- PF-144 Ralph and Irene Anderson

We hope there will be others who find they will be able to attend after all. If you can, then be sure to drop a card to Leslie Langlois at the above address. Dan and Molly Fuller both have teaching assignments and due to this obligation, will not be able to arrive until about 6 P.M. Friday. They will probably return to Madison Friday night and come back Saturday morning.

Gilbert is bringing a few copies of "Alger Street" and of course will autograph them for purchasers. He is planning a nice book exhibit in the Westgard room.

Ralph Anderson writes that they may not arrive until Saturday noon due to "pressure" at Collectors News. Can't you hold the presses for our group photograph, Ralph?

The Newsboy will cover the event in detail in the June Issue, but remember, there will be no July Issue. The August Issue will be the first issue in our next fiscal year. The August Issue will cover the Alger Memorial Observance to be held in South Netick, Mass. July 17th.

Our officers are elected annually, and will be up for re-election. The office of Editor is an appointive office which terminates with each fiscal year. The job of editor has not been an easy one--for me, but could be made easier, if I received a larger percentage of cooperation.

Details of our program were published in the March and April newsletters. The address of SANDS MOTEL is 11811 West Blue-mound road. South side of street. Be sure to identify yourself with HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY upon arrival. Suggested arrival time, Friday at noon, May 20th.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

ALGER GHOSTS ---

These unidentified flying objects still persist. The Algers wanted ads in a recent issue of Antiquarian Bookman seek "Joe the Book-Black"... "Jack the Clerk" ... "The Bad Boy".

ROSTER CORRECTIONS --- Looking ahead to the July updating of our membership roster, we are anxious to fill in missing gaps. Many members failed to supply name of spouse and number of titles comprising their collections. We feel the roster is more useful, as well as more interesting, when complete. If this information was not listed in the January roster, won't you write me by June, filling me in? Thanks to all.

AT MILWAUKEE --- When you come to Milwaukee be sure to bring your surplus Algers for swap or for sale. And bring interesting items from your collection to build a little exhibit in your room. We can have a lot of fun going from room to room, enjoying some of the Alger specialties of the other collectors.

"SHINE YER SHOES, MISTER?" --- Every man attending the Milwaukee Event gets a free shoe shine from your president, using his "Tom the Bootblack" shine box.

H.A.S. WINS A BATTLE --- Now that we are assured that the next edition of World Almanac will carry the correct 1832 birth date, we plan now to seek out all the reference sources with incorrect date and cite them similar factual proof, along with mention of Mr. Fisher's concession of the probability of the correctness of our data.

"BEST" ALGER NOVEL --- What would be your vote as to the most interesting, best written Alger story? I would be interested to learn if there is any unanimity of opinion among our members. Interest is, of course, a personal thing. What might fascinate one reader might bore another. Irving W. Poznan, our member at Pine Lawn, Missouri, writes that in his judgement "In a New World" (same story as "Harry Vane") is one of the best that Alger wrote. I will be glad to pass on the results of your balloting.

(continued on page five)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-156	Mrs. Bette Robinson 920 North 15th Street, #7 Milwaukee, Wisconsin	T-000 53201
PF-157	Mr. Wordney White 526 Woodford (West End) Bowling Green, Kentucky	T-018 42101
PF-158	Mr. Edward G. Fay 125 Park Avenue, East Princeton, Illinois	T-061 61356
PF-159	Mr. Byron L. Troyer 620 East 44th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana	T-018 46205
PF-160	Mrs. Rohima Walter 1307 Greenbush, La Fayette, Indiana	T-006 47904
PF-161	Mr. William L. Payne City College of New York 139th & Convent Avenue, New York, New York	T-000 10034
PF-162	Mrs. Phyllis Heisig 201-06 42nd Avenue (Bayside Sta.) Flushing, L.I. New York	T-001 11361
PF-163	Mr. Clifford B. Carley 316 49th Street, Ashland, Kentucky	T-080 41101

PLFASF NOTE: We add a new state with not only one new member from Kentucky, but two members. We now have 29 states represented, counting Maine as Eastman's home address, plus Ontario.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Robinson heard of us by way of publicity in the Milwaukee Journal Green Sheet. She contacted Vice President Langlois immediately and lost no time in applying for membership. She believes that as a child she read most, if not all of the Alger stories and is anxious to start collecting and reading them again. We may have the pleasure of meeting her in Milwaukee.

Wordney heard of us through Hobbies magazine. Wordney is a former country school teacher, and read the Alger books in the early 1920's. He was forced to retire from teaching because of an attack of polio. But he didn't become inactive entirely. On crutches he organized the Bowling Green Boys Club of 1950. The calibre of these boys, he says "is equal to the 'Bowery Boys' so familiar to us in the Alger stories." He taught them the Horatio Alger principles, and is sure they had an effect upon the boys.

A second stroke leaves Wordney confined to a chair, and although living on a small pension, he has applied for membership. He tells his friends "This is the best thing that has come around in my 65 years. Wordney lists some books he wishes to trade for some he hasn't read recently.

Edward is 22 years old, a former N.I. University student of Speech Education, and currently attending Chicago-Kent College of Law. He spent last summer in Europe and has operated an antique shop in the past, presumably in Princeton. Princeton has one of the few remaining covered bridges, and we are fortunate in having an original Butler painting of it in our home.

Byron learned of us through publicity in AB. He is currently Copy Editor for the Indianapolis News, and was formerly editor of HOOSTERLAND, which deals with travel and history of Indiana. Byron is also a bookseller and collector. He has some Alger books for sale. He has spent most of his life in the newspaper business, and is especially interested in history of Indiana and the midwest.

Mrs. Walter learned of our Society by way of Mrs. Lloyd's publicity in the La Fayette Journal and Courier. Her mother was an Alger. Her grandfather's name was Arthur Augustus Alger, and once lived in Louisville, Illinois. If any of our researchers can trace the Alger line to her grandfather she would be very happy.

William is an acquaintance of Ralph Gardner. He is an English teacher, City College. His main interest concerns research on the subject of Alger. Publisher arrangements, copyrights, royalties, letters, documents, etc. He recently worked two years with Col. Ralph Isham, collector of the Boswell Papers now at Yale, and has done some work on Daniel Defoe, author of Robinson Crusoe.

Mrs. Heisig heard of us through Collectors News. She and her husband and three children were living in California at the time. Her husband, a Government Employee was transferred to the New York area and their present address is only temporary until suitable housing can be located. Membership in our Society has renewed her interest in Alger which began when she was a child in Kansas City. She has found one book already and intends to haunt the old bookshops for more. Periodic travelling with her husband is nothing new to Phyllis, since before her marriage she was a travelling saleswoman for Helena Rubinstein and Prince Matchabelli. Phyllis modestly admits that she is interested in creative writing and has had a few things published.

We don't know how Clifford heard of us but we are glad he did. He is Sales Manager for a meat packing firm. He says his interest is in collecting, and he loves to read them too! He is 52 and has read them ever since he can remember. He has some duplicate copies he hopes to trade for titles he hasn't read yet.

Back issues of January through April are still available for names and addresses of members not in membership roster. Price, postpaid, 25¢ each.

BOOK MART

PF-152 (John E. Edwards) 19 Salem Street Street, Cos Cob, Connecticut 06807 offers:

G116PPC, G125AKL, G135AKL, G136AKL.

PF-000 (Forrest Campbell) offers for a non-member in the Chicago area. These books are just out of the attic and were not bought for resale. Your inquiry addressed to me will be forwarded. (group C)

G 4MAD, G 32MAD, G 48MAD, G 72MAD,
G 76MAD, G 78MAD, G 83MAD, G118MAD,
G128MAD, G135MAD, G142MAD, G145MAD,
G147MAD, G150MAD, G152MAD, G171MAD,
G177MAD, G178MAD, G190MAD.

Also from Wisconsin comes this offer, (group D)

F 25JCW, G104ALB.

PF-157 (Wordney White) (new member) offers for sale or trade:

G 12MAD,
G 45H&C, G 45MAD, G 46MAD, G 76MAD,
G104MAD, G137MAD, G139MAD, G142JCW,
G177MAD, G187MAD.

TITLES UNDERLINED ARE CLAIMED TO BE FIRST EDITIONS. When dealing with other Society members, it is naturally expected that satisfaction is guaranteed. The Newsboy encourages the policy of "on approval" basis. Books misrepresented should be returnable. Cash with order (CFO) should not be mandatory among Partic'lar Friends. Reliable dealers should not object to reasonable requests. Cases of dissatisfaction should be reported to the editor immediately. It could mean a loss of renewal of membership.

GLENWOOD CEMETERY VISITORS

Since the 1965 Alger Memorial Observance in South Natick, three of our members have paid unofficial visits. Last summer Les & Bertie were there. Last fall Carl & Jean and family were there, and recently our Sec'y-Treas. was there. In each case Max & Ida were escorts, and hosts for the day. For those who will be unable to attend the official observance on Sunday, July 17th (this year) but may plan the trip at another time, make an attempt to contact Max & Ida for escorts. There are other things to see. The Goldbergs live in Natick, just a couple miles away from the cemetery. Just in case you are unable to contact the Goldbergs, you will find the Alger grave and monument in the northeast corner, or on your right from the entrance. You will see for your self the birth date of Horatio carved in the granite monument.

Ed Levy, PF-004 is scheduled to attend the 1966 Memorial Observance. Our theme which originated with Max Goldberg in his 1965 eulogy remarks is WE COME NOT TO BURY ALGER, BUT TO PRAISE HIM.

Mrs. Blanche Lloyd, our Sec'y-Treas. surprised us recently by mailing us the April 23rd edition of VISTA, a supplement (tabloid size) to the Lafayette Journal and Courier. The entire front cover of the supplement features an enlarged photograph of her while reading her Gardner book on Horatio Alger. A remarkable reproduction of both Mrs. Lloyd and the book. Unfortunately, there is no identification on the cover.

On the inside, however, a full page is devoted to the subject of Alger and our Society, including three additional photographs. The cover picture is identified on the inside and Mrs. Lloyd received considerable publicity in the article written by Magazine Editor, Barbara M. Hawkins.

As a result of this publicity, Mrs. Lloyd has received several inquiries, and the Society has received one new member from Lafayette. We hope Mrs. Lloyd brings a supply of these magazine supplements with her to Milwaukee. Our thanks to the Journal and Courier for publicity in behalf of the Society.

Those who attended the Mendota Affair last year, will recall Ken Butler's magnificent collection of antique automobiles. You may be interested to learn that he has recently added a pop-corn wagon (purchased in New Glarus, Wisconsin) and a two-seated Board-walk chair, the kind used in Atlantic City. Ken comes by his interest in vehicles quite naturally, since his Grandfather Butler was a carriage-maker by trade. As a result of my interest in early local history, I bought an 1881 directory which shows this listing. Ken is having an enlargement made of this page and plans to display it in his carriage house.

For some time before Ken Butler and I conceived the need of an Alger organization, Max Friedman, a local merchant was selling me Alger books. Then one day I announced our intention to him. A few days later I called again. He draped his arm over my shoulders in a friendly manner and said, "Forrest, I can't sell you any more Algers." "Why?" I asked, crestfallen. He replied, "Because I'm going to start collecting them myself. Here's two dollars. I want to become a member of your organization." Since his was the very first unsolicited monetary support, he received recognition as S-1 and later converted to PF-001. That's how it happened. Max is proud of this recognition. And we in turn are proud of our very first Partic'lar Friend, Max.

Many of you will raise your hands in horror when you learn that I once favored the name ALGER'S POORHOUSE CLUB for our organization. I invested in such a rubber stamp and proceeded to label the fly-leaf of every Alger book I ever owned and later traded. Check your NYB's and MAD's. You may have one of them.

REGIONAL REPORTINGS

GREAT LAKES REGION - HARTMANN'S HEMISPHERE

On March 15th, Lansing held its annual antique show. Three booths had Algers for sale along with other books. I'm sorry to report that they were the run of the mill Donohue and NYB editions; all were the most common titles. Prices ranged from one dollar and up. What was interesting, was the reaction of the dealers to Algers. All of them know someone that is collecting them, but can't ever seem to remember their names. They all get high prices from these people and know that all Algers are rare and valuable. Most of them never heard of our Society which brings me to the topic of this article.

Somehow, we of the Society are going to have to bring Alger and his books to the attention of the people that are dealing in antiques. Granted that books are a small part of the antique dealers stock, but they do have access to places we can never get to, and they do have people bringing them books to sell, and quite often will turn them down with very little thought. One dealer I talked to, just turned down 50 Algers and 75 Hentys. He did take my name and address and will turn it over to the man who has them.

Other dealers have told me about estates they have bought with many old books, but because they are not in the book business they gave the books to the Salvation Army. This is all too common with antique dealers. Other dealers have bought every Alger book they can find only to learn too late they have paid too much and are now stuck with them. We, as an organization, and through Ralph's book, have set prices on most Alger editions - now I believe it is our responsibility to see that this information is circulated as much as possible to as many people as possible.

There are many ways we can do this. The first and most effective way is personal contact with the dealers. Every time you enter a store, make sure they know you are a member of the Society. Let them know that we have established prices on Horatio's books. Give them a list of the titles you need and the publishers you want, with some idea of what you will pay. If you are trying to get "Nothing To Do" and "Tim" for fifty cents, forget it; but if you are willing to pay a fair price, this will bring you results. Last week I picked up three titles I needed, and upgraded five books at fair prices both to the dealer and to me. He made money and I improved my collection.

Jack Row's column in the April Newsboy again stresses the need of communicating with dealers. What has happened to him has also happened to most of us. This is one reason I like to see the books before

I buy them. Jack is right of course, that many books are unobtainable unless you work by mail, but you must watch yourself. People are very impressed with the Alger name - any book by Alger is considered valuable. This we must correct.

In HECTOR'S INHERITANCE our hero is amused at the airs put on by his able conductor. The negro in this story had a very picturesque way of talking - "I will induct you thither."

Visited with Dr. Herman Van Ark - a member from Eaton Rapids last Sunday. Talked some Alger and looked over his collection. Dr. Van Ark has some very fine books - mint condition with dust jackets. Since Herman is not coming to Milwaukee, he has given me some of his duplicates to trade or sell.

Which Alger do you like best? Which publisher do you like best? Personally I like the Winstons - the colored pictures are quaint and interesting, and add to the book. Which is better, a Winston or a Burt if both are in the same condition?

Six Algers listed in the Lansing phone book. No Horatios. Michigan has an Alger County named after Gov. Russell A. Alger (presiding 1885-1886). He was also Secretary of War (1897-1899) and U.S. Senator from Michigan 1903-1907. Alger County is in the upper peninsula. In Ohio there is a town with the name Alger. It would be interesting to find out who this was named after. If I'm ever in this town I plan to post letters from there. Your Partic'lar Friend,
Carl Hartmann, PF-102, T-

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Speculation and interest in the name of Alger is increasing. Our Secretary Emeritus, George L. Setman, III PF-007, has sent in for our archives, a well preserved deep yellow ribbon, size approx. 2-3/4 X 7-3/4) with the photograph and signature of R.A. Alger on it. This of course is the Russell A. Alger that Carl mentions above. Russell was born February 27, 1836 in Medina County, Ohio, but the Alger family later moved to Michigan. Russell was also a Civil War veteran and was Commander of the G.A.R. in 1867. This type of ribbon which may have been worn as a badge, may have been a popular fad in his day. He was about the same age as Horatio. We know that Horatio never married, so he left no descendants, but Russell may have been a cousin. Our own Paul Alger, PF-125, is the son of William Alger, who may have been a first cousin of Horatio. (correction - Paul's father's name was Clarence Kidder Alger. Paul's Grandfather was William Alger). Alger, Ohio is not in Medina County. Perhaps our member Harold Detlefsen, PF-155 of Bellvue can enlighten us on how Alger, Ohio got its name. Harold is editor and publisher of RFD NEWS. See additional comments on the name of Alger on page two in the introduction of new member Mrs. Rohima Walter, PF-160) (Reg. Rep. continued page five)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS - continued

VISITOR --- Your president had a visit one day in mid-April from our lone Canadian member. John McConnell came by bus all the way from Toronto to see the plant where Gardner's book was printed and to visit with us.

It was fortunate he came on Wednesday, as we were out of town the day previous, and the day after. He was shown Wayside Press, driven about town, shown my Algers and my collection of antique automobiles.

John was most anxious to read "Victor Vane," "Young Circus Rider," and "Making His Mark." John rented a room at a local hotel, we loaned him the books, and he spent the next two days happily in his room, reading these three stories, which he pronounced "tip top". We visited with him again upon our return to town.

John, as you know, operates a newsstand in front of Toronto's leading department store. A real Alger newsboy. It is said Lincoln traveled quite a few miles to borrow, for reading, a book he wanted. We will wager that John has established some kind of a record, 1200 or more miles! He is a genuine Alger enthusiast. He does not collect, but hopes to read every novel or poem that Alger wrote. He has a photographic memory.

BARGAIN --- As most of you know, Ralph Gardner gets quite a number of Algers offered as a result of the ads he has been running for many years in the hobby and collector publications. He is kind enough to forward many of these to us, after he has considered them, for their usefulness as Alger Society prospects, or in case I personally might be interested in any of the offerings. As you know, we have in the past made statistical use of these, to categorize the most common and the most rare titles, based on frequency of offerings.

And so it was with eagerness that we noted Ralph's notation in red ink along the top margin of a recent letter from Texas. Wrote Ralph: "Better grab this bargain before someone else does!" "Shifting for Himself", in the Merston edition, was the book offered. The inscription on the fly leaf, stated the letter, read "William, from Grace, April 6, 1907." Gardner's book shows a first edition to be a Loring and dated 1876. As I read the final lines of the letter I could see the grim humor of Ralph's notation. The lady attested that the book was in good condition and "as it appears to be a first edition, I would like \$50 for it. As most of our Society members will agree, this is a common title, a not too uncommon publisher. A dollar or a dollar and a half would be closer to its value.

Your Partic'lar Friend,
Ken Butler

Thoroughly enjoyed the 30 minutes on TV talking about Alger and his books. I've received 5 or 6 letters since from listeners who had questions about books --- but haven't unearthed any rare Algers.

Browsed in Glenn's rare book shop during a recent trip to Kansas City, Missouri. Not an Alger in the place, but I picked up a first edition of "Nothing To Wear" in the same dark blue covers as "Nothing To Do." "Nothing To Wear" was published by Rudd & Carleton of New York in 1857 --- the same year that "Nothing To Do" was published by French. The copy I have of "N.T.W." is autographed by Hoppin, the illustrator. The illustrations are beautiful line-drawings, reminiscent of those found in Godey's.

Mused while rearranging my Algers for the hundredth time that I've reached another impasse as far as new titles are concerned. Haven't been able to add a new one for ages. I was stuck for a long time at 99 titles, too. Had several "near-misses" recently. Got hot on the trail of something really good, only to find that it was gone by the time I arrived. Just one of the vagaries of book collecting, I guess.

I've never found any reference work that gives values of Optics, Hentys, Castlemons or Stratemeyers --- under Stratemeyer's own or any of his many pen names. Does anyone have any idea where to determine the value of these? Of course, we all know that Henty's "All But Lost" is in the \$1,000 class with "Timothy Crump's Ward," and that a first of Optic's "Boat Club" is valuable --- but what about the rest of them?

Wish everyone could drive a truck to Milwaukee and bring his total collection of Algers. What a display that would make! I plan to bring a car load, anyhow; and some "sellers and traders," See you in Milwaukee -30-
Your Partic'lar Friend, Jack W. Row #101

(EDITOR'S NOTE: To my knowledge, our own Gilbert K. Westgard, II PF-024 has a good representation of all juvenile writers including Edward Stratemeyer, and may be able to answer some questions on values. Some of Stratemeyer's pen-names were: Arthur M. Winfield, (Rover Boys Series); Victor Appleton, (Tom Swift Series); Frank V. Webster (Webster Series) Allen Chapman (Railroad Series) Clarence Young (Motor Boys Series)

There are others of course, but these are perhaps the most popular series. An article appeared on Stratemeyer and his many pen-names in the April 1934 edition of FORTUNE MAGAZINE. Stratemeyer is also credited with eleven Alger titles and the name Stratemeyer crops up again currently in "Detroit" a supplement of the Detroit Free Press, May 1, 1966, and written by Jim Treloar, Free Press Staff Writer. He mentions Alger as an "also ran.")

PACHON (PF-087) DEFENDS HIS CONTENTION

The current (April) issue of the Newsboy carries Mr. Gardner's rebuttal to my statement "that I do not consider the Comfort supplement as the first edition of 'Adrift In New York'" I'm afraid that Mr. Gardner depends too much upon dates, without taking into consideration other factors.

His own statement quote "Adrift In New York was first published as a two part supplement to Comfort Magazine in May and June 1902" should have been clear enough as the reason to disqualify it as the first edition of Alger's book. Since as Mr. Gardner himself states, this did not appear in completed form but was split up into two parts and the parts themselves were published in May and June, makes this a serialization.

If we are to accept Mr. Gardner's claim that such a serialization, even in two parts, constitutes a first edition of a work then we also have to include and accept all the Alger serials that appeared in bound form in Student and Schoolmate, Young Isreal, Golden Days, Golden Argosy etc. as first editions and not those as published by Loring etc. This is contrary to established practices of the book world. Whether the story in question appeared in two parts or twelve is immaterial; the fact is that it did not appear complete and at one time. This is definitely a serialization and should be so accepted.

Legally a book is considered a book if it appears under one binding and providing that there is no other extraneous matter included outside of ads for books. The size, thickness of paper, or binding have no bearing on what constitutes a book.

Adrift In New York as published by Comfort Magazine was a supplement as well as an addition to the magazine itself, and not an independent appearance. The word supplement means an additional or completing part. If Mr. Gardner will look at the two part supplement he will note on the front covers May 1902 and June 1902 a clear indication of serialization.

The Brave and Bold edition meets all the qualifications of a book. It appears complete and no other extraneous matter is added and is logically the first book appearance as far as we know of Adrift In New York. Some may argue that Brave and Bold was a weekly publication hence a periodical and not a book. If we follow this reasoning then we may as well throw out as first editions those Algers that appeared in Munsey's Popular Series, Leather Clad Library, Burt Home Library, and Street & Smith's Medal and New Medal Libraries.

All these appeared on a weekly or monthly basis and in consequence this

would make them a magazine. But such reasoning is a fallacy. As I pointed out before, a book is a book when it appears complete. Size, shape, frequency of issue, binding, type of paper, and other factors have no bearing on this at all.

So assessing all the facts, the Comfort supplement can be regarded as the fourth serialization of the title, while the Brave and Bold appearance can be regarded as the first book edition.

Mr. Gardner may not agree with my reasoning or my facts; that is his privilege as is mine to disagree with him, and until Mr. Gardner can come up with more definite facts, I'll stick to my statements.Stanley A. Pachon.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The views and opinions expressed by Stanley are published only for their educational value. It is not intended that the NEWSBOY be used as a medium of public communication.)

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

April 27, 1966

Mr. Robert E. Nelson
R2
Mormouth, Illinois 61462

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Two items of information pertaining to Horatio Alger, Jr., with your name attached has come to our attention. The two items are:

- (1) A BIOGRAPHY OF HORATIO ALGER, JR.
- (2) BOOKS WRITTEN BY HORATIO ALGER, JR.

The information contained therein seems to have been prepared anonymously, since it bears no identification.

The biographical sketch gives no reference as to the source of the material, and the listing of book titles is known to be inaccurate.

Therefore, in the best interest of our members who may be tempted to use it as authentic information, we cannot recommend it.

We invite your attention to Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, as a source of information which we can recommend.

Sincerely, Forrest Campbell, Editor.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Three books on the subject of Alger have been published in the past: Mayes, Gruber, and Tebbel. Biographical sketches, and lists of titles have been published by Holbrook, Enslin, Crouse, and Fink. Some are excellently prepared, while others are questionable, and incomplete. Remarks of syndicated columnists are usually uncomplimentary. We are appreciative to editors who consult us for reliable information.)