

THE HORATIO ALGER

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January for Society members.



"World's only publication
devoted to Horatio Alger"

Newsboy

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Pres: Kenneth Butler; Ph: Res. 2269 Off. 2116: 1325 Burlington Rd. Mendota, Ill. 61342
Vice Pres: Jack W. Row; Ph: 515-532-3731; P.O. Box No. 101, Clarion, Iowa 50525
Editor: Forrest Campbell; Ph: 616-349-4155 Membership fee \$5 (twelve month basis)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

IN TWO WEEKS from the time you read this, the Des Moines Session --- third of Horatio Alger Society annual conventions --- will be in session. Advance plans promise an eventful, all-too-short gathering. We believe attendance will exceed that of the Mendota Affair and the Milwaukee Event. Our hopes are that, in time, as we build and knit ourselves more firmly together, our gatherings will rival in numbers those of other predominant hobbies (bells, dolls, antique automobiles, etc.). It is not too late now to decide to attend. Jack Row will be watching each mail for your decision to be present.

OUR EDITOR, Forrest Campbell, is just now returning from another of his interesting travel jaunts. As usual, he has planned his itinerary carefully to include not only scenic points of interest, but to cover principle bases in "Algerland". Some of his visits with outlying members comprise the only official contact aside from correspondence, that many members experience. In this way he not only cements friendships, but has an ear to the ground for views, ideas, wants ... all to help make our guidance of the Society more closely suited to the interests of the members.

BALLOTING for election of the officers and directors of the Horatio Alger Society for the coming year has been officially closed. Ralph Gardner, chairman of nominations and election, has reported that 46 ballots were cast, from all sections of our membership geography. The election was unanimous, and will find our enthusiastic and hard-working vice-president, Jack Row, taking over the gavel of office of the presidency, with Max Sheldon, also of Clarion, as secretary-treasurer. This will make a most convenient and efficient working arrangement.

Elected as vice-president is Carl T. Hartmann, our avid Michigan member, who has attended both previous conventions and who was chairman of the by-laws committee. Carl has served in many important capacities. The above named plus Ralph Gardner and Kenneth B. Butler will comprise the board of directors, with Forrest Campbell as ex officio adviser.

Thus the Society continues with its democratic pattern of administration.

Ed Levy, of Connecticut, was our first president; I have served two terms; leadership now goes west, to Iowa, the state of our most numerous membership.

YOUR PRESIDENT, in relinquishing his office, does not relinquish his interest. What with the membership roster, the mail list maintenance, the traveling exhibit --- still expects to be active on the Alger scene. With fewer major commitments, I may be able to cut and polish some facets of H.A.S. that presently languish for want of manpower.

In stepping down, I wish to thank all the dozens who have performed assigned tasks willingly and promptly; who have advised with me on matters of club management; who have submitted ideas for improvement of our operation.

Thanks to Forrest Campbell for these wonderful issues of Newsboy and his other contributions and counsel; to Max Goldberg for outstanding Alger Memorial Services; to Jack Row for great talent and drive on many fronts, not the least of which is membership-building; to Blanche Lloyd for nearly two years of secretarial detail; to Ralph Gardner for tips and leads and ever-faithful devotion to Horatio Alger and our Society which works to build the Alger image. Thanks to Langlois, Poznan, Anderson, Fuller and others who have aided me so competently.

We start our seventh year with high purpose, growing numbers, and an image that is coming into clearer focus.
Your Particular Friend,

KEN BUTLER, President

(E.N. Since July 1961 until we were incorporated at Mendota in 1965, we answered to the name of The Horatio Alger Newsboy Club. We had only a newsletter and our readers were identified as subscribers. Subscriber identification such as S-001 was subsequently converted to membership identification such as PF-001, etc. As we adopted new features such as the Ragged Dick Award, and the Newsboy Award, it was obvious that we needed a more permanent organization with elected officers.

Edward G. Levy, PF-004, was appointed by the editor of the newsletter to serve as a temporary chairman until a permanent organization could be established. He served in this capacity from June 1964 until May 1965)

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By the time you read this, we hope that you are packing in preparation for the trip to Des Moines for the "Session".

NOTE: Every member has received an "Agenda" which outlines some of the planned activities for the "Session". Extra copies will be on hand for those who want them.

Every member has received a reservation card for Howard Johnson's Motel. Send in your reservation! If you have misplaced the card, just write Howard Johnson's, 25th & Ingersoll, Des Moines, Iowa 50312. — and be sure to state that your reservation is for the ALGER MEETING.

Some of Des Moines' best restaurants are nearby the motel. Mr. Steak, Noah's, Bambino's, King's Food Host, and others, are near — within a block or two — an easy walk.

Additional activities are being planned for some of the ladies, too. The Des Moines Art Center is near. It's a beautiful new building and fascinating to visit. The famous Salsbury House of the Victorian era has special tours for groups — one of which has been arranged.

If you haven't already sent me your questionnaire, please fill it out now and put it in the mail; also please show your preference for next year's meeting site and make whatever suggestions you deem appropriate for the improvement of the Horatio Alger Society.

During National Library Week recently, the local (Clarion) school auditorium contained a large display of books and related material. Not the least of the displays was a large display on Alger, containing many first editions, common editions, story papers and miscellaneous Algeriana. During the week, the school librarian spoke for about 15 minutes on Alger and his works to each of her classes.

Took a "flying" trip to Mendota a few days ago and had a nice visit with Ken Butler. I was working in Dubuque at the time and drove over in the evening and was back in Dubuque by 8:00 the next morning. Ken and I discussed some of the details of the pending Des Moines Session and checked over our lists of titles and wants. It was a pleasure to visit with Ken and to talk with him about Alger collecting. Wouldn't it be nice if we could emulate the coin collectors and have monthly meetings and auctions!

Compilation of the questionnaires received so far shows that a majority of the members prefer New England as a meeting site in 1968. If you would like to have the meeting elsewhere, now is the time to make your thought known.

Also — if there is something that can and should be done to improve the activities of the Horatio Alger Society, let us know what you think. Be candid — but be constructive. Let this be your criterion: "Are you willing to help toward a solution — or are you a part of the problem?"

Next week, the week of May 1st, a committee of five will choose the recipient for this year's "Ragged Dick" Award. Quite possibly, he will be a newspaper carrier (named Dan:).

Those planning on attending the Des Moines Session, according to the latest information, are: Jack & Beth Row; Ralph Gardner; Mrs. Bette Robinson; Les & Bertie Langlois; Forrest & Rachel Campbell, Irv and Thelma Marie Poznan; LaRue & Betty Marquesen; Ken Butler; Doris Sibigtroth; Carl & Jean Hartmann; Dan & Molly Fuller; Don & June Shinner; Max & Sophie Sheldon; "Skeez" Hartsock; George & Dixie Miller; AND SOME OTHERS ** WHO HAVEN'T SENT IN THEIR RESERVATIONS YET!!!

SEE YOU IN DES MOINES!Jack Row

E.N. President Butler reveals in this issue that the Nominations & Election Committee reports a unanimous vote for all candidates who volunteered to serve. Evidently there were no write-in votes which would seem to indicate that the voters highly approved of the committee's recommendations. The number of ballots cast was somewhat disappointing, since it represents only about forty percent of the total membership. It would have taken only a moment of your time and a five-cent stamp to register your approval of those who volunteered to serve. It is hoped a larger percentage will respond in supporting our new officers.

President-elect, Jack Row, is deserving of the honor bestowed upon him. I was greatly pleased to learn that he had volunteered to serve us. We must concede that Jack is a busy man, but in spite of this he is devoted to his hobby, and to the society in many ways which are beneficial to all of us.

Jack sells U.S. Government Bonds. I am not sure at the moment just what his official title is but I do know that he serves a large area of the State of Iowa. For this reason, he is away from home at least four nights each week, and since his personal mail is addressed to Clarion, he does not see it until the week-end when he is at home.

Jack was the first supporter of our newsletter, to be officially recorded from the State of Iowa. We can truthfully say that we knew (of) Jack when he had only 63 titles. We learned of him through his correspondence with Ralph Gardner in 1963. And now Jack stands in second place in title representation, and the State of Iowa stands in first place in membership. Our hats come off to Jack Row, and to the State of Iowa, and a special tribute to Beth who puts up with it all. (000)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED:

None, but we do have some good prospects.

BIRTHDAYS (to June 15th)

PF-002	Mr. Harry M. Boniece	May 18
	Mrs. Bertie Langlois	May 21
PF-126	Mr. Paul D. Soini	May 24
	Mrs. Beth Row	June 3

If your birthday occurs between June 15 and August 15th, be sure to notify us. If this department fails for lack of response, it will be discontinued with the next issue of this newsletter. Since we will not publish a July issue, the next birthday announcements will be for a two month period.

Ralph Gardner takes this means to express his appreciation to all of the many Particular Friends who were nice enough to send him birthday greetings. "—the biggest pile of birthday cards I ever received — made me very happy.."

Bertie Langlois will undoubtedly be in Des Moines on her birthday. For the past two years we were fortunate in having an opportunity to sing happy birthday greetings to her. This year her birthday occurs on Sunday. The Sunday morning farewell breakfast will be our opportunity to express our personal greetings. If you do not plan to be present, send your greetings to the Howard Johnson motel, and schedule its arrival time no later than Saturday, May 20th.

B O O K M A R T

No books offered. I disposed of all mine on our Southeastern trip. Others are no doubt planning to bring theirs to Des Moines. If you do not plan to attend, I suggest you inquire of Wordney White, and Clifford Carley. Wordney hopes to sell all of his in a group. And Cliff must have a title that you need. If not, I am reminded that James Davis and Orson Grant (dealers) also have stock in a large variety of subject matter, including Alger.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

None have been submitted, and none of my own come to mind at this time. It may be a good opportunity to pose some questions, and form some answers pertaining to the society and its operation.

Shall we have a new editor? (the office is filled by appointment). Shall we have an assistant editor? Let's face it. Who would carry on in an emergency? Someone should have this responsibility.

Carl Hartmann submitted last month a cut stencil which included illustrations from line drawings and a photograph. Unfortunately space was not available last month, due to previously planned material,

however, the use of illustrations opens the way for future improvements in our newsletter.

Shall we continue to have a semi-annual membership roster? At the close of December we had not accumulated enough new members since the last edition to merit the expense of another edition. Then some delinquent members were removed from the mailing list and the roster becomes obsolete before the end of a full year.

Shall we continue to have an annual Newsboy Photo Supplement? Photographs cannot be successfully reproduced on stencils. If you want a Photo supplement, we will need your cooperation in submitting material to be used.

Shall we increase our efforts to encourage an Alger commemorative postage stamp? Shall we encourage Paul Fisher in his project of assembling an illustrated catalog of the many publisher's cover designs with a promise of our full cooperation? This is a worthy project, but it is an enormous undertaking for one person. It would be beneficial to all Alger collectors. Paul asked for our cooperation. Did he receive yours?

N E W S

Irv Poznan writes that he has sold the old homestead in Pine Lawn, and has bought and moved into a new home. Please correct your records:

Mr. Irving I. Poznan, PF-135
107 Timka Drive,
Ballwin, Missouri 63011

Herb Risteen writes that due to conflicting engagements, he and Esther will be unable to attend the Des Moines Session. Herb also reports that he has just purchased two Alger books which were published by McLoughlin Brothers, the first he had ever seen. He says they are high in quality and very attractive. Information regarding titles published by this publisher should be reported to the editor.

Roy Wendell has been keeping me well informed, and supplied with newspaper clippings on the subject of Alger from the Boston area. The name Horatio Alger has been accepted by the Press as a sure-fire attention getter. In one clipping the name of Alger attracts attention to an unknown political aspirant who is not known well enough to go-it-alone. Another clipping refers to a Rev. Earl E. Alger of Lawrence, Mass. Max Goldberg investigates all such personalities for whatever they are worth.

The other clipping written by a presumed-to-be novice, opens up and tells his public all there is to know about this Bohemian author, Horatio Alger for, he claims, few people would recognize the name. This one really burned me, and I have written him, setting the records straight.

(000)

EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS

Partic'lar Friends are the salt of the Earth. We may be direct opposites in many respects such as in areas of wealth and education, and also in religious and political beliefs, yet we are bonded together in fondness for Horatio Alger, Jr. and in complete agreement with his principles.

In our organized devotion for Horatio Alger, Jr., it would seem to be a natural reaction that we would have a tendency to cultivate a relationship more than an exchange of views and experiences through the medium of the newsletter, and even personal correspondence.

The medium of our annual meetings is a wonderful opportunity to make personal acquaintances with the people we have been reading about, and perhaps corresponding with, yet all, because of geographical locations, financial means, or previous commitments, cannot avail themselves of the opportunity.

With this in mind my wife and I combined our 37th anniversary trip with a desire to meet some of our Partic'lar Friends in the southeast. Spring is an unpredictable time of year as far as weather is concerned, and the best laid plans...often go astray, yet we were able to maintain our planned schedule with only minor interruptions and delays.

Our first stop was at the home of Mrs. John (Rohima) Walter. The noon-time Sunday dinner was on the table and waiting when we arrived. After a delicious meal we talked Alger for a while and exchanged a couple of books, which added a couple of titles to Rohima's collection. John's interest in collecting is primarily in foreign money or unusual American money. Their son, John Henry, also collects and has an interesting display of boy scout insignia patches. After taking a photograph for possible use in a future Photo supplement, we resumed our journey.

Late Monday morning we knocked at the door of Wordney and Mae White. Wordney is of retirement age and a semi-invalid. His devotion to the Alger books is second only to his bible. Being a devout religious man, he said, after Mae commented that we talked like old friends, "yes, we've met before -- and we're going to meet again -- some day." Wordney has accumulated some 72 Alger books, highlighted by an early Loring title and a much coveted scarce title in a handsome Winston edition. Mae has become an avid collector of Alger in her own right having some 26 titles with a highly desirable title in a fancy Burt edition. Due to a tight schedule for the day it was necessary that we resume our journey after an hour visit.

In the early afternoon we found Martha Harris, school librarian, seated at her desk. Accompanying us out to our car she

selected a couple of titles from our supply of duplicates which added to her collection. Her mother is gravely ill and Martha has not had an opportunity to pursue her hobby for some two years. She expects to retire in a couple of years and is looking forward to attending our annual meetings and meeting some of our group. She is very proud of her low number, PF-005. She reminded us that Carl Harris, the mysterious stranger, and postmaster in my story, The Young Postmaster, was named for her own father who was the Postmaster in Cunningham for 36 years.

It was nice to meet Martha who has been a faithful supporter since 1961, and in our haste to resume our journey, we forgot to take a picture, and we are hoping she will send us a black and white snap shot for possible use in the next Photo supplement. We will remember your mother in our prayers, Martha.

In our eastward dash through central Tennessee, we became conscious of a change. Trees and shrubs were fully leaved. Dogwood was in blossom. The soil took on a reddish hue, and most interesting of all was the ever-present invitation, "you'll come back!"

We were running a little behind schedule as we traveled southward among the hills at dusk on the eastern border toward Dayton and viewed much of the beautiful scenery behind a truck on the one-lane highway. In Dayton we passed the historic court house, site of the famous Scopes "evolution" trial, in which William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow participated.

James Davis, PF-178, met us at the motel and escorted us to his home where we met his wife, Ella Mae. As a sideline they operate The Hitching Post, an antique shop which includes a wide variety of books. The shop is adjacent to their home. Ella Mae proudly relates, and Jim modestly concurs that he built the whole thing in his spare time, except for the plumbing. It was here that I was able to add one new Alger title to my collection. And as I recall Jim added a couple of titles to his collection from my duplicates. In need of a suitable key to be used as a key to the city in my play, The Boy From The Bowery, Jim had just the thing I was looking for. Originally, it was a cell key to the former Chattanooga jail, now demolished.

Freight moves at night, we discovered, as the Chattanooga choo-choo's huffed and puffed under our motel window all night long (it seemed), as they moved Dayton's textiles to market.

As we approached Chattanooga in the early morning mist we could make out the outline of Lookout Mountain. Our visit with Jack Barker had to be omitted due to Jack's previous commitments for that day, but we proceeded through the northern outskirts of Atlanta anyway enroute to Greenville, S.C. for lunch, and an overnight stop in Charlotte, N.C. We found that the southern hospitality is unsurpassed and the food is
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EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS: (continued)

superb. Only one were we subjected to low lights and high prices. Rachel and I discovered cafeterias years ago. Each large city has at least one, and sometimes two. We make no apology for our choice, though one could easily follow our trail by the green we left behind us.

Rain fell upon us all the way from Charlotte to Raleigh, though we did venture out of the car at Southern Pines to do some local shopping. We saw one bad accident which was undoubtedly a result of the wet pavement. Downtown Raleigh is a pleasant place though we did view it from under raised umbrellas a part of the time. Raleigh is industrious, and once again they moved the results of their labor along the tracks under our motel window during the night.

It was windy and cold as we emerged from the car in Norfolk to do a little sight-seeing. I had to hang onto my hat and Rachel her skirt. The shelter of an occasional department store felt good to me while I waited, as Rachel disappeared into a maze of women's wares.

Most of the way Rachel acted as pilot while I acted as navigator with a map in my lap. Although we entered Norfolk through the Portsmouth tunnel we had planned to leave Norfolk by way of the Hampton tunnel. It is not always easy to follow oral instructions which seemed advisable at times. "Just make a left turn and right on out," we were advised, just as simple as that. So we make a left hand turn and before we proceed two blocks we are on the ramp headed for the Portsmouth tunnel again, and there's no turning back. More oral instructions: "Cross over the James River bridge and turn left." Before we had proceeded ten miles we found we had only crossed over Chuckatuck Creek, and the James River bridge was still ahead. Gas station attendants take a dim view of free advice without you gassing up, and you just can't gas up every mile or so.

As a result it was late when we reached Williamsburg, and to make matters worse the motel was not "in the center of things" at all. It was quiet though, out there.

Andrew and Mary Chapman (PF-179, and editor of Literary Sketches) cordially invited us into their home during the evening for a short visit. The trials of the day were soon forgotten as we discussed the problems of getting out our small monthly publications. The name and address on your copy is typed by a fourteen year old assistant, Mary says, and a thousand copies is no small task. After the printing is completed, the assembly work is done at home, and the monumental task (on Monumental Street), Mary says, is the separation of each copy by state and zip code.

The Chapman's have no children. Mary and her folks once lived on Long Island but they moved to Williamsburg so that Mary could attend William and Mary College. Mary once was employed as a guide in Colonial Williamsburg. She now works in her father's store. Andrew is employed at a nearby air base. Literary Sketches, a labor of love, Mary says, is frantically assembled at night as the deadline approaches.

Grant may have taken Richmond, and so did we, for there seemed to be no way to avoid it. As we crossed Virginia, I felt somewhat disappointed, for I had yet to see a cotton or a tobacco plantation. The untilled land could well have been Michigan as far as scenery was concerned, except for the lush growth of dogwood trees. As we crossed the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains, the view from the top was breath taking, but the air was refreshing and invigorating. The car performed beautifully, with seemingly little effort. As we entered West Virginia on U.S. #60 I was very much impressed with the clean and spotless highway and the lush greensodded shoulders, with the right-of-way seemingly hewn out of solid rock. It had been a long weary day, and to get caught in the five o'clock traffic in busy, busy (where there seems to be no unemployment problem) Charleston, was enough to try a man's soul, and I wasn't driving.

Spending an evening with Cliff and Hazel Carley (PF-163) in Ashland made the irritating delays all worth while. The area seems to be lush with Alger books, and Cliff has some 200 to prove it. Many of the are highly desirable items and have been well preserved. From his stock Cliff estimates he must have at least 100 different titles, and eligible for the 100 Club. Cliff is the (now proud) owner of a copy of the scarce title, Wait & Win. I don't think he realized it, but I am sure he will handle it a bit more carefully from now on, and perhaps with some admiration. This was not his only prized possession, either. I saw cover designs by various publishers that I had never seen before.

His possession of a copy of Wait & Win adds credence to the belief that what is hard to find for one person, is not hard to find for another. A given title may be thought to be scarce if one does not have it in his collection.

Hazel is interested in antiques and has at least two interesting items. One is an old wooden bedstead with a six-foot high headboard. The other is an old wall type telephone, about a 1917 vintage. Hazel is also a fan of Jesse Stuart, a Kentuckian, and she knows him personally.

Getting across the Ohio River at this point posed another vexing situation for us but we finally made it after some backtracking, but only to get lost on the opposite shore in Ironton, in what seemed to be a signless small city.

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EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS: (continued)

Interstate highways (with limited access) seem to be everywhere, but they are far from being completed. The present construction seems to have been concentrated in the areas of, and sometimes through our larger cities. Nothing can be more vexing to a motorist who is enjoying the freedom of a divided highway, and anticipates many more miles of the same, when a sign warns you, DIVIDED HIGHWAY ENDS.

The long-hair set, mini-skirts, and gas station contests are also everywhere. all designed to attract your attention, no doubt. Sight seeing in the past usually meant looking at the high buildings; now it's different.

We saw no evidence of differences between race, creed, or color; in fact, in Columbus, we were impressed with the cordiality extended to us by the proprietor of a parking lot who cheerfully directed us to the nearest expressway entrance.

Mansfield is the home of Hal and Ann McCuen, PF-096 (name not in current membership roster directory) he is Director of the Mansfield Children's Theatre.

In a park just off West Park Avenue, stands a monument erected to the memory John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. Near this monument in the park is the location of the Children's summer theatre, where, plans are scheduled for the world premiere of my play, The Boy From The Bowery. It is scheduled for two performances, July 13 & 14th, and again next winter perhaps at a different location.

We were honored guests that evening, to a delicious dinner prepared jointly by Hal and Ann. Their home, modest, but comfortable, is a veritable museum of mementoes acquired through their varied interests. Their books alone are enough to stagger your imagination. I saw a collection of miniature books of which one book alone could be covered with a small button. I was presented with one copy, less than 2X3 inches in size, and enclosed in a transparent case.

On the walls were autographed photographs of celebrities; some of the theatre, and many of them personal acquaintances. Also displayed were paintings done especially for Hal, and in some instances the subjects were the highlights of Hal's achievements and interests.

Depicting Hal's interest in children, were displays of old and cherished toys, and dolls. (yes, that's right). Hal works with retarded children, and Ann is a Director of a Children's Foundation. Both are happy in their individual fields of endeavor, and their interests and lead busy, busy lives.

Looking back upon our trip, it was a tight race to maintain the schedule we set for ourselves. We were naturally weary at the end of each day, and perhaps somewhat boring in the presence of our gracious hosts along the way, but for our part, we enjoyed our many visits immensely.

Of the particular friends listed in the current membership roster, plus those who have recently joined with us, we have met forty seven, and we hope to add several to this when we attend the Des Moines Session. We'd like to meet you too, and if the feeling is mutual, perhaps you'll meet us half way, in Des Moines.

We salute the State of Kentucky and our members who reside therein. We have just watched the Kentucky Derby on TV and saw Proud Clarion come up from behind to win the Derby. We are mindful of our president-elect who came up from behind to take the lead in our society. How proud Clarion must be!

Max Goldberg is making plans for our annual memorial service in South Natick. We hope to report on his final planning in our next issue.

Ed Levy has invited us to hold our 1968 (centennial) meeting in New Haven with our headquarters in the Pond-Lily Motel, of which he is co-owner. He is prepared to deduct one third of the room rent for Society members who reserve rooms. To arrange for: (1) A morning guided tour of Yale. (2) Luncheon at the Yale Common, where all freshmen eat. (3) Sponsored afternoon visit to the (Yale) Beinecke Rare Book Library -- one of the world's great depositories of antique books and manuscripts. (4) Dinner at Johnathon Edwards College (Yale), the official meeting place for the class of 1920 Yale (mine). (unquote).

Gladys Judson reports that an Amherst College professor is teaching a course called the Picaresque novels, and he is using Ragged Dick and Mark, The Match Boy to represent the Alger novels. Gladys also reports that she is just recovering from a very badly broken leg and ankle but is now back to work in her book store.

Mary Chapman (Literary Sketches) reports that the current issue of American Book Collector lists a number of small organizations such as ours, and was quite disappointed that we were not listed. I will personally inform them of our existence. I have noted some mention of our organization, or our members in other publications such as The Dime Novel Round-Up, and The Book Worm. The Book Worm is in its fourth issue, and I note it has been converted to two columns per page like our publication. Jacqueline Steele, PF-199, its editor and publisher, in the current issue classifies eight different types of customer that comes into her book shop, and possibly yours, or perhaps you and I fit one of these customer classification types. You ought to read it.