



Newsboy

Vol. 6 No. 2

September 1967

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

Incorporated 1965 (Non-profit)

5868 Leath
Kalamazoo Michigan
49002

President: Jack W. Row; Ph: 515-532-3731; P.O. Box No. 101, Clarion, Iowa 50525
Vice Pres: Carl T. Hartmann; Ph: 517-882-3203; 4907 Allison Dr., Lansing, Mich. 48910
Sec'y-Treas-Pub; Max Sheldon; Ph: 517-532-3286; P.O. Box No. 124, Clarion, Iowa 50525
Editor: Forrest Campbell; Ph: 616-349-4155 Membership fee \$5 (twelve month basis)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Many of you have received your billing for dues by now, from Max Sheldon, Secretary-Treasurer. It would be helpful to us if those being billed would send their dues upon receiving the first notice that they are due. This would save Max time and would save the Society postage for a reminder. Members are supposed to be billed on the anniversary date of the first month dues were paid when they joined the Society. A word to the wise-- if dues are not received within 30 days after the second notice, members will be dropped from the active rolls and will no longer receive Newsboy.

According to the figures we have available, 21 Partic'lar Friends have over 100 "titles" and are eligible to receive the brass engraved plate which signifies membership in the "Horatio Alger '100' Club". NOTE: If you now have more titles (100 or more) than was shown in the last roster, please write me or Max Sheldon and let us know.

George and Dixie Miller, PF-166, of Westchester, Illinois, visited us in Clarion recently. George paid his dues while he was here and Dixie commented that Newsboy alone was well worth the \$5 dues.

We still have a limited number of the red, white & blue blazer patches on hand at \$1 each; and a few walnut frames for those who would like to have their membership tiles beautifully displayed. The walnut frames are \$2, postpaid. By the way -- those who buy frames for their tiles should remove the cork from the back of the tile before trying to glue it into the frame with "Elmer's".

Burton and Dorothy Jerrel of Des Moines, friends of the Rows and the Harlan Millers, were guests at the Saturday evening banquet of the Des Moines Session. Burton is not yet a member of our Society but he is being subjected to some salesmanship toward this end. Even though not a member, Burton graciously offered to make arrangements at the Harvard Club in New York City for the Society to meet there for a national convention. Maybe we will take him up on this offer someday. The Harvard Club would be most appropriate for us.

(continued on page four)

EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS

FAVORABLE PUBLICITY

Our society has been getting a nice lot of publicity from various sources lately. Often it results from an indirect source; from current news releases in various publications, and often from old ones just discovered. The best form of publicity of course is person to person, where one enthusiastic member spreads the word.

Aurand Harris, PF-204, recipient of our 1967 Newsboy Award for being the first to put Alger material (Rags to Riches) on the stage, recently sent me the July edition of Signature, the name of the Diners Club Magazine. On page 39, publicity intended for Aurand also mentioned our society indirectly. Aurand also reveals that a recent (August?) issue of Childrens Theatre Review mentions him winning the Newsboy Award, and his play Rags to Riches was included in "20 Plays For Young People" by Anchorage Press.

William Sausaman, one of our newest members, reports that he heard of us through Publishers Weekly and American Book Collector.

Credit is due to our members who have proudly acknowledged their affiliation with our society and thereby announcing our existence. Occasionally I have received inquiries resulting from publications which are no longer in existence.

I agree with our Vice President who says: "Identify yourself as an Alger collector, and as a member of our society." Remember, you are an authority on the subject since you have authentic information at your disposal. You can spread the word and help us grow.

GARDNER'S BOOK

Ken Butler, President of Wayside Press, recently reported that the supply of HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, was down to 17 copies, plus a few slightly damaged copies. I have not heard of any plans for a second edition. If you want an extra copy for yourself, or for a gift to someone, act quickly. Even now, it may be too late.

(continued on page five)

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

With the addition of the new members listed in the last edition of the Newsboy, membership has reached a new all-time high. In order to keep up this record we must have new members each month to take up the slack of members that leave. I would like to thank all the members that have sent the names of prospects to me. Keep up the good work. Let's all recruit at least one new member this year. With the last issue of the Newsboy you received an application blank - USE IT!!!!

At long last in Lansing, we have our own flea market. The grand opening left a little to be desired in the line of books, but on the whole it was very encouraging. Flea markets, along with estate and rummage sales, are a very good source for books. Normally they sell for 25¢ to \$1. Algers always seem to take the higher price. If you don't go to estate and rummage sales you are missing some good buys. A letter from Norman Peterson, PF-184 had the following comments, "Several weeks ago I visited the flea market in Ravenna, and at one place I mentioned that I collected Horatio Alger, and lo and behold, a lady standing alongside of me said, 'So do I'." Of course Norman mentioned our Society and a membership package is on its way to her now. As Norman said, "It would be good to have another Michigan member, and who knows, maybe we can keep up with Iowa."

Norman also mentioned that while traveling the upper parts of Michigan this summer, he picked up a Porter & Coates edition of Helen Ford and a first edition of Nelson The Newsboy. So you see the good books are out there - just get busy looking.

As you know, we have sidetracked the "Books for Libraries" project because of a lack of interest. Dr. Wilkinson of the Rare Books Section, Michigan State University, East Lansing is trying to upgrade the Alger section. As with most schools, low budgets hamper this work. So, if you have any good clean copies you would like to donate, drop Dr. Wilkinson a card.

Since the 1968 convention site and date may still be undecided, and since those attending the Des Moines convention preferred late June or early July, I'm sure our president and Ed Levy, the convention chairman, would welcome your suggestions. I have attended the last three conventions and would like to keep up my record, but since I want to take the wife and kids, a May date is out. I feel we will have a better attendance with the later dates. How do you feel?

Have you made any new friends through our Society? I have! Good friends! A few weeks ago Steve Press and his wife stopped in Lansing on their way west.

Warner Conarton, PF-209, Steve, Alice, and myself all had lunch together. We had a wonderful conversation. Steve and Warner, both being writers, had much in common. A common interest is a great bond, so, while you are traveling around the country on vacation or business, be sure to look up our Society members.

Once again, I'd like to stress the importance of telling dealers, antique shops, and those that deal in estates about our society and that you are looking for Algers. Remember, Algers are not always on the book shelf in the living room, they may be stuck away in boxes in the attic or cellar. Your dealers have the best opportunity to find the "finds", so, spread the word, when a dealer mentions that someone else is looking for Algers, get their name and send it to me.

..... Carl Hartmann, PF-102

OUR 1967 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

This autumn we hope to issue the 1967 edition of our Alger Society Membership Roster. It will contain the names of all paid up members, including new members who have joined since the previous Roster published in September, 1966.

As before, the directory will contain the names and addresses of members listed alphabetically, including PF numbers, number of titles owned, name of spouse if known. It will also contain the names and cities of members by states, and will list all members by PF numbers in advancing order.

If you have added to your collection significantly since the previous Roster (or since you filled in your membership application form), drop a card with up to date information to Kenneth B. Butler, 1325 Burlington, Mendota, Ill. 61342, now. Also give name of spouse if married and if not listed in the previous roster. Only by your notification to the Roster editor can the information on you be truly up to date.

The Roster is mailed no charge to all paid up members. It is a useful reference.Kenneth B. Butler

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONATION

At the Des Moines Session we donated \$10 to the Natick Unitarian Church's 'Disaster Fund' as suggested by Max Goldberg. (see June Newsboy, page 4, top of Column 2).

Max received an acknowledgement of our gift from Robert Gardiner, Minister, who expressed grateful thanks for his congregation. The report of the acknowledgement came too late to be included in our August issue. The church was completely destroyed by fire. Our donation will help them rebuild again. Horatio's name appeared on original subscription list.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-216 Mr. Isadore Appel T-000
5317 N. St. Louis Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60625

PF-217 Mr. William A. Sausaman T-000
1525 N. Third Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702

1968 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

PF-004 Mr. Edward G. Levy
Pleasant Hill Road,
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Isadore comes to us by way of Gilbert Westgard. (Unfortunately, the new membership application form does not ask for number of titles owned) I am sure that Isadore has started a collection, for he states on his application that he receives much pleasure in searching for the books he read as a youth. He says, "I have hopes that my children and grandchildren will also get pleasure such as I have had these many years." Isadore also collects Stratemeyer, and his aliases.

William heard of us in Publisher's Weekly and American Book Collector, in which my name and Newsboy address was listed. His interest in Alger, just recently renewed, stems in part (quote) "My indignation in reading so many belittling criticisms of the literary quality of Alger's works and his moral teachings," He owns Gardner's Alger biography and other interests include Illinois State History, A. Lincoln, Audubon, and Genealogy.

It is a small world. Learning of Kenneth Butler, he reveals that he was once stationed in Mendota, but just before Kenneth took up residence there.

PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCES

Once again, I am in complete accord with our vice president when he urges you "to look up society members." Until I am challenged, I claim the record in having personally met 82 of our Partic'lar Friends. I do admit that some of these were early subscribers to our newsletter and that some are no longer active. I hope to meet more at future conventions, or other Alger Meets. If the feeling is mutual, some of you will have to meet me half way. I knew our president when he didn't have enough titles to qualify for the "100 Club" and I can remember the time when his number of titles, PF number and P.O. box number were the same. Some time in the future I hope to qualify for a new "100 Club" of "members I have met." Will you help me? I recall with interest the circumstances under which Butler and I met Carl Hartmann, but that's another story.

The listings in this department are free to our members. One full column will be devoted to this department each month. Please list title, publisher, condition and price.

Offered by: Walter J. Moore, PF-131,
914 Linview Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61801

Adrift In New York,	Donohue	\$ 3.00
Andy Gordon,	Hurst	3.00
Bob Burton,	H.T. Coates	3.50
Boy's Fortune, A	Winston	3.50
Driven From Home,	Donohue	1.00
Erie Train Boy, The	Burt	3.50
Frank and Fearless,	Winston	(?)
From Canal Boy To		
President, Anderson		7.50
Grit, The Young		
Boatman, Donohue		3.50
Joe, The Hotel Boy,	C&L	12.50
Jack's Ward,	Burt	3.00
Luke Walton,	Donohue	3.00
Making His Way	Burt	3.00
Only An Irish Boy	Winston	5.00
Paul Prescott's		
Charge, H.T. Coates		10.00
Paul, The Peddler,	Burt	2.00
Ralph Raymond's Heir,	Hurst	2.50
Rufus and Rose,	H. T. Coates	7.50
Slow and Sure,	S&S	3.50
Store Boy, The	Burt	5.00
Tony, The Hero,	Burt	5.00
Young Acrobat, The	Caldwell	5.00
Young Adventurer, The	H.T. Coates	5.00
Young Outlaw, The	New York Book	1.00
Walter Sherwood's		
Probation, Donohue		1.00

Offered for sale or trade by: Mrs. Rohima Walter, 1307 Greenbush, La Fayette, Indiana 47904 (T-56) (publisher, condition and price not mentioned) (PF-160)

Adrift In New York,	
Bound To Rise,	
Do And Dare,	
Erie Train Boy, The	
Hector's Inheritance,	
Helping Himself,	
Jack's Ward,	
Julius, The Street Boy,	
Mark Mason's Victory,	
Luke Walton,	
Paul, The Peddler,	
Phil, The Fiddler,	
Risen From The Ranks,	(two copies)
Sink Or Swim,	
Telegraph Boy, The	
Try and Trust,	
Young Adventurer, The	
Young Salesman, The	

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the difference between TOM, THE BOOTBLACK and THE WESTERN BOY (Rohima Walter, PF-160)

A. They are the same story. TOM, THE BOOTBLACK is a reprint edition of the original story THE WESTERN BOY.

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS: continued -

All Algerians are familiar with the affiliation of Horatio Alger with the Harvard Club. Their summer bulletin, has an interesting section on Alger which typifies the respect due Alger's name. (Quoted below).....

(FROM THE HARVARD CLUB BULLETIN, SUMMER, 1967) HORATIO ALGER STORY - Class of 1852.

"Fashions change even in literature and the most popular author in the United States during the last thirty years of the nineteenth century and his '100 undistinguished novels for boys with their rags to riches' formulae are now laughed down with almost universal scorn and ridicule.

Be that as it may, as President Jared Spark's 'Freshman of the Class of 1852', Horatio Alger took many prizes at Harvard, graduated eighth in his Class, was Class Odist and awarded the English Oration at Commencement, was elected Phi Beta Kappa, belonged to the Institute of 1770 and to the Natural History Society. Within six years of his graduation from the Cambridge Divinity School, he came to New York and joined the Harvard Club where he now comes to light in the Club's history as the first name listed in the earliest preserved Directory of Members. Among the 141 names so included, ten were his classmates."

To carry on the Horatio Alger story, eight of the members in that Directory became Presidents of the Harvard Club of New York City and nineteen were elected Vice-Presidents!

Many members have commented in correspondence that they would like to see more "meat" on Alger in Newsboy. Society officers agree with this premise, but hasten to point out that it is up to the members of the Horatio Alger Society to contribute articles that can be printed in Newsboy. Our editor has probably run his well of Alger material dry over the years, (E.N. My cup runneth over!) and would welcome contributions. You, too, can have a "by-line". Just send in a story.

It's about time for some of our Partic'lar Friends in the New England area to be contacting Ed Levy regarding next year's meeting. Ed would welcome volunteers for his committee and suggestions on the meeting. If you have ideas on just what a meeting of the Horatio Alger Society should be — write Ed and let him know.Jack W. Row, PF-101.

E.N. Contributed "stories" or articles are not required. Just send in your news item. I'll be glad to write them up for you. If there is no news in your area, then make some!

The following references were contributed by Roy L. Wendell, PF-090

1. HORATIO ALGER, JR. by Frank A. Munsey - Munsey's Magazine 8:59 (1892 or 1893)
2. HOW I CAME TO WRITE by Horatio Alger, Jr. - The Writer 8:182 (1895)
3. FORGOTTEN BOYS' CLASSIC - The Literary Digest Jan. 30, 1932
4. THE CYNICAL YOUNGEST GENERATION - The Nation 134:186 Feb. 17, 1932
5. HORATIO ALGER, JR. by L.S. Allen - Saturday Review of Literature Sept. 17, 1938 (also in condensed form - Reader's Digest Nov. 1938)
6. HORATIO ALGER, JR. WAS NO HERO - by Stewart Horatio Holbrook - American Mercury October 1940
7. THEY MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY - by N. Levey - Atlantic Monthly - Nov. 1943
8. HOLY HORATIO - Time - Aug. 13, 1945
9. MONUMENT TO FREE ENTERPRISE - by W. R. Benet - Saturday Review of Literature - Sept. 1, 1945
10. THE ALGER STORY - by M. Conley - New Republic - Sept. 10, 1945.
11. ALGER'S VITALITY, A Reply to M. Conley - New Republic - Oct. 1, 1945
12. PHOENIX NEST - by B. W. Goodwin - Saturday Review of Literature - April 6, 1946
13. REBELLIOUS PARSON - by H. F. Pringle and K. Pringle - Saturday Evening Post - Feb. 10, 1951
14. DREAM OF SUCCESS - by K. S. Lynn - The Commonweal - July 29, 1955
15. THE RISE AND FALL OF HORATIO ALGER, JR. - by M. Fishwick - Saturday Review of Literature - Nov. 17, 1956
16. PARTY OF ONE - by Clifton Fadiman - Holiday - Feb. 1957

(E.N. Roy listed four other references which were published within the present decade which makes them more or less current. Numbers 1 & 2, written before Alger's death are not available here. No. 7, written by an admirer, proved to be interesting, while others took a pessimistic view. Numbers 10 & 11 should be interesting, while No. 13 might shed some light on his ministry. If any of these references are available to you, read and report. Let me know if they rile you, or make you feel better. Our grateful thanks to Roy for this bit of research).

A PARTIC'LAR FRIEND PASSES

Bates E. Clarke, age 86, of Kalamazoo, and a former subscriber (PF-076) of our newsletter, passed after a lingering illness. He had been associated with a local book store since 1899, but has been retired since 1947. In retirement he continued to collect rare books, and perhaps had the largest private collection of the area. I made his acquaintance through our mutual interest in books, and he once told me that he didn't recall stocking any of the Alger books in his book store.

Bates was introduced as a new subscriber in the August 1963 edition of our newsletter. Further remarks, and his article written exclusively for us entitled "THE CARE AND READING OF BOOKS" will be found on page one of the May, 1964 newsletter. He was the leading local authority on the subject of books and his opinion was often sought. Much information could be given from memory, and knew exactly where any book on his shelves could be located without aid of an index. He will be missed by all local book lovers.

WANT TO BUY A BOOK BUSINESS ?

Ernest Sanford, PF-032, reports that our old friend Paul Rothenburger died recently and his business is for sale. His book business, THE OLD TRADING POST, sometimes referred to as ABNER'S, (used to an advantage in alphabetical listings) is located at 6 Park Ridge, Lisbon, New Hampshire.

THOSE ALGER HEROES

How would you describe a typical young Alger hero? For an answer, we can let Horatio Alger Jr. himself supply the answer. Within the first few pages of every Alger tale, a short paragraph gave the reader a picture of the young hero who had just been introduced into the action of the story. Using a composite of many of Alger's heroes, gleaned from his stories, we can quite accurately describe the typical Alger hero as follows:

"He was a handsome and strongly-built boy of 15, with a manly expression and frank smiling face. He was broad-shouldered, erect, and of good height for his age. His features were finely chiseled and there was a hue of health to his ruddy cheeks. He was bright-eyed, and his expressive face was marked by a mingled expression of fun and impudence. He was proud, high spirited, self-reliant, and of cheerful temperament."

.....contributed by Ken Butler

(E.N. Ken will be in Michigan soon, when he joins the Glidden tour of antique cars at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, with his 1923 depot hack. The following week he will have an exhibit at the Mendota antique show, an annual event.

I am pleased that two of our members have listings in our book mart this month which will enable other Partic'lar Friends to add to, or upgrade their own Alger collections. This service should be useful to many of our newer members who are just starting a collection. Duplicate titles are accumulated by Advanced Collectors through upgrading, or buying in lots at auction sales. Individual books are seldom offered at auction sales and an experienced Alger collector should be able to determine at a glance if one of a lot is worth buying the entire lot at a fair price.

Some states are picked clean, so I am told, but there is no rule of thumb that will guarantee such a statement. Reports continue to dribble in that books are being found in such areas. There is a certain thrill in hunting for books outside your own community, and occasionally it pays off. It is even a greater thrill if you find a good one in the backyard (literally) of another member. We are all searching for a new frontier, yet unexplored by an Alger collector. Is there any such place today? Yes, any place away from home, in any direction. Any may be replenished tomorrow. People do move around, and quite often their Alger books go with them. There is often an intrinsic value, or sentimental attraction far beyond the actual value.

As a result of some recent local publicity, I received an inquiry. The result was that the owner's estimated value far exceeded my appraisal. Another lead led me to a dozen Alger books, none of which I needed for my own collection, but could have been bought for the price of, or in exchange for a bassinet. The young owner, a father of six children, one of them born yesterday, finds it necessary to raise some ready cash by disposing of his Alger books. I appraised his books at \$20., one of them being item #64 (not a first edition) on our authentic list of Alger titles. Do we have any philanthropic members who would be willing to exchange a bassinet for his Alger books? The young owner is an admirer of the Alger stories, and a believer in the Alger principles, however his new-born child now becomes his first interest.

Oh, that the society were financially able to say, "We need young men like you, here's your bassinet; keep your books and read them to your children!"

So there are books to be found in my area; I admit it. Many are held for sentimental reasons, and some for a higher price. What we need is young men like this young father, admirers and believers who will carry on the love and respect for Horatio Alger through the succeeding generations for our society. Our young members are our heritage. They should be a good investment in our future.

(continued on page six)

EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS: continued -

To add a few remarks of my own regarding Ken Butler's "composite" description of those Alger heroes, it seems to me that:

The original locale of the Alger heroes was restricted to no political boundaries. It is true that beginning with "Ragged Dick", his first book that attracted nation-wide attention, many of his heroes lived in New York City. But, as he progressed and gained popularity among hero fiction readers across our nation, the locale shifted to rural areas such as his own New England States.

These heroic features developed from an environment such as poverty, a domineering step-father, or a lack of education.

All of us were born with the proverbial spoon in our mouths. Often it was a silver spoon, but in the case of the Alger heroes, more often it was an empty spoon.

In the case of the New York City heroes the factors were poverty and a lack of education. Under the proper influence they were encouraged to become thrifty, save their money for an education, and rise above their station in life.

I sincerely believe that Alger put himself in many of his stories, not as the hero, but in the role of a good friend and counselor of the hero, where he had the opportunity to "train up a child in the way he should go."

The Alger critics refer to this as the "Alger Formula" but camouflage the origin and purpose with their own trumped-up slogan of "Rags to Riches."

The "empty spoon" set were born in rags of course, and according to the critics, were undeserving of wealth and prosperity yet some degree of prosperity is essential before an education can be attained. The typical Alger hero was usually forced to assume some responsibility in supporting a widowed mother, delaying any opportunity of education until some degree of prosperity arrived. Is there any dishonor in shouldering responsibility, if necessary, before achieving an education?

Horatio Alger was "trained up" in the way he should go, by a good mother, and guided by a proud father, to follow in his footsteps as a minister. At the age of 32 and unmarried, his first and only Parish was in Brewster on Cape Cod. His congregation was made up mostly of retired sea captains, many years his senior. He no doubt found it necessary to preach up to them. Although unmarried but having a fatherly instinct, he preferred a younger congregation. His desire to write influenced him to leave the pulpit and minister to a younger generation by way of the written word.

We do not claim that Horatio, himself, was a hero, in that he performed any heroic deed, but he believed he knew how a hero should act and conduct himself.

What is a hero? We have been led to believe that a hero is one who is capable of overcoming fear, one who defies common sense and danger, one who risks his life to save another. This feature, the Alger critics hasten to point out, is the outstanding characterization of an Alger hero. One who saves a life and inherits a fortune for doing so.

Basically, I believe an Alger hero is one who knows right from wrong and governs himself accordingly. One who is admired and respected for his principles. He is capable of making quick decisions when there is little time for reflection, yet his decisions should not be construed as snap judgements.

Often the Alger hero emerges from a crowd of people who are seemingly frozen in their tracks, to save a drowning person or snatch a child from the path of a runaway horse. It is with no thought of bravery or reward that he does so, but because it is the right thing to do. Yes, he is often rewarded. Who, but the Alger critics would deny him a just reward for doing so? Not always does he receive money as a reward, nor does he always marry the boss's daughter, but he is often given employment where he has an opportunity to prove his ability.

The leading character of the Alger stories is not always introduced as a hero. A reformation takes place. Under the influence of an encouraging benefactor, he is led to become thrifty, respectable and responsible. Horatio Alger believed he was fitted for the role of an encouraging benefactor.

The environment of a domineering step-father was one of the factors why boys left home for New York, or the hopeless situation of a bound-boy to the village squire, or as an inmate of the poorhouse. Under such circumstances the desire to make his own way is quite understandable.

Horatio warned his young "would-be" hero readers that the road to success would be rough, and beset with many obstacles. He told them, in story form, that "honesty is the best policy" and that its practice would pay off in an honorable future. He also told them to beware of a dishonest man, and to practice temperance. The result would be model young men who would be bound to succeed.

Are the principles practiced and taught by Horatio still workable today? "No!" say his critics. "Yes!" say his admirers, "If you follow the directions as prescribed." "Be thrifty, honest, courteous, respectful, industrious, studious, truthful, responsible, helpful, friendly, attentive, sociable, reliable, dependable, etc., etc." (PF-000)

Please request titles owned from prospective new members.....Max Sheldon, Sec'y.