

THE HORATIO ALGER

"World's only publication devoted to Horatio Alger"



Newsboy

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5888 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

A big THANK YOU to Irene Gurman, PF-A01, of Oak Park, Michigan, for writing a "Guest Column" this month

AND,

To all our Particular Friends and their families, sincere best wishes for a joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

Jack W. Row, President

ECHOES FROM THE ALGER FOXHOLE.....of Irene Gurman, PF-OA1:

Our old friend and earlier fine biographer of Algeriana, Frank Gruber, who did such a fine biblio on Alger with pictures of many covers that were unfamiliar to us before, and who had one of the finest Alger collections sold in a unit to date, of original first editions, has come to public scrutiny again in the Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine of last Sept. with a mystery story after 26 years.....having one of the finest collections of Alger, including the much sought after Timothy Crump; a myriad of mystery stories, one of which was based on another rare Alger, Ralph Raymond's Heir, sometime back.....scenario writer for many years in Hollywood of the "Wells Fargo" series, and "Sheriff of Cochise", starring John Bromfield, who this writer got to know when he MC'ed the Sportsman's Show in Detroit for the past 4 years and again this coming year, public related by this writer's husband, Max Gurman. Bromfield's partner, Jim Griffith is an avid collector of Tom Swift books, as is Louis Cook, movie critic for the Detroit Free Press.....I found a gem "NUGGET FINDERS", took care of November!

Suggestion department:

To save on printing bills which are exhorbitant today, and which Ken Butler of Wayside Press stands with great rigidity, I wonder if the By-Laws couldn't be printed in the covers of the Membership Roster (which changes now and then the members could make as we go along when amendments are made, to make notes of in same) instead of printing them separately, and which copy this writer has never received in its entirety, not having been a member the first year of incorporation, there must be others in the same dilemma.

It is hoped the members will write in and make their suggestions; now else are we to know what their pleasure is. Do it on a postal if necessary. It has been explained to me by President Row that when incorporating a society such as the Alger Society, a clause was necessary, and that we are in no way "on the skids" as it were, that IF THE SOCIETY FOLDS UP, THE DUES AND FUNDS DERIVED IN ITS BEHALF WILL BE DONATED TO A FAVORED CHARITY.....this is a clause that must be added to the by-laws when incorporating into a non-profit organization such as we are.....I reiterate, we are not going out of business, as many members have written me to ask..... I stressed this question with Jack Row and he assured me of it....It was most delightful to have a good visit with Jack when he passed through Detroit on his way to Washington DC on the morning of Thanksgiving past; we had a good visit, talked of many things, though his visit was a brief one...he told me of the coming Board Meeting he would attend in Mendota.

I made several suggestions to him that I thought might benefit the organization, and if he wished to state, "they were not necessarily his." I trust the Board will have a good meeting for the betterment and enlivening of the interest in the organization. One of them was, that anything suggested in the Board Meeting might be sent out (to the members who pay their \$5 dues) with the newsletter, for their pleasure of expression, and not only the handful out of the 150 who attend the confabs in May (Mendota, Milwaukee, Des Moines) have a vote in the matters and suggestions brought up at Board Meetings, amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, that their voice and vote be heard so that they will not feel like outlanders as this writer has in the past 2 years that I have been a member.

Let us for instance hear from those 11 directors, either voluntary or appointed from various districts instead of just the President; Editor; Goldberg, East Coast; Hartmann, Great Lakes; and Ken Butler, who out of necessity must write personalized columns for lack of communication from members...each one should have a turn to report so there is
(continued on page two)

THE ALGER FOYHOLE continued:

not the deadline breathing down the neck of those each month who have felt it their obligation to fill the columns of the Newsboy with trivia regarding street names and phone book associations bearing the name of Alger, which you, as well as I know are not items of "Alger research" which we seek.

Don Wallace of Minneapolis did a publisher's itinerary that would be of interest to all members of the society. I had some bits of this and that to contribute but apparently he had them for he never replied to seek what I had--his information would be of great interest to the members, for he had quite a raft of publishers who had printed Alger's material--let us hear from him.

We have members in Canada, and Alaska; what have they to report? This writer has a number of Algers in publisher's sets to dispose of (see listing in Book Mart), send stamp and I will give details on other juveniles that you may collect and titles you are seeking to add to your various collections, also some early Americana. I will be happy to look for items in this area that might not appear in your area; just name them when you write.

For a bright future for the Alger Society let's make some New Years Resolutions for 1968---So to all a Merrie, Merrie Christmas and a Happy New Year,from the Alger Foxhole

EDITOR'S NOTE: We can no longer claim "Canada" with Society representation, and Don Wallace, PF-017, a former subscriber, (mentioned above) did not choose to become a member of our society.

NOTES FROM NORMAN

It has been great fun displaying a part of my Alger collection recently in the Ferris State College and Big Rapids Community libraries. Several comments have been made relative to these displays which I thought would be of interest in this note.

How do you house your book collection? Have you found any method to make it more attractive? When you have a small display, what did you do to make the books look nicer?

For display purposes I wrap my books in Saran Wrap. It is amazing how this adds luster to the book. I hit on this idea at a coin convention some time ago in order that I might better display coin books for sale. Before the convention became past history several other dealers were also displaying their coin books wrapped in Saran Wrap.

If you should use this trick for

display purposes you must watch out for shrinkage of the Saran Wrap. This shrinkage might bend the corners of a book, but if one makes a small cut in the wrap near the corners then bending will not occur.

This method of display was responsible for several comments relative to the beauty of the individual books in my displays. One of my good friends collects dictionaries, and he especially appreciated this idea of storage and display. Of course a book wrapped in this manner will not accumulate dust on the page edges during storage.

Several friends have told me now they cut their reading teeth on Alger books. One professor friend said that not only he learned to love to read; by reading Alger, but when his non reading son became exposed to Alger he quickly became an avid reader of many books.

The Big Rapids daily newspaper, "The Big Rapids Pioneer," had a nice article and picture of yours truly and his library display in a recent issue. This type of publicity has not developed any new Alger collectors, but perhaps I have planted some small germ for future growth.

I hope that some day I will be asked to present a lecture on Alger and Alger collectors to a Humanities or Literature class at our school. Would any of my partic'lar friends be so kind as to make several suggestions as to topics which I must not forget to include if and when I am invited to make this "one shot" presentation.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from the Petersons.
Your partic'lar friend, Norman, PF-184

FROM LON'S DOMAIN

Attended a big book sale in Omaha today and bought 15 Edwards books in dust jackets. Very good shape, so thought I would write Johnson (PF-080) about his new Club. Saw a Leo Edwards autographed book recently, but didn't mean much to me then. I'll have to run that down now.

Have acquired a number of books recently. Have more Stratemeyer's than any other. Someone ought to start a Club for him. I see his daughter is still putting out Nancy Drew & Tom Swift II books.

Also started collecting insulators and I believe I could get rich on insulators if I were dishonest. Been throwing lots of money away getting rid of insulators, as that is part of my work renewing insulators.

Read an article from Remo where people were buying Jim Beam whiskey in slot machine bottles, dumping the contents down the sink as they could bring only

(continued on page 3)

DON'S DOMAIN continued:

two full bottles back. People rented U Hauls to bring back empty bottles. Individual bottles with contents cost about \$8 but the empty bottles are valued at about \$30. Crazy? I bought the Presentation Series recently for about \$19.

Season's Greetings from Don & June Shinner, PF-169.

 EDITOR'S NOTE: Not being familiar with the subject of bottles and the contents mentioned above, I was amazed until I referred to the current copy of Collectors News where I learned the traffic, not in the contents but, in the container is terrific!

 1968 CONVENTION & MEMORIAL SERVICE - MAY 23-26TH.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE CHAIRMAN

PF-008 Mr. Max Goldberg
 728 Worcester Street,
 Natick, Massachusetts 01760

YOU'LL MEET SOME NEW FRIENDS IN NEW HAVEN!

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-224 Mr. Donald E. Briggs T-007
 115 North Road,
 Hope, Rhode Island 02831

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Don and his wife, Nancy heard of me by way of the TRA Yearbook and offered to sell me his entire stock of Alger books. When he heard of our organization he decided to keep his books and become a partic'lar friend.

Hope is in the Providence metropolitan area where Don works as a machine operator in the reinforced paper & plastics division of a Laminating Firm.

Don and Nancy have seven children ranging up to 15 years of age. They are members of the local Baptist Church, where Don is active as a Deacon, and a member of the choir. He is Past-Master of the local Grange, member of the Kent County Philatelic Society, and he and his father took the Masonic degree work together.

Don's collecting interests include books on wit & humor, post-cards, old dolls, phonograph records and bottles, and other New England items. He also operates a part-time book business.

Don's membership adds a new state to our growing list of states represented.

I was interested in your comments on the Erie Canal. One of my hobbies is post card collecting and I have about 1,000 different views of the old Erie Canal. This canal was abandoned in 1917 and replaced by the Barge Canal which in some places is as much as 10 miles north of the old Erie. Our New York State Historic Trust (which I work for) has now acquired two long stretches of the old canal which will now become State Parks - one is about 30 miles, between Rome and Syracuse.

While I have never found that Alger wrote about the Erie Canal, one of his contemporary writers of boy's stories, did. J.T. Trowbridge, in 1876, wrote "Jack Hazard and His Fortunes." Young Jack is a mule driver on the Erie Canal, but escapes from his mean drunken father and goes on to his fortune in typical Alger style. (I could almost believe that J.T. Trowbridge was one of Alger's pen names).

"Indeed the little wretch could hardly speak without swearing. If you could have seen him you would have pronounced him the most profane driver on the whole canal."

I would like to find the book "Hollo on the Erie Canal" which Alger refers to in "Canal Boy to President." As to successor publishers, I have a copy of "Walter Sherwood's Probation" (but can't find it now) with first edition cover (HTC) but contents by next publisher. This is fairly common in Edgar Rice Burroughs.

I hope to be at the 1968 Convention. Any Herkimers in your phone book?

Season's Greetings -- Milton Salls, PF-020

EDITOR'S NOTE: The quotation Milton uses above may have been taken from the preface remarks. He doesn't say. The insert contents of his HTC cover just might be a Winston insert. I have some similar editions. The Winston Library Editions include some J.T. Trowbridge advertisements which list the Jack Hazard series. Milton is custodian of the General Herkimer Home, a New York State Historic Building. The General may have some descendants in your area.

QUESTION FOR COMMENT: It seems all too common to find an Alger book that is missing the front flyleaf. Why are so many of these missing? Is it because a previous owner removed it before disposing of the book to conceal identity. Isn't such an inscription a most interesting part of a book? For example: "To John from his Sunday School teacher, Christmas, 1902." It links us with someone from the past, someone that also loved the book we now possess. Aren't people wonderful?

...Norman Peterson

 YOU'LL MEET SOME NEW FRIENDS IN NEW HAVEN!

BOOK MART

The listings in this department are free to our members. Editor reserves the right to limit all listings according to available space, and to edit all excessive descriptions. Editor disqualified due to first knowledge.

Offered by: Kenneth B. Butler, 1325 Burlington Road, Mendota, Illinois 61342 (price not announced)

Walter Griffith, McKay - Excellent \$

Offered by Irene Gurman, 23498 Parklawn Oak Park, Michigan 48237 (following arrangement preferred by seller) Stamp for inquiry. Postage & Insurance extra.

Porter & Costes - Excellent - \$7.50 each

Ragged Dick (2 copies)	Wait & Hope
Luck & Pluck	Young Explorer
Julius the Streetboy	Bob Burton
Young Circus Rider	Luke Walton
Paul the Peddler	Store Boy
Phil the Fiddler	Slow & Sure
Frank's Campaign	

H.T. Coates - Excellent - \$5.00 each

Hector's Inheritance (2)	Ben's Nugget
Young Adventurer (2)	Store Boy
Young Explorer (2)	Luke Walton
Helping Himself (2)	Young Miner
Bob Burton (2)	Sam's Chance
Strong & Steady	Tattered Tom
Facing the World	Telegraph Boy
Pen the Luggage Boy	Fame & Fortune
Paul the Peddler	Rough & Ready
In A New World	Rufus & Rose

Miscellaneous - 75¢ each, or as noted. Stamp for inquiry.

Adrift in N.Y. (2)	Jack's Ward
Andy Gordon (2)	Luke Walton
Andy Grant's Pluck	Making His Way
Bound to Rise (Ralph)	Raymond's Heir 50¢
Cash Boy	Sink or Swim
Chester Rand	Store Boy
Do & Dare	Strive & Succeed (2)
Erie Train Boy (2)	Strong & Steady
Five Hundred Dollars/Tin Box	
Hector's Inheritance/Tom the Footblack	
Helping Himself	Wait & Win 35¢
Herbert Carter's Legacy	

 EDITOR'S NOTE: I receive occasional offers of Alger books from non-members who stress copyright dates, number of printed pages, and other lengthy descriptions such as illustrated, etc. While this is appreciated, it is really not important, especially when reprints are offered.

Alger collectors are primarily interested in the publisher, and sometimes the cover design to determine the edition. Condition is also important to collectors who hope to upgrade what they already have on hand. Many books offered were purchased for resale, and identified only as "first editions", in such cases you should be the judge.

Miami, Florida

I am originally from Kalamazoo. My wife's name is Lela. I have 36 titles and 11 duplicates, mostly World editions. I have found Alger books in the Brattle Book Store (Boston) each time I have been there. Burt, Winston and Hurst editions normally sell for about \$1.50 each. Also collect books on aviation, and cut & polished rocks of semi-precious quality.

I would like to hear from dealers and members who have interests in these hobbies. While in Tampa, attending a Rock Show, I went on to Florida's largest book store in St Petersburg. They did not have one Alger book in the store.

One of the clerks in the store told me that Stratmeyer moved to St. Petersburg when he retired and endowed the library there which is named after him. Stratmeyer's nephew still lives and works there and I may be able to provide more information on this subject.

..... Donald Chamberlain, PF-187

 Stoystown, Pa.

I have collected Algers since 1914. I now have 110 titles. I also collect: Auto blue & red books; all State auto & cycle license plates; vehicle name plates; driver's badges & licenses; hunting, fishing and dog licenses & tags; County atlases, histories and biographical reviews; coins, stamps, post marks, guns, watches and horse shoes; early advertisements, eye glasses, enameled signs, Indian relics, bridle bits, boot jacks and many other items.

In addition to Alger, I collect Henty, Optic, and Tom Swift books.

Otto Wilt, Pf-132

 EDITOR'S NOTE: Otto sent us a photo of he and his wife which we appreciate very much. We have quite an album started and would like to have yours also. Otto's itemized list of other hobbies was a result of Jack Row's appeal. Sorry we had to condense and cut his listing due to a lack of space.

 La Fayette, Indiana
 My aunt Mae (Alger) sent me a clipping with the headline "NEW CLEVELAND MAYOR STEALS CHAPTER FROM HORATIO ALGER."

It would be nice if we could have some name plates made up which we could wear on our coats. My son John encloses a design which includes name of our society, illustration of an Alger hero, number of books owned, and years of membership.

Mrs. Rohima Walter, PF-160

 EDITOR'S NOTE: Identification for our lady members is an excellent suggestion, something we have neglected to consider. If other lady members have any comments or suggestions, please write Rohima and inform me of results if you want publicity. Son John's design is worthy of consideration, but you might be able to improve the design before being presented for final approval.

EDITORIAL EXCERPTS

Our Vice President will not submit his usual column this month due to his attendance at a Society Board Meeting. A report on this meeting may be given in our next issue by one of those members in attendance. Carl and Jean Hartmann wish to extend Holiday Greetings to you all.

Your editor and co-founder is eligible to sit in at such Board Meetings, consisting of our five elected officers, but due to the date scheduled it was impossible for me to attend. The unpredictable weather hazards and road conditions were also factors to be considered.

Comments and opinions expressed by our contributors are not necessarily the views of the editor. If the editor feels strongly on any subject, pro or con, he reserves the right to speak out in the Editor's notes in order to clarify a seemingly misleading statement.

In this regard it seems advisable to stress the fact that our annual photo supplement, and our annual membership roster are not Society budgeted expense.

Quite naturally we would take it for granted that these items are financed from our annual membership dues. They are not. Such expenditures would have to be considered and approved by our Board of Directors.

Actually the expense of these useful, beneficial and entertaining features are provided for us with the compliments of Ken Butler, co-founder.

As I have stated before, the expense of the newsletter (on a subscription basis) for the first three years was financed mostly by the editor, with the subscription fee deposited in our Ragged Dick Fund for future administering.

The Photo Supplement and the Membership Roster were created by him and financed by him as his personal contribution to make the newsletter more entertaining and the society services more useful.

Ken modestly does not seek credit for these contributions, but nevertheless, he is worthy of our commendation.

I am certain that Ken would be receptive to suggestions to improve his creations, however, until the Society adopts and absorbs the expense of his contributed features, the Society or its members have no voice or authority to order additional improvements which would add to the expense of production.

The Society pays no salaries. The officers receive no remuneration for time and travel expense. This is donated in addition to the membership dues they pay, the same as the rest of us.

The major items of expense to the Society are the newsletter; cash award of \$100 to our Ragged Dick recipient; plaques for the Newsboy and Luck & Pluck award recipients, membership tiles; expense of supplies and postage for the offices of the Secretary, Treasurer, Publisher of the newsletter, President; and the expense of the annual Memorial Services conducted in South Natick, Mass. Officers and members pay their own personal expenses at our conventions, plus a registration fee.

Our annual photo supplement has come to be a feature of enjoyment to our members and looked forward to each year, as well as a permanent record of our past history. Each new member should be supplied with a complete set as long as our supply lasts.

Our annual membership roster has become a must, especially to our new members who have no previous record of the names and addresses of our members. Each new member should be supplied with the latest available roster.

Back issues of our newsletter are also available as a source of information regarding members received since publication of our last membership roster.

Our membership cards are a means of identification, which may be displayed with honor to our Society, plus your own personal pride and enthusiasm. These cards are dated, however, (due to our present policy) and must be renewed each year.

It has been suggested by one of our members, and for the benefit of those of us who have poor memories and are dependent upon written records, that the anniversary month as well as the year be recorded upon our membership cards.

Admirers of Horatio Alger, Jr. should not consider their personal knowledge of him complete without first visiting the place of his birth in Revere, Mass., his only Parish Church in Brewster, (Cape Cod) and the monument in Glenwood Cemetery, South Natick, Mass., which marks the resting place of his cremated remains.

All of this will be available to you by scheduling your vacation plans around our 1968 New Haven, Conn., convention, May 23-26th. Side trips to Revere and Cape Cod should be scheduled before or after our convention dates. The Memorial Service in South Natick will be a part of our convention programming. We should all participate in this service on the scheduled day. The recorded date of his birth on the monument is a permanent record which will withstand the ravages of time and a source of accurate information for any and all biographers who are dependent upon conflicting reference material at their disposal.

Y'all come, and we'll guarantee that
YOU'LL MEET SOME NEW FRIENDS IN NEW HAVEN!
(PF-000)

EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS

Since there will not be another issue of the newsletter until February, I will insert here the latest news just received.

New member: Kenneth Feller, PF-225, 1203 1st Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349.

Ken and Marian, his wife, heard of us through publicity of our Des Moines Session last May. This membership will be announced again in the proper department of our February Issue.

Harland Eastman, PF-128, 14 W. Howell Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301 lists the following Alger books for sale:

Andy Gordon,	NYB	- good -	\$1.00
Brave & Bold,	Trade	- good -	2.00
Chester Rand,	Burt	- fair -	1.00
Driven From Home,	Burt	- poor -	.75
Frank's Campaign,	Winston	- poor -	.75
R. Raymond's Heir,	Donohue	- fair -	1.00
Sam's Chance,	NYB	- good -	1.00
Tait & Hope,	NYB	- poor -	.75
Young Adventurer	Winston	- fair -	1.00

Harland reports that he will sell the lot for \$9. Harland is hopeful that he will be able to attend the convention in New Haven next year. The only question is whether he will be able to get away from his work at the State Department at that particular time.

Don Shimmer reports by airmail that he has just found a prized copy of ANLY FLAKE, autographed by the author, Edward Edison Lee (Leo Edwards), Grosset & Dunlap edition, 1928.

We have just received our first Xmas card from Rohima Walter, PF-160.

Sylvester & Virginia Mangini report they have another daughter, Christine, unreported in the Introduction of New Members, (November Issue). Sorry about that, Christine. Understand you were in high school when we were there.

EXCERPTS OF A LETTER FROM GARDNER

I just saw the MID-AMERICA advertisement in COLLECTORS NEWS, which includes a nice advertisement for my book. (E.N. Hope they can fill their orders. WAYSIDE PRESS is filling orders for Society members only).

The place of our '68 get-together is the gateway to New England, one of the loveliest parts of our Country. It is one of my favorite areas. Therefore, I very seriously recommend to our membership that they add some of their vacation time to our meeting and enjoy the great things the region has to offer. They would enjoy the beautiful countryside in Conn., Mass., N.H., Maine, and Vermont (E.N. and R.I. of course), and last but not least, remember that this region is real Alger country. Not only that our members can see where Horatio

lived, went to school, wrote, etc., but in many country sales barns, antique shops, and second hand stores they are more apt to find Alger books than in any other part of the U.S.!

During the period of our meeting, accommodations throughout the area are much easier to get than they would be a couple of weeks later and the weather then is usually excellent.

Every member should make an effort in his own community to publicize Horatio during the forthcoming "Ragged Dick Centennial Year, 1968". From my own experiences, I can assure them that local newspapers, radio and TV will be most pleased to cooperate. Horatio Alger is a subject they all like because it is fine, wholesome family-type material. It might also be worthwhile to advise local ministers of the event so they can use the Alger theme in sermons, especially since Sunday sermons are frequently reported by local newspapers.

We can all benefit by members' experiences in their own areas. Ask the members to make other suggestions, and to report results of their own projects.

I think we should all make some effort to attract for membership persons interested in Alger who are not necessarily Alger story collectors. There are folks I've come across who, while perhaps they'd be interested in joining a group with our interests, would, themselves, have no desire to start collecting Alger stories, books, etc. I realize that we already have some members whose Alger interest is simply as described, but we should try to attract more of that type. Cordially, with Season's Greetings to all,

..... Ralph L. Gardner

 EXCERPTS OF A LETTER FROM MARGROVE PROL.

Our production of TATTERED TOM is moving along very nicely and we hope to be able to provide information on opening date and star within the next couple of weeks.

As part of our scenery - the show curtain in fact, we are talking about doing the covers of some of Horatio Alger's books and want to ask you as to which were the five most popular books of his. These are the titles and covers we would want to reproduce on the show curtain. We think it will be a very exciting idea to open our show with this curtain so that the audience in fact, will be stepping into the Alger world.

... Susan Roy, PF-197

 EDITOR'S NOTE: We have suggested the titles: Timothy Crump's Ward; Ragged Dick; TATTERED TOM: TOM THE BOOTBLACK, and FAME & FORTUNE. Our second choice would be the alliterated titles: BRAVE & BOLD; SINK OR SWIM; SLOW & SURE; STRONG & STEADY; and WORK & WIN. (PF-000)
 Christmas Greetings from the Campbells.
 YOU'LL MEET SOME NEW FRIENDS IN NEW HAVEN!

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Privately
FinancedWorld's only publication
devoted to Horatio AlgerPrivately
Sponsored

Editor: Forrest Campbell; Ph: 616-349-4155 5868 Heath, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002

PROPOSED -NEW YORK CITY- "ALGER" PROJECT
 TO HERALD IN RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

To Inject The Alger Principles On Anni-
 versary Of Alger's Birthday - January 13

One of our budding young playwrights
 of New York City, Steve Press, also
 known as Partic'lar Friend -164, has
 taken a teaching assignment in New York
 City -- but let him tell his own story:

"I am teaching school in the New York
 City Public School System. The City
 Board of Education offered those with
 Bachelor degrees a series of free
 courses during the past summer if they
 would agree to teach for at least one
 year.

The System was and is short of Junior
 High and Elementary teachers. I entered
 the course for Junior High teachers
 (English). The course was called The
 Intensive Teacher Training Program; it
 gave the students the basic education
 credit requirements to teach. The Board
 promised to send all us neophytes to
 what they called "fair" schools --
 meaning schools without social problems
 but this was a promise they never meant
 to and didn't keep.

Of course the teacher shortage was in
 the slum schools and that's where we
 were sent. When I was assigned to Dis-
 trict 8 in the Bronx my teacher friends
 said to avoid J.H.S. 52. I was assigned
 to 52! It is one of the toughest
 schools in the System. For example: Two
 of my students were arrested out of
 class a few days ago. I was struck by a
 student and was forced to hit him to
 protect myself; a circular was just
 given to the teachers describing a youth
 who (censored); the boys all study
 Karate; they carry metal dog collars as
 weapons; they wear Nazi swastikas and
 World War II German crosses as decora-
 tion; they use language that would em-
 barass a drill sergeant, and these are
 junior high school age students -- 6th,
 7th, and 8th graders!

I teach three 8th grade classes. My
 best class reads at an average 5th grade
 level and my other two classes -- many
 cannot read and write at all and the
 others read at around a third and fourth
 and less grade level. All I've men-
 tioned plus much, much more and disci-
 pline problems that you just wouldn't
 believe and administrative problems
 which are extraordinary.

My students are of the age and condi-
 tion that Horatio wrote about but mine
 lack the motivation. It's a world of
 Mickey Maguires and no Ragged Dicks. I
 gave a copy of Ragged Dick to one of my
 boys who seemed to show some promise.

He said he read it but he has gone
 truant (as many do) and disappeared.

I think one of the problems is that
 these children don't have a clearly de-
 fined goal in life. A goal such as
 Alger defined. I think if they had an
 Alger writing for them things could be
 different.

I would like to place an Alger book
 in each of their hands and see what hap-
 pens. I have been thinking about this
 a good deal lately and now I'd like to
 see what you think. Do you think that
 our readers might each have one old copy
 of a reprint that they would be willing
 to donate to New York City's slum
 children?

All it would have to be is readable. I
 could get them to repair broken bindings
 in class with tape and glue. I have some
 old New York Book editions and other re-
 prints which I picked up at the local
 Salvation Army store and other places for
 25 & 50¢ (like the Ragged Dick which I'm
 going to give them).

I'd need about 90 books altogether.
 It, I think, would be an interesting ex-
 periment: They could read the Algers,
 then trade them among themselves and
 maybe even write reports about them. The
 reports (or summary) I'll send to you for
 possible publication in the Newsboy. Can
 we do this? Can we bring Alger back to
 the slum children of New York City? Can
 Alger save another group (E.N. generation)
 of lost children? My one one experiment
 with that copy of Ragged Dick failed but
 I don't want to give up.

Forrest, ask the members (through the
 NEWSBOY) what they think of my idea. One
 book from each member might begin to
 change the world.

It could use a little changing. We
 look forward to seeing you in New Haven."

Your Partic'lar Friend, Steve Press

further comments on reverse side

Steve's airmail letter dated December 4th, which announced his proposed project, arrived too late to be mentioned in our regular December Issue. I believed his proposed project to be worthy of immediate attention, so I called him on the evening of the 5th. I explained that while his project was worthy of a special edition of our newsletter, it would be difficult to get opinions and approval for a special edition from the Board of Directions without some delay, so it was decided that the NEWSBOY would sponsor the project from private funds.

Questioning Steve regarding approval of school authorities, he assured me that he could proceed. Inquiring about possible newspaper publicity, he felt this would be good for the project and that he could cope with it.

The date of the proposed project would coincide with the next anniversary of Horatio's birthday, January 13th. The timing is very appropriate. It is a splendid way to open our RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR.

The Bronx area for the proposed project is also appropriate, since Horatio himself chose lower Manhattan for his experiment with underprivileged children.

Some may say. "The project is too far removed; we have a similar situation in our own locality. I don't want to become involved."

Steve is worthy of our praise, for his courage in accepting the challenge in his own locality. From it we may learn if the impact of Alger has any influence on our younger generation 100 years hence. If Steve's project is successful to any degree, we may be encouraged to do likewise in our own locality.

(Steve attended the 1966 Memorial Service. Those who have the 1966 Newsboy Photo Supplement, Steve is standing next to the Alger Family monument in the group picture.)

But times have changed. The boys that Alger wrote about were sometimes homeless and parentless. Their problem was one of survival without the benefit of an education. Alger showed them how they could rise above their station in life, and how, through an education, they could live more comfortably and be accepted in our society. He taught them that "honest" money was a far better policy than "easy" money.

In our day, we have child labor laws and school laws which force school attendance. In order to do this, the mother must often supplement the family income, since the child cannot legally be hired.

Due to a combination of causes, the homelife of the child after school hours is unsupervised; there is perhaps little discipline. What to do with so much time on their hands? It is only natural that they seek out their friends of equal age. They become leaders, and the younger boys follow with respect like lambs to the slaughter.

After a day in the world of reality, they retreat to a world of make believe.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Without supervision, and little discipline, the boys are living in two worlds. One is an adult world. Being children, they prefer to live in their own world. They must be prepared for the adult world and taught how to cope with it and be accepted in the adult world society.

Horatio Alger enjoyed some degree of success by teaching his principles. There are apparently other ways to achieve success and respect of our fellow-man. Many of our successful men, who are also respected, still swear by the Alger principles, and recommend it, while others condemn it.

Acceptance of the Alger books as a text book, instead of acquisition as a collector's item (and taken out of circulation) is a way that we might be instrumental in "beginning to change the world" as Steve put it.

As Steve also says "readable copies are all that are required." To help you identify the less desirable collector item editions, I suggest that you select: Goldsmith; Saalfield; Superior; Whitman; World; and New York Book editions, with perhaps Hurst and Donohue editions, if they are in poor condition. However, the text, or story portion should be complete.

It matters not if Steve gets several copies of the same title, for there are bound to be a wide variety of titles offered. If you do not have a book to send, perhaps you can buy one from another particular friend; if not, I'm sure your monetary donation equivalent to the price of one book will be appreciated by Steve. Steve's address is as follows:

Mr. Steve Press, PF-164
Apt. 14T
784 Columbus Avenue,
New York City, New York 10025

Please note that Steve has moved from his former address which is listed in our old membership roster. Please mail your donated book immediately after Christmas.

Steve and Alice Press join us, Forrest and Rachel Campbell, in wishing Season's Greetings to you all! and—
YOU'LL MEET SOME NEW FRIENDS IN NEW HAVEN!