

THE HORATIO ALGER

"World's only publication devoted to Horatio Alger"

"RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR"

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Newsboy

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 1968 NEW HAVEN CONVENTION PRESIDENT JACK ROW RESIGNS OFFICE

...by Carl Hartmann, Vice President

The following members have announced plans to attend our convention with headquarters at RIP VAN WINKLE MOTEL, 1548 Whalley Avenue. Telephone 387-2557.

- PF-000 Forrest & Rachel Campbell
- PF-004 Edward & Hortense Levy
- PF-006 Kenneth B. Butler
- PF-008 Max & Ida Goldberg
- PF-014 Judson Berry
- PF-015 Edward T LeBlanc
- PF-020 Milton R. Salls
- PF-053 Ralph D. Gardner
- PF-063 Cladys O. Judson
- PF-090 Roy L. Wendell
- PF-093 Les & "Bertie" Langlois
- PF-102 Carl Hartmann
- PF-106 Morris Olsen
- PF-128 Harland Eastman
- PF-156 Bette Robinson
- PF-164 Steve & Alice Press
- PF-171 Phil Neufeld
- PF-199 Jacqueline & Dick Steele
- PF-218 Everett Whitlock
- PF-220 Karl K. Weber

I hear there's some goodies in Ralph Gardner's room!

What's for dessert, ma?



It is with much sadness that I announce the resignation of our President, Jack Row. Due to other commitments Jack feels he cannot devote enough time to the HAS and has asked me to take over his duties for the rest of his term.

In the years that Jack has served the HAS as member, Vice-president and President, his accomplishments have been many. He is personally responsible for more new members than any other member. The time and work involved in putting on the Des Moines Convention can only be appreciated by those that have done the same. Jack's collection of Alger was rivaled only by Ralph Gardner's. He has helped many members increase their collections.

His monthly columns in the Newsboy are always interesting and informative. His personal dedication to the principles of Alger and to the HAS are shown over and over again by his outstanding work for all of us and our organization. I am very proud to have served under Jack as Vice-president and prouder still to know Jack as a friend. His work and devotion are and always will be a great inspiration to me. It takes time, effort and devotion to do the job as Jack has done it. Thanks, Jack, for your time, energy and devotion and may I, speaking for the HAS and every member, express my gratitude for a job well done.

(E.N. The effect of Jack's decision will mean a great loss to us; one which we must reluctantly accept with our sincere regrets)

FROM BOOK EDITOR OF GRIT

...My father died when I was six weeks old...The son of a family friend sent me seven Horatio Alger books as a gift...I did enjoy the books...I found a favorite volume in HERBERT CARTER'S LEGACY. I'm sure I read it half a dozen times or more. I even tried to write my own novel patterned on it, but abandoned the project. I believe, despite the derision of literary purists, that the Alger books had a healthful influence on me...Kenneth P. Loss, Book Editor.

The list grows! You are bound to meet some new friends in New Haven! Your name will be added next month, if you announce that you are coming. If member and spouse will both be present, we'll be glad to report it. We'll have a bulletin board in the lobby or headquarters room announcing room numbers of our members. We hope to have a professional photographer to take our group picture at a time when all are present. Mayor, Robert F. Lee, or his aide will officially welcome us at our Friday evening dinner. Remember the fun we had at the Des Moines banquet? We'll relive that happy hour, plus Ida Goldberg, and some new jokes! Les Langlois will give away as door prizes, PEN BRUCE, BERTHA'S CHRISTMAS VISION, PRAND BOY, SHIFTING FOR HIMSELF, and TOM THATCHER'S FORTUNE. We'll have some newly composed Alger poetry recited, and possibly a new Alger song for your consideration and adoption. Ralph Gardner will again do caricatures of anyone with nerve enough to sit for it. Pee, one malted milk at the nearest malt shop! Bring your Gardner book for free autographing. Wear your HAS emblem, and make your reservations early. Looks like a complete sell-out! Remember, you will meet some new friends in New Haven!

A "STEVE" PRESS EXCLUSIVE (for Newsboy)

The Steve Press 'Alger Project' at I.S. (Intermediate School) #52, Bronx, N.Y., is now (at this writing) at its climax. In addition to the Alger books supplied by our Society members, 15 more were received from the good people of Maine, as a result of favorable publicity in the Portland (Maine) Press-Herald, supplied by Jacqueline Steele, Editor & Publisher of BOOKWORM.

Approximately 100 assorted Alger books were distributed to as many students in Steve's Language Arts Department. The students were requested to read the story and invited to exchange with another student for additional reading pleasure as well as further study of the Alger principles.

In addition to the actual books, each student received a mimeographed excerpt (selected by Steve) taken from the story, RAGGED DICK, Chapter 8. The excerpt begins with Ragged Dick's comment: "I don't see why rich folks should be so hard upon a poor boy that wants to make a livin'." and continues to the end of the chapter. Certain phrases in the actual story were abridged by Steve to make the conversation more understandable at the student level.

Each student was given a test paper assignment consisting of 16 questions based upon this excerpt. One of the test questions was: Why can't Dick go to school? The answer in Ragged Dick's own words is:

"I can't go to school 'cause I've got my livin' to earn. It wouldn't do me much good if I learned to read and write, and just as I'd got learned I starved to death."

As a change of pace, Steve asked his students to arrange some Alger titles in an advertising slogan. Here is an actual response, designed to combat delinquency:

"Had a terrible childhood?! Never had a chance?! Figured you'd stop living?! Well, stop! Take Horatio Alger's idea! Face your faults and FACE THE WORLD!"

So, you see the project actually has been launched. Some four hundred test papers have been turned in. The classroom curriculum has returned to normal but the kids are still reading the exciting adventures of the Alger heroes.

At home, Steve is busily engaged in grading and evaluating these test papers. In the midst of this, Steve's name has been drawn for Jury duty beginning March 4th, but he's not complaining; he accents it as a civic duty.

But before he reports for jury duty, he will have had the pleasure of seeing his "Musical" TOM COOPER, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY (an adaption from Alger material) produced by his students in the school auditorium.

The production was scheduled for Feb. 28, 29th and March 1st, with 2,000 students and 125 teachers exposed to Alger.

The leading character, TOM COOPER, (hero) is played by student Luis Gonzalez. Other parts familiar to Alger readers are: MICKEY MAGUIRE, played by student Benjamin Eggleston; and MR. GREYSON, played by student Tony Almezquita.

Steve has prepared some publicity designed for news release about his project, and his play. One such release is headed: HORATIO ALGER has returned to New York City! The release credits the Horatio Alger Society as the donors of the books made available to the students of I.S. #52. Steve further identifies our society's "dedicated purpose" as outlined on our official society stationery.

Steve uses quotes from Stewart Holbrook's THE AGE OF THE MUGULS in which Alger is cussed and discussed, but only those quotes which could be used to an advantage in introducing Alger to a new generation. One such quote was in reference to the Civil War drummer-boys whose homes had been destroyed and who migrated to New York City or other big cities, living on the streets and earning their living as best they could as shoe-shine boys, newsboys, or "baggage smashers."

The purpose behind Steve's Alger Project in I.S. #52 as related in his news release is as follows: "What effect would Alger's inspiring stories about "culturally-deprived" boys and girls from another era have on today's slum child?"

It is too early to tabulate any real results, but he believes he sees the "makings" of at least one true Alger hero from his project, and is hopeful that at least one such student might be rewarded for his efforts.

By convention time Steve feels he can provide us with a complete report of his findings. We admire and commend Steve for the courage of his convictions.

Steve begs of you, the donors of the books, to be patient with him, since he has promised, and intends to acknowledge each and every donation of books or money with a personal letter of thanks. In the meanwhile, he hopes you will understand the enormity of the task of grading and evaluating 400 test papers.

Although Steve is not soliciting further donations of books, publicity just released in the February issues of BOOKWORM, and LITERARY SKETCHES, may result in more book donations.

In such an event, Steve has promised to make such donated books available to future society projects in other areas. We'll hear from Steve again in the April and May issues of our newsletter. (PF-CCC)

BOOK MART

The listings in this department (space permitting) are free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition, and price.

Offered by: Kenneth P. Putler, PF-006,
1325 Burlington Road, Mendota, Illinois,
61242.

From Camel Boy To President,
John F. Anderson - good - \$10.00

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-231 Stewart C. McLeish T-002
87 Garland Street, (Feb)
Everett, Massachusetts 02149

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We will have at least one more next month from Maine, whose application was not processed in time for announcement this month.

Stewart heard of us through Ralph Gardner. By the time you read this, Stewart may be residing at a new address which will be announced next month. In the meantime I am confident that he will receive any mail directed to him at the above address.

Stewart is a veteran of WW2 and retired (on disability) from the Post Office Department. He served the department as a letter carrier, and for the past three weeks we have been carrying on a debate-by-mail on the subject of "What's wrong with the postal service."

Stewart and his wife will attend our New Haven convention, and if given any encouragement we might put on a little "skit" between a postal patron and his letter carrier.

Stewart is well versed on the subject of Alger, having read most of the Alger stories as a child. The actual count of titles he has at this writing is unknown, since he is a personal friend of George Gloss, proprietor of the Brattle Book Store in Boston. Stewart gives his age as 60½ but has more things going for him than a man half his age, and still accepting new assignments. His latest appointment, direct from the Mayor, is head of the Decent Literature League for the city.

In addition to composing verse and prose on any subject you might suggest, including Alger, he has submitted composition for an Alger song, possibly two, which will be presented to us at New Haven for our consideration and possible adoption.

Due to the nature of his disability, he finds time to correspond. I'm sure he'd love to hear from you.

Mrs. Martha Landis, PF-226, one of our newest members, has suggested to me a very brilliant (in my humble opinion) idea!

Her suggestion, to put it concisely is: "Since there is a great interest in bottle collecting lately, why don't we have a commemorative Alger bottle?"

Since this is a commemorative year for Alger, the timing of her suggestion is perfect!

I did suggest an amendment to her idea, since Alger abstained from the use of liquor, and discouraged the use of it, a commemorative bottle (in that form) would not be complimentary to his image. I suggested a glass container with a slot in the top instead of a bottle neck which could be used as a coin bank and would be more fitting, considering his principles on thrift.

The shape of the glass container could be in the form of a book. The commemorative issue could show his image, signature, and span of life, 1832-1899. On the reverse side could be appropriate words which would state his principles, or, our "dedicated purpose" as outlined on our official society stationery.

Other issues to follow in the same book form, but in a variety of colors, would feature the numerous titles.

Such an item would not only be of interest to Alger collectors, but to all bottle collectors as well. The various issues and the market would be unlimited!

We need not get involved as a money-making scheme; we would merely offer the idea to a manufacturer with a promise to cooperate. But we would need a committee to work with the manufacturer in providing authentic material.

The February issue of BOOKWORM, edited and published by Jacqueline Steele, PF-199, is a must for Alger collectors. It has Horatio's picture on the cover and other pictures and illustrations inside. Subscription is only \$1.50 annually.

Max Sheldon, publisher and distributor of our newsletter is reproducing our By-Laws on page six until completed. A financial report will be published in our May issue.

Mrs. Rohima Walter, PF-160, sent us a copy of BIG TEN, a magazine designed for university students. General Offices, P.O. Box 551, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001. The January issue contains an article written by a student entitled: Horatio Alger, The Original Square. The article reflects little research, and is, as you might guess, of an uncomplimentary nature. The point is, the young readers are being misinformed from an unreliable source. Another bombing, using misinformation as a weapon.

PF-000

MILTON SALLS FROM LITTLE FALLS Presents:

A PUBLIC SERVICE FEATURE (from previously published editorials and bulletins)

Historians fear that many records of the past are literally turning to dust in libraries around the world. Much of the paper being used in today's books and magazines will fall apart within 100 years. Books printed as recently as 50 years ago are crumbling.

Librarians, sympathized one researcher, "find themselves piling up mountains of paper only to watch those mountains disintegrate before their eyes." Many libraries spend as much time and money preserving old books as they do collecting new ones.

Fortunately, a solution to the paper problem may be in sight. A newly developed book paper of fiber treated with calcium carbonate is expected to last from 800 to 2,000 years, depending on storage conditions and temperatures.

The Council on Library Resources sponsored by the Ford Foundation and working through the V.J. Barrow Research Laboratory, developed the long-lasting paper after nearly a decade of research and testing. Since 1870, the growing demand for paper has required quicker and cheaper manufacturing techniques. Abundant wood pulp replaced expensive rags as the basic raw material. But chemicals used in pulping, bleaching, and sizing tends to create acidity which weakens the fibers and hastens deterioration.

Laboratory tests show that book papers of 1900-09 retain only four per cent of their original strength. Some of the paper has turned yellow and brown. Books published in 1940-49 have lost more than 60 per cent of their durability; the rapid decline is blamed on the poor quality of papers manufactured during World War II.

In contrast, thousands of books five centuries old are written on paper which still retains its original color and strength. A sheet from a book printed in 1534 withstood more than 400 folds; one from a 1681 volume held up under 1,117 creases. The paper in a 1908 book, however, was so brittle it would not fold once without breaking.

The all-rag papers of the past were only slightly acid, and they often contained calcium and magnesium compounds that acted as preservatives. The compounds apparently came from natural washing and bleaching agents.

Unfortunately, 100 per cent rag paper is too expensive today for widespread use in books and magazines. The Council on Library Resources, with the help of several paper manufacturers, has perfected a durable paper from long, stable

wood fibers infused with calcium carbonate to act as a buffer to the acid. The new paper is not expensive, and is commercially available. The Council hopes that many publishers of scholarly books and magazines will consider its use. --NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY BULLETIN.

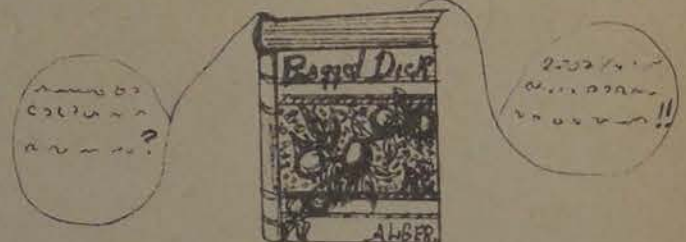
"Almost every sheet of paper made in the United States since about 1850 is eating away at itself at a terrible rate," says book restoration expert William J. Barrow, as quoted by the Washington Post.

Books dating from before the Civil War, however, are still in good condition. The reason is that they were made of paper with a nonchemical rag content. The old papermaking process was replaced by one using chemicals and wood fiber to meet the demand for large quantities of cheap paper which arose in the second half of the 19th century.

Barrow estimates the average life expectancy of 99 per cent of the books manufactured in this country at 25 to 40 years. Only one per cent of the books made at the turn of the century will be usable at the start of the next.

This suggests that the much-talked-of "information explosion" may have its own built-in solution. But much of value as well as well as much trash is going the way of all pulp, and even trash achieves a historical value if it stays around long enough.

Thus experts are constantly seeking well-preserved copies of deteriorating books and preserving others on microfilm. Future archivists may not have this problem. A new paper, not yet widely produced, has a life span of 2,000 years. -- (editorial -- Little Falls Evening News)



Translated, the above conversation between father & son, bookworms is as follows: "Where are you eating, pa?" "I'm not eating, I'm reading. I find the contents much more entertaining and easier to read than to digest."

***** (E.N. I've suspected all along that my books seem to be rapidly deteriorating despite care in handling. Don't lend your valued books for reading purposes)

Ralph Gardner reports: "I think the suggestion of Norman Peterson, PF-184, to wrap books in saran wrap is terrific! I've done it and I feel it'll add years of life to the books. I really think that suggestion is, alone, worth in dollars and cents the cost of several years' dues!"

Ralph adds, "I'm sitting here, relaxing, smoking my pipe and reading the February Newsboy for the third time!" (our grateful thanks to Gardner and Salls, PF-000)

A SPECIAL FEATURE (continued) Part II

Mickey Maguire (contributed by I. Curman)

It was a thousand pities that, to his many heavensent virtues, he did not add the worldly one, prudence. But he didn't, and there's an end to the matter; nor was he to blame for it either, although some self satisfied, money scraping mortals, who, fortunately for their sons and successors, happen to have that same virtue to a vicious extent, elevate their eyes, shrug their shoulders, and cry shame upon the open hand, and all the time the would-be philosophers forget that they might as well find fault with a man for the color of his hair, as for the peculiarities of his temperament or disposition.

Well, so it happened, that year after year, Mickey's affairs got worse by degrees, and, in the thick of his distress, what does my bold miller do but take unto himself a wife, as he said himself, "for to double his joy, and halve his sorrow, which was two to one in favor of some comfort according to the rule three."

How it answered his expectations, it is unnecessary to inquire into, suffice it to say that inasmuch as she brought him nothing in the way of worldly gain, save a pair of bright blue eyes, and a stuff gown, all settled on herself, his prospects were not materially brightened by the alliance.

At last came the year of the bad harvest, the crops all failed, and the mill became quiet and desolate; that put the finishing stroke upon poor Mickey's perplexities, and, for the first time in his life, he began to think that there was such a thing as a future to provide for.

"Musha! then it's time for me to come to my senses," said he, one day, as he took up his pipe, after a most unsatisfactory meal; "many's the fine night I spent as much as 'ud last us a month now, and more, betoken, it's suppin' sorra I am for the same, sure enough."

"Indeed, and ye are, and sarve ye right right too," continued his helpmate. "But it's me that's to be pitied--me, that never had the good of it when it was going and now it's gone, it's me that'll have to cry salt tears for the want of it. Ah, if you had only laid by ever so little of the money that you wasted in rollicking about an' thratin' thim that gives you the cowl'd look now, ye might snap your finger at the harvest, and more, betoken, I wouldn't be shamin' your name by wearin' the same gownd at market an' at 'Mass."

"Arra, be sisy," said Mickey, "wher's the use in tellin' what I know mighty well a'ready, I've been a fool, as many's the one has been afore me, but I've had my jig, an' now the piper's to be paid, out of my bones, if not out of my pocket."

Well, to make a long story shorter, Mickey went down hill in a hurry, as easy-tempered people generally do, when the light of good fortune doesn't show them the way.

Puzzled, confused and blinded, in the thick darkness of distress, he made a few ineffectual struggles toward an upward movement, only to plunge deeper into the mire of disappointment; so that, tired at last of endeavoring to buffet against the current of misfortune, he made no exertion to sustain himself, but allowed it to float him where it chose. And it is not to be wondered at, that, amidst the noisy, reckless revelry of whiskey shops, became his general anchorage, and indeed, misfortune's most dangerous flood-tide could not have carried him into a worse haven, for when times grew brighter, and plentiful harvests smiled upon the land, the habits which he had acquired in his dispondency rendered labor distasteful, and the old mill, once more in brisk demand, was deserted for the tippling house.

Meantime, although the grain was brought as plentifully as ever, the business of the mill was scarcely sufficient to pay the weekly score chalked up against himself and his gay companions, for again they gathered round him, laughing outrageously at his maudlin jests, and pounding the tables at his drunken songs.

The labor of the mill was neglected for without the eye of the master, work is badly done; his home was home no longer; the voice of his wife, once beloved, grew cold and tame to his ears compared with the wild hurrahs of his ale house friends.

Matters had nearly arrived at a desperate state when, one summer's evening, Mickey was taking triangular surveys of the road as usual, his locomotion having been rendered extremely uncertain by copious libations of whiskey punch, when he happened to strike his foot against something metallic. Stopping in the midst of a fragmentary song, he stooped down and found it was a horseshoe.

"Hurrah!", shouted Mickey, at the top of his voice, "it's a child of Providence, I am, luck's come at last; an' indeed, not before it's wanted!"

For be it understood, that amongst the Irish peasantry, the finding of so commonplace a thing as a horse-shoe, under such circumstances, is considered to be the precursor of the most illimitable good fortune, and so it was with Mickey Maguire, although not exactly in the way he anticipated.

"Aha", he shouted, with glee; "won't this fill the ould woman's heart with joy?"

(to be continued in the April issue)

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS:

It was our attention to print on p. 6, commencing with this issue and possibly continuing for the next two issues, a history and the By-Laws of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY.

Unfortunately on Thursday night, ^{Feb.} January 29th, I had a bad fall and managed to break my left leg in two places. I'm now hospitalized and don't know for how long except the doctors tell me I will be in a cast for 10 to 12 weeks. The material was prepared to include on this page except for re-typing. Because of new help in the office, the girls couldn't locate it and I ask all members indulgence for the omission. It is my sincere wish to everyone that the year 1968 will be an interesting and enjoyable one. There is so much sadness and tragedy both in this country and abroad; I believe we should attempt to live each day as though it might be our last one and treat our fellowman as we would wish to be treated. I've borrowed this typewriter from the X-ray lab and they are asking me if I'm not through. Until the April issue and God bless all! - Max Sheldon 3/4/68