

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

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Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devot-
ed to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler



1968 Memorial Service, Glenwood Cemetery, South Natick, Mass., Sunday, May 26th. Society members left to right are: 2nd. from left, Max Goldberg, President and Chm. of Annual Memorial Service; Paul House; Stewart Mc Leish; Kenneth B. Butler; Ralph D. Gardner; right of monument, Forrest Campbell; Carl Hartmann; Eddie Westgard; Edward Reynolds and Gilbert Westgard. Also shown in picture are; Steve, John and Stanley Hartmann. The dates on monument if not legible are: Jan. 13, 1832 and July 18, 1899. Photo provided by Max Goldberg. Processing expense privately financed. Mr. Goldberg delivered his own specially prepared eulogy address. Text will be found on page three of this issue.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

..... Max Goldberg, President

A Meditation On the right hand side of the Newsboy is inscribed - "The Wonderful World of Alger". In retrospect, the curtains of the Past open and reveals the "Wonderful World of Horatio Alger, Jr."

Monday; Wash day: - Lifting a 10 gallon container of water on the black stove, heating it, soaking the clothes in it. It takes two persons to lift it. Afterwards using the scrubbing board. Nails crack, here manicures are useless. The house is heated by the Parlor and Kitchen stoves. Three flights down to the cellar for a pail of coal and three flights down again to empty the ashes. The privy is in the center of the hall - first come first served. Baths, take your turn or use a round wash tub.

Welbach mantles or a large bulb tip is used for gas light. Visitors sitting in the parlor chatting, when behold the light goes out leaving all in darkness. The battle cry of the Republic is heard - "Who's got a quarter?". Everyone scurries for a quarter, put it in the gas meter and light appears again.

Sanitation Sanitation is only found in the dictionary. T.B. claims adults and Diphtheria claims children. The toll is great and the streets are dirty and filthy. On Fourth Street between 1st and 2nd Ave., New York - a swollen dead horse is rotting away and that opposite a school where children congregate. Rats infest all houses as squalid conditions occur everywhere.---

Poverty is prevalent. Tenements are crowded and happy are those who do not have to take in boarders in a four room apartment. Jobs are hard to find, pay low and hours are long - 10 to 12 hours a day - 6 days a week. No Unemployment Compensation, no Social Security, no Government Aid, because it was the period of Laissez-Faire. Most persons work in the cloak and suit Business. It was the easiest job to obtain and to learn, but it was seasonal. When that was over, the job was done and one had to wait for the

next season. Meanwhile, using up one pittance of reserve, there were no unions to aid the workers. The same conditions existed in the mills. Upton Sinclair's The Jungle, was a satire upon the Chicago stock yard. Examples of these periods can go on ad infinitum. This is but a synopsis of the syndrome of those times. Certainly NOT the Wonderful World, BUT "The World of Alger" as it was, with the pendulum of broken promises, dreams, despair and desolation, swinging to and fro.

Strange, isn't it. A word or a song will open up the unconscious mind and unlock the archives of the brain to subjects and scenes that we thought were forgotten or dead. But they were not dead, they were only dormant and the thought or vibration brought them back to remind us that they are still there.

ALGERESQUE It is rather a coincidence that the concern for which my wife Ida worked for many years, is now moving to a street named - Alger Street in South Boston.

This advertisement appeared in the Boston Globe "The Harvard Square Theater presents "Moments of Truth" a bullfighting film starring the famous Miguelin, A Horatio Alger about the rise of a poor boy in the ring".

Robin Lowell Moore, the author of The Green Beret, is writing a new novel. Asked about it, he stated "I've always wanted to do a metaphysical novel and that's what I am doing now. The hero? Sure I can describe him. He is a combination of Faust, King Lear and Horatio Alger".

Author Mr. Hackner turns to Carnegie as his particular example. Stating his success is based upon hard work, concentration of mind, luck and exploitation of opportunities, was largely a self educated man in keeping with other aspects of the Horatio Alger tradition". ---Boston Globe 3/8/68.

In the heading of "A Modern Horatio Alger" a newspaper article reviews the

events of the life of John Francis Monahan. He was orphaned early in life. He was a drop out who served in the 95th Ohio Division. At 21 he discovered a thing called education. He took an examination at U. Miami and passed. He ran an elevator and washed pots and pans. At 28 he became the Vice President of the Alsonett chain of hotels. Today he tells his 3 children about the virtues of making everything the hard way. At present he is Vice President of the Diners Club and Executive Vice President of Diner - Fugazy Travel.

Past President, Jack Row has informed me of the passing of Mr. Harlan Miller, PF-170 on August 7, 1968. It is always sorrowful to lose any member, but one with the attributes of Mr. Miller, leaves a great void indeed. For 40 years he has written a column "Over the Coffee" and worked for the New York and Washington, D.C. newspapers. He wrote a monthly column for Better Homes and Gardens - "The Man Next Door" and one for the Ladies Home Journal, "There's a Man in the House". He was a member of the Churchill Club of London and was on Ike's staff during World War II. Mr. Miller was an avid book and art collector and he loved sports. Tennis was his favorite sport and he was a member of the American and Forest Hills Lawn Tennis Association.

It is a tribute to the Horatio Alger Society when it attracts as members men of the caliber of Mr. Miller.

TEXT OF 1968 MEMORIAL EULOGY ADDRESS

In the past we have eulogized Horatio Alger Jr., as an author, we praised his teachings to the youth of his day; we have devotedly followed his formula to climb the ladder of success; but today, I speak of Horatio Alger, Jr., the man.

He was a kindly and sympathetic person who possessed the elements of an impressive character, inspiring trust, admiration and integrity. This combination, with his love of mankind, is indeed a rare commodity in a hostile iconoclastic world.

It is said that he was a timid man. But he did not lack the strength of will or courage to oppose the ruthless Padrone system which was instrumental in the enactment of the 1874 New York state law for the prevention of cruelty to children.

Like Robert Burns, he was a lover of humanity and the green fields and flowers. Like Goldsmith, he was heedless in money affairs and gave generously to those who needed it. Like Thackeray, he loved children and continually gave them presents.

Money to him meant only a means of helping others. There were other pastures to graze and areas to expand one's faith in mankind, love, friendship and extending a helping hand to the needy.

Kindness to enrich the lives of the lonely. In a letter to a friend he stated that "You will best promote your own happiness by trying to make others happy." He asked us to do noble things, not dream them all day long.

Instead of being a censor he looked for the best in others. He advocated Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith in the brotherhood of Man. Hope for the oblivion of bigotry and hatred, and Charity for the frailties of human beings. He gave us the precepts and ingredients to produce happiness and bind us in unity and peace. What a goal to achieve!

Few people are aware that he wrote poetry. They are few but are rich in expression and metaphors. He loved nature and humanity. Where others build "Castles in Spain" and mortgaged them, he built castles in the gardens of nature. He was no Lowell, Poe or Longfellow, but he was the poet that Longfellow meant when he wrote in "The Day is Done" (quotations omitted).

Many who have read his poetry, remarked that they are dull and uninspiring. I do not think so...I leave you with something to meditate upon: What a wonderful world this would be, if Alger's teaching and philosophy held all men bound! (E.N. Cut and edited)

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Steve Press

"I like this book a lot. I would give it to my friends to read it because it's very nice. At first I didn't like it but now I like it. If I had time I would like to read this book over and over. Mr. Press was right -- this book was very nice. This book was interesting cause it tells you all about TOM THE BOOTBLACK. Horatio Alger, Jr. makes excellent books. I would like to ~~another book that he has written.~~ I like my book very much."

In a sense, what more can I say? There, in a nutshell, is my whole report on what happened when I introduced Horatio Alger to 8th graders in I.S. 52, a special service school in the Bronx. The students resisted at first -- as they resist any book without pictures (I quote: "I like this book by Horatio Alger because it's very interesting -- even though it doesn't have any pictures it's still interesting."); but when they finally read them they loved them. I could fill up this whole edition of the Newsboy just quoting statements like the above on how much the boys and girls in my classes liked -- loved! -- Alger.



I have just completed the final study and review of all the papers I received from my students. It took me all summer. There were hundreds. For the most important lessons I had double and triple work because I had several other teachers teach the same lessons to children that had never read Alger. I did this so that I would have a controlled comparison to prove my results. What I was looking for was this: Is there a difference between the child who reads Alger and the one who doesn't? Of course I wanted to prove there is but I was prepared to objectively accept any results I came up with.

Alger did not let us down! The difference was amazing! I still cannot quite believe it myself. If my results are any indication, every slum school in the country should immediately introduce Alger into their reading program.

The books actually changed the outlook of the students. They seemed to suddenly become mentally and morally healthier. They seemed to suddenly see things in a way they had never seen them before.

The papers done by the students who had not read or heard of Alger were almost all completely different. Let me show you what I mean by two parallel papers. The assignment was to take the following paragraph and develop a story from it:

A BOY OF 14 AND HIS SISTER, AGE 13, COME TO NEW YORK CITY. THEY ARE ALL ALONE. THEY HAVE NO MONEY. HIS NAME IS JOE. HER NAME IS ROSE. HE IS STRONG, BRAVE AND GOOD-LOOKING. SHE IS PRETTY, AND DREAMS OF A HAPPY LIFE. WRITE A STORY ABOUT JOE AND ROSE.

Notice that both boys develop traditional Alger story lines but one of them has a terrible ending.

This is Louis O's paper (8-7). He never read Alger.

"Joe came to New York City at the age of 14. He found a job in a store selling newspapers. Soon he got old enough to get a better job; he found a better job and his sister too. Soon his sister got marry. And went away to live in Hawaii. Joe earn money and saved it up. Soon he had enough money to go to college. He went to college, got a degree and then he ran for Mayor. He was elected Mayor when he was 29. Soon at the age of 30 he was shot and killed. Joe's sister heard of this and came to New York City. After that Joe's sister died too. And that was the end of both of them."

This next paper is Donnie W's (8-6). He read and loved Alger.

"Joe got a job helping in a candy store

making 7 dollars a week. Rose was a baby sitter on Saturday nights, making two and a half dollars each night. They were living in hall ways. But they were saving money every week and then after a month Joe found a apartment with 2 rooms. A year went by, he was 15. Then he put his sister in a school and he learned off of her, but when he was sixteen he went to night school and got a very good education. The teacher liked him very much. The teachers got him in a college and he got a very good job and was very rich later in life."

Again, I could show you dozens of parallel papers like these. Amazing proof that Horatio Alger, Jr. was a genius at writing for young people whose lives were beset with difficulties.

In the August NEWSBOY Forrest Campbell wrote about the people who call Alger a "hack writer." I guess we've all gone through this. In a letter I once wrote to Ken Futler I said, "The success in intent that has made the name of Horatio Alger a common, immediately understood adjective in our language far, far outweighs the weakness in Mr. Alger's pen. And perhaps it is this very artlessness, this simple ingenuousness in style that gives the books their great power (which indeed they have!) and brings the characters so alive, so heartily, tenderly, and honestly alive." Well, I still agree with the part about the "characters" but I completely disagree with myself about there being any weakness in Mr. Alger's pen. I've seen that pen work miracles. Yes, miracles! Listen to this story:

In one of my classes was a boy by the name of Luis. Luis was a stolid yet quick tempered young man of 15. We got along fairly well except that he seldom did any work in my classes. He was an immigrant from Puerto Rico and still had a good deal of difficulty with English. He could read but it was a struggle.

During the time I started on the Alger project, Luis began doing less work than usual. As a matter of fact, he would come into my class, go to his desk in

the front of the room, and promptly go to sleep. I at first berated him but it did no good. He would just get angry and storm out of the class. I've learned that that is not an answer to the problem. The thing to do is keep the student in the room if he is not disruptive and work with him.

One day after class I took Luis aside and we talked. He revealed the problem. His father had left the family. The small grocery store which the family owned was left for Luis (the oldest son) and his mother to run. His mother stayed there during the day and Luis worked in the store all night. Thus he slept in school.

An impossible situation. I told Luis that I understood and that he could sleep in my class. But I impressed upon him the importance of learning to read and write English. He agreed. The very fact that he came to school showed there was an underlying desire on his (and his mother's) part that he should get an education. And it is my feeling that reading is education: To read is to learn.

I began my "attack." I told Luis I knew of a story that was similar to his. He was curious. I asked him if he would read it if I gave it to him. He said he would. Thus an Alger was placed in Luis' hands. I put no time limit on the reading of the book, asked for no report on it and did not mention it to him again. A week and a half later Luis came to me before class. The Alger was held tightly in his hands. He was very excited.

"This is the greatest book I've ever seen!" he said. "I've never known anything like this before! Do you have more?" I did. And I gave them to him. Luis was suddenly a completely changed boy. He began working in class. He was suddenly always laughing and kidding around. His life, his attitude actually changed. His work in the store, and school work and living with people now seemed nothing more than a joyful challenge. (continued on page six)

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society members. Membership fee for any twelve month period, \$5.

NEWSBOY recognizes Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, published by Wayside Press, 1964, as the leading authority on the subject.

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- Steve Press, Vice-President
- Carl T. Hartmann, Executive Secretary
- Dan Fuller, Treasurer
- Kenneth B. Butler, Director
- Ralph D. Gardner, Director
- Forrest Campbell, Editor

Please use membership roster for mailing address of our members and officers.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

This is just one example of many of what these books by Horatio Alger, Jr. did! And are continuing to do -- for they are seeds that, when watered with reading, blossom into healthy, happy human beings.

In the following columns I will take the project apart day by day, week by week and show exactly how it worked.

(Steve Press, PF-164)

(E.N. Steve's project was started on the last anniversary of Horatio Alger's birth date. NEWSBOY was proud to lend support to this worthy project with a special edition (December 1967) in an appeal for Alger books to be used in the project. Your response has made this project possible, and the end result worth while)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Jacqueline Steele, PF-199, editor of the BOOKWORM, announces that her bi-monthly publication will now be issued on a monthly basis with the number of pages increased from 24 to 32. The subscription fee has been increased too, but I'm sure it will be worth it. For Alger collectors, the BOOKWORM devoted an entire issue to Horatio Alger in the February 1968 edition. When you subscribe, ask for a free copy of this edition for your Alger collection.

Russell Dock, PF-235 (announced as a new member in the June issue) is editor and publisher of THE PATENT EXCHANGE NEWS & REPORTER. In the current July issue, Russell began in serial form the story of RAGGED DICK, with his own introduction entitled The Great American Dream, in which our Society and publication are honorably mentioned. Although Russell's publication is written for a select group, I am sure we will profit from this medium of publicity.

ANOTHER WORTHY PROJECT TO BE LAUNCHED

As editor of NEWSBOY, I recently received an invitation to attend A COMMUNICATIONS FORUM to be held in New York City, September 16th & 17th. Invitations were directed especially to people in the field of Radio, Television, Newspapers, Magazines, Publishing, Drama, Motion Pictures and Industry. I was highly honored to be considered.

The committee, representing The Center of American Living, Inc. is comprised of some 40 prominent Americans such as the well known personages of Vincent Price and Peggy Wood. The Forum will consider "The Influence of the Communications Media on the Caliber of American Civilization" and among seven selected topics for discussion is one that should be dear to the hearts of every Society member, "Where are the heroes of today?"

The purpose of the Forum, which was presented in lengthy detail, might be summed up in these selected quotes: The Center seeks to locate and cultivate

excellence in wide-spread fields, as opposed to trends of negative or destructive nature." The Communications Media.. "indelibly mold the goals, ambitions, criteria and general attitudes of a majority of the American people." "Similarly, ...those who wield such great power over the minds and outlook not only of our children and young people, but of the nation as a whole." "As a result....we hope to...encourage those programs which portray the highest standards of human behavior...."

Unfortunately, your editor was forced to decline the invitation, but did send in an answer to the topic for discussion:

Where are the heroes of today? They can still be found in your community and mine. They are not the publicity seeking type, and unlike "birds of a feather" they do not flock together. If you think you have discovered one, he would quite naturally deny it. You will not find him by his own admission, or by the cut of his clothes, for he wears no identifying costume, or seeks praise and compensation for what he feels is his moral duty to perform. You may find him in the midst of any unorganized group, if you know how to recognize good character, for he stands out, morally, head and shoulders above the crowd. Is he then the best qualified in any activity or emergency? Not necessarily, but in an obvious question of right or wrong, he can be depended upon to defend his convictions, and usually wins out against overpowering odds.

If we were to advertise for one, we would no doubt, get many applicants, physically equipped, or those who have been so-labelled and have clippings to prove endurance records, gone farther, won more, et., but in the final screening of applicants we would not find what we were looking for.

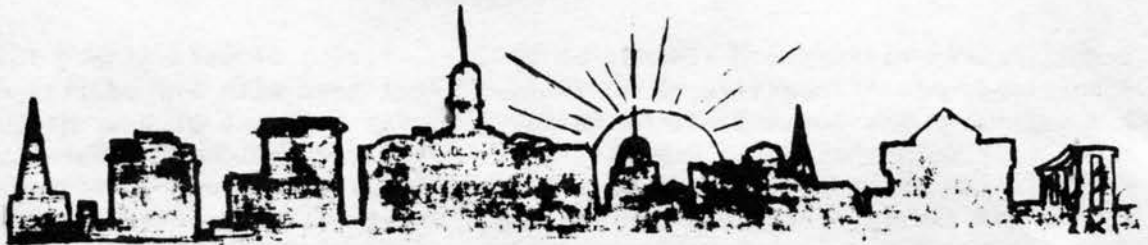
How then shall we find a hero today? How shall we be able to identify him? If there ever was an authority on this subject, we, of the Horatio Alger Society, believe that Horatio Alger, Jr., was the best qualified, since he described 100 or more in his day during the past century.

First, we were taught that a hero is not born with any additional advantages over the rest of us. He is molded during his childhood. When the Alger hero is first introduced to the reader, often he is already 16 years of age. The first implied ingredient in the molding of a hero, was parental love, for which he learned to return with equal generosity. He was taught that there was a Greater Love which he learned to appreciate and respect. He was taught at an early age to detect right from wrong, and that it was his moral duty to defend it with all his might.

He was taught that his conduct should always be commendable and above reproach. And so, at the beginning of each Alger story, we find "our hero" morally equipped to make his way in the world, honorably and respectfully, however, his education was often delayed due to financial difficulties at home. The true Alger hero, when able to do so, always completed his education eventually, and even encouraged and assisted other less fortunate boys to do the same.

Unfortunately, every home cannot produce a hero, due to the lack of parental love and guidance. Today's world presents new problems for society to conquer if we are to "Train up a child in the way he should go," but the ingredients remain the same. Perhaps if today's child cannot be molded in the proper environment, by his parents in his own home, society must make an attempt to reach him, and communicate with him through our modern day Communications Media. (cut and edited)

In the opinion of your editor, the committee sponsoring the forum encourages the Communications Media to take a new look, and encourage a fresh approach in dealing with the children of our generation. Newsboy is proud to support such a program, and it is our fervent prayer that the youth of our day will lend an attentive ear to the principles of Horatio Alger, Jr., who did much in his day to build good character in the youth of his day, and which is our heritage.



"THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"



Steve Press, champion of the present generation of New York street-boys, and a defender of the old, hopes that I intend to give equal time to boys like Ragged Dick, and even suggests what Dick, himself might have said:

"We too is Alger boys, Mr. Campbell; and it sure ain't easy to be so neat and clean when yer Fifth Avenue manshun is a box in a alley, and I'm a rough customer but I wouldn't steal and I ain't mean and I earn my own way."

I'm with you, Dick, and I stand shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Press in defending you, however, there are two sides to every coin. Your "country" cousin had the benefit of a good home, meager as it may have been, and parental love and guidance. He was molded at an early age and prepared for the pitfalls of an adult world.

Your problem, right from the very start and as far back as you can remember, was one of survival, and you did survive, despite the greatest of handicaps. My hat comes off to you!

In a letter to Mr. Press, I have compared you and your "country" cousin with two flower seeds. The seed of your "country" cousin was planted in a flowerbed, nourished and cared for, and when he was ready to be transplanted, he was able to stand alone.

Your seed, Dick, fell by the wayside, you were forced to survive and grow, if possible under the most impossible conditions. Your associates were a sturdy lot, yet noxious and a nuisance to society.

You knew what you were. You knew that you were different somehow, for you had

principles. The bloom in your cheeks was pale. You may have been annoyed at the sturdy constitution of your associates, and perhaps a little of their culture rubbed off on you. At least, there was a temptation to deny your heritage. Occasionally, your associates were cut down and hauled off (to the island), leaving you standing, but they returned, and rose again.

Why were you left standing? Because you were different? Because you had principles? Because you had done no harm? Because you were not noxious, and a nuisance to society. Yes, for someone had observed the difference between you and your associates and desired to give you a chance.

No one is supposed to be able to lift himself up by his own bootstraps, and you, in your predicament, were no exception. You needed a helping hand.

The friend who left you standing, also lifted you out and transplanted you into a different environment. The result was that with your principles, and with the care and guidance of a helping hand, you developed into what you were supposed to be, and what you really wanted to be.

I shall never forget your thanks, and the promise you made to the one who gave you a helping hand: "whenever I have an opportunity of helping along a boy who is struggling upward as I once had to struggle, I will do it."

To me, these words which came from Mr. Alger's pen, and acting as your mouthpiece, are immortal, and a foundation upon which our Horatio Alger Society was built.

We are indeed grateful for these words of wisdom, which is our heritage. (PF-000)