

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

# Newsboy



Monthly Newsletter of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY  
Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL  
5868 HEATH  
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49002

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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

World's Only Publication Devoted  
To That Wonderful World  
Of Horatio Alger

This rare print is an authentic reproduction of an era not later than 1868, just one hundred years ago. In the scene you are looking south on Broadway from a point opposite the Astor House. On the right are the columns of St Paul's Chapel and on the left is the Herald Building which was built on the site of Barnum's Museum and which was destroyed by fire in the year of 1865.

The Herald Building was located on the south east corner of Ann & Broadway, and the building under construction next to the Herald Building is presumed to be the Park Bank which eventually expanded to take over the site of the Herald Building a few years later. The New York Herald eventually located farther up town -- shall we say at Herald Square.



Also extremely rare is this view of the Loew bridge which was built over Broadway at Fulton to aid pedestrians, but was condemned by court order and removed in 1868. It's existence lasted only a year. The need can be plainly seen if the helter-skelter pattern of traffic is at all authentic. Alger often wrote of the danger in crossing Broadway, and occasionally one of his heroes would escort

an elderly lady or gentleman across the street, and sometimes save a child from being trampled under the feet of a runaway horse. This type of bridge has been revived today in certain localities near schools so that school children can safely cross the street. Reasons for the removal of Loew bridge are unavailable. Perhaps more suitable measures were suggested and adopted.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND - Facets of Algerana, by Max Goldberg, President



Max Goldberg

I like the statement of W. G. Sumner. It is so typical Algerana. "There is no boon in nature. All the blessings we enjoy are the fruits of labor, toil, self-denial and study."

Longfellow must have thought of Alger when he wrote, "The heights that great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

The combined chairman of Olin Mathieson Chemical, E.R. Squibb & Sons, and Beechnut Lifesavers, is Alger B. Chapman, a real "Strive & Succeed" example.

The Alger theme seems to be applied to animals as well as humans. Under the heading of "Rags to Riches Story" the New York Times writes about "Nickel Boy" who took the 1962 Jennings handicaps at Pimlico, earned more than \$350,000 during his career. One of the turf's foremost "Rags to Riches" horses, Nickel Boy was the son of parents sold for \$65.

The Porter & Coates popular juvenile lists a Five Hundred Dollar Legacy by Alger, printed in color, cloth, \$1.25. Does anyone know about this title? It is not listed in Gardner's book.

"The Rise & Fall of Horatio Alger's Creator" by Wesley P. Callender, Jr. is an interesting and concise biography of Aaron K. Loring. Parts are taken from Madeline Stern's book "Imprints of History". The author gives a brief history of Alger and states a few remarks by John Tebbel. He states that "Aaron Loring was himself one of the outstanding reminders that the Alger formula for success was not infallible or at least that such success if it were achieved would not automatically be everlasting." Nothing is everlasting, not even life.

Dizraeli alludes to success as "the top of the greasy pole." Certainly no one can

stay long on the "greasy pole", but it requires grit, courage and tenacity to reach it. As to Alger's formula not being infallible, the best laid plans of mice and men sometimes go awry. It requires concentration and planning to attain one's ambition. Having obtained it, one must guide that success. Oddly enough Alger's formula was infallible if done with diligence. The fact that Loring was a success as a publisher and lending librarian proves it was right.

There is a maxim in chemistry that two things cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Had Loring continued his concentration upon publishing instead of opening a coffee shop, and not dividing his time between the two, he would not have gone bankrupt. The publishing house paid off, the coffee shop was "on the cuff." It made too many leaks in the combined endeavor. As Franklin said, "Small leaks sink great ships." He won by diligence and lost through neglect.

Antony LaCamera, of The Boston Globe, states, "Jimmy Helms, local young singer climbs to success, and years of hard work are paying off. The 24 year old singer was a guest on the Merve Griffin Show who was so impressed by his performance that he signed him for thirteen more appearances." The story of his life is the Horatio Alger type if there ever was one. Born on a Florida farm where he picked cotton and guided a mule drawn plow. Worked in small night clubs for training and experience. This year found him bookings in TV variety shows and a recording career.

Ed Levy sent me an article titled, "The Homilies of Horatio" by Marcus Klein. It is a diatribe upon Alger and a commentary on several of his books including Ragged Dick. Here are some excerpts from the Klein article:

"Alger has not been kind to Ragged Dick who is now 100 years old. Instead of being forgotten, as would have been appropriate to his peculiar modesty, he has become a myth. Worse, he is the hero of the one durably popular native American myth, the typical Horatio Alger story, the myth of success...No one any longer believes in the Alger story, least of all

the young boys to whom Alger addressed his oppressive platitudes...The massive approval that Alger once secured is simply not to be explained by a taste for inspirational capitalism. Estimates of the sale of the novels range from a studendous 17 million to an incredible 300 million.

Never could so many boys have loved any kind of official virtue...For one, the Alger hero did not necessarily begin in rags and he never concluded in riches. Ragged Dick was rewarded with a job paying \$10 per week. Fosdick, in Mark the Match Boy, inherited a fortune of \$2524.

Julius's killing in real estate was \$4500. The complete winning on an average of 106 novels was calculated to amount to \$10,000. Alger's heroes do not want to be rich. The signs of success are not money and power but a new suit, a savings account, good grammar, a watch and sometimes a bit of superficial education. They do not lie, cheat or steal...When the boys set out to make their way in the world they might well stir the imagination of a youngster by their implication that they are cynical. They are sinister young con men, no matter what Horatio Alger said."

The Homilies of Horatio, is one of the most absurd articles I ever recall reading. The "myth of success" seems due to the fact that "never could so many boys have loved any kind of official virtue."

They did want to be rich. Alger did not stress "inspirational capitalism", rather, as Mr. Klein said, "they did not want to lie, cheat or steal" which seems quite commendable. And, "a new suit, savings account and education" was their goal. These are the Alger concepts, not power and money.

He berated Alger for the small amount of money that Ragged Dick, Fosdick and Julius made. It is apparent that his views of success are ascertained by the amount of money one attains. Obviously, virtue, respect, thrift and kindness are not the ingredients essential to success. Considering the length of the article, it was a waste of time and paper. He also contradicts himself in many sentences. One thing is certain, Mr. Klein has an extensive education.

He could write sermons, but it must be homilies. And the substitute fathers are "surrogate" fathers. The only credit I can give him is that he read the books.

I have included excerpts of this article because I concur with Ed Levy, "Whether these writers praise or condemn Alger, they should go into the Society scrapbook."

This being the end of the year, I close with a poem I wrote some years ago, which expresses my New Year's greetings to all of you.

Tonight marks the end of the eventful old year, And 'midst joy and gladness, we usher in the new. May brightness, happiness, ecstasy and cheer, Be the elements of the message in store for you.

May all past shadows be so brilliantly outshined, That the past must dwindle and never more appear. May hope and love be the gems you will find, Is the fondest wishes for the coming New Year!

Your partic'lar friend, Max Goldberg,  
President.

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### Secretary's Report

The Horatio Alger Society with 121 active members, enters the new year in good shape. We are financially sound and our officers have been busy serving you and your interests.

Extra copies of The Newsboy are available along with application blanks for distribution to prospective members. If you would like a Newsboy or application sent to a friend just drop me a line.

We ran into a little bad luck when the Company we have been buying the Alger Tiles from went our of business. We now have a new source so they will be available for our newer members within a few weeks.

May we wish everone of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Carl T. Hartmann PF 102

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July and is distributed free to Society members by our Executive Secretary from 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3 annually. Adult membership, \$5 annually, to be presented in advance with membership application. Each member receives a membership card and a membership roster. Other incidentals are optional and available upon request, subject to prevailing prices. Convention City: Kalamazoo Michigan, July 8th - 11th.

#### O F F I C E R S

Max Goldberg,	President
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.  
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#### NEW MEMBERS REPORTED:

PF-255	Louis H. Dreyer	TR-019
	2615 New York Drive,	
	Pasadena, California 91107	
PF-256	Gordon Rex Struble	TR-045
	708 Byron Drive,	
	Milford, Michigan 48042	

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Louis and his wife Angela, heard of us through DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP in which he is currently listed as member #216. Louis was born in Paterson, New Jersey, October 20, 1891, and has travelled extensively in perhaps every State as a fire protection engineer, and is currently a registered professional engineer in the State of California. Louis has a wonderful philosophy of life: "I am not real old, but neither am I young any more. I

have no bone to pick with the modern teen age group or their ideologies. It is their own future they are shaping."

Louis collects many things besides Alger, which is his favorite. He says, "Contrary to the general belief, my Dad did not object to my reading Alger, but always read them first." Any member who desires to recall "the good old days" will find a willing correspondent in our new partic'lar friend, Louis.

Gordon discovered one of our real old newsletters on display, while looking for Alger books in the SILHOUETTE ANTIQUE SHOP in Eaton Rapids, Michigan recently.

Gordon is a college student, enjoys reading Alger, and collects antiques, coins and stamps.

Gordon's unusual method of learning of our Society opens up a new medium of publicity for us. Write the editor today for old copies of our newsletter to be displayed in bookstores and antique shops in your area. Send a six-cent stamp for each copy desired. If each copy will get us a new member, We'll have 500 new members eventually, as a result. Suggestion: Put your name & phone number on each copy.  
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#### B O O K M A R T (Last minute listings)

Offered by Herbert L. Risteen, PF-104, P.O. Box No. 161, Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913. (\* title page gone)

A Boy's Fortune,	Winston good	\$2.75
Backwoods Boy, The (paperback)	fair	1.50
Chester Rand,	Burt good	2.75
Dan The Newsboy,	Burt fair	2.50
Flg In With Fortune, Wanamaker	good	6.75
Frank & Fearless,	Winston vg	2.75
Frank's Campaign,	Winston good	2.25
Helping Himself,	Hurst vg	2.25
In A New World,	Winston good	2.25
Phil The Fiddler,	Burt good	2.25
Risen From The Ranks,	Burt good	2.50
Sink Or Swim,	Winston vg	2.50
Try & Trust,	Winston vg	3.00
Tin Box, The	Burt good	2.50
Tom Thatcher's Fortune	Burt good*	2.50

## BOOK MART



The listing of Alger books in this department (space permitting) is free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. Editor disqualified due to first notice.

Offered by Jack Barker, PF-186; 8260 Jett Ferry Road, Dunwoody, Georgia 30043 (\*) denotes paperback; (\*\*) denotes miniature edition. First edition titles underlined.

Bound to Rise, World Syn.	good	\$ 2.00
Bound to Rise, New York Pub.	fair	2.00
Brave & Bold, P&C	good	6.00
Brave & Bold, World Syn.	good	2.00
Brave & Bold, Loring	fair	5.00
Chester Rand, Donohue	fair	2.00
Do & Dare, Donohue	good	2.00
Do & Dare, Hurst	fair	2.00
Facing the World, NYB	fair	2.00
Frank's Campaign, World Syn.	good	2.00
Frank's Campaign, Donohue	fair	2.00
<u>Hector's Inheritance</u> , P&C	good	15.00
Helping Himself, H T Coates	good	2.00
Helping Himself, World Syn.	good	2.00
Jack's Ward, Donohue	good	2.00
Jack's Ward, Superior (*)	good	2.00
Jed, Poorhouse Boy, Winston	good	2.00
Joe's Luck, Hurst	fair	2.00
Luke Walton, Hurst	good	2.00
Phil the Fiddler, Coates (?)	good	2.00
Risen From ' Ranks, S&S (*)	fair	2.00
Risen From ' Ranks, Mershon	fair	2.00
Risen From ' Ranks, NYB	good	2.00
Rufus & Rose, P&C	good	7.00
Sam's Chance, Hurst	good	2.00
Sam's Chance, Whitman	fair	2.00
Slow & Sure, Coates (?)	fair	2.00
Store Boy, The Hurst (**)	poor	2.00
<u>Struggling Upward</u> , P&C	good	20.00
Tom the Bootblack, Burt	good	2.00
Tom the Bootblack, Donohue	poor	2.00
Tony the Hero, Donohue	poor	2.00
Tony the Hero, Burt	good	2.00
Tony the Tramp, NYB	fair	2.00
Try & Trust, Donohue	good	2.00
Young Explorer, Winston	good	2.00
Young Explorer, MacLellan	poor	2.00
Young Outlaw, Burt	poor	2.00

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NEWSBOY does not attempt to regulate prices asked, or guarantee quality. Conditions of sale is between buyer & seller.

Offered by Ernest P. Sanford, PF-032; 9724 Admiralty Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

From Farm Boy to Senator, S&S	good	\$ 4.00
Joe's Luck, Burt	good	4.50
Luck & Pluck, Loring	good	15.00
Ragged Dick, Loring	good	22.00
Risen From ' Ranks, Chat-Peck	good	3.00
Strive & Succeed, (?) Coates	good	4.50
Strive & Succeed, P&C	good	5.00
Tony, the Hero, Burt	good	4.00
Young Adventurer (?) Coates	good	4.50
Young Captain Jack, Mershon	good	15.00
Young Bank Messenger, Winston	good	3.00

Alger items in SCHOOLMATE 1868 17.50  
(This edition includes the complete story of Fame & Fortune; plus John Maynard, How Pat Paid The Rent, and two stories by O. Augusta Cheney, Horatio's sister)  
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Ken Butler submits the clipping below:

**FAME & Fortune, Pluck & Luck, Work & Win with Wall Street covers wanted. Highest prices paid. The Picture Decorator, Inc., 740 Madison Ave., New York 10021. 1-2**

It was taken from a well known collector's publication. Please note that Alger's name is not mentioned and that the title PLUCK & LUCK is reversed.

In the October issue I appealed for sellers to report on response of their Alger listings in NEWSBOY. One member listed 12 P&C editions in the AUGUST edition totaling \$105. All were sold. The seller also reports, "but only one or two titles from the commoner reprints, although I'm sure the others were priced quite in line. It would indicate to me that there isn't much interest in New York Book Co., Hurst, etc. editions."

NEWSBOY has always discouraged the listing of the cheaper reprints, especially when the listings are free and available space is limited (PF-000)

## TWO VETERAN AUTHORS.

By Frank A. Munsey.

WILLIAM T. ADAMS, widely known as Oliver Optic, may well be called the pioneer story teller of our juvenile fiction. To be sure Jacob Abbott preceded him, but the "Rollo Books" are hardly characteristic types of the distinctly American story for boys and girls. Mr. Adams began writing as far back as 1848. Previous to this time but few authors even in Europe had written designedly for boys. It would seem that writers of fiction for the most part had not considered youth as a constituency worthy of their attention. Perhaps the most popular book that has ever fallen into the hands of boys is "Robinson Crusoe," but it is safe to assume that Defoe had in mind chiefly an audience of adults. The tendency of the few who had written distinctly for young people was towards the production of fairy tales and stories so lacking in force that the healthy lad could find little in them to stimulate his taste for reading. The mawkish stories of weak sentimentality, picturing the good little boy—an artificial and unhealthy lad at best—did not make a very strong appeal to the youth of abounding spirits and supercharged energy.

None knew this better than Mr. Adams, for he had been a boy of this latter sort himself. He was a teacher, too, in a Boston school, and thus employed had had broad opportunity for studying the taste of Young America. His first book was called "Hatchie, the Guardian Slave" and was written under the *nom de plume* Warren T. Ashton. Mr. Adams records the fact that he received for this book the munificent sum of \$37.50. This, he says, was the first money he had ever earned with his pen.

So small a return could hardly be regarded as an adequate reward for the labor of writing a book, yet the effect of receiving this money, and of seeing his own name on the title page of a successful volume, of which the critics spoke kindly, was doubtless an indirect remuneration of countless value to the young pedagogue. His next book was "The Boat Club" and like the first met with ready sale. He was now fairly launched upon what was destined to be a very successful career of authorship.

The name "Oliver Optic," by which Mr. Adams is best known, and the one over which all of his books, except the first, have been written, was adopted in 1851. It was taken from a character called *Dr. Optic* in a play then being performed at the

Boston Museum. He selected the prefix Oliver, he says, merely on account of the quaint alliterative sound of the combination.

Mr. Adams followed no models, studied no predecessors, but went instead to the boys themselves for the source of his inspiration. Healthy, vigorous adventure is the foundation on which all his structures of fiction have been built. His style is simple, direct, and the action of his stories is rapid. He avoids tedious descriptions and never preaches. The lesson—and the moral of his stories is always good—is impressed upon the reader by his instinctive admiration for the author's hero and his natural dislike for the wrong doer.

"I have had a fixed standard before me in writing all my books, from which I have never deviated," says Mr. Adams. "My aim has been to construct a tale interesting and exciting enough to catch and hold the attention of young people, and yet never to entrap them into sympathy with evil doers or to encourage in them admiration for bold but lawless acts. I have never made a hero whose moral character or whose lack of high aims could mislead the young reader."

Mr. Adams is still a prime favorite with young America. His pen has lost little, if any, of its vigor of a quarter of a century ago, though he has written over a hundred books and has reached the limit fixed for man by the Psalmist.

There was graduated from Harvard College in 1852 a young man who was destined to become quite as prominent in his chosen line as has his distinguished classmate, Joseph H. Choate, at the New York bar. His name was Horatio Alger, Jr. He was only eighteen when he left Harvard as a bachelor of arts, and was in appearance as in years little more than a boy—short, slight, and of retiring nature, almost bashful in manner. And yet he had won honors in his class and was destined to win wider honors in the field of juvenile literature, sharing them with William T. Adams. Like the latter, Mr. Alger became a school teacher, and by this means was brought into close relations with boys, in whom he has always manifested the warmest interest.

But fifteen years passed after graduating before he wrote his first book, "Ragged Dick," which at once won for him a warm place in the hearts of thousands of boys. Mr. Adams had long since demonstrated the fact that there existed a large clientèle for him who could write books of interesting adventure. Mr. Alger had done a good deal of literary work for the magazines and had written a great many short sketches,

all designed for adult readers. "Ragged Dick" was his first distinctly juvenile venture. Up to this time (1867) his revenue from the pen had been inconsiderable. His chief source of income was derived from teaching. But the widespread popularity of "Ragged Dick" made a very material alteration in his fortunes. He saw at once that juvenile literature was his field, and he straightway took possession and has occupied it ever since. The success of Mr. Adams in the same line was a guarantee that equally good stories from his own pen would win him a comparable reward.

He applied himself in earnest to his chosen line of authorship. He became a familiar figure along the docks, and wherever friendless urchins could be found. His pleasant ways, his open handed charity, and his generous sympathy with the unfortunate, rendered him a favorite wherever he went. It was by this means that he gathered material for his books.

His stories are quite unlike Mr. Adams's both in handling and conception. Mr. Alger has not the faculty of working up the strong situations that are so congenial to Mr. Adams. Their methods of treatment are entirely different. Mr. Adams maps out his plot in detail, draws a chart of the situations, and then proceeds to write out his story on a typewriter, which he operates at great speed. Mr. Alger chooses an incident for opening a story and at once begins work upon it without regard to further chapters. In writing the first few thousand words he becomes acquainted with his characters, and gradually sees combinations and adventures ahead, making the ones an integral part of the others. Thus he builds from day to day. While his books lack the involved plots of Mr. Adams's, they have the charm of clever handling, with flashes of naive and genuine humor that make them share the other's popularity.

But in one respect, and that the essential one, the books of these two authors are the same. They are alike founded on the theory of containing an abundance of healthful adventure. In this regard Mr. Alger is a follower of Mr. Adams, than whom he could have had no better model. He once remarked to the writer that his publisher advised him, when he first began writing juvenile stories, to study the easy, straight forward style of Mr. Adams. "I did so," said he, "and with the best results. An academic style is not the popular style with boys."

Mr. Alger has written nearly a hundred books, and like Mr. Adams still continues to delight Young America with his clever stories.

The material on the opposite page is used in the absence of our usual VICE-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, which was either lost or delayed in the mail due to circumstances beyond our control. The material was submitted for publication some time ago by Gilbert K. Westgard, II, PF-024, and to be used in the NEWSBOY when space permitted.

Mr. Westgard states the item appeared in the October, 1892 issue of Munsey's Magazine. The material is reproduced in NEWSBOY exactly as submitted which accounts for the three columns and narrow margins. Your editor notes that due to the dimension of the submitted sheet, it does not appear to be an authentic reproduction from the original magazine which was 6-3/4 X 9-3/4 in size and which was a two column magazine, and the name, Munsey's Magazine does not appear in the upper margin of the submitted material.

Since Mr. Westgard offers no explanation, we are assuming that the printed content of the article was reset to include the entire article on one sheet.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. Westgard for advancing suitable material which enables us to bridge over a gap which otherwise might have proven to be a most embarrassing situation.

It appears that Mr. Munsey's purpose in writing the article was to promote and revive an interest in the stories written by William Taylor Adams, (1822-1897), and in order to do so, it seemed necessary to upstage Alger to some degree. According to one of the leading authorities (Frank Luther Mott's GOLDEN MULTITUDES), Adams never produced a best seller, but I will concede that Alger copied the Adams style of writing in his juvenile fiction. And I will concede that Adams did precede Alger in the use of alliterated titles, such as: Little by Little, Now or Never, and Poor & Proud.

Alger must have improved upon the Adams style of writing since the story of RAGGED DICK, published in book form in 1868 was acclaimed a best seller. Although Alger and Adams were friends, it must have been a bitter pill for Adams.

There are areas in Mr. Munsey's article which reflect a difference of opinion as I see it, and may be the source of misinformation which has been widely quoted in reference books. Mr. Munsey states that RAGGED DICK was Alger's first book.

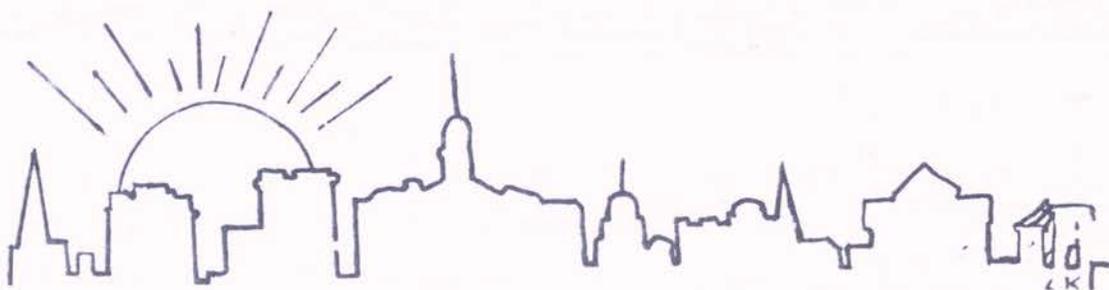
According to Ralph D. Gardner's HORATIO ALGER, or The American Hero Era, it was not. It was his sixth published book which was written and designed for a juvenile reader market. As a result of mis-information such as this, some reference books and critics affirm that Alger became famous after his first attempt.

Although Alger is "credited with" (I prefer the term "accused of") the title of the RAGS TO RICHES writer, it seems that Adams is much more deserving of the title, since he preceded Alger in this field. It may be said then, that Alger also wrote RAGS TO RICHES stories, but as far as I know, Alger, personally never used the expression to promote his style of writing, except for the allusion in the title RAGGED DICK.

Personally, I think Alger emphasized the word SUCCESS, and revealed through his many stories how it could be achieved. A transformation, if necessary, was the first thing that Alger insisted upon, in the molding of a hero. A person, or a child, as in the case of the street-boys, reduced to, or living in rags is not necessarily a result of poverty, but a frame of mind, and a way of life.

The first transformation necessary, according to the Alger principles, were, hygiene, personal appearance and self respect. With this transformation came acceptance in adult society, and selection as one most likely to succeed. (PF-000)  
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With this edition, we come to the end of the RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR. With our next, February edition, we shall have to adopt a new slogan. Your suggestions are solicited. Remember the anniversary of Alger's birthday on January 13th. Make a resolution to be more active as of that date. Our future depends much on you and your personal interest. In the meanwhile SEASON'S GREETINGS to you all! (PF-000)



## "THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"



This is the second post office to serve "That Wonderful World Of Horatio Alger" during the era, 1845-1875.

A brief description of the post office at this location is given at the beginning of Chapter III, in the story, FAME & FORTUNE, which was, no doubt, "chronicled" in the year 1867 or 1868 as a sequel to the story RAGGED DICK, or "The Progress of Richard Hunter." According to Alger's remarks, this location, and the structure itself after some twenty years, had already outgrown its usefulness.

It was located on the north east corner of Nassau and Cedar. The building originally was the Middle Dutch Church. The reproduction is presumed to be authentic as it appeared soon after it opened for business.

It was customary for Alger to pre-date the time element in many of his stories. In the story of FRANK FOWLER a mention is made of the "postman" in Chapter XXV, which is helpful in verifying the progress of the post office department, and also in dating the actual time of the story. After diligent research, and knowing that this story was first published in 1875, I was able to determine that the actual time of the story was 1866, or three years after the post office department established free delivery service.

The picture of the boy in uniform is not a postal employee, but that of a telegraph messenger portrayed by one of Alger's illustrators. The subject of the early history of the post office in New York City is a continuance from the May 1968 NEWSBOY. In that narrative the location was erroneously given as Nassau and Fulton, but according to the best available source of information, I believe I am now correct.

The Post Office Department was supposed to have had a monopoly on the transportation and delivery of mail matter, or to be more specific, letters; but, with the invention of telegraphy, and the development of the telegraph messenger service, the Post Office Department, as a result, experienced its first deficit. In 1866 and thereafter there were many attempts to combine postal-telegraph operations, and in 1885 Special Delivery Mail Service was established as a competitive measure.

In the early years at this location, patrons, or their private messengers, picked up their mail here, but as the city grew, prior to the year 1875, it is reasonable to assume that other stations were established in strategic locations.

For the purpose of dating any pictures that you may have, the first street letter-boxes for collecting purposes, were installed in New York City in the year 1858. In 1863 free delivery of mail by the Post Office Department was established in 49 cities including New York City. The carrier-force averaged less than ten per city, but it is conceivable that New York was above average.

The story of DO & DARE begins with an episode about a small community post office. Until the establishment of Rural Free Delivery there were offices in every village and hamlet. In 1871 there was a total of thirty thousand. In New York State alone in the year 1888 there was the staggering number of 3,240 offices, not counting THE YOUNG POSTMASTER of Algerton.