

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

# newsboy



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



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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

Here is the Story you have been looking for. A Story of New York Street Boy Life.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1892.

## A. D. T. 79;

OR,

The Trials and Triumphs of Mark Mason.

BY ARTHUR LEE PUTNAM.

Author of "No. 91," "Tom Tracy," "Ned Newton," etc.

### CHAPTER I.

TWO STRANGERS FROM SYRACUSE.

"THAT is the City Hall over there, Edgar."

The speaker was a man of middle age, with a thin face and a nose like a Hawk. He was well dressed, and across his vest was visible a showy gold chain with a cameo charm attached to it.

The boy, probably about fifteen, was the image of his father. They were crossing City Hall Park in New York, and Mr. Talbot was pointing out to his son the public buildings which make this one of the noted localities in the metropolis.

"Shine?" asked a bootblack walking up to the pair.

"I'd like to take a shine, father," said Edgar. "What do you charge?"

"Five cents, but I don't object to a dime," replied the bootblack.

"Can I have a shine, father?"

"Why didn't you get one at the hotel?"

"Because they charged ten cents. I thought I could get it for less outside."

"Good boy!" said the father in a tone of approval. "Get things as low as you can. That's my motto, and that's the way I got rich. Here, boy, you can get to work."

Instantly the bootblack was on his knees, and signalled for Edgar to put his foot on the box.

"What's your name, boy?" asked with a Edgar condescending tone.

"No, it ain't boy. It's Tom."

"Well, Tom, do you make much money?"

"Well, I don't often make more'n five dollars a day."

"Five dollars? You are trying to humbug me."

"It's true though. I never made more'n five dollars in a day in my life, 'cept when I

shined shoes for swells like you who, were liberal with their cash."

Edgar felt rather flattered to be called a swell, but a little alarmed at the suggestion that Tom might expect more than the usual sum.

"That's all right, but I shall only pay you five cents."

"I knew you wouldn't as soon as I saw you."

"Why?"

"'Cause you don't look like George W. Childs."

"Who's he?"

"The Ledger man from Philadelphia. I once

blackened his shoes and he gave me a quarter. General Washington once paid me a dollar."

"What!" ejaculated Edgar. "Do you mean to say that you ever blackened General Washington's shoes?"

"No; he wore boots."

"Why, my good boy, General Washington died almost a hundred years ago."

"Did he? Well, it might have been some other general."

"I guess it was. You don't seem to know much about history."



SOLOHN TALBOT LOOKED EMBARRASSED AND SEEMED IN DOUBT WHETHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RELATIONSHIP.

"Mark Mason's Victory" serialized in THE ARGOSY, starting with the May 7, 1892 issue, under the title A.D.T. 79 by Arthur Lee Putnam, one of Alger's pen names. Above is a reproduction of that issue.



A TRIP TO MENDOTA, ILLINOIS

For some time, it had been my desire to visit Mr. Kenneth Butler, one of the founders of the Horatio Alger Society. Mr. Butler resides in Mendota, Illinois, only fifty miles from Aurora, the city where I live, so one day during my spring vacation from college, I fulfilled this wish.

Contacting him a few days beforehand and securing his permission, I drove to Mendota and met him at his dest at Wayside Press, the book publishing company of which he is president. I quickly found him to be a very pleasant person to talk to, and soon I was talking freely to him about my interest in Alger.

After awhile, we went to his home, where he showed me his outstanding collection of books by Horatio Alger. His collection included a first edition of Wait and Win, and also a copy of Nothing to Do. Besides trying to gather as many different titles as he can, Mr. Butler also arranges his books by publishing company. That is, he tries to assemble as many books as possible that are of the same publisher.

After lunch I was privileged to view some of the buildings that Mr. Butler intends to use for his proposed museum in Mendota. The buildings were, and are being, erected at his direction, and I was fascinated at the many dispaly rooms and cases that were in the buildings. In one two-storied structure, I went through an old time ice cream parlor, a tobacco store, a barber shop, a book store, a toy shop, and many more. The display cases, not yet filled, seemed to go on endlessly. There was also one building that was erected especially to house antique cars.

Afterwards, I toured Wayside Press. With Mr. Butler as a guide, I was shown the different aspects of book publishing. I visited the factory, and he explained to me the purposes of the various machines that were in operation there.

This marked the ending of my visit to Mendota, a visit that was highlighted by the warmth and friendliness that Mr. Butler had shown me. He proved to be a very congenial host, as I knew any HAS member would be. Therefore, all I can say is that if all the people who lived in New York City during the late 1800's had been like Mr. Butler, the avenues would have been deserted of street boys who wandered around, friendless.

Jack Bales PF-258

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SEE YOU AT REVERE - JUNE 19,20,21

A special story in appreciation of the pioneering services of Kenneth B. Butler, PF-006; Forrest Campbell, PF-000; and the late George L. Setman, III, will be used in a later issue of "THE NEWSBOY" and will mention other members who have contributed to the upbuilding of HAS during its first ten years with special credit to Max Goldberg, PF-008 and Ralph Gardner, PF-063.

In preparation, George C. Clarke, author of several histories, has read every available issue of "NEWSBOY" and has consulted other sources such as his own "History of Revere 1624-1968" and, of course, Ralph Gardner's wonderful and fully accurate book, which should be in the hands of every Alger collector. This method is called by writers, "Research in Depth". It includes reading 91 Algers, collected since June 1969.

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DID YOU KNOW....Alger life span like that of General Washington. Exactly 100 years apart, the Father of His Country was born in 1732 and died in 1799 while that of Horatio Alger Jr. extended from 1832 to 1899.

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LET'S POOL OUR IDEAS

A convention of any organization has as its fundamental purpose a quest for ideas for the improvement and growth of the society in addition to good fellowship and fun.

At each business session at Revere on June 19, 20 and 21, and opportunity will be presented for those attending to advance any ideas they may have for improvement and expansion.

With everyone helping, we should increase our membership to 1000 adults by convention time in 1971, and our growth should include 1000 sponsored juveniles. With such an impressive start, we should be able to attract financial support from one of the big foundations with the avowed purpose of "CLOSING THE GENERATION GAP" to help solve a vexing problem of our era.

Another idea, to prevent drop-outs from HAS, is to offer life membership to those completing five years, thereafter the only expense to be his or hers annual subscription to "NEWSBOY".

G. Clarke PF-264

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PROUD OWNERS - ROYAL HOSTS

On June 19th., 1970 the City of Revere under the joint auspices of the Kiwanis Club of Revere and the Horatio Alger Society, will  
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unveil a simple bronze plaque on the birth-  
place of our hero, Rev. Horatio Alger Jr. at  
88 Beach Street in what is locally known as  
"The Beach City". Nearby is the former Un-  
itarian Church, now the Masonic Temple, where  
Rev. Horatio Alger Sr. preached from 1829 to  
1844.

The fortunate owners, Joseph V. Gallant and  
Mrs. Ann Gallant, will be hosts to all who  
wish to witness the exercises.

The house is not only preserved in perfect  
repair but many of its furnishings, real an-  
tiques, are relics of the years during which  
the Alger family lived there.

Joseph and his wife, Ann, are both grad-  
uates of nearby Revere High School. Both are  
retired. The husband earned three college  
degrees, AB; MA; and EdM. He was employed for  
31 years by the United States Government, ad-  
vancing to the important position of Super-  
visor and Counselling Psychologist for the  
Veteran's Administration with headquarters in  
Boston, five miles from Revere.

The wife concentrated for the necessary  
period on the task of bringing up their fam-  
ily; then accepted a position as Assistant  
librarian from 1961 to 1967 at the Carnegie  
Library in Revere.

Convention Chairman George C. Clarke, Pf-  
264, is collecting a modest shelf of Algèrs  
to be placed in the home as an exhibit. Also  
a framed picture of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Five children were born to the Algèrs,  
their entire family. They left Revere in 1844  
for Marlboro. Horatio continued his education  
at Gates Academy in the latter place, prepar-  
ing for Harvard University and a career as a  
teacher, clergyman and author.

PF-264

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Welcome to new members.....

PF-284 - Frank James Bussone  
3600 N. Bernard St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60618  
(Mae) T-42

"As a young boy in my native Macon County,  
Missouri, I trapped animals and shipped them  
to A. B. Shubert Fur Co. in St. Louis, in  
order to raise money to buy my beloved Alger  
books. My early career as a trapper wasn't  
very productive because I was not up on the  
care of pelts. But Mr. Shubert came to my  
aid and his help was most productive and gave  
me better returns for my venture. I think I  
read every Alger book printed thanks to my

Con't next Column

Tra pings."

Frank is 66 and retired but still very  
active.

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PF-285 - Walter Pratt  
Bristol, Conn. 06010

Walter comes to us thru G. Clarke, PF-264.  
Walter has been with General Motors for over  
30 years. He writes as a Hobby. We have a  
story by Walter and it will be used in a  
future issue of the "Newsboy".

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are sorry to report the loss of two  
members, PF-141 and PF-257. They have not  
renewed their membership for this year.

Our membership now stands at 132.

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NOTES FROM MEMBERS.....

Ralph Gardner reports that on Tuesday,  
April 28, 1970 a reasonably good copy of  
"Ragged Dick"- First edition, of course - was  
sold at the Partke-Bernet auction Gallery for  
\$210.00. To his knowledge that's an all time  
high price at auction for any Alger.

Since these book auctions are attended by  
book dealers mostly, we can assume the buyers  
have a customer willing to pay somewhat more.

Ralph also reports that the winner of  
this years Princeton University Undergraduate  
Book Collectors Award was won by an Alger  
Collector. His entry: "AMERICAN JUVENILE  
LITERATURE FROM HORATIO ALGER TO THE DEPRES-  
SION." We hope that Richard Schneider,  
winner, will join with us.

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WILL CIRCULATE ALGERS

The Boston Public Library will acquire  
as full a set of the works of Horatio Alger  
Jr. as possible for its main library, some  
for retention in its rare book section; some  
for reference only; and others for actual  
circulation, on rotation, through its many  
branches in cooperation with HAS.

Following an interview between Convention  
Chairman George C. Clarke and Miss Y. T. Feng,  
a graduate librarian and assistant Director of  
the Research Library Service, the former was  
commissioned to locate as many Algèrs as pos-  
sible and at once available to the library  
and to ascertain the prices asked for same.

Of course gifts inscribed with the name  
of the donor will be welcomed. Proper signs

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at each location in all wards of Boston and at the main library will call the attention of both juvenile and adult readers to these volumes with the words, "READ ALGER" Thereon.

As a start, the library possesses the following titles: "Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy"; "Charlie Codman's Cruise"; "Do and Dare"; "Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving"; "Nothing To Do"; "Ragged Dick"; "Risen from the Ranks"; "Sink or Swim"; "The Store Boy"; "Tom the Bootblack". They also have "Ode in Harvard College" and "Nothing to Eat".

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BOOK MART

Work & Win	Good	Whitman	\$2.00
Strong & Steady	Fair	Hurst	\$2.00
Last Cruise of the Spitfire (Stratemeyer)	Good	G & D	\$5.00

Above offered by: PF-135

Irving I. Poznan  
107 Timka Dr.  
Ballwin, Mo. 63011

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HORATIO & THE BIBLE

PART #2 - Con't from April issue...

Not only do the charaters reflect parts of the Biblical tradition, but there is an incident that has a biblical counterpart. It is the battle between Bridget McGuire and Pietro. She vanquished Pietro by continually dumping water down upon his head. In Judges 9:50-54, there is the story of the evil judge Abimelech in his campaign against Thebez. The citizens all ran to a central tower, and, when Abimelech attacked, "a certain woman threw an upper millstone upon Abimelech's head, and crushed his skull...(he said to his armor-bearer) 'Draw your sword and kill me lest men say of me"A woman killed him'" (v. 53-54). When Pietro returned home "His uncle said with a sneer, 'so you were afraid of a woman!'".

Finally, there is a parallel between Biblical criticism and Alger criticism. Both must be looked at in the proper perspective, that is, in relation to their own times. The story of the Garden of Eden has become a fairy tale in the light of 20th. century science. The very idea of two people running about naked (and not knowing it yet!) in a garden with talking snakes, etc. seems to be something wild rather than a story about God's will, mercy and kindness to man, which the Garden story is IF IT IS SEEN FROM A RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT. The same thing is true of Alger. The idea of all those helpful people is, unfortunately, absurd to today's pessimistic, apathetic society. A world where EVERYONE

who is dilligent reaches the top is equally ridiculous today. "Let's face it," says Ralph D. Gardner in his excellent Alger biography, "even if one such ambitious lad should show up, he would be prevented by a dozen local state and federal laws from earning a livelihood the way Alger's boys did." In short Alger must be viewed from the 19th. century viewpoint. In general, boys like Dick and Edward COULD make their fortunes in just this way. Alger wrote during Reconstruction when the nation was just getting started again, and these opportunities did exist for anyone who would just try. Thus most of Alger's books did have a fantastic impact upon a whole generation of boys who said, "If Ragged Dick could do it, so can I!"

Thus throughout the Victorian Age there is definite interest and concern in and about the Bible. Bible readings were a part of nearly every home and it was likely that a child or two had a Biblical name. It is not unusual, then, to find this same concern in Victorian authors. It is particularly evident in Horatio Alger because of his divinity training. These examples are, therefore, not accidents and there really is a relationship between the Bible and Horatio Alger.

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This concludes the paper by George Loegel. George is interested in any comments or critisims by our members. You may write to him at 6570 N. Riverview Dr., Parchment, Mich. 49004.

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Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3.00 annually; adult membership, \$5.00 annually, to be paid in advance. Each new member receives a membership card, membership roster, and ten issues of the NEWSBOY.

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