

newsboy



GUEST EDITOR
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HORATIO ALGER, JR.: His Influence, and Those Who Influenced Him

By Gilbert K. Westgard II

Horatio Alger's name is today a synonym for a concept of industry, thrift, honesty, morality, virtue, and the self-made individual. But, what do most people know of the man himself?

Horatio Alger was a real person. The son of a Unitarian clergyman, he was born on Friday, the 13th of January, 1832 at Chelsea, (now Revere) Massachusetts. Like his father, he too, became a graduate of Harvard College, graduating in the distinguished class of 1852.

Even while he was still in school his name was becoming known to the American public. Various articles and short stories from his pen had begun to appear in some of the popular magazines of the day.

Eventually moving to New York City, just after the Civil War, he found the material for which over one hundred books that he

wrote for the next thirty years have become known; the stories of poor boys, most of the orphaned, trying to make a living, and to become successful. They were bootblacks, newsboys, baggage-smashers, and match-boys. All had in common their poverty and their dreams of success. By writing about them, Horatio Alger made himself a wealthy and successful author whose name is even today remembered while he himself is almost forgotten.¹

Almost forgotten -- but not quite. After all, who could forget an author whose works have sold more than those of Dickens, Thackeray, Hemingway, Faulkner and Lloyd C. Douglas, combined?²

The influence of Alger on the lives of generations of Americans from the mid 1860's until after the end of the First World War would be almost impossible to calculate.

A few years ago in an effort to assess his influence on prominent men in the government I wrote to a number of individuals asking them if they had read Alger's books in their youth, what they remembered about them, and if they felt that these books had a message for the youth of today. Three of the answers received are as follows:

Con't on page #3

HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger Jr. and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes - lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

OFFICERS

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The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society member. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$5.00.

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.

Please use membership roster for mailing address of our officers.

NOTES FROM GEORGE

To add to your enjoyment as a "Partic'lar Friend", each member of HAS is invited to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (.12¢) for the following.

A complete list of all Algers with alternate titles.

A list of available Algers and range of prices at which offered.

A list of rare Algers, valued at \$5.00 up, but not listed as "Available."

An extra sheet for you to list all your Algers.

A sheet to list your boy relatives of Junior age 4-18 in case you, as a member, wish to sponsor any or all of them as Junior Alger Club member.

One additional thought. Let's correspond with each other. Select a name from the new roster. Let's enjoy our hobby to the utmost

PF-264, George C. Clarke

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope to see many of you May 14, 15 & 16, 1971 at 3801 W. 41st St., Sioux Falls, S.D. Any of you that have a camper can headquarter in my yard. Lots of room but I will need your space reservation ahead of time.

So far the schedule for the convention is as follows:

May 14th. Registration during the afternoon at my house (1/4 mile east of Interstate 29 exit). We will have a smorgasboard in the evening with book displays and visiting.

May 15th. During the morning we will visit the Pettigrew Museum and various antique shops in the area. At 3 P.M. we will hold the annual meeting at the Park Ridge Valley National Bank. Our Banquet and awards will be at 6:30 with speaker at the Normandy Restaurant.

May 16th. We will have a scrambled egg parting breakfast at my home and I will provide a church schedule for all those who wish to attend.

The hope is to keep the expense of the convention down so attending will be a minimum hardship on everyone's pocketbook.

Let us try in 1971 to give Carl Hartmann his New Years wish and find a new editor for the Newsboy. Will close with this thought attributed to my late beloved mother. "Afflictions are but the shadow of God's wings."

Con't from page #1

I believe I read every Horatio Alger book which was ever written and probably the one that made the deepest impression and sticks with me even now is the one that either bore the title or belabored the theme of sticking to your bush.

It began with the story of a group going forth to gather wild blackberries and while most of the group scampered from bush to bush and finally came up with a very small quantity of berries, our hero stuck to his business until every berry was in his pail and then went on to another. At the end of the day he had a real harvest.

It is really too bad that the Horatio Alger books are not the vogue for the youngsters of today because they could have a real influence on the youth of America in our time and generation.

Sincerely,
Everett McKinley Dirksen
Minority Leader
United States Senate

As a boy and a young man, I was an ardent reader of the Horatio Alger books. I have repeatedly and publicly stated that it should be a "must" with parents to have their children, particularly boys growing up, read the Horatio Alger books. I have found my reading of these books to be most constructive and influential in my lifetime. I cannot too strongly urge the youth of our country to read the Horatio Alger Books.

Sincerely yours,
John W. McCormack
Speaker
United States House of
Representatives

As a boy, I read with enthusiasm Horatio Alger's books for boys. While I cannot point out any specific one of them as my favorite, these stories made a signi-

ficant impression on me. Alger's books, I feel, have a message for today's youth as well. It is only through initiative, hard work, honesty and dedication to duty that our young people will find success in whatever venture they pursue.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of
Investigation

References to Alger often turn up in some surprising and unusual places. While reading an article on Mormonism in a book on "cult religions," I found that "Mormonism today appeals to hundreds of thousands of converts for many reasons, but chief among them is its enshrinement of the frontier values and Horatio Alger dreams which form a basic part of our national heritage."³

Having examined briefly the influence of Horatio Alger on the lives of several prominent individuals, and having seen that even today his name is still used as a synonym for success, the question of who were those who influenced him will naturally arise. In some cases the influence will be obvious, while in other cases it will be pure speculation.

One of the most powerful influences upon the life of Horatio Alger, Jr. was the personality of his father, Rev. Horatio Alger, Sr. He was the fifth in a direct line of Algers in America, having descended from one Thomas Alger, who appears in Taunton, Massachusetts, about 1665.⁴ Horatio, Sr. was born at Bridgewater, Massachusetts on November 6, 1806. In 1825 he graduated from Harvard College and four years later from the Divinity School at Cambridge, since become a part of Harvard University. He was the minister of the Unitarian Church at Chelsea when his son and namesake was born. Since the child was delicate he did not attend school with other children, but was tutored by his father.

Con't from page 3

Under his father's direction, young Alger learned quite rapidly. His subjects were French, Latin, Greek and the Bible. When not engaged in his studies he would read from texts that his father had saved from his student-days. By the age of eight he could converse with his father in three foreign languages, as well as write and sight-translate long passages. Like his father he could also quote many parts of the Bible, giving chapter and verse references.

Horatio never had any doubts about his future. How could he? Like his father, he would be a minister.⁵

In December, 1844, the Alger family moved to Marlborough. Concerning his further education undertaken in this new location, Horatio states:

There was in this place a small academy in successful operation, under the superintendence of Mr. O. W. Albee, a graduate of Brown, and quite a respectable scholar, though his tastes inclined him

Con't on page 5

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

PF-310 R. Ted Kaphengst
15745 San Fernando Mission Blvd.
Granada Hills, Calif. 91344
(Uba) T-10

Ted hopes to add to his collection thru purchases and/or trades with other HAS members. He is interested in reading and collecting. Ted is also active in the Masons.

PF-311 Herbert A. Faulkner
Box 5301
Richmond, Va. 23220

Herbert is particularly interested in the Stratemeyer Algers. His other hobbies include old boys and girls books, old western novels and breeding fancy mice.

PF-312 Gary N. Handler
1958 Cambridge Drive
Kent, Ohio 44240

Gary's field of interest in Alger is Bibliophilic and Cultural. He also collects 1st Editions of late 19th and early 20th century authors.

PF-313 Gary V. Lemon
6014 119th St. S.W.
Tacoma, Wash. 98499
(Judith)

Both Gary and Judith have been collecting Alger for a number of years but did not know about our Society. Glad to have you both aboard.

More on page 13

We are happy to welcome PF-252, Kenneth Kral back. Ken had to drop out for awhile but is once again an active member.

We have just been notified that Colonel Richard Gimbel has passed away. The Yale University Library and our Society has lost a real friend.

BOOK MART

Strive & Succeed	Don.	F	.75
Joe's Luck	Hurst	G	2.00
Julius The Street Boy	Hurst	F	3.00
Only an Irish Boy	Hurst	VG	3.00
Tom the Bootblack	Don.	G	2.50
The Young Outlaw	NYB	VG	2.50
The Young Adventurer	Hurst	F	.75
The Young Salesman	NYB	F	1.50
Adrift in N.Y.	Don.	VG	2.50
Strong & Steady	NYB	G	2.50
Brave & Bold	NYB	G	2.00
Struggling Upward	Don.	G	1.50
Herbert Carter's Legacy	NYB	F	1.50
Paul The Peddler	Burt	VG	3.00
Paul The Peddler	Don.	F	1.50
Paul The Peddler	NYB	G	2.00

Above offered by:

Betty Lee Johnson
705 Palm Blvd.
Isle of Palms, S.C. 29451

Con't from page 4

rather to mathematics and the physical sciences than to the classics. To these my own tastes were directly opposed: possibly this was of advantage to me as it tended to equalize the time which I devoted to these various branches. Though the idea had long entertained, now for the first time I commenced a course of study preparatory to entering college. Beneath the elm trees in front of Gates' Academy (for so it was called) I have conned many a lesson in Latin, Greek, and mathematics. Unfortunately for the interest of my narrative, nothing remarkable happened to me in the three years following. "No moving incidents by fire and flood" have I to relate, by reciting which I might like another Othello win a second Desdemona. I suppose my time was occupied in about the same way that others have passed it when placed in similar circumstances. In speaking, therefore, of the impressions made upon me at this time I should only be quoting from the experience of many. Horace speaks not unadvisedly where he says, "It is difficult to speak properly of the things we have in common." My preparatory studies being completed a year before I actually entered college, I passed the intervening time in reading "ad libitum" several of the modern languages, which approached as nearly to the famous sweet idleness as could be desired.⁶

Horatio was accepted as a student by Harvard College in 1848. Some of the professors with whom he came in contact are worthy of note.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow taught classes in modern languages. He had been appointed to this position in 1835. After his second marriage, (his first wife having died in 1835), he purchased the Craigie House in Cambridge. This mansion had been the headquarters of General Washing-

ton in 1776, and was located within walking distance of the college.

Writing to Alger on December 14, 1875, Longfellow asked about using some of Horatio's pieces in a collection. He was informed, "I shall be only too happy to have them used."⁷ In the same letter Alger reminded his former instructor of an incident that probably Longfellow had long since forgotten.

"Years since, when at college, I remember calling upon you with a classmate, and I shall not soon forget the kindness with which you received the two inexperienced boys whose visit might have been regarded by many as an intrusion."

Louis Agassiz taught Horatio's course in geology. The distinguished geologist had come to the United States in 1846, only ten years after starting his research into the subject of great glacial movements in the past.⁸ His theory as to the vastness of time involved in the earth's past was new and not readily accepted in a society accustomed to the belief that the world was created in 4004 B.C.

In 1857 Horatio wrote a slim poetical volume entitled, Nothing To Do, in which the main character, Augustus Fitz-Herbert is described, along with a reference to Alger's former teacher.

He inclines, as I think, in regard to the masses,
In a modified form to the views of Agassiz:
As that Adam the first had another for weedin',
And other such jobs, in the garden of Eden;
While Eve has a gousemaid--the wife of the latter,
Of color uncertain--perhaps a mulatto,
Who lives in the kitchen, cooks, washes, and starches,

Con't on page 6

Con't from page 5

While Eve in the parlor plays
waltzes and marches;
And that those who perforce
bear the burdens of life
Date their origin back to this
man and his wife,
While from Adam the first are
descended the few
Who are blest with long purses
and nothing to do.⁹

Edward Tyrrel Channing was Alger's instructor in the field of rhetoric and oratory. His full title was Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory. He was appointed in 1819.

This post he held for 32 years, resigning it in 1851.

During all this time, the department of rhetoric and oratory, including the charge of all the English compositions of the students, and carrying great influence over their reading and tastes, was filled by him with more than satisfaction to the public of reading and thinking men.

He established and maintained for the college a high reputation for purity and elegance of style in composition and elocution, and gave direction to the reading of an entire generation of leading men in all departments of intellectual labor... He was highly esteemed for the charm of his conversation, which was choice and pure in style, with an occasional use of a restrained but effective humor.¹⁰

The influence of his former teacher is strongly in evidence in all of Alger's writing. Alger used humor, but in a restrained, effective manner.

Horatio studied Greek under the eminent classical scholar Cornelius Conway Felton. His scholarship

was such that he earned a prize for Greek composition in 1851. Felton judged Alger's work and wrote his comments at the end of the paper.

There are several errors in this version, partly in the use of words, and some in inflections: but it is, on the whole, deserving of the prize, being generally correct, and showing a good deal of attention and labor.

Political science was taught by Charles Sumner. It was Sumner who in later years, as Senator from Massachusetts, led the anti-Johnson forces in impeachment proceedings.

When Alger entered college he was selected to fill the office of President's Freshman. His function was to perform the official errands of the President. For this service he received about forty dollars and rent of his room. The man he served was Edward Everett, Governor of Massachusetts from 1836 to 1840, U.S. Minister to England from 1841 to 1845, and remembered by many as the "other speaker" on the occasion of the consecration of the national cemetery at Gettysburg, when Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal address. He declared that Lincoln's speech would live for generations after his own (Everett's) two-hour effort was forgotten.¹¹ He was correct.

In his second year at Harvard Alger met Addison Brown who had taken his first year of college at Amherst. They were to be roommates for the remainder of their undergraduate days.

Brown's story is echoed in some of Alger's later stories of poor boys who aspire to get an education. His father had gone broke only four years previously. However, the younger Brown went to work in a shoe factory to pay his expenses and to save up money for his education.

Con't on page 7

Con't from page 6

He studied in his leisure time, and recited to the head of an academy who had urged him to prepare for college. After graduation from Harvard, he took up the study of law, and eventually became a United States Judge of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. Remembering his college days he made provision for the establishment of the Addison Brown Scholarships both at Harvard and Amherst colleges.¹²

For several years after his graduation from Harvard, Alger did some teaching and some writing for a few of the popular literary magazines of the day. Always, though, his father urged him to continue his studies to fit himself for the ministry.

Entering the Harvard Divinity school in 1857, he graduated in 1860. The father was pleased.

Soon he was off to Europe with his cousin, George Fenno, and a classmate from his undergraduate days, who had also graduated from the Harvard Divinity School. His name was Charles Carroll Vinal.

While in Europe, Horatio wrote various articles and stories which appeared later in American newspapers and magazines. In one article he described the funeral of Eugene Scribe, and then did quite a scholarly biography of the late French dramatist which appeared in the North American Review.

Upon their return to the United States in 1861, both Alger and Vinal accepted calls from Unitarian congregations in the state of Massachusetts. Vinal went to North Andover, where he remained for fourteen years, while Alger went to Dover for eight months.

He still was not certain that the ministry was for him, and in December, 1861, established him-

self at Cambridge as a private tutor. In 1862 he declined a call from the Unitarian Society at Alton, Illinois, though two years later he would accept the call from a Unitarian Church at Brewster, Massachusetts, where he would remain for two years.

During the time that he was at Brewster, Alger made a couple of trips to New York City. Seeing the thriving metropolis, Alger knew that here was the place for him. However, one must still earn a living, and the world was not yet familiar enough with his name so that he could be certain of a living wherever he might go.

Through his sister, Olive Augusta Alger Cheney, a popular authoress of literature for children, Horatio came into contact with William Taylor Adams, better known under the name "Oliver Optic."

Adams was the editor of a popular juvenile publication, Student and Schoolmate. He was ten years older than Horatio, and had already published some of Olive's pieces. He could not use the book-length story that Horatio presented to him, but sent the clergyman-author to see Aaron K. Loring.

His story was Frank's Campaign; or, What Boys Can Do On the Farm for the Camp. It was a tale of a boy left to care for the home-front while his father went off to the war. It was accepted by Loring, and published in 1864. The next year Loring published his story entitled, Paul Prescott's Charge. Three more books followed in 1866 and 1867. By this time Horatio had given up the ministry for good, moved to New York City, and had at last become an author.

He was now his own man -- not just an extension of his father.

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In 1867, his story, Ragged Dick, appeared in the pages of Student and Schoolmate. It is the story that launched him as an all-time best-selling author of books for boys.¹³ For the next thirty years he would rewrite the basic theme of Ragged Dick more than one hundred times, become the most popular author in the country, and would make and spend a fortune.

Ragged Dick brought him to the attention of Charles O'Connor, superintendent of the Newsboys' Lodging House in New York City since its founding in 1853. Here was a book that was suitable for his young charges to read, and here was a lodging-house full of boys for the young author to use as source material for further books about the "street Arabs" of New York. From that time on the Newsboys' Lodging House became Alger's New York Home.¹⁴ It was years later that O'Connor, while listening to Alger read the opening paragraphs of Adrift In New York, passed peacefully away.

Alger wrote the eulogy of his close friend.

When the time came for him to speak he forgot the lengthy encomiums he had carefully prepared. Instead he said: "Charles O'Connor was the best friend that man or boy could have. God was good in giving him to us. No one can say how much he meant to us. Everywhere boys know the man Charles O'Connor was. He was the best friend I have ever known. He was the kindest and the least selfish. I loved him--all of us loved him. God will find a place for him close to His throne."¹⁵

When Horatio Alger, Jr. died in 1899 there were many who could have said the same things of him.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Gilbert K. Westgard II, "A Synonym For Success," Newsboy, volume 8, number 3, October, 1969, p.8
- 2 Frank Gruber, Horatio Alger, Jr. A Biography and Bibliography, p.11
- 3 Tracy Cabot (ed.), Inside the Cults, pp. 21-22
- 4 New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, volume 36
- 5 Ralph D. Gardner, Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era, p.59
- 6 Horatio Alger, Jr., "Nothing So Difficult As The Beginning," unpublished manuscript
- 7 -----, "Letter to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow," December 16, 1875
- 8 Anne Terry White, Prehistoric America, pp. 9-16
- 9 Gilbert K. Westgard II, Alger Street The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr., pp. 21-22
- 10 The Americana, volume 5, article on Edward Tyrrel Channing
- 11 The World Book Encyclopedia, p.2335
- 12 Grace Williamson Edes, Annals of the Harvard Class of 1852, pp. 29-33
- 13 Gardner, op. cit., p. 450
- 14 Herbert R. Mayes, Alger A Biography Without A Hero, p.101
- 15 John Tebbel, From Rags to Riches Horatio Alger, Jr., and the American Dream, p. 130

Con't on page 9

Con't from page 8

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Negative microfilm of:
"The Disagreeable Woman" 5.00

Offered by:
Gilbert K. Westgard II
92 North 900 East
Provo, Utah 84601

"Horatio Alger or the American Hero Era" by Ralph Gardner - 2 copies.
\$9.50 each post paid.

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3801 West 41st St.
Souix Falls, S.D. 57106

Earnest Sanford, PF-032, reports that PG-157, Wardney White has passed away. Mr. White was over 90 and was a ardent Alger Fan. Although Wardney hasn't been active in our Society for a few years his interest in Alger was very great. We know that all that came in contact with him will miss him greatly.

The following have stated that they will be in Sioux Falls - Will you???

Dan Fuller, Jack Row, Carl Hartmann, Bob Bennett, Judson Berry, Ralph Gardner, Carl Thieme.

On Jan. 13th. Max Goldberg gave a talk to the Revere Kiwanis Club on Alger. The talk was given on Alger's 139th. birthday and we hope to run it in a future issue of the NEWSBOY.

If Max's health holds out he is planning another Memorial service for Alger in July.

* * * * *

ADVERTISED LETTERS --
-- IN ALGER'S DAY

In certain Alger' stories, such as RAGGED DICK, chapter 24, page 264 in the P&C edition, and in CHARLIE CODMAN'S CRUISE, chapter 23, page 202 in the Winston edition, and in other stories you may remember of reading about such advertised letters.

Here is an actual listing which was printed in the Kalamazoo Gazette in the year of 1837.

Kalamazoo was still in its infancy as far as our frontiers and national progress is concerned. There were only a few hundred people in the area and many of them, it seems, had more important things to do besides making a daily trip to the post office.

According to the posted date, they were a bunch of Christmas cards, no doubt.

Also, please note the existing book store at that early date -- but it was not located in our area.

Also please note the delinquent tax notice. After a quick check I was relieved to learn that there were no encumbrances upon our property.

At that time, mail was brought into Kalamazoo by stage in good weather, and by horse-back in bad weather. The postage rate ranged from 6¢ to 25¢ per letter. It may well have been the fee which caused some letters to remain undelivered, due to the nature of the letter. Imagine having to pay 25¢ for an advertising circular! (PF-000) (copyright 1971, F. Campbell)

BOOK STORE.

BOOKS & STATIONERY,

which he will sell at very low prices. He has now of hand, a variety of standard and popular works, school books, bibles in various forms--some very elegant, blank books, writing-paper, &c. &c. We expect in a few days to receive a further supply of books, including the latest publications, together with some elegant ANNUALS for 1837. Merchants supplied with Books and Stationery at liberal rates. Niles, Oct. 12, 1836. #142w3

- LIST OF LETTERS,**
REMAINING in the Post Office in Kalamazoo, January 1, 1837. Persons calling for the following letters will please say advertised.
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Wm. Andrews | Dielesian Hess |
| Truman Averill | Abvahan Hughes |
| Thomas J. Angol | Joshua Hisks |
| Lewis Adams | Henry W. Hoague |
| T. D. Austin | Reazin Holmes |
| James Anderson | Mr. Heydenburg |
| Joseph Allen 2 | Orman Hunt |
| Joseph Atherton | Lewis Johnson 2 |
| Philander M. Bucklin | Gideon or Joseph Johnson |
| Philander Bishop | Cotton Kimball 2 |
| Elisha Belcher 2 | Thos Kenhard |
| Geo. C. Barclay | Ann Kent |
| Geo. Barclay | Robert Love |
| A. P. & Horace Bush | Marin Lathrop |
| John Bryeno | Stephen Loveland |
| Rowland Buel or | Zena Loyd |
| Henry Chapin | Albert Lawrence |
| John J. Barnard | Clement March 5 |
| Manassah Bixby | J. R. Monroe |
| Henry P. Bridge | Samuel Millard |
| Mary Baldwin | Samuel Millard jr. |
| Lucius Boltwood | C. Mason |
| Leonard Bronson | John Meachum |
| Clement Biddle jr. | Benjamin Mastin |
| L. S. Roll | L. Moore |
| Vincent L. Bradford 2 | George Morton 2 |
| Henry Bowers | Caleb S. Merrill |
| Heman Bradway | Henry Moore |
| John C. Beebe | W. H. Nelson |
| B. Boor | Warren Norton |
| Warren Beckwith | Nicholas Osenburgh |
| H. H. Beers | Ira Palmer |
| Austin Church | Asa J. Park |
| Hiram Chapman | Jonas G. Pofter |
| David Cadwell | T. B. Palmer |
| Enos Church | S. L. Porter |
| Alax. Cameron | Asa G. Park |
| L. D. Calkins | John Perce |
| T. P. Colton | Selden Partridge |
| Nehemiah Chase | Eliza Paterson |
| Ephraim Case | Hiram Rice |
| Gordon Cook | J. Rysoun |
| Ab'm Cahill 2 | Roderic Rowe |
| Henry W. Chapin | Owen Ransom |
| Edmond P. Deacon | Henry Reynolds |
| Lyman Daniels | Jacob F. M. Rockafeller |
| Oliver Davenport | Jacob Ramsdell |
| Benj. S. Dibble | Nelson Sage |
| David Dickson | R. Sherwood & Co. |
| Benjamin Deque | Alanson Sumner 3 |
| Townsend Davis | Alfred Strang |
| Dexter Dickinson | L. Savage |
| J. M. Daniels | Worthy Streeter |
| Alfred B. Dorrance | Chas D. Smith |
| Aaron Eames | Adaline D. M. Sterns |
| Charles Ellis | James Shea |
| John Edmunds | Elisha B. Seeley |
| Thomas Evans | David Tekramling |
| Elsie Easton | S. V. R. Trowbridge |
| Stephen Fuller | Wm. Taylor |
| Joseph Fellows | Samuel Towns |
| Lieutenant Fetterman | Marin Ticknor |
| Heman Ferris | Soloman Tupp |
| Vincent Frisby | George Torrey |
| Lewis M. Gates 2 | Terril Taylor |
| Ezra Gates | Calvin White jr. |
| Martin Green | John O. Weldet |
| Allen Goodridge | Jeremiah Wheelin |
| John Hascall | S. White |
| Horace F. Hodge | William Waycott |
| Mary S. Hodge | Alanson Weeks |
| John Hershell | Ch rles Wa kins. |
| Joshua Hill | William Waterhouse |
| John G. Hall | Seth Whitlock |
| | W. Wolcot. |
| | I. W. WILLARD, P.M. |

50 Reams writing and wrapping paper; 500 pieces paper hangings; 300 Willow baskets &c. Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps, an extensive assortment which will be sold at lower prices than can be purchased in this city. C. L. BRISTOL. #144; Detroit, Oct. 1, 1836.

STRAYED,
FROM the subscriber, in November last, a red three year old steer. Whoever will return said steer, or give information where he may be found, shall be liberally rewarded. HIRAM OWEN. #143; Kalamazoo, Jan. 18, 1837.

NOTICE.
TO all persons whom this may concern. Know that on the twentieth day of July, Eighteen Hundred Thirty Five, I, Wm. Woodruff, of Flourfield, St. Joseph co., and State of Michigan, did execute a note of two hundred and sixty dollars and twenty-seven cents,—unto Samuel McKays, of the place above named. That said note, has endorsement on it, and is payable one day after date, and that I have good lawful assets sufficient to pay said note, and do forbid all persons Buying said note. The said note is in the hands of Jeremiah Humphrey of Kalamazoo. *144w3 Wm. WOODRUFF. Dated, Kalamazoo, January 7, 1837.

NOTICE
I hereby given, that so much of the following described lots of land, situated in the county of Kalamazoo, Michigan, as may be necessary to satisfy the taxes assessed thereon, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, together with the interest and charges will be sold at public auction, at the court house, in the village of Kalamazoo, on the second day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon:

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BRADY.

Sec.	T. S.	R.	N.	E.	Est. Value		Amt Tax	
					Dols.	Cts.	Dols.	Cts.
S E 1 4	12	4	S	12	800		3	38
N 1 2 N E 1 4	1	3		9	400		1	68
N E 1 4	2	3		9	240		1	00
S W 1 4	1	3		9	480		1	92
S 1 2 N W 1 4	3	3		9	400		1	68
W 1 2 N E 1 4	10	3		9	200			84
N E 1 4	7	3		10	200			84
S E 1 4	6	3		10	200			84
S 1 2 N W 1 4	1	3		11	100			41
E 1 2 S E 1 4	1	3		11	100			41
W 1 2 S E 1 4	3	3		11	240			1 00
N E 1 4	3	3		11	240			1 00
E 1 2 S E 1 4	5	3		11	160			67
E 1 2 S W 1 4	5	3		11	320			1 33
N E 1 4	6	3		11	400			1 68
E 1 2 S E 1 4	6	7		11	240			1 00
N 1 2 E 1 2 S E 1 4	1	3		11	120			53

T. P. SHELDON, Treasurer.
Kalamazoo County Treasures }
Office, January 21, 1837 } #143m6

MORTGAGE SALE.
DEFAULT having been made in the payment of Three Hundred dollars, with the interest thereon, secured by indenture of mortgage, bearing date sixteenth day of September, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-five, executed by Willard Mills, of the town of Kent, state of Michigan, to Norman Mack, of the same place, which said Mortgage was given to secure the purchase money of the land and premises, hereafter described and was recorded in the Register's office of Kalamazoo county, on the ninth day of October, 1835, in Liber A. of mortgages, page 189, 190, 191: The amount of principal and interest, claimed to be due at the date of this notice, on said mortgage, being Two Hundred and Twenty-six Dollars, and Eighty-two cents. Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of power of sale in said mortgage contained, and in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided, will be sold at public auction, on the thirty day of April next, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the Kalamazoo House, in the village of Kalamazoo, in the county of Kalamazoo, state of Michigan, all and singular, the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: all that certain piece or parcel of land, being the east half, of the north-east quarter of section number thirty-six, in township six north, of range thirteen west, containing eighty acres, more or less. NORMAN MACK, Mortgagee.
Z. PLATT, Attorney.
Kalamazoo, Jan. 12 1837 #143w12

WAS LOVE BLIND FOR HORATIO?

"What has got into me? I cannot fix my mind upon my work. I am no longer on the verge of destitution, or compelled to labor for a mere pittance; yet my mind is less at ease than when I hardly knew where the next day's food was to come from."

The above quote was written by the Alger pen, and is actually a part of a certain Alger story. Does a writer sometimes create a character in order to give voice to his own feelings? The above quote was known to have been written no later than 1883. By that time many of his stories had been accepted and published and there is no reason why he should not consider himself a successful writer financially. If he was expressing his own mood why would he not feel at ease?

It has been said that a truly great artist does his best work in periods of depression and is inspired by his mood with an urge to express his personal feelings through the medium of putting words into the mouth of a character created for the purpose.

But Horatio was not depressed or suffering, at least from his financial affairs. If the above reasoning has any merit, then his periods of inspiration should be at a low ebb, and there would be little incentive for him to do his best work.

If Horatio's lack of inspiration did not stem from financial problems, then what else is left? Could it have been loneliness? Love? Yes, perhaps love. It is a definitely established fact that Horatio never married, but nothing has ever been established about any possible love interests.

It would be a human natural thing if he did experience an occasional romance. Perhaps he did. Who knows for sure? Yet a yearning for marital bliss did not seem to be uppermost in his mind; at least it does not seem evident according to authentic records. Would he have known the real thing if it came along?

The records show that many did not until it was too late. Was Horatio unsure of his chances of a happy successful married life? He may have led a tormented life as a single man. His work required of him many hours of solitude. Could he achieve success as a writer and be a happily married man at the same time?

Other successful writers were married, to be sure; but was their marriage a successful one. That was an unknown quantity and it may have disturbed him no end, and be the cause of many hours of torment.

The above quotation which has been taken out of context, deals with a love affair; a triangle, if you please, where the young lady rejects the suit of one, while hopeful of gaining the attentions of another. In rejecting the proposal of one suitor, the young lady gave this response:

"I hope that time may soften whatever disappointment you feel.. Pardon my saying that you have never appeared to me the one man with whom I should wish to walk through life, and this being the case, I should wrong both myself and you by accepting you."

Could this be one of the situations Horatio hoped to avoid? Had he ever experienced a similar situation before, and hoped to avoid another?

Decisions, decisions. Wouldn't it make you cautious if confronted with a similar embarrassing situation? On the other hand, what are the feelings of the young lady? Again, we return to the text:

"Just then, too, lifting her eyes she met the gaze of ----fixed upon her with an intensity which she could not fail to interpret. 'He loves me!' she thought, and the thought gave her no displeasure."

I am convinced that Horatio was recording his own feelings as well as some of his own past experiences, but then, read the story for yourself in THE TRAIN BOY. (Copyright, Forrest Campbell, 1971)

NEW YORK CITY DURING THE TIME OF
HORATIO ALGER JR.

By Jack Bales

HORACE GREELEY (Concluded)

On December 4, 1839, Horace Greeley entered politics, when he reported on the Whig National Convention held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Later, Greeley helped in the Whig presidential campaign for Harrison, and soon became very interested in politics.

Horace Greeley's Tribune was famous for its hard-hitting editorials. Therefore, the paper's large circulation gave Greeley the opportunity to deliver his political opinions.

The question of slavery soon came to Greeley's attention, and by the middle 1800's, he was a staunch supporter of abolition.

In 1860, Greeley was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He helped promote the nomination of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, and he supported Lincoln through the Civil War.

A major blow came to Greeley in May, 1867, when he and twenty others signed a bail bond for \$100,000, which released Jefferson Davis from his imprisonment in Fortress Monroe. Davis, former President of the Confederacy, was suspected of being responsible for the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and was therefore captured by Michigan cavalry, on May 10, 1865.

Greeley believed that Davis should have been tried for treason in 1865 when the murder occurred, not two years later, when old and violent feelings might be rekindled, which would cause more harm than good. He also thought that the trial would only agitate the South, and would furthermore cost a great deal of money. Therefore, he signed the bail bond.

Greeley immediately incurred the wrath of a great many people in the northern part of the country. Thousands of subscribers to his Tribune cancelled their subscriptions. The weekly, which had a circulation of 250,000, lost about 200,000 subscribers. The daily suffered too, but not to such a great extent as the weekly. "The bitterness died down, but not out. Greeley lost much of his hold, which he never regained, nor did the weekly Tribune ever come back to its former proportions in either circulation or influence."

In May, 1872, Greeley relinquished the editorship of the Tribune, for on May 1st of that year, the Liberal Party met in convention in Cincinnati, and accepted Greeley as a nominee for President of the United States. Greeley, who ran against Grant, lost the election, receiving 66 electoral votes to Grant's 286. In the popular vote, 2,834,125 votes were cast for Greeley, while Grant received 3,597,132.

Mary Greeley died on October 30, 1872. November 5th was election day. On November 7th, Greeley resumed the editorship of the Tribune. In the issue on the 7th, an editorial which was written by Greeley appeared, which announced that from then on he would treat all parties with equal favor. However, he didn't have much time to do any writing, for on November 29, 1872, Horace Greeley succumbed to a sickness that had been ailing him for a long time.

"There was an immediate and nationwide revulsion of feeling. Horace Greeley had done so much for liberty, so much for human welfare, had done it so tirelessly, so unselfishly, and at such sacrifice, that all the land went into mourning over the man it had lately covered with odium. There were no enemies left."

* * * * *

One last remark about Horace Greeley. Although it is usually attributed to

Greeley, it was not he who coined the expression, "Go West young man." Actually, a man named John Soule originated it. Soule was publisher of the Terre Haute Express, and first used the expression in an 1851 editorial.

* * * * *

Horatio Alger would sometimes mention Horace Greeley in his books. In Ragged Dick, Dick Hunter twice spoke of the famous man: "'In course they are. (I.e., Baxter Street tailors are fashionable). Me and Horace Greeley always go there for clothes. When Horace gets a new suit, I always have one made just like it; but I can't go the white hat. It ain't becomin' to my style of beauty.'" Also, "'Sometimes I was a newsboy, and diffused intelligence among the masses, as I heard somebody say once in a big speech he made in the Park. Them was the times when Horace Greeley...made money.'"

SOURCE: Seitz, Don. Horace Greeley.

NEXT: Wickedness and depravity in New York. The Five Points, prostitution, and baby killing are all touched upon.

MATERIAL NEEDED!!!

We need research material on Alger. If you have information you would like to share with our members write it up now and send to ye old secretary Carl Hartmann. If you would like to do some research here are some suggestions. 1st edition titles - date and publisher. Ralph Gardners book, HORATIO ALGER or THE AMERICAN HERO ERA, gives us 1st edition publishers and dates but does not include the reprint titles. If you have a copy of ALGER STREET, The Poetry of Horatio Alger Jr. edited and arranged by PF-024, Gilber K. Westgard, you will find most of Alger's poetry, but how about the obscure poems in newspapers and magazines. If you know of any write it up for the NEWSBOY. Many of our new members and quite a few of our older members do not have as much information as they would like, so whatever you have - share.

Jack Bales has had the honor of being the first person in the history of the Phi Alpha Literary Society to win its Award twice for the best declamation of the semester. Then all the men's literary societies gave a literary program before the whole school and Jack, representing Phi Alpha with another declamation, took first place. He was also elected alumni secretary by unanimous vote. Jack attends Illinois' College.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jack Bales for bringing the By-laws up to date and Ken Butler for his history of the Alger Society both of which appeared in the 1971 Roster.

* * * * *

DO YOU HAVE A FLARE FOR WRITTING? WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT? HOW ABOUT A BY-LINE OR BETTER YET "EDITOR" AFTER YOUR NAME. WE NEED A NEW EDITOR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED DROP A NOTE TO PRESIDENT STEVE PRESS OR SECRETARY CARL HARTMANN. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. DON'T BE BASHFUL, WRITE NOW AND MAYBE THE JOB CAN BE YOURS.

PF-314 David K. Kanarr
1032 14th. St.
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

David is a "stalwart Alger admirer and collector. He learned of us thru Herb Risteen. "Herb was more than kind to me which speaks well both of him and your Society" Glad to have you with us David.

* * * * *

* * * * *
When an optimist gets up in the morning, he says:
"Good morning, Lord."

When a pessimist gets up in the morning, he says:
"Good Lord! Morning!"

FEBRUARY, 1970

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Bob Bennett, PF 265

LET'S GIVE HORATIO HIS DUE

We have all heard the cliches concerning Alger's books--that they are all alike and if you have read one, you have read them all. Others say his stories are shapeless and filled with contradictions, that his plots are clumsily constructed, are didactic and moralizing.

Now that Horatio has been laid at rest some 70 years, and his works forgotten or neglected by his severest critics, let's take a fresh look at his accomplishments in the field of American literature.

I submit that Horatio Alger did as much, if not more, than any other author of his period in ushering in the age of realism in American literature. It is disturbing to find him so completely rejected or ignored by our literary historians.

The local-color movement is generally thought of in connection with the birth of realism in American literature. Local-color fiction is that which concerns itself with everyday occurrences in a particular locality and is characterized by the use of local dialects and sectional interests and conduct. Bret Harte's "Luck of Roaring Camp" (1870), is generally given plaudits as the first of the well-received local-color stories.

However, comparing Harte's story with Alger's Ragged Dick, I find that both, from a purely literary point of view, have the same general deficiencies. The two stories each rely on stock situations and both suffer from weak sentence construction which results in a similar type of incoherency. Interestingly enough, Alger's story, a true local-color story of the contemporary New York scene, not only preceded Harte's by two years, but outsold it by a wide margin.

Edward Eggleston, Joel Chandler Harris, George W. Cable and Sarah Orne Jewett are

other local-colorists we frequently read about. They too, were contemporaries of Alger and all had the same general characteristics of crudeness and ornamentality--stock metaphors applied to Alger's works.

Still another local-color writer of this period, Mark Twain, gained fame because of his colloquialisms and lifelike characters. Although Alger also employed the prevalent slang expressions used by the boys of his time, he is not remembered for it.

Other Alger contemporaries, Henry James and Hamlin Garland are remembered because of their ability to precisely depict social environments and give attention to details. Many of Alger's books, among them, the "Tattered Tom" series, properly describe the New York Street environment. Others such as Bob Burton are typically Alger in their minuscule accounting of his heroes' money-saving ventures.

Alger certainly carried this writing style to the west in his "Pacific" series. His true-to-life descriptions of the frontier parallel the accuracy of Garland and Harte.

Upton Sinclair and Ernest Poole are ranked leaders in the realistic school of writers devoted to the literature of protest. Here, too, Alger is overlooked as his Phil, The Fiddler, was a major determinant in effectively bringing about social change by aiding in the elimination of the "padrone system."

Perhaps Alger's works are not classified with those of the so-called "giants" of literature, but their significance and wide appeal cannot be denied. Alger did make a contribution and deserves recognition for this impact in his time. I cannot help but think, that although few will admit it, the "Alger formula" is often still at work today. Let's give credit where credit is due.

Alger is also overlooked as a poet, although on few occasions, his poem, "John Maynard" is considered by some to have merit. The poem does appear in The Family Book of Best Loved Poems, Doubleday, 1952, and is listed among the selections in the section entitled "Favorite Poems of Adventure on Land and Sea."

By
Herb L. Risteen

Here is one of my favorite Alger poems, "Little Charlie," which is a part of the collection of short stories and poems that make up Alger's first book, Bertha's Christmas Vision.

LITTLE CHARLIE

A Violet grew by the river-side,
And gladdened all hearts with it's bloom;
While over the fields, on the scented air,
It breathed a rich perfume.
But the clouds grew dark in the angry sky,
And its portals were opened wide;
And the heavy rain beat down the flower
That grew by the river-side.

Not far away, in a pleasant home,
There lived a little boy,
Whose cheerful face and childish grace
Filled every heart with joy.
He wandered one day to the river's verge,
With no one near to save;
And the heart that we loved with a boundless
love
Was stilled in the restless wave.

The sky grew dark to our tearful eyes,
And we bade farewell to joy;
For our hearts were bound by a sorrowful tie
To the grave of the little boy.
The birds still sing in the leafy tree
That shadows the open door:
We heed them not; for we think of the voice
That we shall hear no more.

We think of him at eventide,
And gaze on his vacant chair
With a longing heart, that will scarce believe
That Charlie is not there.
We seem to hear his ringing laugh,
And his bounding step at the door;
But, alas! there comes the sorrowful thought,
We shall never hear them more!

We shall walk sometimes to his little grave,
In the pleasant summer hours;
We will speak his name in a softened voice,
And cover his grave with flowers;
We will think of him in his heavenly home,
His heavenly home so fair;
And we will trust with a hopeful trust
That we shall meet him there.

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NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Ed Levy is spending his 47th successive winter in Florida and would be pleased to hear from any HAS PF who will be his way. His Address in Florida is:

Ed Levy
100 Sunrise Ave.
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Ed has over 78,000, that's right, 78,000 Dime Novels and has started to break them down into categories, such as Circus, Feminine Writer, Reporter & Journalist, Etc.

He gave the STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY COLLECTION, which is unique as it includes only Dime Novels which have the name of N.Y. City Street in its title or sub-title, to the New York Historical Society last year. There were more than 1000 such Dime novels in it.

Ralph Gardner will be giving a series of Alger lectures at the

University of Wyoming in May. The University would like some reading copies before Ralph's lecture. If you have any that you would like to donate drop Ralph a line and he will make all arrangements so they will be put to good use.

Edwin M. Gross, PF-283, has just added 12 Porter & Coates in nice condition and one "Western Boy" by Thompson & Thomas. He now has 91 different titles. Ed works in a department store - printing and signs. He has printed his own stationary and it is terrific. An Alger display was featured in the window of his store from his collection.

What do the words Large, Regal, Glare & Lager have in common? Answer - next issue. (If you don't know we may drum you out of the Society). Ralph Gardner

PF-000, Forrest Campbell and his wife Rachel are now vacationing in Alabama. His address is:

Forrest Campbell
355 S. Mobile Ave. Apt. 4
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

WRITE FOR IT

The formation of Junior Alger Clubs in all 50 states and in the Dominion of Canada is well underway under 1970 Convention authority, delegated to George C. Clarke of Massachusetts by the Board of Directors at its October 24th session in Mendota, Ill.

Revere, birthplace of Horatio Alger Jr., has been chosen as the prototype community with an immediate goal of 300 juniors, sponsored by HAS members.

There will be three sponsors of the statewide movement, namely the Kiwanis Club of Revere, of which William Di Carlo, a member of the city council and a 1970 candidate for the mayoralty, is 1970-1971 president, with Clarke as the club's secretary; the Massachusetts State Chamber of Commerce, Inc. now in its 81st year; and our Society as co-sponsors.

Our objective is to "Close the Generation Gap." Two-colored "ALGER REVIVAL" posters will be used in every classroom in Massachusetts from Grade 4 to Grade 9 featuring a blown-up picture of Alger; that of the late Former President Dwight David Eisenhower and Roger Babson both of the later having long since acknowledged the very great influence of Alger in their lives.

Slogans will be sent to all Massachusetts newspapers, daily, weekly and Sunday, such as "GET SMART, READ ALGER", etc.

In Revere, on Alger's birthday, visits will be arranged in groups to the Alger Birthplace under teacher guidance and each child will be given a well-typed, mimeograph brochure on "Alger, His Works and His Influence". An essay contest will follow on "My Impressions of Alger, Revere Native." And much more.

Two junior clubs are already started with Joseph A. Festa and William Di Carlo as Alger Councillors.

REMINDER

Because of the nature of the material used in this issue, we decided to combine the February and March NEWSBOYS. Any material for the April (Convention issue) should be in by March 15th.