

newsboy



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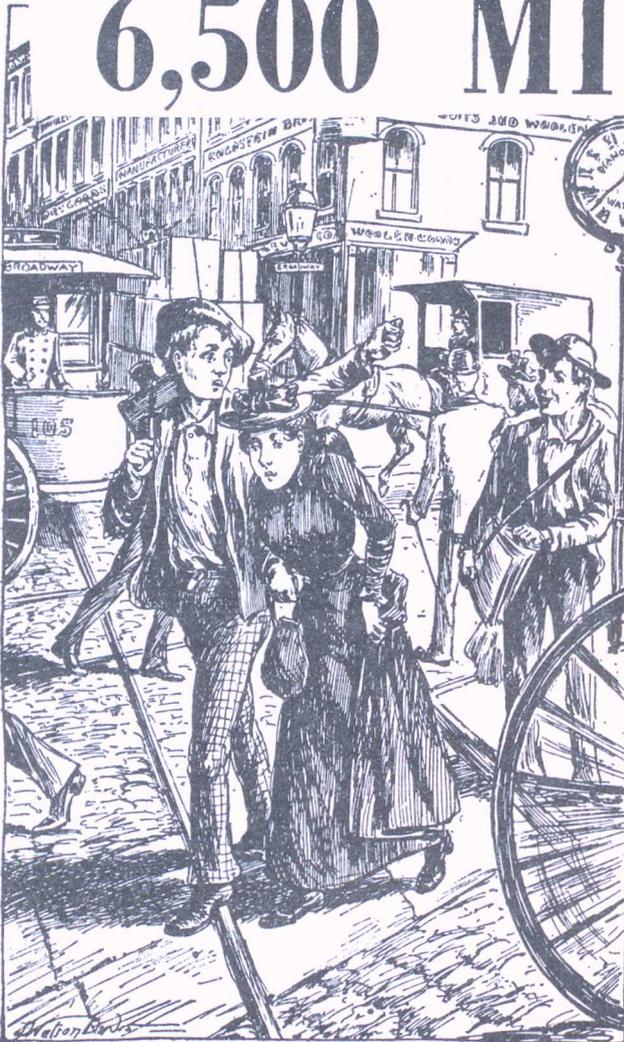
Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devot-
ed to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



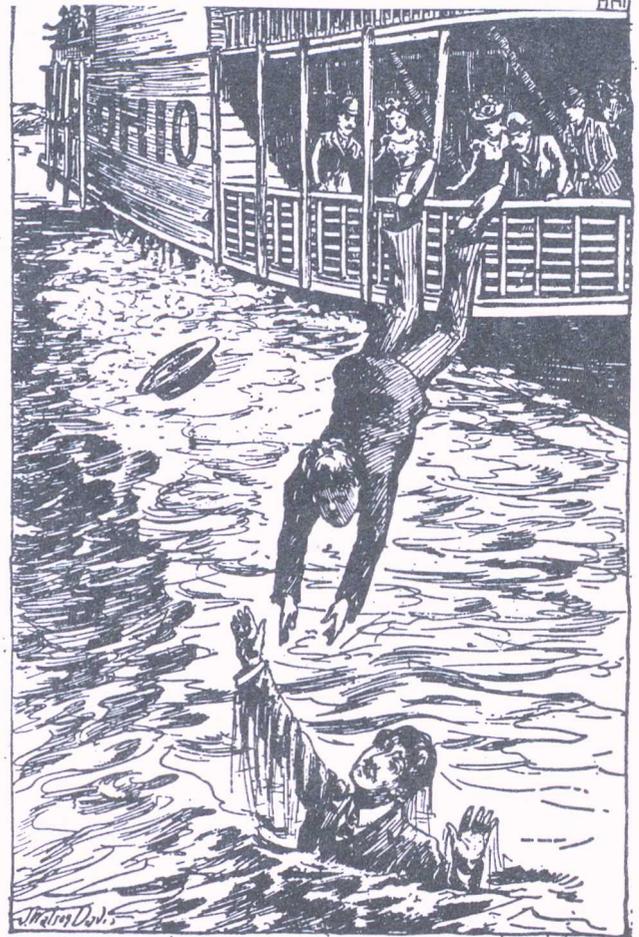
Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

Stacked One Atop the Other His Books Would Reach

6,500 MILES HIGH



"I'll lick you when I come back," retorted Tom.
"Don't mind what he says, Miss."
—From "Tom, the Bootblack"



Tom, being an expert swimmer, jumped in after
the man without hesitation.
—From "Tom the Bootblack"

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 members. 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.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Forrest Campbell
P. O. Box 355
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Steve Press
42 Timberline Drive
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

PF-319 Frederick W. Watson
21 Thomas Street
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130
(Louise M.)

Frederick A. Watson of Boston, a past Kiwanis District Governor (1961) has just enrolled as a member of HAS. At age 81 he

retired in late 1970 after serving the Massachusetts Council of Churches for 21 years. Previously he had served the Boston YMCA for 43 years. He is a lover of youth and sees in our Horatio Alger Society an opportunity to help juvenile boys and their dads to more intimate relations through the reading of Alger novels of adventure and inspiration.

Fred has started reading Algers himself and enjoys them tremendously. He is collecting them for his grandchildren, one of whom, a boy, is only three years of age.

Fred, in retirement, donates full time, for expenses only, to the 81-year old Massachusetts State Chamber of Commerce as one of several hobbies. He has just added "Alger" as another activity and recommends the reading of Alger's many works as a remedy for old age.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

MAY 14
Registration as you arrive at the home of our President, Judson Berry, 3801 W. 41st Street.

Smorgasboard in the evening along with book displays, visiting and trading. This will also be at 3801 W. 41st Street.

Board meeting at 9:00 P.M.

MAY 15
A.M. Pettigrew Museum, antique shops and book stores.

Lunch on your own.

3:00 P.M. Annual HAS meeting at the Park Ridge National Bank

6:30 P.M. Banquet, Movies & Speakers

MAY 16
A.M. Breakfast at 3801 W. 41st Street. (This will be served by your Officers)

Plans for a very rewarding convention have been made for you. SEE YOU THERE!!!

FOUNDER ADDS NEW STATE -- THE HARD WAY

On rare occasions our members have, by moving from one State to another, added a new State to be represented in our membership roster. On one such occasion in the near past the State of Utah was recaptured from an inactive status.

Currently, your co-founder (PF-000) is about to add a new State, Alabama, one which has never before appeared on our membership roster, by moving there.

While your writer was the editor of our monthly newsletter, and maintained records of all members, a periodic report was given which announced each new State and the total. At this writing, with old records packed away, it is unknown what our largest total might have been but it is thought to have been at least some 36 States. According to my calculations as of the last issue of our publication we have 33 States and the District of Columbia.

It was my goal, though it was never achieved, to have all 50 States represented on our membership roster. It would appear that there is no interest in Alger in these States which have been so difficult to add to our roster. I was always extremely proud of the fact that we could include the State of Alaska on our roster of States. I was also curious as to how each new member heard of our organization, whether by publication or from a friend. Alaska has been on our records from the first year of our newsletter and the actual details are rather vague but may have been added through the efforts of partic'lar friend, 007.

The fact that we have no membership representation currently in some 14 States does not mean that there is a lack of interest in Alger or our organization there, but it may indicate that there is a lack of communication and we should concentrate our efforts to expose our organization to potential members in these areas.

Then, too, the loss of a State to in-

active status does not always mean a lack of member interest in Alger or our organization, but the passing of a partic'lar friend. It is not really necessary to move into such States to achieve our goal but if you are anticipating a move, we could offer some suggestions.

It was not easy to remove permanently the Newsboy plaque which has hung on our front door for nearly nine years identifying the birthplace of the organization now known as the Horatio Alger Society. We have plans to reinstall it on the outer door of our new apartment. The new address will be found elsewhere in this issue. The plaque then will mark the home of one of the co-founders.

Also, it was not easy to part with the volumes of correspondence which accumulated over the corresponding years, however, much of it has found a new home with our current secretary-editor, except of course, certain mementoes like a photograph or some other form of remembrance. In other words the accumulation of cherished items from my numerous partic'lar friends has been reduced to a mere token of remembrance. And even though many worldly things will, of necessity, be left behind, I will carry with me, in my heart, many cherished memories, which I think are the most important of all.

And perhaps of all things it was the most difficult to break up my extensive collection of Alger and other related juvenile items, and reference books on the subjects of early New York City history and the Post Office Department. My Alger collection was reduced to 100 items which include only the actual juvenile stories and excludes all Stratemeyer related items. Also excluded are all of the numerous title variations.

Saved, of course, was a limited supply of mementoes which have certain references to my Alger-type story, THE YOUNG POSTMASTER, and my Mansfield, Ohio premiered, Alger-style play, THE BOY FROM THE BOWERY, and memories of the encouraging words from my partic'lar friends. (Copyright, Forrest Campbell, 1971)

Notes from members

There is one more book for all Alger fans to search for, especially you of the 100 Club. The name of the book is Younger Days of Famous Writers by Katherine Dunlap Cather, published by The Century Co., copyright 1925. What makes the book especially valuable to an Alger collector (at least to me) is that Alger is in with some very select company. The front cover lists the following names thusly:

- Defoe * Dodge
- Cooper * Twain
- Dickens * Kipling
- Alger * Lagerlof
- Carroll * Wiggin
- Spyri * Pyle
- * Alcott *
- Stevenson
- * * * *

The story about Alger's youth (17) in the book is entitled (Chapt. V.) "Shepherd of the Friendless" and tells how Horatio befriends a young, poor boy named Dick in New York (Ragged Dick?) who has forgone a meal to buy Cooper's The Spy. Young Alger didn't let the lad go hungry.

I wish my fellow Alger fans "Happy Hunting;" after all, that's at least half the fun of collecting.

Sincerely,
 Dave Kanarr
 PF 314

* * * * *

NEW YORK CITY DURING
 THE TIME
 OF HORATIO ALGER, JR.

WICKEDNESS AND DEPRAVITY IN NEW YORK

After the War of 1812, thousands of people went to New York in order to seek a living through all the trade that existed there. Since there were not enough homes for everybody, ones that already existed were divided into smaller ones, thereby creating the

tenement homes. It was around these tenement houses that vice existed.

The district in New York that was known as the "Five Points," was formed by the junction of five streets. This section was one of the worst areas in New York City, and wickedness abounded there.

The English author, Charles Dickens, occasionally visited the United States. During one of his stays in the country, he toured the City of New York. In his book, American Notes, he gave his impressions of the Five Points: "Let us go on again, and plunge into the Five Points. This is the place: these narrow ways diverging to the right and left, and reeking everywhere with dirt and filth."

During the 1800's, there were many tenement buildings in New York City. The most infamous one in the history of New York was the "Old Brewery," located in the center of the Five Points. It was built in 1792 and was originally called, "Coulter's Brewery." However, when the building became so run-down that beer could not be brewed there, it was referred to as just the "Old Brewery." This change occurred in 1937.

The main room of the Old Brewery was called the "Den of Thieves," in which almost one hundred people lived. These included men, women, and children, both black and white. Many of the women were prostitutes, who obliged their customers in the den.

There were other rooms in the Old Brewery besides the Den of Thieves. The cellar housed twenty rooms, and the five stories above it accommodated about seventy-five others. Following is a description of what life was like in the Old Brewery: "Throughout the building the most frightful living conditions prevailed. Miscegenation was an ac-

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cepted fact, incest was not uncommon, and there was much sexual promiscuity; the house swarmed with thieves, murderers, pickpockets, beggars, harlots, and degenerates of every type."

Vice in New York also centered on the children of the city as well as the adults. One of the common institutions of the late 1800's was the baby-farm, and organization that would care for an unwanted child in return for a sum of money. Some baby-farms were legitimate businesses, and their owners felt a genuine sense of responsibility for the children that were palced in their care. However, other baby-farm owners did not concern themselves with the welfare of the children that were left with them. The parents of unwanted children would place their babies in these known illegitimate baby-farms. The owners of the establishments would feed the children sour milk until they would die. Since the parents did not care, nobody would complain, and both sides were happy. The owners of the baby-farms received their money, and the parents no longer had to care for the unwanted children.

Another method that some parents used to dispose of unwanted children involved the use of insurance companies. Some insurance companies, entirely legitimate, would offer insurance for children, with the parents named as beneficiaries. However, some parents would take out the insurance and then kill the children, in order to collect the benefits.

In this troubled period, there existed some organizations that helped underprivileged children. One of these was the "Randall's Island Hospital." All abandoned children that were found were taken to this hospital, where they were cared for.

Another establishment of this type

was the "Foundling Asylum of the Sisters of Charity," better known as "Sister Irene's Asylum." This institution had a crib placed just inside the door, where women left their unwanted children. There was a Sister near the crib at all times, who watched the women come in with their children. However, no questions were asked of the mothers. They could leave their babies and walk out.

Two organizations in the Five Points were formed in order to help the unfortunate children. These were the "Five Points Mission" and the "Five Points House of Industry." These two establishments took care of these children, and also gave aid and advice to their parents.

During the nineteenth century, many girls were vagrants in New York City. They were homeless for a variety of reasons. Some left their country homes and went to New York in order to try to make a living. Others fled the wrath of parents or step-parents, and went to live on the streets.

A girl depends on love and affection more than a male does. A life without a good home strikes a girl harder than it would a boy. Therefore, when the girls of New York had spent all their money, they entered houses of prostitution and sold themselves.

After this crime had been committed, the girls dropped lower and lower into the pit of depravity. They lost their self-respect, and lost the desire to make an honest living.

It was very hard for these girls to break away from their life of vice. When they tried to leave their brothels and seek an honest living, most of them could not break away from their old habits. The girls were careless and ineffective laborers, and unless they had a very strong will, they soon drifted back to their old ways of living.

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Institutions were set up in order to help these girls. Many industrial schools were formed, where girls were given moral instruction, and were taught basic skills, such as sewing and knitting.

"The Children's Aid Society" helped the homeless girls too. It gave the girls religious instruction and provided them with good homes.

* * * * *

Horatio Alger often described the tenement houses in New York City. In Tattered Tom he wrote: "She walked to Centre Street, turned after a while into Leonard, and went on, turning once or twice, until she came to one of the most wretched tenement houses to be found in that not very choice locality. She passed through an archway leading into an inner court, on which fronted a rear house more shabby, if possible, than the front dwelling. The court was redolent of odors far from savory; children pallid, dirty, and unhealthy-looking, were playing about, filling the air with shrill cries, mingled with profanity; clothes were hanging from some of the windows; miserable and besotted baces were seen at others."

Though not often, Alger occasionally wrote of the Five Points. In Julius the Street Boy he said: "Some minutes before eight, Julius reached the 'Grand Duke's Opera House.' It is very eligibly located on Baxter Street, not far from the famous Five Points."

Alger never wrote of any baby murderers, but after reading Mark the Match Boy, the character Mother Watson appears to possess the characteristics of such a person: "A coarse-looking woman was seated before a scanty fire. She had just thrust a bottle into her pocket after taking a copious draught therefrom, and her flushed face showed that this had long

been a habit with her." Also, "She dove her flabby hand into her pocket, and produced a strap, at which the boy gazed with frightened look.

'Don't beat me, Mother Watson,' he said, imploringly.

'I'll beat the laziness out of you,' said the woman, vindictively. 'See if I don't.'

The Children's Aid Society was mentioned in Slow and Sure:

"'But I don't know but you are right about going out West. Many boys like yourself have been sent out by the Children's Aid Society.'"

SOURCES: Asbury, Herbert. The Gangs of New York.

Bartel, Roland and Edwin R. Bingham, eds. America Through Foreign Eyes 1827-1842.

Brace, Charles Loring. The Dangerous Classes of New York.

Riis, Jacob A. How the Other Half Lives.

NEXT: The gangs of New York.

ALGER EVICTED:
A Case in Point.

By George W. May P-F 121

In going through a box of old clippings the other day I ran across the proverbial "Battle of the Books." Dateline: Miami, Florida, Feb. 1959. I recall that as I read the clipping at time my ire was aroused and I immediately took the side of Horatio Alger, for that was what some of the battle was about.

It seems that Miami Public Librarian Mrs. May Edmonds received advice from on high (the State Librarian) that she should withdraw 17 titles and 8 series, out of print and labeled "fanciful stuff", "poorly written", "untrue to life", "sensational",

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Alger Evicted - Con't from page 6

"foolishly sentimental" and "unwholesome." Included was "The Wizard of Oz", "Uncle Wiggily", "Bobsey Twins", "Tom Swift", Girl Scout series, and, of course, Horatio Alger.

While admitting his own nostalgic fondness for some of the old favorites, Dr. Frank Sessa, Chairman of the Miami Library, agreed that boys today preferred books about missiles and atomic submarines. Today's interest pattern is different.

Florida Governor Leroy Collins quickly came to the defense. He said he would hate to see the old books go, at the same time not questioning that better books are being written. His rationale was: "I think the judgement of what's good and bad should rest in the great body of people who read the books rather than those who may feel that they are in a special position to judge the quality." Collins especially favored Alger.

Said he: "I really feel that the old spirit of the opportunity to rise from the low to the high that was embodied in those Horatio Alger books is a good thing and a good thing for young boys these days to understand just as it was for the boys of our day."

The threatened eviction stirred a Peoria (Ill.) editor to write in behalf of Alger on February 16. Without minimizing the obstacles today - child labor laws, minimum wages, hours, etc., - he still felt they were good books to have around, even if the librarians were right and Alger had lost much of his significance.

Apparently, the otherwise unimportant act of a library stirred up quite a few people, oldsters, understandably. Inex Robb, the columnist, wrote on February 27: "Is Space the proper place for the Florida Librarian? For Inex it was a stiff dose of medicine. Where, she wondered, would "The Five Lit-

tle Peppers", "The Little Colonel" series, "Little Women", "Hiawatha", "Leatherstocking" and Daniel Boone be consigned?

If the modern child is so avid for modern factual stuff, Inez wondered, why did they sit glued to teevee horse operas and Westerns, adventures in a by-gone age? And if man gets in orbit (remember, this was 1959), why not select the spacemen from writers of juvenile fiction? Or put the Florida librarians into orbit!

As I said, this all touched a sore point in my make-up, and I imagine it would all members of H.A.S. For, I think we have a point or two.

Although two of my other favorites were not specifically attacked (G. A. Henty and Harry Castlemon), I am sure I know what the modern librarian would say about them.

It seems to me that Governor Collins had a good point: keep some of the old books if for no other reason than we oldsters want them available for that nostalgic mood which sometimes comes over us.

Those books of out-of-date genre are recognized by social historians as being a portrayal of our past, and many colleges and universities jealously guard their collections in the rare book room. The University of Virginia, for instance, has a superb collection of Alger, Henty and Castlemon, many first editions.

The "Battle of the Books"? It will always rage. What we read now - the best seller - will in turn become out-dated. But do we throw away Homer, Virgil, the Bible, Shakespeare, Emerson just because they are old and use stage properties of a by-gone era?

Next month a new puzzler by
PF-318 - Evelyn M. Grebel

JUNIOR ALGER PROGRESS

Things are beginning to shape up in our national campaign to bring the beneficial influence of Horatio Alger into every home in the nation through the Junior Alger movement.

An Alger Revival is the key to a definite "closing of the generation gap", in the considered opinion of the writer.

The first two Junior Alger Reading Clubs have already been formed in Revere under William Di Carlo, PF-271, and Joseph A. Festa, PF-297. Each club will eventually consist of thirty boys of their immediate vicinity. Our goal for Revere as Alger's Birthplace is 300 boys. We plan, in most cases, to enroll their dads as HAS members. In other cases, we expect Kiwanians to enroll and serve as advisors.

A deal is pending, requiring 1,000 Alger reprints and donated Algers in good condition, to equip ten Massachusetts State Institution for boys who have been given in custody to the Youth Service Board for rehabilitation. A Federal grant is being sought to make this possible.

Contact has already been made with several libraries, including the Boston Public Library to add Algers to their circulating and reading juvenile shelves.

Two school assemblies will be held in two new schools in Revere, each of which has its own trained librarian to discuss Alger with pupils from 4 to 18 years of age. Such assemblies were arranged for Alger's birthday with past President Max Goldberg as the scheduled speaker but car trouble en route from Natick to Revere caused their postponement.

A plan to transport all of the Junior Alger Reading Club boys to South Natick in July are being worked out with Kiwanis members providing the rides.

The idea of an Alger Revival, using both adults and youngsters, is to be presented on TV and on radio shortly, at no cost as a public service. When this takes place, we may have to admit girls, as the messages will be directed to both girls and boys, their parents and grandparents, grand uncles and aunts.

If this movement catches on, we will need a lot of Algers. Everyone should gladly donate some of his surplus as a practical means of helping. And all of our "Particular Friends" should enroll their junior friends and relatives. No cost is involved in sponsorship. We hope to report results impressively at the SIOUX CITY CONVENTION.

Barry Wayne Salzman, a professional entertainer and a new HAS member, is serving as field representative to enroll boys and their dads in Revere and nearby Clelsea.

GEORGE C. CLARKE, PF-264

TO ALL HAS MEMBERS:

As national chairman of the JUNIOR ALGER movement, I am going to need all the Alger titles that I can get my hands on and at little or no expense. I will gladly pay the mailing cost on any donated copies that members may make available, inscribed with their names and addresses to be added to our free circulating library or donated to worthy boys. There are just not enough modern Alger reprints to help supply the boys and cooperating public libraries.

I will report progress on the Junior Alger movement at the forthcoming conventia (*in absentia*). The outlook is very good. The big need is for Alger titles.

My home address is:

George C. Clarke, PF-264
22 Everett Street
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

P.S. I have just received 26 Algers from John M Lohn, PF-259, POSTPAID, from his new address:
3008 Highcrest Road, St. Paul, Minn.
55113

WHAT A DONATION!!!

Now, lets everyone pick up the ball and keep it rolling!
THANKS!