

# THE HORATIO ALGER



"World's only publication  
devoted to Horatio Alger"

# Newsboy

Vol. 5 No. 5

December 1966

This newsletter published  
monthly except July and  
January for Society members.

Incorporated 1965  
(Non--profit)

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Kalamazoo, Michigan  
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## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

THE ADS and other writings in the press continue to make reference to "A Horatio Alger Story" --of rags to riches-- of the American dream. It is lamentable that the middle and younger generations have only a foggy idea of just who Horatio Alger was and why his name is so identified. Many think Horatio Alger was the name of a hero who made good.

Obviously, one of the challenges facing our Society is to carry out the story to the world, through every possible medium, that Horatio Alger was an author of boy's stories --- a prolific and a successful one; that many of his plots saw the young heroes attain success, but that the writings of this man were deeper than mere money --- that they had to do with desire, thrift, right dealings, hard work, self-education, and honesty. Your ideas please, all you H.A.S. members --- how can we help correct the neglect that Alger has sustained these past fifty years?

HOW MANY MEMBERS and friends would like a copy of "Disagreeable Woman" (Julian Starr, pen-name of Horatio Alger) and "Nothing to Do" enough to post \$5 for each volume in advance to determine whether enough copies could be sold nationally through collector's outlets to justify a small, special collector's edition, each one numbered and registered? (First 150 numbered copies reserved for H.A.S. members).

The idea has been suggested and explored. The project would be venture-some, but surely worth-while, at least to collectors who have been foiled to date in their efforts to secure these and other elusive titles for their collections.

There might be other collectors, not Society members, who also would pay \$5 for a reprint of such choice and rare volumes.

The two titles mentioned are available on microfilm. This would permit printing by lithographic methods, eliminating the cost of typesetting. Possibly the covers could be fashioned after the design of the original volumes.

(continued at top of page)

If financially feasible, and successful on the first two titles, it is possible that other rare titles such as "Timothy Crump's Ward" might be attempted later.

Your president welcomes the thoughts of the members on this suggested project. Don't send any money. Just tell us if you would be aboard, should the project be undertaken.

HELP IS COMING along apace in the travelling Alger library exhibit project. Dan Fuller, of Madison, Wisconsin, has offered a couple of volumes. In writing to offer them he relates that he is close to reaching 100 volumes in his collection. This after only a year in the hobby.

Ed Levy is contributing three story papers on the covers of which feature announcements are made of the Alger story featured therein. A real attention-getting contribution.

Does anyone have a Ragged Dick, in good condition but not a valuable early edition, that is surplus with them and which they would be willing to contribute to the project?

We could use, also, a couple of copies in good condition of paperback editions having colorful covers. The titles need not be rare.

It is our hope to have the exhibit finished for its unveiling at the Des Moines Session, at which time tentative dates for loan for local showings can be booked.

IT'S A LITTLE LATE now, but we thought you would be interested in the text of a fine letter from Senator Everett M. Dirksen, over his signature, that was written us at the time of our Mil. Event but which did not arrive in time to be read to the members present, as was intended. Wrote Dirksen:

"I appreciate this opportunity to salute the members of the Horatio Alger Society. Truly I was a diligent reader of the entire Horatio Alger series when I was a boy. Frankly, they were fruitful. One of the most important things about these individual books is that they were written around some particular

(continued on page three)



CHANGES OF ADDRESS: T E M P O R A R Y

PF-004 Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. Levy  
139 Sunrise Avenue,  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

The Levys will be wintering here immediately following the holiday season, January through April.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-187 Mr. Donald B. Chamberlain T-012  
945 S.W. 76th Avenue,  
Miami, Florida 33144

PF-188 Judge Daniel J. Gillen  
927 Centre Street,  
Jamaica Plain Station,  
Boston, Mass. 02130

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## B O O K M A R T

PF-128 (Harland H. Fastman) offers:

E 11NYB, E 48NYB, G 74MAD, G 75P&C,  
E 81NYB, F 91JCW, F125AKL, F135NYB,  
G16OALB.

PF-135 (Irving J. Poznan) offers:

F 65S&S, G 75JCW, G 94P&C, F133AKL,  
F149AKL.

PF-186 (Jack Barker) offers:

G 47SP, F 5JCW, F 11WPC, F 23MAD,  
G 25WSP, F 25NYP, G 28WSP, F 30WSP,  
G 32MAD, F 33MAD, P 44H&C, P 45MAD,  
F 48NYB, F 51P&C, F 55MAD, F 60WPC,  
G 63WPC, F 63MAD, G 76HTC, G 76WSP,  
F 78JCW, G 81MAD, F 81SPC, F 83JCW,  
F 85H&C, G 88NYP, F 95H&C, G122H&C\*  
P122P&C, F123HTC, G126H&C, F128S&S,  
F128MC, F128NYB, G135H&C, G137WPC,  
F140HTC, P142H&C\* G157ALB, P160MAD,  
F165MAD, G185JCW, P185Mac, G186MAD,  
P188ALB.

PF-186 also offers: (write for details)

ARGOSY - #58, #153, & #190 & #31  
BALLOU'S Summer Hours (poem)  
GOLDEN DAYS Five volumes containing short  
stories and portions of book length  
serialized stories.

HAPPER'S (contains two short stories)  
STUDENT & SCHOOLMATE - Three volumes,  
containing a poem, short stories & book  
length.

YOUNG FOLKS PAPER (British) containing  
the complete story of #130.

(Editor's note: Barker's #60 & 137 are  
Whitman editions. #122 & 142 are minia-  
ture editions. #25 & 88 are New York Pub-  
lishing editions which are rare and un-  
usual editions with top edge gilded.

WE URGE YOU TO BUY FROM, AND SELL TO  
PARTICULAR FRIEND COLLECTORS AND DEALERS  
WHEN POSSIBLE TO DO SO. THANK YOU.

Don comes to us by way of Max Friedman.  
Don was visiting in the area and learned  
of Max's garage sale; attended, and  
learned of our Society. Upon returning  
home to Florida, he inquired for further  
information. The result is a new member.

Don is an aeronautical engineer, a col-  
lector of books, including Alger and  
aviation.

Judge Gillen comes to us by way of a  
gift membership from our Eastern members,  
who attended, and met him at our 1966  
Alger Memorial Service at South Mattick.

Judge Gillen was the principle speaker  
at this Memorial Service, and has admired  
Alger since his boyhood days. Further  
remarks about Judge Gillen may be found  
on page 5 of the August 1966 edition of  
this newsletter.

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## A NEW FEATURE

There will not be a January issue of  
the newsletter, but beginning in the Feb-  
ruary issue we will have a Question &  
Answer Department. There are some ques-  
tions which may be bothering you, as well  
as myself; so, send in your questions (to  
the editor) and we shall try to get as  
many viewpoint answers as possible, which  
we will publish and try to establish a  
reasonably accurate answer.

One such statement often referred to in  
the Press by special feature writers is  
the number of Alger books published.  
Such statements may be an under-statement,  
or may be over-rated. What is the public  
to accept as an accurate answer? If I  
were asked, "What does the Society have  
to say about this?" I could only refer  
them to Gardner's estimate in his book.

Gardner estimates four hundred million.  
The Society needs a clear-cut answer to  
such a question, prepared to quote our  
source of information. What would be  
your answer, if asked? Give us your  
views, and source of information. And  
send in another question to be pondered  
upon.

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## BIRTHDAYS

PF-001 Max Friedman	January 9
Our Hero HORATIO ALGER	January 13
PF-143 John McConnell	January 26
PF-102 Mrs. Carl (Jean) Hartmann	Jan. 29

If your birthday occurs in February or  
March, be sure to notify us.

Ken & I recently observed the 5th anni-  
versary of the founding of our organiza-  
tion with pleasant memories, and noted  
the wonderful progress we have made,  
thanks to our Partic'lar Friends.

The NEWSBOY extends Holiday Greetings to  
all of our Partic'lar Friends, and Best  
Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!



ESSENTIAL PONDERINGS (continued)

slogan or truism that remained with the reader.

One in particular I have never forgotten. It had, for its general theme, STICK TO YOUR BUSH. In life I have seen it happen thousands of times, that people failed only because they failed to stick to the bush until all the fruit had been obtained. I know of no better admonition to the youth of the country --- find an interest and stick to it."

DOES ANY MEMBER recall this assertion in one of the Alger stories? If so, kindly advise us in which story this statement can be found.

(Editor's note: A similar reprint of the text of Senator Dirksen's letter was recently published in the newsletter and can be found on page 5 of the September, 1966 issue)

WE WOULD LIKE earnestly to encourage more members to write short papers on Alger, Alger stories, and Algeriana... for use in Newsboy. In reading Alger have you discovered some interesting or unusual facet that is worthy of comment? Have you done any Alger research? If so why not break into print with your facts and conclusions? Do you have any thoughts on Alger writing style ... Alger plots ... Alger characters ... Alger descriptions ... Alger incidents?

Have you run across something on Alger's life or career which heretofore, as far as you know, has not been published? Got any thoughts about Alger's publishers, or first editions, or serializations, or paperbacks or periodicals?

Any writing "boners" or lapses of memory? Any odd contradictions? Any gems of rhetoric or expression?

Please, let's have more member-contributed talk on Alger. We know you are reading his stories. We know you are digging out information wherever possible. Please, please share it with the rest of us ... even the smallest tidbit!

Your Patric'lar Friend, KEN BUTLER,  
President H.A.S.

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A BOOK REVIEWER HAD THIS TO SAY

"Nevertheless, if one can ignore the Horatio Alger atmosphere which permeates the whole account, Auto Pioneering will make pleasant reading for an evening." (Excerpts from review of A Remarkable Story of Ransom E. Olds) by Joe L. Norris in Michigan History, December 1949. An indication is gleaned here that Olds attested to the workability of the Alger principles. The REO automobile got its name from the initials of Ransom E. Olds, also producer of the Oldsmobile, now a GM product. (PF-000)

My editorial office is now complete with wall to wall book shelves, storage cabinets, room furnishings and decorations including a generous hint of my interest in Alger. A pleasant retreat to spend idle hours.

The early November, and unseasonable, heavy snow-fall disappeared in a torrential down-pour of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Thunder is nice. It serves a useful purpose, too. In the middle of the night it is a warning to get up and close the windows. There is some good in all things. The expression "All that glitters, is not gold" may be reversed for another good object lesson. Even the filthiest, most repulsive, traffic splattered snow bank at the side of the road, I discovered, contains a heart of clean, spotless snow.

Recently I read Edward Eggleston's The Hoosier School-Boy, and formed an opinion that it was comparable and competitive with Alger's work. Currently I have just finished his The Hoosier School-Master, expecting to find more of the same, but I was denied the results which I expected.

This story was re-written in 1892, some 21 years after the original manuscript, from periodical length to book length. It is from the later edition in which I take a second look at his writing style, possibly with a critical viewpoint intended, but instead, I must acknowledge his ability to develop interesting plots and create life-like characters of the era in which he writes.

In addition to the leading role of Master, it is true that he created a young hero in Shocky, a bully in Bud, a love interest in Hannah, Shocky's sister, and a couple of villains in Dr. Small and Pete Jones in the original manuscript. But, in the later edition, he had space to elaborate on his description of characters playing upon your emotions, making you hate and despise the villains such as Pete Jones who voluntarily exiled himself to Pike County, Missouri.

I do not know, but I am curious, why Eggleston, even Alger, had such little respect for Pike County. In Poznan's letter (in this issue), reference again is made to Pike County. Pike County borders the Mississippi River as does other counties, and other states.

Mark Twain, referring to the adventures of Huck Finn in his book, Life on the Mississippi, also created some tough characters which were floating down the river on a raft, the worst of which came from "the wilds of Arkansaw!" It stands to reason that Twain would not degrade the State of Missouri, or any part of it, since he was born there. My father, and grandmother James, likewise, though we claim no relation to Jesse (Desperado 1847-1832), born in Excelsior Springs. (Double ought-nothing)



PARTICULAR FRIENDS PAGE (What our readers are writing)

Mrs. Rohima Walter, PF-160

Mrs. Walter reports that she has been able to purchase a few Alger books locally, and plus the 11 she bought from a PF, she has been able to advance her collection from T-8 (last reported) to T-36.

Splendid! She is also leaving no stone unturned in her search for information which may prove to be helpful in establishing a relationship between her grandfather, Arthur Augustus Alger, and our hero. Good luck.

Morris Olsen, PF-106

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a telephone call from Morris recently. He reports that there is little, but at least some improvement in his wife's condition. She has been confined at home since last summer. Morris reports that his Alger collection has swelled from T-114 (last reported) to T-143. He is hopeful that our annual convention may be held in his area in 1968.

Ernest Sanford, PF-032

Ernest has been confined at home for the past two months with phlebitis; first in right ankle, then later in right knee. He seems to be 'stymied' with T-113 (last reported) and his interest has switched temporarily to periodical material in Gleason and Argosy. Although his current activity is confined to mail inquiries, he reports he has just acquired a bound volume of Argosy which contains the story Cast upon the Breakers.

Max Friedman, PF-001

Max & Blanche are now settled in their newly acquired home. We were guests at their 'open house' recently. A lovely home with lots more space for books & things. Max has just added one Alger title to his collection for a total of T-78.

Irving Poznan, PF-135 writes:

Do you have a favorite Alger character? I don't necessarily mean a hero or villain type. Merely someone in a supporting role who turns out to be very interesting. My favorite--in a humorous vein--is "the rip-roarer from Pike County, Missouri," as graphically described in Joe's Luck. I first read the dialogue dealing with him some 40 years ago and the words stuck with me. (quote)

"Do you doubt my word?" he says, fiercely, "Insults must be washed out with blood," (unquote)

I think Alger did a remarkably fine job in tracing the development of  
(continued at top of page)

"Julius" in Slow & Sure, and later, Julius, the Street Boy. Julius is certainly one of my favorite Alger heroes.

(Editor's note: The above quote may be found in chapter 26)

Steve Press, PF-164 writes:

...But I do have some good news: My collection of Alger titles is now almost forty! Oh, a lot of NYB's and such, but Algers! And I'm proud of them....

....There are ragged shoe shine boys on the streets...They are young, eager and seem to have hope and feel the promise of the richness that surrounds them. And when you go to Grand Central Terminal, there are always very young boys opening cab doors and offering to carry the bags. No, they don't say, "smash yer baggage," but they are direct descendents of the boys that did. One rainy, windy evening recently I talked with one of these young fellows and he told me that he and his baby brother (who stood quietly--his nose running--at his side) had already made seventeen dollars! And they weren't through yet. They looked to be about 8 and 12 years old. These boys are almost all negro--and how much in the spirit of Alger they are living. They feel the promise of release from poverty and the promise of opportunity our country can offer, and they are knocking at the door as the boys did when the Newsboy Lodging was created.

Horatio once wrote, while he was in Europe for the second time, "I am able to confirm what has so often been asserted --that nowhere but in America are opportunities afforded to those who wish to rise." And Horatio summed this up by stating: "Let this thought stimulate the ambition of those boys who are hampered by poverty and limited advantage, and teach them that an honorable position in life may be attained by those who are willing to work for it." THE MORE THINGS CHANGE -- THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME!

That's how I felt when I finished writing my little play. It could be now! That's why I avoided any deliniation of period. It could be anytime -- yesterday or today -- and tomorrow, too, as long as there is poverty and meanness.

(Editor's note: Steve modestly reports that his Alger play, entitled: TOM COOPER, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY, is on the threshold of being accepted and produced, perhaps next summer. My own Alger play, entitled: THE BOY FROM THE BOVERY, still in progress, is most likely destined to be an achievement for personal and private enjoyment)

Jim Thorup, PF-183 writes:

....as a boy I owned many of them (Algers) and read them and reread them. I do not at present own any...I'd like to.... My recent renewed interest in Alger was  
(continued on page five)



PARTICULAR FRIENDS PAGE

Jim Thorup, PF-183 (continued)

stimulated by what I feel is a need for our boys today to get back to the spirit of free enterprise, and to get away from "the world owes me a living" attitude. I believe that boys could and would catch the spirit of wanting to do things on their own if they had some encouragement. Alger can provide that I'm sure - as he did for me and others I know....

I have a very fine business friend and associate named Joe Cossman. Joe's story is like an Alger hero....Like myself - Joe has been and is an Alger fan - We decided over lunch one day that we would like to re-issue some of Alger's books.

We have thought to use 13 titles...may I ask the help of all in giving us the best 13 titles in the opinion of your readers....After we decide upon the titles - we'd like to buy, rent, borrow, or however we can get them, to use for copy. We are open of course to all the help we can get from Society members. A re-issue would naturally create new interest.

I am very pleased to have found all of you and I am sure you are "my kind of people". Let me help any way I can.

(Editor's note: The texts of the less expensive reprints are identical with first editions, and are not hard to obtain. My choice of some of the catchy alliterative titles are: Brave & Bold, Do & Dare, Helping Himself, Lester's Luck, Luck & Pluck, Sink or Swim, Slow & Sure, Strive & Succeed, Strong & Steady, Tattered Tom, Try & Trust, Wait & Hope, and Work & Win. Send your choice of story titles direct to Jim. And good luck on your project, Jim).

Paul J. Fisher, PF-148

What started out to be a cross-index catalog of Alger titles in Paul's collection of 56 or more titles, for his personal reference, may become useful to us all in revised BOOK MART coding. The suggested coding might look something like this: ALB4SLC4G, in which a lot of information is confined to a small amount of space. The code above refers to A.L. Burt, Adrift in New York, spine design #1 cover design #4, good condition.

The suggested code could also be used in lengthy want lists among members who could interpret the coding. A lot of work must be done in preparation before the suggested coding could be adopted. Paul is anxious and willing to proceed on the suggested project, but due to his limited collection, he needs lots of information, and cooperation from any source where the needed information may be obtained.

(continued at top of page)

Paul J. Fisher, PF-148 (continued)

Paul also has another excellent idea. For a start he has photographed the covers and spines of his own A.L. Burt editions, and reproduced them on suggested catalog sheets, using the suggested coding. Paul may be on the threshold of a major breakthrough which would aid Alger collectors tremendously in identifying BOOK MART offerings, or on want lists.

Again, your cooperation is solicited in compiling this vast amount of information which would be made available to us. If you wish to participate in Paul's project, write him and offer your assistance.

Jack Barker, PF-186 writes:

....My "defense" of Alger really does not merit much consideration as the initial article by my friend Leo Aikman actually served to bring to the attention of the reading public the recent excellent books on Alger written by those much better qualified than I am to discuss his virtues....

....That prompted me to write Leo was the feeling that, whatever his financial status at the time of his death, Alger was a rich man.

He was rich in that he achieved success in doing what he wanted to do. He reported the times and scenes of his day, and gave hope - and money - to boys and institutions for boys. He did much to abolish the vicious "padrone" system. He was able to travel and appreciate other lands and I have found no unkind words about any race or class in any of his stories. He even lets some of his villains reform!

There must have been considerable satisfaction in such a life even if, as it is now reported, he was played for a sucker many times; his habits were often on the odd side, and some of his philosophies appear rather pusillanimous today.

Perhaps Leo Aikman was wrong in his final conclusion that Alger's life was not a typical Alger story. His heroes earned wealth and position; he did not, as well as I can remember, tell what they chose to do with their wealth or what satisfaction they gained from it! (Editor's note: The Aikman article appeared in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 11, 1966, and the original article which prompted Jack to reply, appeared August 28, 1966).

Jack Row, PF-101 writes:

The New York social register, 1890, lists Alger as residing with John M. Downie, 36 W. 33rd, and that he belonged to the Harvard Club. (Editor's note; Other listings provided by Stanley Pachon may be found in the August 1966 issue of this newsletter. Watch for a special mailing from Jack during January, relative to the Des Moines Session program.)



## THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## OBITER DICTA ABOUT THE PRAIRIE REGION

Through the kindness and generosity of Jack Barker, PF-186, we have a Xerox copy of a page from New York Weekly, August 5, 1872. Beneath a line drawing of Horatio Alger Jr. by Laura Caxton, is the following biographical sketch, which will be of interest, we hope, to most members of the Society. This was written over 94 years ago: (quote)

"This talented young author has enjoyed a career of cumulative successes since his thirteenth year, when, to the astonishment of his parents, he demonstrated that a boy barely in his teens was capable of writing articles worthy of acceptance by the press. To develop the literary genius thus early indicated, he became an assiduous student at Harvard College, advanced rapidly in his studies, and after a brief period bade farewell to that renowned seat of learning, bearing to his birth-place and home, in Revere, \* near Boston, a diploma which ranked him among the first graduates in a Class distinguished for ability.

(Editor's note: I believe the Alger's were living in South Natick at the time referred to above)

From that time he has been constantly before the Public, as a contributor to Newspapers, and Magazines. Among other publications, he has contributed to Harper's Magazine, Harper's Weekly, Putnam's Magazine, and the North American Review; besides a number of popular story papers. To qualify himself for his literary vocation, by studying men and manners in foreign countries, he visited Europe in 1860, returning to his native land soon after the outbreak of the war.

The national conflict aroused his poetic imagination, and during the war he wrote several ballads, which at once became popular; some of them, indeed, were considered so meritorious that they have been included in the Rebellion Record, and other collections. His earlier literary work was intended for the entertainment of mature readers, as, for example, his story of Marie Bertrand; or, The Felon's Daughter, which appeared in The New York Weekly, over eight years ago.

Shortly after the publication of the story just named, he essayed the juvenile line, and was so remarkably successful that he has since made it a specialty. Fourteen of his juvenile stories have been published in book-form, all of which have had a large sale — the six works designated The Ragged Dick Series, being so popular as to have already reached an aggregate sale of sixty thousand.

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Mr. Alger seems to have closely studied the youthful mind, for in supplying it with instruction, in the guise of entertainment, and inculcating moral principles, by representing in fiction the punishment attending evil, he addressed himself with force and effect to the inner monitor.

The impressions thus received are likely to influence for good his young readers; and this is the reason why Horatio Alger's boys' stories may be found in all libraries, and even among those belonging to Sunday Schools. So high an authority as The New York Evening Post pronounces Mr. A. 'even more successful than Greenwood in London, in depicting the street life of the great city; his sketches of the little Arabs of our streets are very life-like and effective'.

Six years since, Mr. Alger removed to New York, where he has made street-life a special study, having spent much time exploring the highways and byways of the metropolis, familiarizing himself with the condition and habits of the neglected children who roam its thoroughfares. His first juvenile serial for the New York Weekly, "Abner Holden's Bound Boy", was eagerly read by our million of readers, about a year ago, and so won the approbation of parents, and the enthusiasm of the boys and girls, that we deemed the gifted author an attractive card, and therefore induced him to become a regular contributor."

"In the present number of the New York Weekly we publish the opening chapters of another new story by Horatio Alger Jr. entitled "Brave & Bold; or, The Fortunes of Robert Rushton". Our young readers will require no urging to read it, as they are well aware of the author's skill in delighting and instructing the juvenile mind. We recommend it to parents, confident that the guardians of youth will find it in every respect worthy of commendation, and just the kind of story they would place in the hands of their children; for it pointedly illustrates the reward which must attend a life of truth, honesty, and manliness, and encourages every boy to imitate the example of Robert Rushton, who faced the misfortunes which beset him with the heart of a little hero, and was ever Brave And Bold." (unquote)

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How many of you have been able to get your children to read something that was purported to be good for them? Probably the only way to get the job done now-a-days would be to "condemn" the literature as unfit for young minds. (Editor's note: Reverse psychology?). -30- P-101

(Editor's note: As we round out the first century since Alger's first popularity, commentary such as the above has changed somewhat. The bright spot on today's horizon, is the admiration expressed by The Horatio Alger Society)