THE HORATIO ALGER

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

"World's only publication devoted to Horatio Alger"

Newsboy

Kalamazoo,

Heath Michigan 49002

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKMAN magazine asked for readers to submit list of out-of-print books they would like reprinted. This for their 1967 Yearbook. We wrote them nominating "Timothy Crump's Ward", "Nothing To Do", and "Disagreeable Woman".

Meantime, regretfully it looks as if we will have to abandon our own hopes of reprinting "Disagreeable Woman" and "
"Nothing To Do". On the Julian Starr title we received guarantees of only 15 orders, from nine members.

FOR THE TRAVELLING library exhibit, we received a copy of Ragged Dick —— a nice clean bright one by Hurst —— from our member Dan Fuller, Madison, Wisconsin. Thanks, Dan, and we are now about half way along in our planning of this exhibit. We plan to show it for the first time, as you know, at Des Moines in May.

IT LOOKS LIKE big things for H.A.S. just ahead. Steve Press has written a play for musical adaption, based on an Alger theme. A N.Y. publisher plans to re-issue "Julius" and "The Store Boy", in May, in fine editions. John Mebane has an upcoming book on collecting, with a generous recommendation given Gardner's book. Ed Mattson is staging an Alger alsolay at the National Antiques Show in February. Ralph Gardner is also contributing early Alger material to the exhibit. A musical version of "Tattered Tom" is rumored for the 67-68 season, with Marc Connolly the writer.

JACK ROW, without a doubt, is our super-salesman. As he journeys about Iowa he inspires enthusiasm about Alger, asks his listeners to become associated with the movement, and "gets the order". You will note, in this issue of Newsboy, acknowledgments of still more members, most from Iowa.

If our count is correct, Iowa now boasts 18 members in our Society, passing Michigan's 12, Illinois' 11, and the 9 each from Mass. and N. Y.

Among other benefits, this means we will have plenty of talented workers to stage the Des Moines Session in May; more than that, practically a guarantee of a new high in annual convention attendance.

I know of a society of bell collectors. True, they are older and larger than we are, but they have four or five hundred at their annual get-togethers. By now all of you doubtless have received Jack's pre-convention activity outline. Give it serious thought. Be there. Join in the fun and benefit from the programs.

NOTHING TO DO --- Visiting in New York City, some months ago, I thought I would drop in at the New York library and take a look at their copy of "Nothing To Do" by Alger. Special arrangements have to be made, quite naturally, to gain access to books in their rare volumes collection. The formalities discharged, I went to an area, as directed, to await the flashing of the identifying number which had been given my request. After an interminable wait, my number flashed, and I stepped to the counter to obtain the book. By this time my anticipation knew no bounds. A library clerk, certainly unexcited over this pending adventure, shoved a slip at me. It had been checked, stamped, and marked in various ways. But the most prominent on the marking, and explaining why I was handed the slip and not the book, was this cryptic phrase. "MISSING".

MIDWEST MEMBERS of our Society were excited in early January to open their Chicago Sunday Tribune magazine section to find a feature article dealing with the life and times of Horatio Alger. It was entitled "Horatio Alger, the Rags to Riches Boy ... The strange adventures of a plucky writer who found fame and controversy by showing a youthful generation the right — but rough — road to success".

The story was written by Vincent Starrett, who is a novelist, poet and literary historian, and who often contributes feature articles to the Tribune. It is illustrated with the "Western Boy" frontispiece illustration. It is quite a lengthy study, on five pages, about 4,200 words in length.

Some members are not completely enamored of the story. Your president feels it is one of the best breaks we have had. Mr. Starrett has done a more extensive job than most of the recent commentators on Our Hero. His is a reasonable, studied, and altogether favor—(continued on page two)

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS: (continued)

able discussion. He is quite accurate and makes allowances. He concedes he was once a follower of the adventures of Alger's heroes and says he himself came close to the type.

Our trouble in re-establishing Alger is that too few of the present generation know or care who he is, or what "Horatio Alger Story" means. Usually the presentations are in derision and mockery of Alger, his heroes, their experiences and philosophy —— the whole business. They don't even get his birth date correct. We can do with more treatments as reverent as Vincent Starrett's.

Let us make Alger known and understood. Let us lead the world to appreciate in Alger's works just a part of our esteem. Then we can aspire to full rave notices and no criticism. Bear in mind, however, that Americans do not like their heroes completely "perfick". Even Alger permitted his boys an occasional misstep.

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS who may not have already secured our attractive Alger Society blazer patch; or who wish additional ones; may wish to order while we still have a small supply. They are "leach, postpaid, and may be ordered from our Secretary. They are round, redwhite-and-blue in colors, and carry a sketch of Ragged Dick.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOW be entertained from members for candidates for consideration by our Awards Committee for the Newsboy Award Plaque, to be presented at the Des Moines Session in May.

Nominations should name a writer, who need not be an Alger Society member, whose current published material in book or periodical form, has done the most to interpret Horatio Alger Jr. and his contributions towards painting indelibly the American Dream. Send your nominations to me. They will be forwarded to the committee and each will be carefully considered.

Your Particlar Friend, KEN BUTLER, President.

THE TRAIN BOY - "I took two of my boys up to my parents' farm over Christmas. Returning on the NYC railroad, an old man got on and was having some trouble getting his valise up onto the rack. It was too heavy for him. When nobody else moved to help him, I went to the other end of the car where he was and pushed the luggage upon the shelf for him. My 10-year-old boy, watching from our seats at the far end of the car, called out: HORATIO ALGER RIDES AGMIN! A couple of passengers looked up from their newspapers, but none suggested they take up a collection to help me pay off the mortgage!"

(Ralph D. Gardner)

The year 1967 promises to be a big Alger Year! The year 1968 looks even better!

CARL'S (Hartmann) COLUMN

Horatio Alger, as we all know, was a prolific writer. His stories had many publishers and were reprinted under many titles. Of course our authority on this, Ralph Gardner's "The American Hero Era", gives us the many publishers and titles. Since most of us can't obtain all the first editions and have to be satisfied with reprints, the contents of the reprints becomes of prime importance. Most of you I am sure have read the Alger stories you have. Once read it is seldom picked up again and because of this it is important that you read the whole story the first time.

Say for instance that the only copy of "Making His Vay" that you have is a Goldsmith. Did you realize that you missed out on (approx) 6,000 words? Or if your copy is a Value Books all of chapters 12, 13, 14 & 15 are deleted? The Penn edition (The Vorld Before Him) is of course complete as is the Hurst. This paragraph from the Hurst edition will illustrate what I mean. (chapter one)

"Two boys were walking in the campus of the Bridgeville Academy. They were apparently of about the same age - somewhere from fifteen to sixteen - but there was a considerable difference in their attire." Now the same paragraph from Goldsmith: "Two boys were walking in the campus of the Bridgeville Academy."

As you can see, most of the descriptive passages have been left out. Now this brings up a question: Have these socalled experts that pan Alger after reading one book read only the abridged editions? Have they missed the character build-up? I like to read Alger, but I want to read all that he wrote - of every story he wrote. Alger wrote to be read. To collect him and not read him is like collecting paintings to hang in a dark closet. So, unless you have or can obtain the uncut editions, you are missing some of his best writing. I've only compared six stories so far, but every one was cut in the cheaper editions. Those of you that have first editions and reprints of the same stories, check them over and let us know what you find.

A statement from "Peter Parley to Penrod" (Preface) has always stood out in my mind and I'd like to pass it along:

"Bookcollecting, in the purest form, is a matter of sentiment, a sentiment so personal that it commot be measured or understood by any except those who find a rare and satisfying pleasure in the possession of well-loved volumes. And since bookcollecting is a sentimental manifestation what truer type of bookcollecting than the gathering together of the books read as a child and affectionately recalled."

Don't you think Alger collecting, fits? Have 93 titles, and trying for 100. Hope to see you all in Des Moines. PF-102 (E.N. contributed material cut & edited)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-189	Mr. Gerald C. Zwetz	T-028
	8027 Gross Point Road,	
	Morton Grove, Illinois	60053

PF-190	Mr. Henry G. Felsen	T-006
	501 - 16th	
	West Des Moines, Iowa	50265

PF-191	Mrs. Sindy Cosens	T-006
	263 Prospect Blvd.,	
	Waterloo, Towa	50701

PF-192	Miss Joan Liffring	T-006
	336 - 18th Street, S.E.	
	Cedar Rapids, Town	521.03

PF-193	Mr. Max Sheldon	T-005
	Clarion, Iowa	50525

PF-194	Judge Tom K. Murrow	T-005
	4325 Harwood Drive,	50270
	Des Moines Tows	50312

PF-199		Jacqueline	T-004
	P.O.	Box No. 76	
	Rock	port, Maine	04856

Who will be assigned PF-200? Perhaps even now this application is in transit, or snowbound, awaiting delivery. Our special welcome to you, whoever you may be. This will be an important milestone in our membership compilations.

Early in the second half of our fiscal year, the State of Iowa has forged ahead of Michigan, leading by four members. In any event Society membership is increasing with members reported in thirty states.

In the interest of economy the January Issue of our Semi-annual membership roster was not published. Therefore the name of Harold McCuen (re-instated), 60 Sherman Avenue, Mansfield, Ohip 44906 should be added (PF-096) to your roster, as well as all new members.

It appears that our hopes for an Eastcoast 1968 convention site is now a
certainty. Ed Levy extends the first
torefide invitation to New Haven, Conn.,
with headquarters at POND LILY MOTEL, and
a citing side-trips into near-by Algerlevel. This, among other invitations extored 112 be considered to Des Moines.

Gerald and his wife, Everetta, heard of us through Gilbert Westgard. Gerald is a "Math" teacher. Reads and collects material by and about Alger. Also collects piano rolls. Currently constructing a "men only" billiard room.

Henry and his wife, Isabel, heard of us through Jack Row. Henry is a writer with over 30 books published. Teaches a class in Creative writing at Drake University. Served with Marines (WMII) with his son following his footsteps.

Sindy and her husband, Edward come to us by way of Jack Row. Sindy has a philosophical and nostalgic interest in Alger. She is an artist by profession, "and a good one!" says Jack.

Joan comes to us through Jack Row. She is a feature writer and photographer for the Des Moines Register. She has also authored four children's books, and has received numerous awards for her work. She is an art savant, a yoga enthusiast, and runs a note-card business.

Max and Sophie are friends of Jack and Beth Row. Max is owner of an Insurance & Real Estate Agency in Clarion. He is an avid reader of Alger, an art savant, and loves good music.

The Judge, (now retired) and his wife, Ollie, come to us by ray of Jack Row. He was 9th District Judge for 23 years. They are both interested in antiques and love to travel.

Joyce and her husband, Robert, are friends of Jack Row. As a hobby, Joyce buys and sells books and antiques. This is a gift membership.

James and his wife, Jacqueline, are friends of the Row's. James is the president of the bank in Charles City, which his great gandfather started 75 years ago. James is interested in photography, gun and book collecting.

Susan is a partner in her firm, currently producing a musical based upon the Alger book entitled TATTERED TOM, which will be premiered in March in upstate New York. Our best wishes for a successful opening. (Via Gardner)

Orson heard of us by vay of a personal visit to his place of business: GRANT'S BOOK STORE, 449 Bridge, N.W. Grand Rapids, by your editor. He has a better than average stock of Algers, as well as many other subjects. His interest in collecting Alger, however, is a new interest.

Jacqueline is editor and publisher of BOOKWORM (mentioned in the Nov. Issue). Recently wrote the HELP WANTLD column in (Now out of business) TBA. She was then known to her readers as "J. Bryant." She is also proprietor of her own bookstore with some 30,000 volumes for sale. I am now a subscriber and a customer.

DEPARTMENTS

BOOK MART

PF-142 (Pan Fuller) offers: (with hopes to add to, or upgrade his own collection)

F 50G&D, F 60WPC, G 60JCW, F 61ALB, F 61ALB, F 64JRA, G 72MAD, P 72MAD, P 73MAD, G 73H&C, G 91JCW, P 93SPC, F103NYB, F125WPC, F125HTC, F187ALB.

Dan also has 38 other duplicates too numerous to catalog. Whitman & World are both coded as VPC; neither are highly desirable. First editions are underlined.

PF-000 (Forrest Campbell offers:

F 28HTC, G 48H&C, G 76HTC, G 88H&C, F 81ALB, G122JCW, G139H&C, G147JCW, G150H&C, F190JCW.

TE URGE YOU TO BUY FROW, AND SELL TO PARTIC LAS FRIEND COLLECTORS AND DEALERS WHEN POSSIBLE TO DO SC. THANK YOU.

BIRTHD/YS (to Merch 15th)
None reported for: February

PF-169 Don Shinner March 1
PF-101 Jack Row March 3
PF-106 Morris Olsen March 9

If your birthday occurs between March 15, and April 15, be sure to notify us. If this department fails for lack of response, it will be discontinued with the June issue of the newsletter.

CUESTIONS & ANSTERS

- 0. /l That is an accurate total of all alger books (not titles) printed before the 1920's ?
- A. No new estimates have been reported. In 1965, PF-104 (Risteen) expressed an opinion that total sales did not exceed ten million. We will be glad to publish your expressed opinion in this department, but until then, we shall quote references listed in Gardner's book, page 378.
- Q. #2 Did the Horatio Alger family leave any living descendents?
- A. Yes, according to Cardner's book, pages 298 & 498. For details and other interesting historical facts, please read what Gardner has to say on this subject.
 - Q. #3 (PF-032) asks: Did S&S put out a hard cover volume of #65 (1882) as a first edition?
 - A. Open for discussion. This may involve a question of copyright according to title or form of publication. The continuation of a publishing business under new management, may give a partial answer. See Gerdner's book, beginning on page 359.
 - 0. #4. Are good reprint copies scarce and valuable?

DEPARTMENTS: ((. & A. continued)

- A. Good reprint copies are still in plentiful supply; you can afford to be somewhat selective in your choice of publishers. (this is purely a PF-000 personal opinion.) For an estimate of fair and reasonable price ranges, see what Gardner has to say on the subject beginning on page 382, through page 385.
- C. #5 (PF-090) How about Poole's Index for information on Horatio Alger?
- A. Poole's Index to Periodical Literature, Vol. #1 (1802-1881) lists the Alger family with references to Vol. #29, page #270 of the New England Register of Historical & Genealogical-(Facts?) Volume #29 is not available here, (PF-000)
- 6. #6 Why do some reference books and columnists continue to quote Alger's inaccurate birth date?
- A. This stems from incorrect research which originated years ago. The source cannot be easily traced. It possibly is the result of illegible handwriting on Horatio's birth certificate or registration. One source of inaccurate information may be found in the biographical sketch in some New York Book editions. We have been successful in correcting this inaccuracy in previous editions of VORLD ALMANAC. Please note correction on page 483 of the 1967 edition.

A feature entitled "The Almanac" provided by our daily newspaper, and supplied by United Press International, lists important happenings "On this day in history." I have watched consistently in the past for any reference to Alger, but found none. This year on January 13, it did, but the birth year was listed as 1834. This will be another small target for us to shoot at, but by no means a bulls eye.

NEWS DEPARTMENT

A recent belated report revealed that Mrs. Carl (Jean) Hartmann has been confined in a hospital and at home with two slipped discs. Complete recovery is expected to be a slow process, and quite understandably, the Hartmanns may be absent from the Des Moines bession.

Les Lenglois reports that around Xmas time he fell off a ladder in his garage. (perhaps hiding his wife's Xmas present) As he fell his foot caught in the fifth rung and twisted his ankle, and landing on his back on a concrete floor. His doctor estimated a confinement period of 4 or 5 weeks, which should be up by now. But you just can't keep a good men down, If I know Les, he'll be rehearsing that "up the ladder" bit again soon. Hope your Xmas present wasn't fragile, Bertie.

SNOVBOUND! Midwest & Lower Michigan.
No mail delivery for three days. Newsboy & Rachel suffering comfortably at home.
Food larder and coal bin full; Mail box empty. Unbearable! Hope you are snug!

EDITORIAL FRUPTIONS

My grateful thanks and appreciation for the meny beautiful cards and other means of remembrances sent to me during the Holidays. I shall cherish them all, not only in memory, but also intact. Although my own greetings to you all, as published in the December issue, was not a personal greeting, it was meant to be sincere in the highest degree.

One of the novel ways of expressing his Holiday greetings, came from PF-080, in the form of a newspaper clipping. PF-080 is a line-o-type operator and composed his greetings to me on his machine. The message is one column wide and some 14 inches in length.

For the benefit of our newer members whose names and addresses were not on record until this issue, another novel idea in Holiday greetings came from Carl Hartmann, PF-102, and family. Their greeting was a part of an 8 page brochure which included a short story by our Hero entitled THE CHRISTMAS GIFT. This story was published in two parts in the Nov. - Dec. 1964 issues of the Newsboy.

I wish also to express my appreciation for the brief respite from editorial responsibilities during the month of January. During this period I took the time to relax, and pursue other interests in a complete change of pace. As many of you may have noticed, I am far behind in my responsibility of replying to your letters.

I did read one Alger story during this period, however, in a sense, it was research. George May, PF-121 had sent me his personal parody of SAM'S CHANCE, which was excellently done and this inspired me to review Sam's previous adventures in the story of THE YOUNG OUTLAW. Then Steve Press sent me a completed copy of his musical adaption of an Alger play entitled TOM COOPER, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY, also excellently done. This inspired me to do some research in the story of JULIUS, in which the street boys enjoyed staging some productions of their own.

The boys had fitted out a basement in Baxter Street not far from Five Points for their own private theater, which they called The Grand Duke's Opera House. They produced their own version of the play LAUGHING GAS, and some of their more popular musical numbers were: "Squeeze me, Joe, Up in Avenue A, and The Campbells Are Coming," but their favorite number seemed to be "The Mulligan Guards."

Later in the story, Mr. Alger explains that Julius had no knowledge of the political meaning of the expression "know-nothing" which he used occasionally when referring to his lack of education. This story was published in 1874 and muring this era, a certain party was known as the "Know-nothing" Party.

By way of a telephone call (extra minutes) from Carl & Jean Hartmann of Lensing, we learn that Jean's condition shows encouraging improvement, and attendance at Des Moines is now a possibility. Carl offers to mail his Christmas brochure to all new members, upon request.

My Alger exhibit which has been on display at the local museum since January 13, 1965, is now due to be removed. I will make it available to any institution for temporary exhibition purposes.

PF-080, line-o-type operator, and music teacher, has recently opened a new Coin & Book Store with a buddy "typer". Included on exhibit is a display of juvenile books such as Edwards and Alger. They need more Alger books. Will buy.

A delightful & interesting letter recently received from Norman Peterson, PF-184, T-043, (teacher of chemistry at Ferris State College) R3, Big Rapids, Michigan, 49307 (name not in current membership roster). He posed two good questions (in-serted in his letter) and filed away in my correspondence. I suggest questions be submitted on separate sheet of paper. The questions will be used. The delay is partially my own neglect. Norman recently acquired a first edition of #104. He also expresses interest in a "Michigan Member" gathering. (Shall we have a second Eaton Rapids picnic?) Other states like Iowa, (in off-convention years) should do the same.

Norman hopes to have an Alger exhibit in the new Ferris Library which will open in April.

Also received from Paul Fisher, PF-148, a belated and bulky mailing consisting of additional research on the spine and cover designs of the A.L. Burt editions. Justice cannot be done to his efforts in the few short lines available here. He is cataloging some 14 different spine designs and 18 different cover designs. The various combinations would seem to be a staggering number. Paul's mailing was limited to those members who have large collections, but needs the cooperation of all members.

Paul adds: "If sufficient cooperation is received we will compile the results and make the findings available to members. This will take a little while. Should the scheme appear workable it is hoped the same could be done with other publishers." Paul's cataloging includes illustrations, and I note he has cataloged that "much coveted" edition of WAIT & WIN.

NEWSBOY & wife are planning a southeastern tour late in April, which will include stops in Kentucky, Tennessee,
Georgia, Virginia and Ohio. The latter
to discuss possible premiere of THE BOY
FROM THE BOWERY in the Children's Theater
at Mansfield. (Hal McCuen, Director). If
you will be at home, we would love to
meet you. OUR STREET IS NOW OPEN TO TRAFFIC. MAIL BOX IS FULL. A HAPPY ENDING!
Your Partic'lar Friend, (OOO)

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

PF's should recognize themselves here in these excerpts taken from Henry Ward Beecher's BOOK BUXING (1870). Quote:

"Alas! where is human nature so weak as in a book store! Speak of the appetite for drink; or a bon vivant's relish for a dinner! That are these mere animal throes and ragings compared with those fantasies of taste; those yearnings of the imagination; those insatiable appetites of intellect, which bewilder a student in a great bookseller's temptation-hall?

How easily one may distincuish a genuine lover of books from a worldly men! With what subdued and yet glowing enthusiasm does he gaze upon the costly front of a thousand embattled volumes! How gently he draws them down, as if they were little children; how tenderly he handles them! He peers at the title page, the text, or the notes, with the nicety of a bird examining a flower. He studies the binding; the leather; — russia, english calf, morocco; the lettering; the gilding; the edging; the hinge of the cover! He opens it and shuts it; he holds it off and brings it nigh. It suffuses his whole body with book magnetism. It is astonishing, too, how one's necessities multiply in the presence of the supply.

Then, too, the subtle process by which the man convinces himself that he can afford to buy. No subtle manager or broker ever saw through a maze of financial embarrassments half so quick as a poor book-buyer sees his way clear to pay for what we must have. He promises himself marvels of retrenchment; he will eat less, or less costly viands, that he may buy more food for the mind. He will take an extra patch, and go on with his raiment another year; and buy books instead of coats.

Yea, he will write books, that he may buy books! The appetite is insatiable. Feeding does not satisfy it. It rages by the fuel which is put upon it. As a hungry man eats first and pays afterward, so the book-buyer purchases and then works at the debt afterward. Moreover, buying books before you can pay for them promotes caution. You do not feel quite at liberty to take them home. You are married. Your wife keeps an account-book. She knows to a penny that you can and what you cannot afford. It is a matter of no small skill and experience to get your books home, and into their proper places, undiscovered. Perhaps the blundering express brings them to the door just at evening. What is it, my dear? she says to you. 'Oh, nothing; — a few books that I cannot do without.' That smile! A true housewife that loves her husband can smile a whole arithmetic at him in one look! Of course she insists, in the kindest wey, in sympathizing with

you in your literary acquisition. She cuts the strings of the bundle (and your heart), and out comes the whole story.

You have bought a complete set of costly English books, full bound in calf, extra gilt! You are caught, and feel very much as if bound in calf yourself, and admirably lettered. Now, this must not happen frequently. The books must be smuggled home. Let them be sent to some near place. Then, when your wife has a headache, or is out making a call, or has lain down, run the books across the frontier and threshold, hastily undo them, stop only for one loving glance as you put them away in the closet, or behind other books on the shelf, or on the topmost shelf.

Clear away the twine and wrapping-paper, and every suspicious circumstance. Be very careful not to be too kind. This often brings on detection. After a while you can bring out one volume, accidentally, and leave it on the table.

'Why, my dear, what a beautiful book!
Where did you borrow it?' You glance
over the newspaper; and with the quietest
tone you can command: 'That? Oh, that is
mine. Have you not seen it before? It
has been in the house two months.'

Another method which will be found peculiarly effective is to make a present of some fine work to your wife. Of course, whether she or you have the name of buying it, it will go into your collection, and be yours to all intents and purposes; but it stops remark in the presentation. A wife could not reprove you for so kindly thinking of her. No matter what she suspects, she will say nothing. And then if there are three or four more works which have come home with the gift-book — they will pass through the favor of the other.

These are pleasures denied to wealth and old bachelors. Indeed, one cannot imagine the peculiar pleasure of buying books if one is rich and stupid. There must be some pleasure, or so many would not do it. But the full flavor, the whole relish of delight only comes to those who are so poor that they must engineer for every book. Each book has a secret history of ways and means. It reminds you of subtle devices by which you insured and made it yours, in spite of poverty." Unquote.

We thought the foregoing appropriate for Alger collectors; and hope that it evokes a chuckle. It strikes pretty close to home, as far as we are concerned; too close for comfort.

By now, all members should have received information about Iowa and Des Moines and our planned program for the "Des Moines Session". In april you will receive a "questionaire" and reservation card for Howard Johnson's, our headquarters. Program prepared on the premise that "A plan is better than NO plan."

-30- Jack Row, PF-101 (E.N. - contributed material cut & edited)