

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



"World's only publication
devoted to Horatio Alger"

Newsboy

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(Non-profit)

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

First of importance in the order of business is the very necessary announcement that membership dues are now payable for those members whose affiliation date of past years occurred in June, July, or August.

The Des Moines Session is now "history" and a wonderful time was had by all attending. Twenty-two members were registered from Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota. Those of you who could have -- but did not attend -- missed out on an enjoyable and informative time.

All attendees were made to feel welcome in Des Moines. A director of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jay Tone, Jr., appeared at our Saturday morning meeting and gave us an official word of welcome. Ken Butler also received a very nice letter of welcome and good wishes from Harold E. Hughes, Governor of Iowa, who was named an honorary member of our Society.

Speaking of "Honorary" members -- a policy was established at Des Moines, namely, that any member can, at any time, submit a name for honorary membership. The person nominated should be a person of achievement, and one who will benefit the Society in some way. Such name should be submitted to the president for later discussion and decision by the board of directors. Borrowing from a Rotary policy, why not give it the "Four Way Test" before you submit a name. First - Is it the truth? Second - Is it fair to all concerned? Third - Will it build good will and better friendships? Fourth - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

A word of welcome to our new members who joined with us at the Des Moines Session. Robert Birkhimer, President of the Southeast Iowa College at Burlington, and Eddie Westgard, son of Mrs. Gilbert (Helen) Westgard. Further details will be given in the report on new members.

Ken Butler's exhibit for library or other use is nearing completion. It was on display in Des Moines and is very attractive. It will be finished soon and should be an asset to any occasion. Our grateful thanks to Ken.

Several changes were made in our By-Laws after due deliberation by the By-Laws committee, presentation to the members present and subsequent approval. The specific changes will be outlined by Carl Hartmann, Chairman of this committee, and now Vice President.

Also, some new ideas were discussed and adopted for your benefit and pleasure.

(1) THE "100" CLUB -- Any member of our society who collects 100 or more titles, including variations, will be given free of charge an engraved brass plate which can be attached to either the walnut frame or membership tile. The plate will read: HORATIO ALGER "100" CLUB. In the near future, a concise method of determining and counting titles will appear in the Newsboy. This was discussed at length at the Des Moines Session and it was conceded that there was confusion on this point.

(2) ALGER BOOK APPRAISALS - An appraisal team was authorized. It will soon be established and appointments made. This team, upon request will appraise the Alger book collection of any deceased society member, and give its recommendations. Further details will be announced later.

A change in our BOOK MART listings was recommended, authorized and adopted. The details will be outlined by our editor.

Another change in the handling of the newsletter suggested by our editor in the form of an appeal for assistance, resulted in the formation of a new office of Publisher and Circulation Manager of the Newsboy. Max Sheldon volunteered his services and was so appointed. Details will be outlined by our editor.

A new and revised membership package and application blank will be available in the near future.

At the generous invitation of Ed Levy, our 1968 meeting will be held in New Haven, by unanimous approval of those voting. Also by vote the members seemed to be in favor of a meeting in mid-June instead of May. If you have ideas other than this, make them known to Ed Levy. No doubt Ed will be calling on some of our Eastern Partic'lar Friends for help next spring. (E.N. Cut & edited) JACK ROW, President

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As your new Vice-President I wish to thank the membership and the nominating committee for this honor. To fill the shoes of our past V.P., Jack Row, is in itself a monumental task. Jack's accomplishments are almost legendary within the Society. Of course Jack in turn, being the new President also has a big pair of shoes to fill. Ken Butler, our retiring president, did a job which I'm sure even Jack is going to have trouble emulating.

Our goal for membership this year has been raised by the Board of Directors. Since the VP is also Chairman of the Membership Committee I am asking each and every one of you for help. I would appreciate your suggestions on ways to attract new members. We need volunteers for publicity work. I would like to have names of prospective members sent directly to me for follow up. If you have book dealers in your area tell them the benefits of belonging - then sign them up.

To an active book dealer our mailing list alone is worth the \$5 membership fee. If and when you advertise for books add the line "Member of the Horatio Alger Society." This will advertise our Society and also tell people that you know the price of Alger books and will pay a fair price. Let as many people as possible know that you are a member and that we are interested in new members. Our Society was formed to promote interest in and knowledge of Horatio Alger Jr. - we can only do this if we get to the people that are interested.

MICHIGAN MEMBERS PICNIC

On July 23rd. a picnic is planned for all members of the Horatio Alger Society with the Michigan members acting as hosts. There will be nothing fancy, just bring your books for trade or sale and a picnic lunch. We will meet again this year at Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The park in the center of town was perfect two years ago and the members that attended will know where to go. If you are interested in coming drop me a card and I will send you directions. The picnic will start at 10:00 A.M. with a lunch break about noon. See you there?

..... Carl Hartmann, PF-102

(E.N. Eaton Rapids is centrally located for most Michigan members. Its main street runs north and south. The park is on the east side but cannot be seen from the street. A short side street which leads to the park dead ends at a foot bridge over a small stream that borders the park. Picnic tables near the foot bridge (if available) will be the headquarters of our group. Some out-state members have expressed an interest in attending. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enlarge or renew acquaintance with society members)

The following are changes made in our By-laws by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership present at the Des Moines Session.

Article I - Section 3 shall read:

"Membership shall be on a yearly basis to start from time first dues are received."

Article III - Section 2 shall read:

"All matters involving the policies of the Society, selection of the convention city, amendments to the By-Laws, and election of officers shall be submitted to the members present at the annual meeting for vote."

Article V - Section 3E shall read:

"The financial reports shall be so arranged as to show separately the transactions of each fiscal year. The fiscal year shall run from May 1, to April 30th."

Article VII - (New article) shall read:

"If the society should disband, all assets shall be donated to a Scholarship fund to be decided by the Board of Directors."

Carl Hartmann,
Chairman - By-laws Committee

OTHER BUSINESS DISCUSSED

Your editor made an appeal for assistance in the publication of our newsletter. After some discussion as to how the work would be divided, our newly elected Sec'y-Treasurer, Max Sheldon, volunteered to act as publisher, subject to the approval of our new president, by appointment, to become effective with the next (August) issue.

Contributed material for publication should be mailed to the editor, but the newsletter will be published and mailed from Clarion, Iowa.

Our book mart offerings will take on a new form beginning with the next issue, authorized by the vote of the members present.

Only books for sale will be listed, and the former coding method will be dropped with actual titles (perhaps abbreviated) listed, showing publisher, condition, and price. In case of long lists, some titles may be omitted (from bottom of listing) to accommodate other listings with equal space. Excessive descriptions and terms will be omitted. Bargaining will be strictly between the buyer and the seller. The NEWSBOY assumes no responsibility in claims of misrepresentation. This service will continue to be free to society members in good standing. Editor shall not take advantage of any book offered by first knowledge. (Editor)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-204 Mr. Aurand Harris T-000
41 West 8th Street,
New York, New York 10011

PF-205 Mr. Eddie Westgard T-040
123 Clyde Avenue,
Evanston, Illinois 60202

PF-206 Mr. Robert Birkhimer T-086
607 North 5th,
Burlington, Iowa 52601

PF-207 Mr. David Brandenburg T-000
P.O. Box No. 46-154
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Aurand was the first to put Horatio Alger material on the stage. We heard of Aurand through Hal McCuen (PF-096), Director of the Mansfield Children's Theatre. While we in the Society were talking about the possibilities, Aurand's play "Rags to Riches" was actually being premiered on Cape Cod. Aurand's response to our letter of inquiry, was accompanied with a monetary gift to the Society, and we in turn granted him a membership.

Eddie, son of Helen, is thirteen years old, and of course our youngest member. Eddie enjoys full membership privileges, and takes his Alger collecting hobby seriously. I am sure that Eddie has more than 40 titles and I will concede that this report is already obsolete. Pity poor Helen with two Alger buffs under the same roof.

Robert saw our front page publicity in the Thursday, May 18th issue of the Des Moines Tribune and came to our headquarters in the Howard Johnson motel to join with us. Reluctantly, Robert could not stay, for he had to deliver a commencement speech that night. Robert is President of Southeastern Iowa College. He also collects H.B. Wright, and G.S. Porter. In addition to his membership, Robert left us with a copy of Gardner's book and a membership tile with walnut frame under his arm.

David and his wife, Phyllis, operate the Jesse Stuart Exchange, and they are also editor and publisher of W-Hollow Harvest, a small publication similar to Literary Sketches in size but devoted to Jesse Stuart. We had read one of the Jesse Stuart novels and enjoyed his style of writing. When we heard of David's publication in BOOK WORM, and LITERARY SKETCHES, we subscribed immediately. In return, David applied for membership in our Society. JS is still living and has written many novels about his native state, Kentucky. The first issue of W-Hollow Harvest was released in January, (1967) and is already out of print, and a collector's item. David plans to publish all 1967 issues in book form early in 1968. We can hardly wait!

Free listings of books for sale offered by our members. We urge you to buy from, and sell to Partic'lar Friend collectors and dealers when possible to do so.

BIRTHDAYS (to August 15th)

PF-014	Mr. Judson Berry	June	6
PF-149	Mr. William Petrecca	June	19
PF-0A1	Mrs. Irene Gurman	June	25
PF-032	Mr. Ernest Sanford	June	27
PF-116	Mr. Edward Golden	July	7
PF-163	Mr. Clifford Carley	July	17
PF-186	Mr. Jack Barker	July	25
	Mrs. Blanche Friedman	July	26
	Mrs. Molly Fuller	August	12
PF-034	Mrs. Blanche Lloyd	August	12

With regret this concludes the listings.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. #15 Were Alger's works ever printed in a foreign language and sold in other countries? (Robert Johnson, PF-080)

A. Ralph Gardner says no.

NEWS

Herb and Esther Risteen left for Europe on oceanliner Queen Elizabeth May 24th and will return late in July.

Steve Press was married on May 7th! Steve and Alice (I wonder if she wore a blue gown?) will notify us of their new address very soon. Steve, understandably unable to attend the Des Moines Session, promised to wear his Alger button on that week-end.

Hal McCuen escaped with minor bruises on May 11th, when his car skidded on wet pavement and ended up in the roadside ditch. The cast for THE BOY FROM THE DOWERY will go into rehearsal immediately after school is out. The premiere is scheduled for July 13 & 14th. Headquarters for out-of-town visitors will be at TRAVELODGE MOTEL 137 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio. You may call in your reservation free from your local unit.

Plans are incomplete at this time for our annual ALGER MEMORIAL SERVICE in South Natick, Mass. If you plan to attend, please contact Max Goldberg for final details.

Publicity has been released in the New York newspapers regarding Miss Roy's (PF-197) scheduled production of TATTERED TOM, some time next year. Miss Roy promises to keep us informed on its progress.

Dan Fuller is planning a home-movie, using local talent and based upon material from the Alger stories. He borrows the name of ALGERTON for its setting. More on this exciting project at a later date.

Our annual NEWSBOY PHOTO SUPPLEMENT is scheduled to accompany our August issue. Award winners and Des Moines Session pictures will be highlighted.

EDITORIAL PRUPTIONS

On Thursday, May 18th, early arrivals checked in at Howard Johnson's motel, and registered in Jack Row's headquarters room just ahead of a terrific wind storm, (no puns intended, however appropriate it may seem to be).

It had been an unseasonable hot day, and dark clouds gathering in the west promised relief from the sweltering heat. The Campbell's, Gardner, and Hartmann converged the previous night at the Kakusha Motel in Mendota, site of our first convention two years ago. Here, we met with Ken Butler, who escorted us to dinner, after which we talked over old times and climaxed with the usual Gardner nightcap, a malted milk at the midnight diner.

The wind, gusting to 70 m.p.h. picked up dust from fresh plowed fields which caused an eerie sight to behold. Low dust-laden clouds hung in the streets as we went out to eat. There were no "baggage-smashers" around to assist with our luggage, however, the wind did open some doors.

Upon registering and paying the fee, we each received as souvenirs, a copy of the Des Moines Tribune which carried front-page publicity on our convention, a note pad and cover, appropriately stamped with convention insignia, and a map of the city.

After the final reservations were in, plus members who made limited appearances, the following members were accounted for:

Anderson, Berry, Birkhimer, Butler, Campbell, Fuller, Gardner, Hartmann, Hartsock, House, Langlois, Leipold, Miller, Harlan Miller, Poznan, Robinson, Row, Sheldon, Shinner, Gilbert and Eddie Westgard, and Joseph and Cecelia Wild, for a total of 23 members.

It was interesting to note that eight of the thirteen members present at our first meeting in Mendota, have not yet missed an annual convention, and for that reason, may be considered to be "old-timers."

The Howard Johnson motel in Des Moines is situated on a hillside, and fortunately for us our inside corridor accommodations on the second level had an exit to the parking area. The orange roof of all Howard Johnson establishments is a wonderful means of identification for travelers in unfamiliar surroundings. The same is true with the blue roof of all International Pancake Houses.

In addition to Jack's prize-winning display of Alger material, he had bound copies of our NEWSBOY in handsome covers, using two years in each binding. Also he had for sale reproductions of Timothy Crump's *Ward, Seeking His Fortune*, and two other rare titles, bound in book form. He sold them at cost, and they went like hot cakes to the early arrivals.

At one of our business sessions it was announced for Max Goldberg that the Unitarian Church in Natick was partially destroyed by fire. It was the minister of this church who gave the benediction at our Alger Memorial Service last year. Max suggested a donation from our Society since a Church Disaster Fund has been set up. Max noted that the signature of Horatio Alger Jr., appeared on the original church building subscription list, in the amount of \$10. We authorized a donation of \$10. and forwarded to Max for delivery.

In discussing the formation of a "100 Club" the question of just what titles may be counted came up, and was tabled for further study. It is undeniably a highly controversial question, and the wisdom of Solomom is needed for a satisfactory solution. The questions of title variation, published or manuscript form, and length, serially published or in book form, are all manners in which one might add a title to his growing collection. It was not intended originally to be so complicated. It was only a means to report the progress of our collectors.

The discussion of pricing also ranged from worthless to an unrealistic realm. Jack Row had a letter posted on his bulletin board from a so-called dealer who had little knowledge of values. Donohue editions of common titles were offered for \$45. each.

Assignments were passed out among certain members to report on specific events, but due to limited space in this issue, lengthy reports must be reduced in size. Ken Butler will report on our visit to the Salisbury House, and Gilbert Westgard will report on room displays and sales.

Dan Fuller passed out copies of his self-prepared Alger Double Crostic Puzzle, with solutions based upon facts that could be found only in the numerous Alger books. After returning home and consulting my Alger books I came up with this solution:

"Strive and succeed, the world's temptations flee, be brave and bold, and strong and steady be, shift for yourself and prosper, then you must win fame and fortune while you try and trust."

The banquet was served buffet style with 37 people seated. Jack Row passed out a "quiz" based upon Horatio Alger and his books. As I recall, Gilbert won first prize with one wrong answer, and Campbell lost with one right answer (a spoof which seemed to be enjoyed).

Present at our banquet was Don Baysinger, our recipient for the Ragged Dick award. Don is 16 years old, short, curly haired, wears glasses, and has had a speech impediment which he seems to have overcome. He is a sophomore at Des Moines Technical High School and has had a newspaper route for the past five years. Don's father died some nine years ago leaving
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EDITORIAL ERUPTIONS: continued --

no insurance. Don was chosen by his Des Moines Register & Tribune from a group of three newsboys who were all worthy of consideration. Don was neatly dressed, and is a handsome young man. He has a record of honesty and good service having won 58 blue ribbons for meritorious service.

Don was presented with our check for \$100 by retiring president Butler, and an Alger book by our new president-elect Jack Row. Don confided, "I don't talk so good, especially when it's in public," however, his short and simple statement which included a "thank you" expressed his appreciation straight from his heart.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DON BAYSINGER

Dear Friend Don: I did not have the opportunity to talk with you before or after the banquet at which time you were presented with our "Ragged Dick" award of \$100. Neither did the reporters consult me regarding the origin of our annual award.

After reading the reporter's account in the Sunday Register who incorrectly refers to it as the "Strive and Succeed" award, and quotes you as saying, "I don't know why they gave it to me," I hastily offer my explanation with apologies.

It was I who conceived the idea for the award a few years ago, and our society adopted the idea. The idea was to re-establish, and to continue the tradition established by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Horatio desired to assist worthy young men who found it difficult to earn a living on the streets of New York City because of hardships and handicaps. Many of these worthy boys had no father, and willingly accepted the responsibility of providing a home for a widowed mother.

Alger relates the experiences of such young men in many of his stories. Young men like yourself, who do the best they can with what they have got.

You were selected by Des Moines people who believed you to be worthy of our assistance. We merely provided the award money.

The story of a typical worthy boy is that of Ragged Dick who vowed to help others. We, the society, acting for Ragged Dick, find you worthy of our assistance. Ragged Dick's vow which may be found in the concluding chapter of Mark, The Match Boy, is as follows: "Then I will keep it as a charity fund, and whenever I have an opportunity of helping along a boy who is struggling upward as I once had to struggle, I will do it."

Your partic'lar friend,
(May 22, 1967) Forrest Campbell

Retiring President Butler announced that the Awards Committee had unanimously selected Aurand Harris as the recipient of our Newsboy Award. The Newsboy Award is based upon outstanding achievements, meritorious service, promoting and preserving the good name of Horatio Alger Jr.

Specifically, Aurand was selected in promoting the good name of Horatio Alger Jr., before the general public, being the first to put Alger material on the stage. His play, "Rags To Riches" a musical adaption of two Alger stories, Ragged Dick, and Mark The Match Boy.

Aurand had previously been notified, and he sent a note of regret that he could not be present to receive the award. The award was later presented to him by Ralph Gardner.

Jack Row was the recipient of our 1967 LUCK & PLUCK award which was presented to him by retiring President Butler, along with the gavel of authority.

The qualifications of the two awards are the same, except that the LUCK & PLUCK award is granted to a member within our society. In the case of Aurand Harris, the decision of the committee came before membership was granted to him.

Specifically, Jack was most deserving among our members for the award, based upon his ability to build up our membership within the State of Iowa, The skyrocketing of his own collection, and his amazing Alger exhibits.

Among those who appeared in costume at our banquet was Darel Leipold wearing an authentic outfit of the Alger era, complete with top hat, frock coat, and button shoes.

An invitation from Ed Levy was read, to hold our 1968 convention at Pond-Lily Motel in New Haven, Conn. The invitation was accepted, however a date has not yet been selected. It is believed that the school term conflicts with our usual May meeting date.

Before and after the banquet Ralph Gardner busied himself by drawing caricature resemblances of our members at \$1 per setting. The proceeds were to offset the deficit in our reservation fee fund. The resemblances were really great! I am proud of mine. This Ralph is really talented!

There was a total of 24 at our Sunday morning farewell breakfast. Some local members bid us farewell the night before.

Our Third Annual Convention could have been a greater convention if you had been there. Try to build your vacation around our next annual meeting.

The corridors of Howard Johnson's motel are probably quiet now, and it is presumed a great calm has once more settled over Des Moines. (PF-000)

OUR VISIT TO SALISBURY HOUSE

For a couple of hours on Saturday afternoon the session-goers departed Des Moines and the New World. They were in England, exploring an awesome English castle.

The 42-room thick-walled structure they visited was once the home of Carl Weeks, now dead, a millionaire Des Moines cosmetic manufacturer. The edifice was built to reproduce a castle in Salisbury, England. Known as the Salisbury House, it is now the home of offices of an association representing Iowa state teachers.

The architecture is Tudor. As one of the group quipped, even the name "Fordor" would be a vast understatement. Ceiling beams, fireplaces, and whole rooms of wood paneling were brought back from England for use in construction. Floors, lighting fixtures, tapestries and furnishings are fabulous and valuable. Many treasured objects of art are displayed. There are dozens of impressive paintings, topped by an impressive portrait of a red-caped Cardinal, painted by Van Dyke, one of that painter's three most famous works. Its value: \$80,000.

The Alger group was taken on an interesting and detailed lectured tour. Impressive were the Great Hall, Commons Room, guest chambers, and tiled baths of a millionaire mansion.

Not the least of interest to us was its library of 4,000 rare books and literary collections. Our guide, leafing at random through just one file, laid before our dazed eyes an assortment of autographed letters in the Dickens file... letters written and signed by Dickens, Washington Irving, Abraham Lincoln, Edgar Allen Poe, and other famed men. We saw also a page from a Gutenberg Bible.

The tour included English china, fans, weapons, sculpture, oriental rugs — even a suit of metal armor. The grounds were equally impressive, being eleven acres in extent, overlooking a wooded ravine. By extreme coincidence, many of the items transferred from England turned out to be from the home of a former mayor of Salisbury with the same name and initial, C. Weekes.

Mr. Weeks called his majestic showplace "the house built by the vanity of women", a reference to the vast sales of his Armand line of cosmetics.

If it is of any comfort to you, their roof leaks, too; and the desk of their executive secretary, despite its splendorous surroundings, is as strewn with papers and unfinished work, as yours and mine.

(Kenneth B. Butler, Ret. Pres.)

(E.N. Well done, good and faithful svnt)

The buying, selling, and trading of Alger books became the largest single activity of the convention. From early in the morning to the wee hours of the following morning, the give and take of bargaining was a constant background to visiting, renewing old acquaintances, and forming new friendships with other society members.

Ralph Gardner and I conducted a demonstration of evaluating and pricing of a dozen random Alger books brought in by a local resident who had heard of our convention through publicity in the Des Moines Register. He subsequently sold these volumes to the assembled members at our evaluation. A bargain basement of Alger treasures was held at which everyone with some as yet unsold volumes put them on sale for the best offer. "Make me an offer," was heard quite frequently, as was "if you take the two volumes, I'll sell them for—."

Darel Leipold's display included an impressive representative collection of various bindings and titles, and a card that was actually signed by our hero. He also had a Ragged Dick boot-black box and an old glass-plate camera of the Alger era.

Ken Butler gave us a preview of his (in process of completion) travelling Alger exhibit which included many attractive bindings, and an actual letter from our hero, dated March 10, 1877 at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, addressed to James M. Boyd. And a letter of welcome from the honorable Harold E. Hughes, Governor of Iowa, addressed to the society members convening in Des Moines. Also on display was an enlarged photograph of Aurand Harris, with newspaper reviews, programs and publicity pictures of his new play "Rags To Riches."

Dan Fuller brought his entire collection which included 14 different bindings of "Paul The Peddler" and by 8 different publishers. Kitty, the Fuller's Siamese cat was also present, chewing on a Loring edition of Ragged Dick.

Judson Berry brought over 40 books with him and added several titles to his collection while in Des Moines.

Jack Row of course had the finest collection of all. Although he brought only a portion of his entire collection, it's enormity far outranked any other display, and perhaps all combined.

Forrest Campbell's display was built around his play, The Boy From The Bowery. On the wall was a muslin map of lower Manhattan entitled "The Small World of Horatio Alger." Forrest was autographing mimeographed copies of the manuscript at \$1.25 each. Sales were reported to be brisk. Also on display were photographs of several Particular Friends from the southeast, and an array of postcards received from Gardner. (EN cut & edited) Gilbert K. Westgard, II