

# THE HORATIO ALGER

"RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR"

Vol. 6 No. 9

May 1968

Founders:  
Forrest Campbell  
Kenneth B. Butler



"World's only publication  
devoted to Horatio Alger"

# Newsboy

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(Non-profit)

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1968 Convention Chairman - Ed Levy

Memorial Service Chairman - Max Goldberg

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Membership fee \$5 (twelve month basis)

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PARTIC'LAR FRIENDS CONVENTION IN NEW HAVEN  
EXPCTED TO BE LARGEST --IN ATTENDANCE

RIP VAN WINKLE MOTEL HEADQUARTERS FOR OUR  
NEW ENGLANDER - 1548 WHALLEY - MAY 23-26

THE MENDOTA AFFAIR, our first organizational meeting, held in Mendota, Illinois, May 1965 had 14 members registered which included George May, PF-121, of Peoria, Illinois, who came to join with us.

THE MILWAUKEE EVENT, our second annual convention, had 19 members registered which included Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wild, PFs 167 & 168, of Mequon, Wis., who came to join with us.

THE DES MOINES SESSION, our third annual convention, sponsored by Jack Row, PF-101, of Clarion, Iowa, had 23 members present which included Eddie Westgard, PF-205, and Robert Berkhimer, PF-206, of Burlington, Iowa, who came to join with us.

THE NEW HAVEN NEW ENGLANDER, our fourth annual convention, sponsored by Ed Levy, PF-004, boasts of 25 members who have expressed intentions to attend.

In our second and third conventions we beat our previous attendance records by four members each time. We can maintain this lead at our NEW ENGLANDER, with the cooperation of those registered, plus some last minute decisions, and a couple of new members accepted at the NEW ENGLANDER.

Those just recently who have expressed intentions or hopes to attend are, Paul Alger, and Irene Gurman. The breakdown by geographical locations as I see it includes 17 members from New England, or near by states, and 8 members from the mid-west. New England can do better than this, and probably will, when the final count is made. The mid-west lists three from Michigan, two from Wisconsin, and one each from Illinois, Minnesota, and South Dakota. This is a far better distance record than has been previously made.

If you are driving and approaching New Haven from Hartford or New York City, you will want to follow the Wilbur Cross Parkway to Exit 59. If you are flying, I understand the Tweed-New Haven Airport is across town and it will be necessary for you to take a taxi, unless you are equipped with a parachute.

The Rip Van Winkle Motel will provide free continental breakfasts each morning. For those who will desire a more elaborate meal, there are coffee shops and restaurants in the area, including an International House of Pan Cakes in the next block!

Our Society activities will consist of business meetings, Alger discussions, and book sales. Free luncheons will be provided Friday & Saturday by the Levys, and on Sunday in Natick by the Goldbergs at their home. The Memorial Service is tentatively scheduled for 2 P.M.

At our evening gatherings there will be panel discussions, readings, songs, jokes, and presentation of awards. Five Alger books will be given away as door prizes by Les Langlois. Group photographs will be taken and orders taken. A special edition of our newsletter will be distributed.

In addition to the geographic location of members who have reported plans to attend (in the opposite paragraph) I hasten to correct an error on my part. There are 18 members from the New England Area, and 9 from the mid-west (which includes one member from the State of Iowa) (sorry about that).

We will welcome your last-minute decision to attend with open arms. Let's have an everybody welcome, fun packed, record breaking NEW ENGLANDER, and remember, You will meet some new friends in New Haven!





ALGERGRAMS

With the arrival of spring, the approaching date of our NEW HAVEN NEW ENGLANDER and daylight-saving time, X#T\$!L%K&GG!! , our Southland wintering members have returned, as you read this, and the rest of us winter-weary members are becoming restless to be on the move.

Ed and Horty Levy are back in New Haven making final plans to serve you upon your arrival. Les and Bertie Langlois are back from their Jamaica jaunt, at least long enough to get into a change of clothes before they take off (not literally) again.

Irene Gurman reports that she has named two, of a new batch of kittens, Horatio, and Alger. How about that? Irene, however, and her kittens, Horatio, and Alger do not qualify for the prizes I posted in the October, 1967 (page 2) issue, for such handles.

Mr. & Mrs. PF-000 on a recent trip to the Southwest, stopped off in Mendota, and were royally entertained by Ken Butler. We viewed the foundation of his future museum which will be called TIME WAS, when completed. His museum will be the result of many years of planning and preparations to stock it. Naturally, his collection of antique cars, and other methods of early transportation will occupy some of the space, but there will be much more to see, we were told.

The name TIME WAS, is quite appropriate if you stop to analyze the phrase. The placard for almost any exhibit might lead off: Time was when this item was the only means of-- etc.

In our reminiscing we were reminded of phrases, slogans and symbols which originated years ago but still familiar to us, such as: "Ask the man who owns one," "Time to retire," "Children cry for it," "There's a reason," "It floats," "Chases dirt," "Hasn't scratched yet," and many others. Then there are the familiar symbols and trade names such as "Tuxedo" and "Horse Shoe" brand of tobaccos, and Buster Brown and his dog. Can you remember the name of his dog? It's a wonderful way to spend an hour among old friends. Can you think of any more? We would be pleased to hear from you.

We were honored with an afternoon call from Carl & Jean Hartmann recently, and we are pleased to announce that our "First Lady" will also attend our convention this year, for the first time. Jean is an avid reader of Joseph C. Lincoln, (tolerates Alger), collects buttons and is a full-time mother of four boys, Tom, Steve, Stanley and John.

The Hartmann's, The Campbell's and (others are welcome) will spend some time in Brewster, and other points on the Cape after our convention. If you wish to join the party, you're welcome I'm sure.

That wonderful world described, as seen from the eyes of our hero, Horatio Alger, ceased in 1899, or perhaps before. It would be interesting research to determine the last Alger story in which he described his wonderful world, especially around City Hall Park.

The last story which bears the Alger name is presumed to be BEN LOGAN'S TRIUMPH which includes a small amount of description, but then this story in its entirety may have been written by Stratemeyer, and copyrighted in 1908.

It is difficult to determine from copyright dates the exact year for the setting of any given story. We know that certain stories in book form were actually written and published years before in another form. In many cases Alger predated the settings for his stories, for he would admit in saying, "The time of which I write--etc. However, it may be safe to assume that he never described a scene which he had not actually seen in the early 1860's.

It may also be safe to assume that he had never seen a building taller than the World Building which was erected on the site of French's Hotel about 1889. The Astor House which he mentioned so often was only a possible 5 stories high. It faced on Broadway opposite the new Post Office, between Barclay & Vesey. The structure was something like a square doughnut. The space in the center provided air and light for the inside rooms.

I am beginning to believe that no one loved the Astor House, as did Alger, since historians make little reference to it, or bother to give space for a picture of it. The Fifth Avenue Hotel at Madison Square, six stories high and opened in 1859, was perhaps the most competition to the Astor House.

The New Post Office erected in City Hall Park, opposite the Astor House, and five stories high, was opened in 1875. For the purpose of dating his last possible description of this wonderful world, I don't recall that he ever mentioned it.

The Post Office that Alger mentioned so often in his stories, but never described, was located on the corner of Nassau & Fulton Streets. It was a comparatively small building which they soon outgrew, as a result of the fast growing and expanding city. In 1860 there were six other stations within a radius of three miles from the Post Office. These are assumed to be sub-stations rather than branch offices of which one was located in the Bowery. It is not likely that Alger's messenger boys were sent to these stations to pick up the mail for the boss.

It was the primary function of the Department in those days to move the mail from one post office to another, and local delivery was effected by private messenger.  
(to be continued)



NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-233 Bert Sack TR-000  
388 East 141st Street,  
Bronx, New York 10454

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Shortly after the current edition of World Almanac appeared on the newsstands, Bert discovered our Society listing and noted Kenneth Butler's address. The listing brought back nostalgic memories which prompted him to write Butler.

Bert wrote, "In as much as I was weaned on the stories of Horatio Alger during my school days (I read them under the desk when my teacher was not looking), I was interested to note your organization listing..."

Bert was born in the Bronx in 1896, and is a veteran of WWI. He is the grandson and grand-nephew of two Civil War Veterans. Bert is Founder and President of the Civil War Memorial Committee with its headquarters located at his home address. He is a member of American Legion, Jewish War Veterans, and Bronx County Historical Society. Bert has written some articles which have been published by his Historical Society and the J.W.V. publication.

Bert recalls that the old 'Gilsey House', N.E. corner of 29th & Broadway, was mentioned in some of the Alger stories he read when a boy. He reports the building still stands though it is no longer used as a hotel. He suggests that the Society might wish to erect a plaque on the premise as a landmark of the Alger stories.

Bert has talked with Steve Press, who also lives in the area, and would like to join us in New Haven but the possibilities are indefinite just now.

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(E.N. The Gilsey House was built about 1872, and was considered then to be a swank uptown address for the elite, political big-wigs, and prosperous men from the West Coast. With this clue, I hastily checked the text of Victor Vane, remembering that Victor was the Secretary of a Western Congressman with temporary headquarters in New York, but to no avail. The Congressman's headquarters were in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The Gilsey House was near one of three locations of Delmonico's famous restaurants, (Fifth Avenue, at Broadway & 26th Sts) and which was the one so often referred to in the Alger stories when "our hero" was invited to dine with a wealthy friend. It is possible that the street-boys also patronized the original location at Beaver & William. It is said the Delmonico brothers brought the ancient marble columns used at the entrance from Pompeii. This building was demolished and a new building constructed in 1890. The third location was located in Broad Street.) PF-000

The listings in this department (space permitting) are free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. Editor disqualified due to first notice.

Offered by Irene Gurman, PF-0A1, 23498  
Parklawn, Oak Park, Michigan 48237

How Johnny Bought A Sewing Machine,  
....Our Young Folks - nice - \$ 5.00

(E.N. This short story written by Horatio Alger, Jr. (among other items) appeared in the August, 1866 issue of Our Young Folks Magazine. This short story was also reprinted in our newsletter, courtesy of Ernest P. Sanford, PF-032, in the May & June issues. Newsletter copies of this story (and others) are still available in limited quantities) (1965 that is).

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A HASTY NOTE FROM OUR BUSY ACTING-PRESIDENT

With the May convention only a few days away, rooms at the Rip Van Winkle Motel are going fast. Send or call in your reservation now. Ed Levy, Convention Chairman, reports that everything is going smoothly, and we should have a wonderful time. Max and Ida Goldberg, our hosts at Algerland, are busy making last minute arrangements for your pleasure. Max is busy collecting memorabilia for an exhibit at Yale College and is working hard on research for our panel discussion. Max, as you know, is Regional Director for the New England Region and has done an outstanding job.

The ad in Collectors News is still bringing in inquiries. Ralph Anderson donated this space for a year and we do appreciate it. Thanks, Ralph.

.....Carl T. Hartmann  
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(E.N. In a recent note from Carl, I quote: "At a Boy Scout camp recently, I found a library of about 25 books; 15 of them were Alger's. Our Scouts ranging in age from 11 to 15 had never heard of Alger (my boys excepted) and were quite thrilled when I told them who he was and when he wrote. As a result three Alger books were read; many started but not finished because of lack of time." Unquote. One of Carl's boys in a school project, made and presented to me a wooden Alger plaque. A familiar illustration from the Brave & Bold Series was mounted upon a panel. The workmanship is excellent, and I shall be proud to display it among my other Alger items. Thank you, Scout Hartmann! PF-000)

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Pages 5&6 of this issue have been reserved for the use of our Secretary-Treasurer to reproduce our By-laws, and as our Society fiscal year ended April 30, our Secretary-Treasurer report will also be included. We shall resume with the normal six pages in the next issue. The art work which began with the February 1968 issue was created by Mrs. PF-000 and will continue at least through the next issue. We hope, and expect to meet many new friends at our  
NEW HAVEN NEW ENGLANDER! (PF-000)



## A SPECIAL FEATURE (concluded) Part IV

Mickey Maguire (contributed by I. Gurman)

Infinite terror gripped him, and it was sometime before he could summon up courage sufficient to swallow the apple, so conscious was he of the recompense his hitherto wasted life deserved. At last, with a sullen determination to know the worst, he gulped it down desperately.

The house vanished and he saw nothing but a black, impenetrable cloud. Striving to pierce through the darkness, at last he distinguished a point of light, which spread and spread until it made a large luminous circle, within which he could distinguish two forms.

On looking closer, he saw that it was his wife and himself, but grown very, very old. There were also joyous children, whom he knew not, filling up the group. The man was reading from the household book, while warm, glowing sunset illuminated the beautiful picture.

He could have gazed upon that calm, glorious scene, but that the tears coursed down his cheeks so abundantly as almost to take away his sight. And as suddenly, another picture hove into view, a terrible contrast. It presented the aspect of a bleak, desolate and dismal heath. Through the dull, misty atmosphere he gazed, in solemn awe evolved two wretched graves, the absence of all Christian memorial indicating the haste with which they were thrown up in unconsecrated ground.

In dreadful agony, he uttered a wild cry on seeing his own name in burning letters on the headboard and fell insensible.

Not a word did Mickey say that night about his adventure with the "good people" -- but Oh, the delight he took in after years, when seated in the chimney corner, surrounded by a circle of bouncing little Maguires, and listened to by such of the neighbors as might drop in for a spot of tea with the rich miller, to relate the circumstances of his reformation and which he believes as implicitly as Holy Writ!

(Although, Mrs. Maguire, with tongue in cheek is thinkin' it very strange indeed, for she was at the window all the time, and he wasn't down a minute when she had his bruises nursed, and safely tucked in his own bed!)

The elfin people have it recorded that in all the country round, there is not a soberer man, nor a more industrious one, than Mickey Maguire, the miller -- he had made a determination that he kept to the uttermost.

The End.

.....and though this item was written over an 'undred years ago, and perhaps told by father to son longer than that, the Foxhole has made a determination, to wit: no matter if he has character, or is one; I've never met an Irishman I didn't like.

I. Gurman

(E.N. Irene has added more comment while the story was in progress regarding the title and the text: "it appears to be an old Irish tale and Mickey to them was like 'Joe Blow' or 'John Doe' is to us - it was borrowed for the old 'Our Gang Comedies' of the silent (picture) days - the freckle faced kid, the 'Farina' colored boy with big shoes..... Alger also used it (the name), so it did not originate with him, and my curiosity first got the best of me in trying to trace down the origin, and why it stuck to any one character who had the where-withall of the typical 'village bully' -- and if you recall as a kid, your neighborhood had one, just like ours did - big and chunky and defying everyone - course he'd be a panty-waist compared to the many we have today.")

(E.N. For the benefit of new members who do not have the complete story, it began with the February 1968 issue of our newsletter.

Webster's definition of the word "heath" mentioned in the opposite paragraph is: (1) A tract of wasteland; especially in Great Britain; an open, level area with a characteristic vegetation of heath or heather.

This story deals with events leading up to, and what caused his "reformation" as recorded in one of the concluding paragraphs. It deals with an adult who eventually married. It deals with a likeable sort of a chap, and the hero of the story.

The image of Micky Maguire that Alger portrayed in the stories, Ragged Dick and Fame & Fortune had none of the traits expected in the hero type. It is perhaps unfortunate, and little appreciated by the good Irish people, that such a typical Irish name was selected to play the part of a boy who rebelled against reformation.

I am confident that Alger's intent in introducing Micky Maguire into his stories was purely to portray a type, rather than a nationality. The type could have been portrayed by any other name as well.

Those who wish to review the adventures of Micky Maguire may find references in the 13th and succeeding chapters of Ragged Dick, and also in the story, Fame & Fortune.

Again, the intent of the Steve Press quotation "It's a world of Micky Maguires and no Ragged Dicks." refers to type and not the traits of a nationality) PF-000



## HAS FINANCIAL REPORT 6-6-67 to 5-4-68

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Balance on hand transferred 6-6-67             | \$ 160.40        |
| Income for above period from dues, sales, etc. | 579.50           |
|  | <u>\$ 739.90</u> |

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Merchandise on Hand | 43 Blazer Patches |
|                     | 13 Tiles          |
|                     | 1 Walnut Frame    |

EXPENDITURES for period mentioned

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Stencils   | \$ 4.08          |
| Postage  | 207.74           |
| Memorial Service in Natick   | 15.00            |
| Tiles  | 70.00            |
| Printing - NEWSBOY   | 182.96           |
| Melville Emblem & Uniform Co.  | 53.60            |
| Photo-State - cost for Federal Report<br>to comply with requirements | 3.50             |
| Secretary of State of Illinois                                       | 12.00            |
| Refund -- Hartmann from Ralph Gardner                                | 7.70             |
|  | <u>\$ 556.58</u> |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| BALANCE on hand and in depository 5-4-68 | \$ <u>183.32</u> |
|--|------------------|

TO ALL MEMBERS

As this will be the final month of my duties as Secretary-Treasurer-Publisher of HAS, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all you wonderful people. It's with much regret that this past year has had to be marred by personal difficulties which made for delay's, errors and various other impositions. I would like at this time to express gratitude and thanks to my dear friend, Jack Row. He's been and was of unfailing and inestimable help - not only in the Society - but in myriad other ways. I would wish for all of you that you could share the benefit of knowing him personally. And to Forrest Campbell, to Ken Butler, to Carl Hartmann and to all of you who have been so marvelously kind and thoughtful, I say GOD BLESS! I would particularly like to mention Max and Ida Goldberg, whom I've gotten to know through correspondence and telephone conversations. What a wonderful world 'twould be if there were more couples translated into people of the world like the GOLDBERGS. And for the cards, letters, felicitations etc. during my recent difficulties, please accept my thanks and sincere warm regards. To those members who have tiles due them they will be mailed from here this week. We've received our new supply. And to those of you lucky "Algerites" attending the New Haven meeting this month, it would appear that the prospects for something eventful and fine is very apparent. There are some who are no longer with us....."Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." To their loved one's I'm sure we remember with gratitude their presence on this earth.

Sincerely

Max Sheldon

