

RAGGED DICK CENTENNIAL YEAR

Newsboy



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Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

Monthly Newsletter of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY
Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL
5868 HEATH
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49002

World's Only Publication Devoted
To That Wonderful World
Of Horatio Alger



The house on the left, 88 Beach St., Revere, Mass., is the birthplace of Horatio Alger, Jr., January 13, 1832, the first born child of Horatio and Olive (Fenno) Alger.

Revere at the time of his birth was known as North Chelsea. The house still stands, and is occupied, according to our latest report.

Many reference books still erroneously quote 1834 as Horatio's birth date.

The illustration on the right is not necessarily a book cover illustration, it is more apt to be found opposite the title page in the Loring, and Porter & Coates editions of the Ragged Dick Series.

Ragged Dick is shown standing on the sidewalk along Broadway, and just outside of City Hall Park. The building in the background is an illustrator's facsimile of City Hall which was completed in 1812. This illustration was drawn prior to 1875 before the post office was erected on a portion of City Hall Park.

RAGGED DICK SERIES BY HORATIO ALGER JR.



RAGGED DICK.

A YOUTH OF TODAY TAKES A LOOK AT HORATIO ALGER, JR., AND HIS PRINCIPLES

To many of the students in the large high school which I attend Horatio Alger books would be considered puritanical if not down right corny. Why this is so I will not attempt to explain. The fact is that there exists a Society which emulates a great man who wrote of great ideals and I am honored to be a member of it. Horatio Alger's ideals are as great and as functional today as they ever were and today, more than ever, institutions which remember great men and ideals are institutions which we, as a nation, can not afford to be without.

The principles of hard work, a "four letter word" to some, and honesty, must be reinstated on their proper pedestals of respect and dignity. Nowadays people don't lie but rather fabricate and if it's best for the individual it's not completely wrong.

Another reason why I respect the works of Alger is that his heroes were not permitted to use foul language. Even the word "hell" was censored from the pages so as not to dirty the book. In a day when even self-imposed censorship is frowned upon and yesterday's bad words are considered O.K. it's nice to know that some one thought that foul language was detrimental to young men. Today it is necessary to speak out graphically to tell people where it's at, or is it?

Horatio Alger was a man with great ideals who wrote about heroes which every race and nationality could aspire to equal. The sad fact is that many more people want to see "The Fox" than want to see "Horatio Alger - The story of a young boy's struggle to help his widowed mother".

It is our duty, as members of a Society which emulates a great man and his great ideas, to do our best in making this a really great organization, for high goals and greatness are just as contagious as weakness and inferiority.

We cannot consider ourselves simple bibliomaniacs but must strive to make this Society a living monument to the ideals of Horatio Alger, Jr.

* * *

(E.N. Gordon, a new juvenile member announced in this issue, responded promptly with this essay on this selected subject. These remarks, from a student who plans to make a career of journalism, prompts us to take a new look at our younger generation.)

* * *

Quiz-Master, Les Langlois, PF-093, who suggests the slogan "Kalamazoo and Campbells too" for our next convention, wants you to remember these Alger sequel titles:

<i>Paul the Peddler</i>	- <i>Slow & Sure</i>
<i>Bound to Rise</i>	- <i>Risen from the Ranks</i>
<i>Young Outlaw</i>	- <i>Sam's Chance</i>
<i>Rough & Ready</i>	- <i>Rufus & Rose</i>
<i>Facing the World</i>	- <i>In a new World</i>
<i>Out for Business</i>	- <i>Falling in with Fortune</i>
<i>Ragged Dick</i>	- <i>Fame & Fortune</i>
<i>Young Adventurer</i>	- <i>Young Miner</i>
<i>Young Explorer</i>	- <i>Ben's Nugget</i>
<i>Strong & Steady</i>	- <i>Strive & Succeed</i>

Next month, the Quiz-Master will issue a list of titles which are also known by another name.

* * *

THE SECRETARY REPORTS

Carl T. Hartmann

In the August issue of the Newsboy I stated that dues were deductible from Income tax. This was wrong - only donations and gifts are deductible.

Dues, \$5.00 per year, are due and payable on your anniversary date. You will receive a notice with your Newsboy one month before they are due. Please be prompt in paying.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

.....Max Goldberg, President



Max Goldberg

We can get our fill of tragedy, horror and sadness in our daily channels of communication and even lose our identity behind computers, but the tranquilizer of Alger's concepts help keep our sanity. Ideologies, like fashions, come and go and each generation has its own set. "Hope beats eternally in human breast" said Pope and we have hopes that reason will prevail again. So we re-read Alger's books, calm our strained nerves, dream and pray that human values will return and proceed to the concern for material gains of everyday living.

To me the Alger Society means: 1. Ideas, information, togetherness. 2. It promotes a Damon and Pythias attitude to its members. 3. A living example of how Pen-Pals can make life interesting. 4. For the young to learn — and the mature nostalgia. It is my fervent hope that others may share this view.

Ed. Levy has suggested that "the Vice-President should solicit, collect and maintain in a large scrapbook, every reference to Horatio Alger, Jr. and his writings. It is remarkable and interesting to learn how frequently in 1968 Alger appears in the news and articles. This scrapbook should be available for examination at conventions and as an exhibit in the Traveling Alger Exhibit."

It is a splendid idea and could contain much information that could not be obtained otherwise. Most Governors, Senators and Mayors have secretaries that do nothing but cut out articles relative to their sponsors. These are pasted in a large scrapbook. Of course, all members would be requested to help and send in any item pertaining to, or referring to, Alger. In that way, we would have articles from every state in the Union. Also, articles in the various magazines and even statements from persons whose parents may have known Alger. I give some examples: —

William Curtis Wakefield (90 years) a former resident of Framingham, Mass., where his father was a judge, told of meeting Alger. Wakefield was then attending Natick High School, when Alger passed by and he engaged him in a conversation. Alger remarked to Wakefield: "Young man, with your glib tongue, you should make a success as a salesman". Wakefield accepted the advice and passed up the desire to study law.

Other examples: Hubert Horatio (Alger) Humphrey — a letter from the publisher of *Pag-eant*, January, 1965 — "In a classic sense, Hubert Humphrey is indeed a present day Horatio Alger hero".

Horatio Alger's duel with the devil by Jack Orr in the "Saga" (10th Anniversary) — an eight-page story taken from Mayes biography with a photo of Alger dressed in formal clothes and HIGH HAT! The ignorance of the writer is quite apparent.

"Huron Happenings" by Paul D. Soini — Port Huron, Michigan — (*very good*).

"Opportunity is not a thing of the past in this country. It can be done if you're not afraid of hard work. These days, to suggest that you can succeed in business trying harder is to run the risk of being called a square. All right—but we're going to be rich squares". (Ad by the Plymouth Auto Corp. in the *Traveler*, 1965)

A foolproof formula for success by A. Gordon in *Reader's Digest*. December, 1966. While not mentioning Alger, he maintains integrity as an important element of success.

A "Horatio Alger" history — "on faith in God and your own bootstraps" by Morrie Ryskind—Pulitzer Prize Winner, *Boston Globe* 1968. Answering a note from a Berkeley Student who asked him to leave the security of his carpeted cave and two "come into the new world" his generation is creating and forget the "nonsense of Horatio Alger".

(continued Page 4)

This is too long an article to reproduce here. But Mr. Ryskind after answering the student quite pointedly, ends up by saying "and this is the difference between my America and yours, son. Me - I'll take the cave anytime". A brilliant article.

The above are examples which contain much information not obtainable in books and can produce a wealth of knowledge to the members. Also, by having these and other articles in scrapbooks, the members in different States can obtain copies from the Society.

I want to thank the Executive Secretary, Carl Hartmann, and Secretary-Treasurer Dan Fuller, for the excellent job they are doing. My next article in the Newsboy will pertain to "John Maynard of Lake Erie", a Horatio Alger poem.

* * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Westgard, Gilbert K. II (PF-024)
2317 Oak Tree Lane,
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068

(E.N. It will be interesting news to our new members that Mr. Westgard edited and arranged all of "The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr." in a volume entitled ALGER STREET, published in 1964 by J.S. Canner & Company of Boston. The reproduction of Alger's picture in the heading of the September issue originated from an engraving specially prepared by Mr. Westgard, and was used without his consent or permission. We are hopeful that arrangements can be made to continue its use. Information on obtaining this engraving, suitable for framing, and a copy of ALGER STREET should be requested at the above address.)

* * *

(E.N. The name of Roy Wendell was unintentionally omitted in the identifying caption under the group photograph, page one of the September NEWSBOY. Roy is located third person from left, between Max Goldberg and Paul House. We sincerely regret the error and offer our apology.

REINSTATED MEMBER:

Sullivan, John F. (PF-074)
2202 Burlington,
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

(E.N. John, and his wife, Mary, and their three daughters were in attendance at our 1965 Mendota organizational meeting. In addition to his interest in Alger, John is a collector of the Leo Edwards books. He just recently discovered a Boys' Home Library edition of Joe's Luck. John has just been named by the Jaycees of Ottawa as the recipient of their Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations, John, and welcome back!)

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| PF-246 | Mr. Joseph J. Sirak, Jr.
1236 Sevilla Avenue,
Coral Gables, Florida | TR-040
33134 |
| PF-247 | Mr. Gordon Harrison
213 Indian Lane,
Media, Pennsylvania | TR-003
19063 |
| PF-248 | Mr. Gerry Hiatt
97 S. 9th Street, R3
Noblesville, Indiana | TR- ?
46060 |
| PF-249 | Mr. William Pinkney III
241 Mullin Street,
Watertown, New York | TR-034
13601 |
| PF-250 | Mr. L. Garland Scott
P.O. Box No. 400,
Sanford, North Carolina | TR-067
27330 |
| PF-251 | Mr. John T. Toot
29 Academy Street,
Amsterdam, New York | TR-024
12010 |
| PF-252 | Mr. Kenneth Kral
22 West Maple Avenue,
Suffern, New York | TR-000
10901 |

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INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Joseph heard of us through Ralph Gardner. He is auditor and desk clerk for the Chateau-Bleau Inn. He is interested in organizing a local unit in his area, and would accept a committee appointment or a specific assignment.

Gordon, age 14, is a juvenile member, and heard of us through Ralph Gardner. He plans to make a career of Journalism, and has submitted an essay

which was solicited by your editor. The essay will be found on page 2 of this issued.

Gerry heard of us through an antiques publication. He has a stock of some 300 Alger books, and operates a local shop known as THE COLLECTOR'S DOOR. Further information not available since I have not heard from him.

William heard of us through Sylvester Mangini, PF-223. He manages a local insurance company. He and his wife, Lois, enjoy a hobby of buying and selling books of many kinds.

Garland heard of us through Lee Minter, PF-242. He is the local branch manager of ESC of North Carolina. Enjoys reading Alger, and enlarging his collection. He is willing to accept an appointment or assignment.

John heard of us through our advertisement in COLLECTORS NEWS. He is a machinist by trade, read Alger as a boy, and started to collect the books about a year ago. Other hobbies are Genealogy and stamp collecting. He is willing to accept an assignment or an Appointment.

Kenneth heard of us from a listing in "The Encyclopedia of Nat'l Ass'ns and Societies" He is a juvenile member, a student, and a newspaperboy. He, like Gordon, also plans to make a career of Journalism and has been invited to write an essay on the same subject for the next issue of NEWSBOY.

(E.N. It is encouraging to learn of reinstated members who are taking a renewed interest in our Society, and new members, especially junior members who are becoming interested in our organization. What will youth expect of our organization tomorrow, and the future? A source of recognition for their collecting ability? A source to promote and defend the principles of a great philosophy? It might be well to review the remarks of junior member Gordon Harrison in the concluding paragraph of his essay. Mere books will surely decay, but the survival of Alger's principles depends entirely upon the future members of our Society)



BOOK MART

The listing of Alger books in this department (space permitting) is free to our members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price. Editor disqualified due to first notice.

Due to a lack of valuable space, the continuance of listing individual titles depend upon the results obtained by the seller. Sellers, please let us know of your past results.

Offered by Frank Eisenberg, 2820 Sumter Avenue, S. Minneapolis, Minn. 55426, 100 duplicate Alger books at \$2.00 each. A list will be sent to all who inquire.

Offered by Irene Gurman, 23498 Parklawn Oak Park, Michigan. Excellent Burts & Misch. Hard to find titles & Publisher's sets. 3 for \$5. post paid. (zip - 48237)

Andy Grant's Pluck	-Bob Burton	2c.
Bound to Rise	-Brave & Bold	2c.
Chester Rand	-Frank's Campaign	3c.
Frank Hunter's Peril	-Erie Train Boy	
Herbert Carter's Legacy	-In a new World	
Jed the Poorhouse Boy	-Joe's Luck	2c.
Mark Mason's Victory	-Paul Prescott's Charge	2c.
Paul the Peddler	-Ragged Dick	
Risen from the Ranks	-Rough & Ready	
Sam's Chance	-Shifting for Himself	
Strong & Steady	-Telegraph Boy	2c.
Tom the Bootblack	-Tom Temple's Career	
Tom Thatcher's Fortune	-Wait & Hope	
Work & Win	-Young Acrobat	
Young Adventurer	2c. -Young Salesman	

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OFFICERS

Max Goldberg,	<i>President</i>
Steve Press,	<i>Vice-President</i>
Carl T. Hartmann,	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Dan Fuller,	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kenneth B. Butler,	<i>Director</i>
Ralph D. Gardner,	<i>Director</i>
Forrest Campbell,	<i>Editor</i>

Please use membership roster for mailing address of our members and officers.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Steve Press

dent Max Goldberg.

I will also use a pamphlet entitled *WHAT-
EVER HAPPENED TO HORATIO ALGER?*
that the members received from Les Langlois
at the convention. Les just sent me 150
copies for my kids along with several books.
That means I now have 43 Algers -- no, 40,
I sent three to Frank Brown this summer.
Frank was one of our Alger award winners.
And Frank sure loves Alger! That means I
have enough Algers to teach one class and I
need 20 more to teach two classes and 50
more to teach three classes.

I've combed my local rummage stores, Sal-
vation Army and second hand book stores
(even went back to the New Haven book farm
and found one Alger); so now it's up to the
members. Look through those extras. That
N.Y. Book is all yellowed and its cover is
falling apart but I can use it and that Whitman
is barely readable but my kids will love it
and all those run-down, read and reread
Goldsmiths, Saalfields, Superiors and even
Hursts and Donohues deserve another chance,
deserve another reading! Let them see the
light of day again. Think how wonderful those
books will look curled in a corner with some
kid who needs them.

I will, as I did last year, pass out the books
at Alger's birthday. Monday, January 13th,
1969 is the target date.

I think how the "Alger project" began has
been well covered in the *NEWSBOY*.

A letter from me to Forrest proposing the
use of the books in my school, Forrest's tele-
phone call to me and the issuing of the
special edition of the *NEWSBOY* in December
and then the wonderful response as I received
the necessary books from all over the country.

That on that Monday in January I poured
out the contents of three shopping bags onto
my desk at Intermediate School 52 and gave
every child a book by Horatio Alger, Jr. The
giving of the book was very important. We
could have loaned them to the students and
most of them would have been dutifully return-
ed but we all know there is that certain joy
in owning a book. And these are poor chil-
dren. They don't own many things. Least of
all books. I wanted them to own an Alger
book.

The books as I said were given out at
Alger's birthday but actually I started a week
earlier. I gave the students a library assign-
ment to look up the man Horatio Alger, Jr. I
gave them one week to do it. They were to
write down whatever information they found.
There were approximately 90 students who re-
ceived that assignment. I received 9 papers.
That was the beginning.

Those 9 students were praised and lauded
and given high grades; Horatio Alger had
given out his first rewards at I.S. 52 for work
well done, and I could see that the other
students were envious.

It was a slow beginning but we had a long
way to go and Alger was just about to really
step into the picture.

Next month -- the first stumbling steps
and the building response.

.....Steve Press

* * *

(E.N. The Executive Secretary confirms
the following committee appointments: Nomi-
nating: Ralph Gardner, Chm; Steward McLeish,
& Roy Wendell. Newsboy Award: Paul House,
Betty Robinson, & Everett Whitlock. Luck &
Pluck Award: Kenneth Butler, Chm; Gilbert
Westgard & Ralph Anderson. These appoint-
ments were named by Max Goldberg, Presi-
dent of our Society, for the current fiscal year)

PLAY BALL!

This is that glorious time of year when our great American sport and pastime, baseball, is climaxed on the diamond between two champion, pennant winning teams pitted against each other.

Our loyalty may be divided between our home team, or the team from our state, and the home-town boy who now plays on a team which is located far away from home.

The end result of organized baseball as we know it today, is somewhat different than the game of ball played in Alger's generation.

The home town team of that Wonderful World of Horatio Alger, was made up entirely of home town boys, except in some unusual cases when the local bully would not play on the team with the local hero.

Both, the hero, and the bully were presumed to be proficient and capable and the choice between the two was often difficult when the players selected their captain or pitcher.

Most often the hero was selected, and the bully refused to play on the same team. In such cases he would offer his services to a rival school or group, especially one in which he could be pitted against our hero.

The final results usually ended with victory for our hero's team, but due only to team effort and cooperation, while the rival team was hindered more than helped, by too much bully individualism.

While it may be true that our hero's team most always won the victory, it was only because the hero usually inspired the individual players to work together as a team.

And it was so in almost every sport in which our hero participated, wheather it be baseball, boat racing, ice skating, boxing, horse-back riding, foot races, swimming, even in scholastic class rivalry, aptitude tests for employment, and yes, even courtship!

THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS!

You never had it so good! An 8 hour working day; good wages; coast to coast highways; luxurious automobiles; television, electric ranges and gas furnances; telephones; deep freeze refrigeration; air travel & air mail. What next? Automation? Perhaps soon, none of us will ever have to work again. Is that in our future? Is that what we really want?

In spite of all our luxury, and the promise of things to come, who among us has not heard the old familiar expression, **THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!**

What do we really mean to imply when we quote that old familiar expression? Isn't it really our youth that we have in mind, camouflaged with the associations of pleasant memories, when we had not a care in the world?

The good old days then, can only go back to our own individual youth, as far as we personally are concerned, but what about the adults we heard use this very expression, when we ourselves were only children. Yes, the good old days go back to their youth also, and their parents youth, and eventually to that Wonderful World of Horatio Alger, Jr.

Yes, we must admit that there were good old days before our time. Even though conditions existed that seem repelling to us according to present standards, there were luxurie which everyone strived to achieve. Independence, security and wealth. Are these aspirations no longer in vogue?

In that Wonderful World of Horatio Alger, especially among the street-boys, the uppermost desire was one of survival. Luxury, which seemed beyond their station in life was possible, for their very existence depended upon the wealthy people who bought their papers, paid for a shoe shine, or hired them to smash their baggage, deliver a message, etc.

Horatio showed them how they could rise above all this and enjoy the benefits of that Wonderful World. (PF-000)



"THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"

America, the Land of Opportunity, was the welcoming invitation extended to all foreign people by our government. In the course of Alger's writing period, 1861 to 1890, ten million immigrants passed through the Castle Gardens Bureau.

In 1886 the Statue of Liberty was unveiled, and within the pedestal an inscription reads: 'Give me your tired, your poor. Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.' And they came!

Young America needed people to fill this vast new land. Many who came, were fortunately financially able to continue on to our western frontier, but many were stranded in New York, friendless, homeless, penniless; and still they came.

In those 30 years the city's population increased by one million people. Most of the immigrants continued on west but the surplus was more than the city could put to work and house properly. Poverty was forced upon them. Many could speak only their native tongue.

They were not necessarily ignorant people. They were skilled workers, proficient in their trades, yet, there just was no market in the city for their labor.

In 1851 a newspaper editor from Terre Haute, Indiana, in an editorial appeal, urged people to assist in opening up the West. He said, "Go west, young man, go west." Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, with due acknowledgment of its source, picked up the phrase and used it in his own editorials, hoping to relieve the situation in his own city.

The local Aid Societies did what they could by establishing bread-lines, opening soup-kitchens, and housing homeless and parentless children. Many a child, for one reason or another was forced to shift for himself.

This was the situation of the city to which Horatio Alger, Jr., returned to in 1866 from the comfortable Parish of the Unitarian Church in Brewster, on Cape Cod.

A world of squalor and poverty, indeed, but right next door to a world of plenty. Hungry and destitute, in order to survive, the people resorted to begging and stealing. There was a challenge here. To bring some order out of chaos, and Horatio felt equal to it.

Broadway was the main thorough-fare traveled by the wealthy people. It may have been their only contact with conditions which they knew existed about them. They freely tossed a coin to some wretched child as a gesture of concern but caring little for the destiny of the child.

Horatio Alger was welcomed by the superintendent of the newsboys' Lodging House, and he set to work to study how best to serve them. Perhaps first, he recommended hygiene for health reasons, as well as appearance in attracting customers to their individual trades. Thrift also was an important lesson. Budget their days earnings for food and the night's lodging, and for a rainy day.

After running the gamut of the many virtues he followed them into the street with on-the-job advice and encouragement. Poverty and destitution still prevailed about him, but among the streetboys, he could see some evidence of progress for his efforts. He then set to work in earnest writing those success stories of that wonderful world of his!