

newsboy

Editor, FORREST CAMPBELL,
5868 Heath, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49002



Monthly Newsletter of
the HORATIO ALGER
SOCIETY. The World's
Only Publication Devoted
to That Wonderful
World of Horatio Alger.



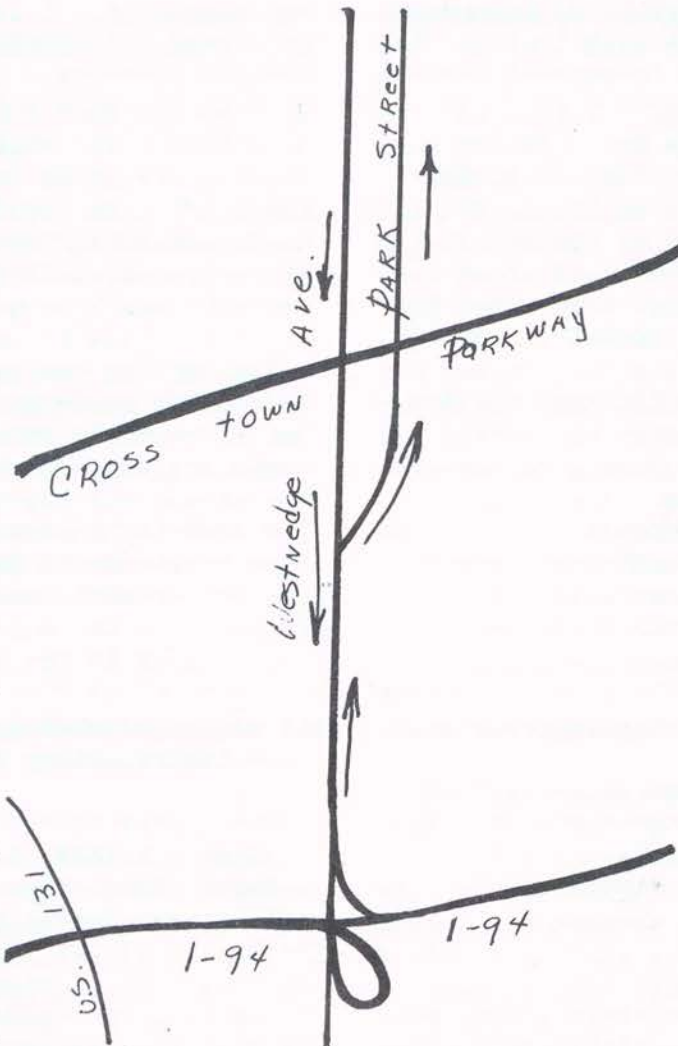
Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler

Horatio Alger, Jr.
(Span of life: 1-13-1832 - 7-18-1899)

There's no two ways about it!

There is only one logical approach to your motel. Leave I-94 at Exit #76, which is Westnedge Avenue. From the east you make a simple right hand turn, and from the west make a right hand clover leaf turn under I-94. You are now traveling north. Begin to clock your mileage 0.0 as you leave this bridge.

It is only a short 3.3 miles to your motel. The simplified map in the center should guide you. For the first two miles 2.0 you will be passing through our suburban restaurant & shopping area. At 0.5 you will pass under the first signal light. At 1.2 you will pass under a pedestrian bridge similar to the Broadway "Loew" bridge of 1868, and on your left is our Country Store & Novelty Shop which you will want to visit later. At 1.6 you will pass under the second signal light, and at 1.8 you should be ascending a hill. At the top (2.1) you



will pass under the 3rd signal light, and at 2.2 you will bear right down grade on a one way street. At 2.4 you will have a splendid view of our downtown skyline. The left cluster is our bank and office buildings, and the right cluster is our Upjohn Office Bldg., and our Bronson Hosp.

At 2.6 on the left you will see your motel sign. At 2.8 there is a double intersection, each with a signal light. Turn right here at the 2nd signal light. You are now on CROSSTOWN. There is a signal light at 3.0 and another at 3.1 and from here you can see your motel destination which is at 3.3.

Allow a 0.1 of a mile or a fraction thereof for a margin of error. Go slow down grade at 2.4 and see our view. If you wish to retrace this route later, remember, Park Street is one way north, down grade, and Westnedge is one way south, up grade. (PF-000)

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND

by Max Goldberg, President



This being my last column as President, I thought it would best be served by using it for Alger writings and Alger information items. I have always believed with Margaret Fuller, "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it."

I will start with "How I Came To Write John Maynard" by Horatio Alger, Jr. --

The Ballad of John Maynard has been included in so many 'Speakers' and collections that I may perhaps be justified in assuming that it is known to the majority of my readers. Many inquiries have been addressed to me and to the editors of periodicals as to whether it is founded on facts or simply invented like Robert Browning's famous lyric, How The Good News Was Brought From Ghent To Aix.

To recall the ballad to some who may not be familiar with it:

'Twas on Lake Erie's broad expanse,
One bright midsummer day,
The gallant steamer Ocean Queen
Swept proudly on her way.
Bright faces clustered on the deck,
Or, leaning o'er the side,
Watched carelessly the feathery foam
That flecked the rippling tide.

Suddenly a sailor discovers that the steamer is on fire. He carries the terrible news to the captain. A sailor named John Maynard is at the wheel. As the flames make rapid progress it is seen that the only hope of safety is to steer the ship to land. Under the captain's orders John Maynard undertakes the dangerous task. They are within half mile of the shore. Briefly, he succeeds in his task but as the steamer touches shore he sinks in death beside it. He falls a victim to the flames but the passengers are saved. It will be seen that the story is a striking one.

--One Sunday in the summer of 1866, my first year in New York, I attended an afternoon service at the Five Points Mission. It was a children's service, and a few speakers were present to address the children of the mission. One speaker told the story of John Maynard, though I cannot remember in what connection. It was told in a dramatic way, and I was so much impressed that after the service was over I inquired of him where I could find the particulars of the incident. He referred me to a weekly religious paper of recent date in the reading room of the Young Men's Christian Association. The next day I went to the reading room, found the story and copied it. I learned that it had been used by John B. Gough in one of his popular lectures. That evening in my room in St. Mark's Place, I sat down immediately after supper and set myself to turning the prose into verse. I adhered as strictly as possible to the language used, including the captain's orders, and did not stop writing till the ballad was complete.

The evening was very hot and I was forced to lay aside my coat vest and collar, but I became so much interested that I could not make up my mind to retire till the poem of nearly 100 lines was finished. The next day I sent it to a juvenile magazine published in Boston. It appeared in an early number accompanied by an illustration. I think I was paid the munificent sum of \$3 for the ballad. I never expected to hear from it again, but soon it began to be copied and found its way into the repertory of public readers.

Every year it got into some new collection. I think I have seen it at least a dozen times. One student at a Catholic college received a prize of all of Scott's works for declaiming it at an exhibition. With all these evidences of public favor, I can give no further information of John Maynard than is to be found in the ballad. Probably the only man who could have given any more was John B. Gough, and I have always been sorry that during his life I did not apply to him for such details as he could give. I believe John Maynard to have been a real character, but who he was, where he was born and when he performed

the heroic act which has made his name so widely known I am afraid will never be ascertained. (from The Writer, pgs 182-83)

The five Points Mission district was notorious for crime, vice and poverty. When Dickens visited there he was escorted by two heads of the police. "The Five Points is one of the oldest portions of New York and received its name from the five streets which open into a large square. Lower than to the Five Points, it is not possible for human nature to sink." These comments from the book, The Old Brewery And The Mission House At Five Points. (1859)

FROM LEADING BUSINESS MEN OF NATICK -1890

C.W. Burks, furniture dealer, auctioneer and undertaker, 10 South St. Natick. The business, somewhat complex in character, is carried on by Burks. Here will be found commodious quarters where are displayed an assortment of new and second hand furniture, sewing machines, stoves, carpets, bedding, etc. in sufficient variety. Burks quotes prices as low as is consistent for honest goods. He is a public auctioneer and will attend to this line of business on satisfactory terms. The undertaking branch of the business is an important one, for a good line of caskets, robes and sundry items are kept in stock, and the services of Burks, himself, as funeral director when desired. He has over 12 years experience, having succeeded A.W. Burks in 1877 in the business which is located but a few steps from the depot. Frank Millner states that Burks buried Alger Jr.

In a letter to a Mrs. Williams in 1942, Millner writes, "I have a letter written by Alger to Arthur Burks who used to go around with young Horatio. Last summer I met him and he gave me a silver Waltham watch which was given to him by Alger about 40 years ago. It will not run now. Burks has an illustrated first edition of Uncle Tom's Cabin which was given him by Alger as a wedding present in 1895, but he won't give it up as he greatly prizes it. Arthur Burks was a pall bearer at Alger's funeral. One of the characters in the story of Chester Rand (chap. 16)

is Arthur Burks. These items are not found in any Alger books. They are a few nuggets gleaned while compiling material for a biography of Frank Millner. From another Millner letter dated 1958: "Dr. Enslin and I have corresponded for about 5 years. He has a first edition of Ragged Dick and many others. Another friend of mine is Frank Gruber who has a wonderful collection of Alger books. He bought half of mine and I must say he paid a handsome price for them, being mostly first editions. I haven't heard from him since 1954."

An old newspaper clipping with no identification or date but containing photo reproductions of Frank Lane Millner, was sent to me. Here are some excerpts:

"One collector of Algerana is Frank Lane Millner. He might even be the hero of one of the books he collects. A typical Horatio Alger boy is Mr. Millner. Perhaps there was no struggle for fame and fortune in his youth, perhaps no city to conquer in young manhood, but Millner's life parallels that of an Alger hero in his search, not for jewels or a fortune, but for books. He collects first editions of Alger. His collection of Algerana is fast becoming worth a fortune. Alger often used boys he knew as the heroes of his stories. He could have written about Frank Millner, his life, his hobby and how in the end he miraculously, mysteriously acquired a fortune without finding jewels, selling stocks or marrying the banker's daughter. He might have called it, Frank's Folly."

It might be of interest to know that the photo of Alger, Cheney his brother-in-law, and Schick in the Ralph D. Gardner book originally belonged to Arthur Burks. He gave it to Millner, and he in turn presented it to the Natick Historical Society. Millner spent 13 years in obtaining a history of the family of Horatio Alger Jr. Searching out relatives and distant kin folks. He has records of birth and marriages, plus correspondence and photos of the Alger family. A newspaper report states that "the material could probably never be gathered again in such an authentic, chronological manner."

(continued on page 4)

The NEWSBOY, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society is published monthly except January and July, and is distributed free to Society members by our Executive Secretary from 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Each individual membership begins with date of application. Junior membership, \$3 annually; adult membership, \$5 annually, to be presented in advance with membership application. Each member receives a membership card, membership roster, and ten issues of the Newsboy. Other incidentals are optional and available upon request, subject to prevailing prices. Convention City: Kalamazoo, Michigan, July 8-11th.

OFFICERS

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

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PF-024 Mr. Gilbert K. Westgard, II
92 N. 9th. East
Provo, Utah 84601

APPEAL FOR FIRST EDITION COPY OF RAGGED DICK

This unusual, but interesting appeal comes from our newest member, Charles Bragin, 1525 West 12th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11204. He is 81 years old. His name is familiar to most all people in the book collecting field.

Charles wants to buy, or borrow if not for sale, a first edition copy of Ragged Dick so that he can have some exact reproduction copies made. This is not a profit making scheme, he says, but wants to give them to his friends. His request is not impossible; some have been offered.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-263 M.M. Davison TR-000
14 Boxwood Road,
Stamford, Connecticut 06906

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Unfortunately we have no information on PF-263, resulting in a lack of knowledge on age, sex and area of interest in Alger. Our publication is on file in certain libraries and colleges which may be the source of information in this case.

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM ALGERLAND continued:

Frank Millner is credited in Ralph Gardner's book, and Frank Gruber's book as a source of information on the life of Horatio Alger Jr. I had intended to put in my column one of Alger's short stories, A Visit To The Falls Of Montmorenci, (Marlboro Mirror 1860) but it would have occupied half the Newsboy issue. I felt the members would get more information about Alger from excerpts of my Millner biography.

The Executive-Secretary has failed to report that I resigned as Chairman of our Annual Alger Memorial Services last March. As my term of office as President expires and I return to a private station, I feel like General Washington saying farewell to his soldiers. We have been, it seems so long a time together, engaging in correspondence, like old friends. Therefore the parting seems more reluctant. An old song expresses my sentiments: "I like to say, 'How do you do', but gee, I hate to say good-bye." The bible states that to all things an end must come. So, I return the gavel with its pleasant memories. I want to thank the members for the honor they have bestowed upon me and I hope I have justified their confidence. I regret that due to reasons of health I shall not be able to attend the Kalamazoo convention, but I shall be there in spirit urging the members to, "Carry on lads!"

E.N. The Goldbergs will observe their 25th Anniversary on June 20th. Mr. Goldberg volunteered to serve as our President. He will be missed but not forgotten, in his role of President & Chairman of the Memorial.

THE KALAMAZOO OCCASION (JULY 8-11th)

The financial success of our 5th Annual Convention was based upon what was thought to be a reasonable advance registration fee from members representing 15 States, to cover a portion of the convention expense. The balance of the convention expense to be underwritten by your hosts, the Campbells (PF-000) and the Friedmans (PF-001).

Only seven States have responded. If our deficit spending is not balanced out, your hosts will pick up the tab, and not your Society. Even with a financial loss and a drop in State representation attendance, we can still have a successful convention business-wise and socially.

Beginning Tuesday, upon your arrival, please register in at our headquarters room to announce your Thursday banquet intentions. You will receive your credentials and a copy of your special Newsboy edition which will include an outline map of the area, convention agenda, and a list of restaurants and book dealers.

Tuesday Evening: Dining together if possible, in motel dining room; Alger Free Forum in our meeting room; Room visitations and book sales when invited.

The Bootblack's Speech will be given by Jack Bales, PF-258 on Tuesday Evening, and again on Wednesday Evening by public demand. Jack, desiring to experience the life of an Alger hero in every way possible, will travel to convention by train, at which time he shall be alert for pickpockets, and train boys who are trying to make a living one way or another. Jack will attend Illinois College in the fall, and happily announces that he is one of the recipients for a \$1200 Illinois grant annually to be applied toward tuition!

Jack has taken over the directing of the impromptu speeches which will accompany the Bootblack's Speech, and hopes to enlist your aid.

Carl Hartmann may attempt to form a quartet among the members which will be identified as the Four Street-boys.

Two of the Hartmann boys will do their "thing" by being dressed as a bootblack and a newsboy.

Wednesday Morning Business Session at 9 A.M. In the absence of our President and Vice-President, our Executive Secretary will preside. Agenda: Greetings, Reports of Committees, Convention City invitations, proposals, and the naming of committees which will be expected to report at a later time.

Wednesday Afternoon: Ladies Luncheon at the Friedman home, and visitation of bookshops in the area. Games & contests in the late afternoon.

Wednesday Evening: Second performance for benefit of new arrivals and the public. Room visitation for book sales upon invitation. Committee meetings.

Thursday Morning Business Session at 9 A.M. Report of Committees; Election of Officers; Selection of convention city; old business; new business; adjournment.

Thursday Afternoon: Visitation of balance of bookshops in the area; games & contests in the late afternoon.

Thursday Evening: Annual banquet in our meeting room; total price including tax & tips, \$4.47; Installation ceremony; announcement of Award winners.

Friday Morning: Farewell breakfast in motel dining room.

General Information: Unlike other officers, your editor does not continue to serve indefinitely until replaced by appointment or election. Having given notice in February, his seven year term expires with this issue of Newsboy.

The challenge of creating a publication for a select group such as ours has been tremendous. The goal of the publication while on a subscription basis, that of having subscribers in all fifty states, was never reached, and so there remains a challenge for the new editor. And remember, The Kalamazoo Occasion was designed with you in mind! We need your support. (PF-000) (616-349-4155)

AS WE GO TO PRESS, THE SECRETARY REPORTS

----that the Nominating Committee has not yet reported a candidate for the office of President. It is customary that our Vice-President should be entitled to the nomination if the office of the Presidency is vacated for any reason.

If the Vice-President does not accept the nomination, and no one is named by the Nominating Committee, nominations may be made from the floor of the annual convention assembled for that purpose.

----that our Vice-President, Steve Press, has completed another successful year teaching Alger to his students in the Bronx Public Schools. Much of his success this year was due to the gift of a large number of paper-back editions of the Alger story, The Train Boy, from David Buttorff, PF-239, who is the proprietor of his own publishing business of the same name.

Steve and his wife, Alice will be vacating their New York City residence very soon now. Steve has accepted a teaching assignment at Williamsport College, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with the assignment beginning in September. Steve says, "Teaching in a college will give me more of an opportunity to pursue my interests in theatre. I will be directing the drama productions at the college and helping them to form a Drama Department."

----that an actual Alger commemorative bottle will be on display at our Kalama-zoo Occasion. Carl, our Executive Secretary, has taken the initiative to personally finance the preliminary expense of a mold and whatever else is necessary. The Alger bottle will be ceramic and will have the appearance of an Alger book and one side will feature Alger's likeness.

All that is needed is convention approval for Carl to proceed on a personal project basis.

----that a membership application has been received and accepted, however, too late to be reported in the proper Newsboy department this month, so the member's name will be officially reported in the

next issue of Newsboy. This new member has proposed that we hold our 1970 Annual Convention in Revere, Mass., the birth place of Horatio Alger, Jr.

One of the organizations this new member is affiliated with has taken the initiative to place an historical marker in front of the house at 88 Beach Street, in Revere, where Horatio was born, January 13, 1832.

It has been our custom to select convention cities from bona fide invitations of members who are residents of the area, and who are willing to accept the responsibilities as the general chairman.

----that the chairmen of the following committees are expected to present in person, or submit in writing, reports of their committees:

RAGGED DICK AWARD, Chairman, Forrest Campbell (Award discontinued)

STRIVE & SUCCEED AWARD, Committee not named or functioning.

NEWSBOY AWARD, Chairman, Paul House.

LUCK & PLUCK AWARD, Chairman, Kenneth E. Butler.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE, Chairman, Ralph D. Gardner.

----that the office of the Editor is an appointive office filled by the President, on an annual basis.

Normally, the Editor has been re-appointed each year, and the selection of an Editor has been no problem. At this convention the office of Editor will be open for a new appointment, and does pose a problem for the newly elected President.

It seems imperative that we take a new look at our policy of selecting an editor, and amend our By-Laws if necessary.

Since our publication is of great importance to our wide-spread membership, perhaps we should have a Publication Committee empowered to act in emergencies.

(PF-000)

HORATIO ALGER A PHILOSOPHER ?

In 1962 Professor Rychard Fink wrote an introduction for a series of paperback editions of Horatio Alger stories for the Crowell-Collier Publishing Co. He chose for a title of his introductory remarks, Horatio Alger as a Social Philosopher, and the result of his research work was prepared from the Herbert R. Mayes interpretation and image of our hero, entitled Alger: A Biography Without A Hero, (1928)

And on our official Society letter-head we announce the purpose of our organization beginning with these words: "To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger Jr." etc. The creed, designed by Founder, Kenneth B. Butler, is a great one. One to live by, and one to promote in preserving the image of our hero.

There is something strange in the way we as individuals can chart and steer our course to a common goal of mutual admiration. We have many ways in expressing our individual interest and individual routes to a common goal. Admiration through ownership of fine volumes, which you might compare with our modern toll roads. Then there is the back roads approach where you can stop and drink in the beauty of historical fact, a way of life, style and ideals, and of course the commercial approach in which we hope to supplement our income. From the combination of these individual approaches the Society emerges as a composite; a sort of caravan, and a traveling companion with whom to share our individual interest.

Just recently we have had an inquiry from Classic Guidelines of Milwaukee for some representative philosophical remarks of Horatio Alger to be added to their line of merchandise offered to the public at large. My personal reaction was, Horatio Alger a philosopher?

In my reply to this inquiry I remarked, "Hardly anyone thinks of Horatio Alger Jr. as a philosopher, yet many people are aware of his principles." I could be far from right in this assumption, yet it was my individual assessment. This may be true or false, depending upon the indi-

dual viewpoint. Since interest has been shown in his philosophy, principles or advice, call it what you may, it points up our need to pursue this phase of our research reading. In addition to our research for historical fact and the cataloging of other data, we should also search for his philosophical remarks.

When this inquiry suggested a new phase of research to me, I had been reading the story of Rough & Ready, and I recalled reading some remarks which might qualify. Hastily, and without the benefit of any previous cataloging, I reviewed what I had just read and found two gems which I immediately sent in to the Milwaukee firm. They were acknowledged and accepted, and samples of their product will be on display at our Kalamazoo Occasion.

These philosophical remarks can be in the form of a complete departure from the dialogue of the story where he inserts a paragraph of advice to his boy readers, or it may be in the form of putting philosophical remarks in the mouths of the heroes he creates.

Armed with this bit of self-taught aid, and with a feeling that the story of Ragged Dick should be rich with philosophical advice, I began the story for the nth time with a notebook and pencil at my side.

Almost immediately I was rewarded with a timely gem which can be found in the opening chapter.

"No boy of fourteen can smoke without being affected injuriously. Men are frequently injured by smoking, and boys always.....Horatio Alger Jr."

This bit of advice was good when it was written, and is still worth repeating today. The gems I found in the story of Ragged Dick were worthy of the research work that I did in this specific field. Since some of the gems are a combination of historical fact and timely advice, they cannot well be taken out of context and still be made suitable for any future references. I admonish you to research, catalog and report your findings. (PF-000)



"THAT WONDERFUL WORLD OF HORATIO ALGER"

AN ALGER TEST

What was the number of Ragged Dick's bank book?

What is the name of the famous man pictured here? He was well known around City Hall Park and Printing House Square. The street boys often mentioned him.

What Alger character in the story of Ragged Dick came from the Five Points?



The Five Points refer to one of the slum areas near City Hall Park in the days of Horatio Alger. The Five Points is just a few blocks in a north-easterly direction from City Hall Park. Its name was established because three streets, Baxter, Worth and Park converge here, forming five points of a star, plus a small park area, hence the name of one of the streets which is not to be confused with Park Row, a famous thoroughfare.

The Five Points was once on the edge of Little Collect which was a part of a much larger fresh water pond and used for drinking water, however, the water became unfit for human consumption and the pond was eventually filled in, draining it



into the canal. The Five Points was also just two blocks west of Chatham Square, which is the junction of The Bowery with Park Row.

The Five Points area pictured here, about 1860, was after the slum area had been cleared by the city, the welfare department and the aid societies, and replaced with better housing, missions, and places of industry for its destitute people.

Despite attempts to aid the people, many preferred to remain on the welfare rolls, and so poverty, vice and crime continued to exist. The children, uncontrolled and uncared for were permitted to roam the streets, to forage and shift for themselves. Some became wards of the court and placed in the missions, while others escaped the clutches of the law and resorted to stealing or begging in order to survive. Horatio Alger became thoroughly familiar with the area.

Any street vagabond or urchin identified with the Five Points was promptly labeled dishonest, unreliable, shiftless, and a trouble maker, and would eventually spend some time on Blackwell's Island. This was the contrast to an Alger hero.

(PF-000)