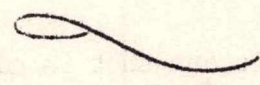
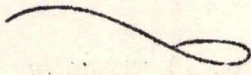


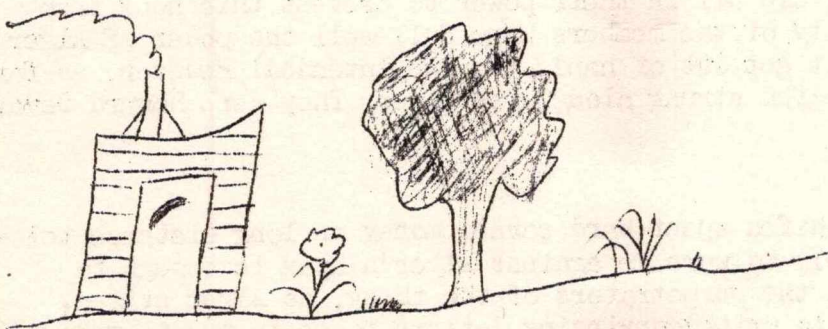
"THE



ALGER



STORY"



A ONE SHOT FROM THE OUTHOUSE PRESS

FOR 21ST SAPS MLG.

Herein is an attempt to reveal the inner workings of the mind of Martin E. Alger, the Photo-Fanatic Lensman, alleged Science Fiction Fan residing alternately in Royal Oak, Michigan, and Mickinaw City, Michigan.

This is the attempt to show, by a single action, the nastiness and perverted sense of humor lying behind the bland, mustached face of Alger. Admittedly, the character of a man is his own making, and the interpretation of character is usually left up to other individuals. However, when one man can make so many enemies merely by attempts at humor, something must be assumed to be radically wrong.

This one-shot is admittedly an attack on Martin Alger. It is an attack on his character (but not character assassination) and an attempt to show him the wrongness of his ways.

It is not our intent to ridicule Alger or to try to run him out of Fandom. We just want him to realize that humor of the type he employs, rather than entertaining, destroys something. It destroys a man's self-respect and, in more than one instance, has aided in making a Fan decide to leave Fandom.

We all like humor. But when such humor turns to vituperous nastiness that cannot be stomached, even by those who originate the ideas, something must be rotten somewhere.

I'll not go into Alger's attacks on various Fen. They are known well enough throughout Fandom by those who have been in any length of time at all. I shall, in this, The Alger Story, take apart his latest escapade, The Alger-Shapiro Special Delivery Hoax.

This episode is unique in that it is the only case we can recall where an entire organization, plus other individuals, supposedly went all out to hoax one Fan. That Fan was myself, Hal Shapiro. The club was supposed to be the Michigan Science Fantasy Society.

However, we shall show in this publication that the MSFS did not take part in the hoax and, on the contrary, did all in their power to prevent this hoax from being carried out. The majority of the members knew full well the power of Alger's vitriolic pen and how easily it got out of hand. (No pun intended) However, as far as can be determined, two Michifens strung along with Alger. They were Howard Devore and Riva Simalanski.

The fact that various Michifens spent hard earned money on long distance telephone calls and telegrams simply to warn me against Alger's hoax is enough to convince me that they were not the perpetrators of the thing, as Alger states. The fact that the only person to write convincing letters to me to try to make me think it was real should be enough to prove to anyone that Alger and Devore were the only ones who thought the thing was funny, and continued to think it funny even after the rest of the MS FS saw it deteriorate into a typical Algeristic piece of nastiness.

We just want Alger to realize what lasting harm his "wit" can do, and to change his tune somewhat. We, in Michigan, do not want another fabulous Lancy-type character in our midst. Personally, I like Alger. I think he's a nice guy. And as soon as he decides to change his songs and become companionable, I shall be among the first to welcome him back.

This is how it all happened. Martin Alger sent out a mimeographed letter stating that the Michigan Science Fantasy was disbanded. Upon getting this letter, I, Hal Shapiro, sat down and composed on the stencil a letter stating that the organization was still a going one, and stating several reasons. This, I sent to Alger to be mimeographed and sent out to all those who had received the other, since Alger would be the only ones to have their addresses. I also believed that he was open minded enough to take the criticism in this letter, since it was supported by facts.

Instead, this is what Alger did. He received the stencil and his mind hatched a plot. He would send out a lot of these letters, telling people to write me telling me that they had received them special delivery. He also sent me a copy special delivery stating that he had sent out the rest that way and would soon bill me for the stamps.

Something was fishy. I didn't think that Alger was stupid enough to pull a stunt like that. So, I sat back and waited. I didn't have long to wait. The next day, five letters arrived. One was from Howard Devore who called me every name under the sun, revoked my membership in the Morgan Botts Foundation, called me some more names, said that he was kicking me out of the MSFS, and told me to keep my hands out of Michigan.

The other four letters were from four Michifens who told me that Alger had hatched this plot and that they didn't like it.

I decided to play along, seeing no harm in it. So, I sent Alger a typically asinine letter, stating that we weren't friends any more and making some other remarks. I also sent Howard a letter telling him that it was all Alger's fault and, in general, trying to exonerate myself. This was also a fugg headed letter which no Fan could take seriously. But, apparently both Alger and Devore bit in thinking that I'd fallen for their gag.

Well, I didn't hear from anyone else for almost two weeks, so thought that the thing had died a natural death. Being able to pull boners myself, when I want to, I decided to try to keep it alive, so sent Alger another typical fugg headed postcard telling him that I wanted the bill for the stamps, insisted on paying it, etc., just so I could tell Fandom what a dirty SOB he was, and added that he wasn't welcome at the party I would throw for Michifen at the ChiCon.

The next day I got a postcard from Alger stating that there would be a MSFS picnic meeting Sunday and that he would explain there that it had all been his idea. So, I wrote another postcard, apologizing to Alger, thinking that he had seen the light and would call it all off. This was not to be the case.

At the meeting, he told the MSFS of his new plot. He supposedly had told them it was all his fault, etc., but they didn't believe him. So they were to send me an open letter telling me so. At that meeting, several MSFSers openly rebelled, but Alger and Devore went right ahead, signing their names to the letter also. Sunday night I received two telephone calls telling me about it. Monday night I received a long distance telephone call on the same subject. Tuesday I got a telegram. Wednesday another phone call. Apparently, not all the MSFSers were with Alger.

Then the letters started coming. They wanted me to try to slap Alger down, to run him out of Fandom, to tell him off, to do all sorts of things. Wednesday night I sat down and composed a letter, supposedly by Alice Douglas, explaining

the matter and thinking, as I had hoped with the letters to Alger and others, that it would shame him into revealing the thing as a hoax. No soap. He had already published his own unique little zine called Dwarf Variable, The smudgy fanzine for smutty fans (We publish all the dirt) and that's what it was. In addition to the attack on me, there was a slanderous item about Ben Singer and at least one filthy remark concerning Nancy Moore, as well as an item gloatingly recalling how Alger had made a fool out of a physicist at the MidwestCon, he says.

Up to this point, I had believed that Alger and I were just engaging in a friendly feud. In fact, up to this point in my fannish career, I had engaged in no feuds except friendly ones. I could see no point in not being friendly with anyone, even though you held different views. Alger, apparently, didn't share my "live and let live" philosophy. If someone opposed him, he was after that person until hell froze over.

Well, this one-shot shall be my last word on the subject. I don't intend to be dragged into any fight where one has to slander and be slandered, use filth to fight filth and untruths to fight lies. In The Alger Story, I shall expose the many lies Alger told; I shall reproduce, as much as the post office will allow, the publications and letters exchanged. I shall, inshort, tell the full story of The Alger-Shapiro Special Delivery Hoax. I bar no holds and, as far as I know, tell no lies. After the story, in the last few pages of this publication, I shall reproduce letters I received from Michifen and others urging me to fight Alger.

+ + + + +
This is what started it all. The following letter was mailed out by Alger to Michifen and others. It was headed, in large letters, "MSFS Disbanded."

I was elected president of the MSFS on a "cure or kill" program and by now the stench is so strong there can no longer be any doubt as to which result was achieved. So now I'm going to bury it!

When the activity program was proposed all the members were very much in favor of the idea. They talked a very active club but talk was about all they did. The steam that should have been spent pounding typewriters came out of their mouths instead. With four contributions from some 30 or 35 so-called fans I suppose we should claim about 12% success.

Anyway this seems like a good time to finish the club as the rowdy behavior of the membership has already made the MSFS unwelcome in the homes of most of the members. ((Who, except Alger, Devore and Similanski?--hal)) (After all, one can't expect people to tolerate fans, as Lancy says.)

Perhaps in closing it would be appropriate to enumerate some of the MSFS-DSFL'S notable achievements--

1. Planned more conventions than any other group. ((No! Talked about some and decided they were not feasible. Held two in 1948 which were great successes.))
2. Created more fanzine titles than any other group.
3. Developed a bomb small and cheap enough that every fan can afford one, yet powerful enough to create a city-wide sensation. ((One member, opposed by others, set off a bomb on Art Rapp's front lawn.))
4. Discovered it is not necessary to have ever read stf to be a fan. ((Brought one or two friends to a meeting is more like it.))
5. Had several members active in the famous Shaver Mystery, two of whom are still 4-F for psycho reasons. ((One MSFSer was a Shaver fan. So what? Is it criminal to hold unpopular beliefs? The matter of his non-entry into the Armed Forces is merely a matter of conjecture.)) ((Sorry, #'s 4 and 5 should be transposed.))

6. Held several meetings devoted to detailed and highly fanciful speculations regarding the sexual behavior and capacity of our female members. ((In any stag gathering you will find men who will talk about sex and females. In any female gathering you will find the same thing about the male sex. So what?))
7. MSFS members gave fandom the "beanie" tradition. ((Is that something of which we should be ashamed?))
8. Had several members active in levitation, palmistry, spiritualism and similar highly scientific fields. ((Had one member who claimed to be a metaphysician. He practiced all these things. There were some curious MSFSers who fiddled around with these things hoping to learn more. Is that being "active" in them?))

Martin E. Alger

Ex-President of Ex-MSFS

Upon receiving a copy, I stenciled this answer.

MICHIGAN SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY

790th AC/W Squadron
Kirksville, Missouri
May 31, 1952

Greetings,

Please pardon me if this is a bit incoherent, but it is being composed directly on to the stencil. And the reason for its composition is a circular letter I received, and you, no doubt, received from Martin Alger, president of the MSFS.

That letter announced that Alger was dissolving the MSFS because it had failed to live up to the Activities Requirement Program enacted some time last December. So, taking the easiest way out, Alger states that the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society is no longer in existence. Simply because he doesn't care to take any sort of an active part in the club management any more. ((It might be interesting to note that in the note I enclosed with the stencil I stated that while, technically, we would be feuding, I wanted to remain friendly, and that he wasn't to take what I said on the stencil too seriously.))

I say that Alger has no right to do this. If the Activities Requirements Program cannot be made to work, then let's junk it rather than the group.

Let me review a little of the history of Michifandom. Sometimes in the thirties there was Slan Shack in Battle Creek which migrated, en masse, to Los Angeles to form the nucleus of the LASFS. Michifandom was declared dead. In the late thirties and early forties there was the Galactic Roamers which counted, among its members, Alger and Doc EE Smith. ((I have been informed since this letter went out that over half of Slan Shack remained in Michigan and was the Galactic Roamers.)) This organization too felt the ax, possibly because of the WWII draft. In 1946, The Detroit Hypoborians held the lead until various members, bolting from Technocratic rule, formed the MSFS. ((Devore said, "They were kicked out. . ." Actually, it was the same as a worked quitting a company and his boss saying, "You can't quit. I just fired you."))

The Michigan Science-Fantasy Society has had many stormy and turbulent days and was thought dead many times, only to arise again. But we have never willingly declared ourselves out of the running. The entrance of Ben Singer into the Air Force in 1948 saw the departure of a man who, single handedly, had raised the Misfits to national, even inter-national prominence. Singer came back a changed man. The departure of Art Rapp and George Young, several altercations between the various factions and other things led to further fissures. The DSFL and the Wolverine Insurgents, the "true Fen" and the "poker players," everything testifies

to the fact that StFen in Michigan still want to get together. Why, then, destroy our best organization?

I declare that the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society is still a going organization. I was elected interim vice-president last December to help re-form the club. I re-claim that position and declare that a committee composed of Martin Alger, Ben Singer, Howard Devore and myself shall meet at a date to be set later (probably in July) to re-organize the MSFS on a different footing, as a fun and social group, to be connected with two inter-national groups, the BACHELOR'S StF ASSOCIATION OF THE WORLD and THE LITTLE MONSTERS OF AMERICA, whose numbers will soon be affiliated. ((The committee idea was to get the heads of the two factions together to work out something. However, due to this thing the meeting will not be held. In fact, I am going to do as Devore asked in his letter. I shall keep my hands off of Michi-Fandom--until I get back to Detroit as a civilian which, I hope, shall be soon.))

We rode along without any sort of activities Requirements in 1947-48 (as I know from personal experience) and probably a few more years, with members doing work because they wanted to work for the club, not because they had to. The MSFS was at the top of the heap. Now look at us, if you care.

I expect to be discharged from the AF this year. Art Rapp and George Young and other Misfits in service will be discharged soon. I expect to come back to a young and healthy organization. I want other ServiFen to do so too. Let's resurrect George Young's old rallying call and "Get on the beam with the Michigan team."

/s/ Hal Shapiro, DB

Then came the deluge of stuff. After the venomous letters had been exchanged, and a questioning card arrived from Redd Boggs, and numerous other things, I put out a single sheet, as follows and, to keep Alger from finding out how I got my information, signed the name, Alice Douglas to it. This is how it went:

H-O-W I-O-W C-A-N A F-A-N G-E-T ?

Not an easy question to answer, is it? But I shall try. This is Alice Douglas writing on a government owned typewriter in the office of Hal Shapiro in Missouri.

Hal is a great guy. I like him. But too much is too much. Never before in the history of Fandom has a trick like the one played on him been played. Read on, please.

Recently, Martin Alger, president of the Michigan Science Fantasy Society, without any authorization save his own audacity, took it upon himself to dissolve the Michigan SFS. He sent out a mimeographed letter stating that the club was dissolved and which Hal thinks will be distributed in the 90th SAPS mailing. I'm trying to get this into that mailing too, as well as sending it to all Michigan fans who are not Saps.

The fact of the matter is that Hal sat down and had the energy to stencil out a reply which he sent to Alger to be mimeographed and mailed out to all those who had received the other letter. Alger mailed it out all right, and he sent Hal a copy special delivery stating that they had all been sent out special delivery and he would soon send Hal a statement for stamps. Needless to say, they were never sent out special delivery. It is the first time that such a hoax has been perpetrated by an entire club on one man. However, Hal pretended to be mad and wrote

Alger a sizzling letter, thinking that this would shame him into revealing it. Instead, Martin had other MSFS members send Hal sizzling letters complaining about the early morning delivery. ((That is, Alger urged more letters. None were ever sent, Devore's being the only one, and that at the first time.)) A letter even arrived from Redd Boggs. ((Sorry. It was a card from Boggs. And the card merely asked, "What's with this special delivery business? Has the MSFS gone whackey again?"))

Plaing along with all this. Hal wrote back explaining the thing and to people in on the hoax (Martin Alger, Howard Devore, Redd Boggs, Steve Metchette) who had written particularly vitriolic letters, he sent letters complaining about Alger, calling him every name under the sun and, in general, stating that Alger was not welcome at any place where he happened to be. ((In my effort for spontaneous content, I made an error. Boggs should not have been mentioned here. Neither should Metchette, or Alger either for that matter. Devore was the only one who wrote a vitriolic letter. Metchette's letter was confused, as if he didn't want to participate in this asininity.))

Then came an apologetic letter (to Hal from Martin) stating that "art apologized for the thing. It hadn't gone over as he had expected and that, at a Sunday picnic meeting (June 22) he was going to explain to all assembled that it was all his fault. Well, the meeting came around and Alger hatched a further plot. To wit. Everyone was going to sign a letter to send Shapiro saying that they thought he was a general all around SOB and they didn't think Alger capable of such a thing and why didn't he take his beating like a man. That letter is probably still on the way here to Missouri. ((I mimeo'd this thing Wednesday morning, June 25, and the letter arrived in the afternoon.)) I took a train down Monday (it is now Wednesday the 25th) to tell Hal about it, only to learn that he had somehow been kept informed all along.

Perhaps the laugh isn't all on Shapiro. He has been sending cards around recently apologizing for "making a Laney-type ass" of himself and trying, in general, to make Alger look pretty sick. ((Only two such cards were ever sent out, one to Alger.)) I just want to see Alger get the boot in the pants he deserves. ((This last sentence is a quote from a letter I received from a Michifan.))

As Hal's letter stated, "This is pretty incoherent as I am typing it directly on to the stencil. But I hope that you can read through this anger and see that I am correct. Hal didn't want me to send this in to Saps, saying that it was all a Michigan feud, but I think I convinced him otherwise. ((At the time I was debating with myself the advisability of taking the thing out of Michigan. I am debating no longer. While this particular incident may concern only Michiganders, Alger's doings certainly do not.))

thanks for reading this
alice douglas

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Then came the open letter. As a matter of interest, I'll reproduce it below:

Open Letter Harold Shapiro
June 21, 1952

The following events have occurred today ---- ((note that the letter is dated one day prior to the picnic. It wasn't postmarked until June 24, 12 noon))

A rather large group of ex-MSFS members convened today for a picnic and the following statements were made by Alger;

- I. That he was wholly responsible for our receiving your message in the wee, small hours of the morning.
- II. That he did it deliberately to finish the job of disrupting the club. ((Up to this time I hadn't been aware that Alger was deliberately trying to break up the MSFS. However, several letters seem to bear out this contention.))
- III. That it was done on a spur of the moment impulse, just as a fan gag.

We have been discussing this ever since Alger left. The argument has been rather one-sided and we've settled on the following-

That Maryin is too decent to have done something of this nature.

That you are undoubtedly behind his confession and the whole deal. After all, we all know who the funny boy of the MSFS is and always has been. Who had "shocking" books, exploding wands, Invention Reports and similar tricks, and it isn't Alger. ((The first two items were part of a stock of magical items I had in 1948 when I was trying to learn magic. The third thing couldn't be called a trick. A hoax? Yes. But not a trick.)) ((and it is the type of hoax that does not defame people of attack them.))

The only point on which we disagree is--

The possibility that you have convinced

Alger he is equally to blame and should share the responsibility.

The possibility

that Alger has realized that this could just about ruin you in fandom and has voluntarily taken the blame to clear you, knowing fandom will be far easier on an old, established fan like himself than on a comparatively new fan like yourself. ((I'm glad he said "comparatively" new fan. While I may not be an ancient relic of the past, having come in as recently as 1947, I have been in longer than all but one of the supposed signers of this letter.))

We think in all fairness that you should admit that it is, and was, all your fault and since Alger is planning on buying a new car next month, you should forward his money at once. ((The fact that I enclosed a check which more than covered expenses seems to have been conveniently forgotten by all concerned. Me too.))

We, the following ex-Michifans, feel strongly about this,

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Nancy Moore | Ben Singer |
| Riva Smilansky | Agnes Harook |
| Roger Sims | Howard Devore |
| Gordon Black | Sybil Devore |
| Les Snyder | Ed Kuss |

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It seems strange to me that two of the Michifen who oppose Alger the strongest were placed at the head of the two lists of names. Also, I have heard from more than one person who "signed" this letter, informing me that it was a hoax. Also, the names were not signed. They were typed by Devore's typewriter.

I would just like to quote a sentence in a letter I received recently concerning this open letter. It was, incidently, by one of the "signers." The "signer" said, and I quote, " I think Devore has already written the thing and mailed it, signed with our names. I'd like to sue him for forgery."

Now, all the preceeding would not have been so bad, had Alger (or I) been able to let it lie. However, Alger, having run out of an ordinary person's humor began to cast about and came up with some more of his filth. I quote, almost in toto, from Dwarf Variable, The smudgy fanzine for smutty fans (We publish all the dirt). It is billed as: the first carbonzine of Martin E. Alger, the sage of Center Street. Carbon copied, I'm not sure how many copies he got out. But, to quote.

GREAT FAN HOAX! Harold Shapiro in a gibbering frenzy!

Shortly after I put out the bulletin disbanding the MSFS I got a letter from Harold Shapiro, ex-Michifan now in the Air Force in Missouri. ((I resent these inferences to me, and others, as ex-Michifen. We're about as ex as today's baby.)) The letter was mostly devoted to asking me to run off a stencil which he had enclosed and mail to the fans who had received the disbanding bulletin. The stencil denounced me for disbanding the club and announced that it was still alive and that Shapiro was going to reorganize it. ((The stencil denounced Alger's action, not Alger. I stated that Alger, Devore, Singer and myself would meet to try to reorganize. I did not say I was going to reorganize the MSFS.)) It happened that there was a sort of informal gathering of the ex-Michifen a few days after I got the stencil and at the gathering I mentioned the stencil and that I thought Shapiro had a lot of nerve asking me to publish a thing denouncing my own actions. ((and he always forgets to mention that I paid for what was done and left Alger a slight profit.)) I suggested that it might offer a chance to pull some sort of a gag on him. Someone suggested I send out all the copies of his announcement special delivery and bill him for the stamps. Then it was suggested I tell him I'd sent them special delivery. ((He forgets to mention that he made all the suggestions.)) At last we ((Alger)) decided on this plan, I ran it off, mailed out the 40 or so copies regular mail but- I sent one to Shapiro and one to his brother in law Furcsik by special delivery and in the one I sent Shapiro I mentioned that I had sent out about 100 copies special delivery as he had sounded anxious and I'd bill him for the postage and special delivery charges later. ((Funny that neither George nor Edith (my brother-in-law and sister) mentioned receiving a special delivery envelope with fan crud in it from me.))

Then I got on the phone and urged all the ex-Michifen to write to him and mention the fact that his thing came special delivery. ((I pause to quote another letter: Possibly Redd Boggs did get a SD letter from King Martin. However, none of us, Aggie, Ben, Gordon Black, me, or any of the other regular members received any sort of letter at all. All I got was a phone call from Alger and he said he was calling all of the others to let them in on his juvenile hoax too.)) Howard Devore wrote a letter telling how he had got home at 1:00 AM after working two shifts only to have the postman pound on his door at 2:30 AM. Roger Sims promised to write and tell him it came while he was out of town and that his parents were enraged at being awakened in the wee hours just for his fan crap and that they won't let fans in the house as a result of let him go to any more fan meetings. ((The fact that I didn't get this letter seems to indicate that Sims realized what he had said and reneged.))

Shapiro exploded! I got a letter from him full of four letter words ((I defy Alger to show me any four-letter words in that letter which can be construed as curses. Of course, there are other four letter words, such as four, word. I presume that that is what he meant.)), the gist of which was--
 1. The whole MSFS is a bunch of bastards. ((I neither said nor implied any such thing. This is purely a figment of Alger's overworked imagination.))
 2. You timed it so that the announcement would be delivered in the wee hours and make people mad.
 3. You are not welcome in my home ever again or in any fan organization I'm in. ((I figured that, by making such figgheaded statements, he'd realize that I hadn't bitten.)) In short, he bit on the gag.

Then Devore got a letter claiming it was all my fault and full of apology for getting him up at 2:30 AM but at the same time he sounded sort of sore at Devore too!

About a week later I sent Shapiro a card telling him there was to be a picnic next weekend and that I would explain that it was all my idea and that he wasn't to blame. We had our picnic and there cooked up this idea. An open letter to Harold Shapiro was drawn up ((by Alger and Devore)), the gist of which is; at the picnic Alger took all the blame and said it was his idea, but we don't believe it. ((Oh yes, a letter claims that Alger came to the picnic all prepared to explain a new wrinkle in his hoax. The fact that the card he sent me was postmarked June 19 seems to bear this out.)) Alger is too decent to do something like this and it is just the sort of thing we would expect from you. We think Alger just is taking the rap for you because he knows a trick like this would ruin a nofan like you. Why don't you stand up and take the blame for your own idea instead of passing it off on someone else. Also Alger is buying a new car and the only fair decent thing you can do is send him the money for the Special Delivery stamps. This was signed ((?)) by Ben, Nancy, the Devores, Reva, Roger, Gordon Black, Les, Ed Kuss, and Agnes Harok. We await the second explosion! Fans are more fun than anybody! Odd how these "funny boys" like Shapiro are the ones who can't take it and blow up the hardest. So far, it has worked out perfectly and we intend to egg him on as long as we can. ((Actually, that should be worded, ". . .and I intend to egg him on as long as I can." Martin is much too modest.))

In a way Shapiro has revived the MSFS! Now we have a purpose and goal, our "Let's slap down this upstart Shapiro" program has drawn more support ((where?)) than all the other projects of the last two or three years. However, I don't think this is quite the way Shapiro wanted to unite the club.

Being the egotistical bird he is, I expect he will be just as mad when he finds out he has been the victim of a hoax.

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That wasn't all there was to the "exatty" fanzine. Alger made it live up to its name for, in the following paragraph was a slanderous item stating that Ben Singer was driving Nancy Moore into the WAC. It reads: We all expected Ben Singer to drive her to some sort of horrible end and as Devore said "I guess this is it." We wonder if Ben will be able to live on her allotment checks?

The next item slandered Ben and Nancy and passed on at least one lewd remark about them both. Just curious, Alger. Do you have to stop to snort to be funny? I like it as much as the next guy. But dirty jokes and the like, to me, are something to be told in private groups, not bandied about in fanzines or any other sort of publication. and there is a lot of difference between a risque story and your type of filth.

The next item was a statement of how Alger claims to have made a fool of a physicist at the MidWestCon and ends by slandering him.

Next follows the masthead and, finally, a late filler, thusly: Haw! Just got a postcard from the foaming Shapiro in which he informs me that he has a single room at the Chicon and that he will hold a party for the Michifon and that I'm not invited and that he will try to find out where my room is so that he can stay as far away as possible. (I wonder if I should take that as a threat or a promise?)

Also, Martin, do you think that I would actually say something like that on a postcard if I meant it? I usually keep my private views, when they might be scorching, in a sealed envelope. I hadn't started taking my letters to you seriously until the publication of Dwarf Variable.

Today, as this stencil is being cut, it is Monday, August 11. A lot of things have happened since page 8 was cut, some time in July. First, I have just returned from a ten-day stay in Detroit where I was called to attend to some personal matters. While there, I found out some very interesting things.

I talked to Ben Singer, Nancy Moore, Aggie Harook, Howard Devore, Joyce McDaniel and some non-fans. I found that a current rumor to the effect that Nancy Moore is joining the WAC is entirely unfounded. It was started by Devore who, in his perverted little sense of humor, is trying to emulate Alger. He called the WAC recruiting office, gave them Nancy's name and address, and then spread the word about that she was joining. I don't know what it caused in Detroit, but here, it made me spend money I couldn't afford to call her, write her and telegraph her to talk her out of it.

I also discovered that Alger did not have the courage to send either Singer or Moore a copy of his Dwarf Variable, in which he had slandered them.

But, to get back on the main theme of The Alger Story. When I first thought of publishing this thing, I wrote to several Michifon asking them what they thought of the whole thing. People I contacted, or who contacted me, included, Ben Singer, Nancy Moore, Elliot Broderick, Roger Sims, Gordon Black, Ray and Perdita Nelson, Alice Oman, Aggie Harook, Steve Ketchotte, Les Snyder, Ed Kuss and others. Here are quoted some of the things which were said in letter to me. I'll finish off The Alger Story, by quoting them and letting you draw your own conclusions.

"Enclosed find the truth about Alger's latest childish, stupid prank. If this develops into a feud, we are on your side, 100%." Enclosed was a letter written by Alger to this fellow and his wife. "This is all Devore's and Alger's doing and confidentially I've come to hate their guts. They have nothing better to do with their time than ridicule people and try to make others seem like jackasses when they are themselves both the biggest that ever brayed." "We were such a sadistic bunch of bastards that when Alger suggested his little deal, almost everyone agreed." "I'd love to see him made the laughing stock of fandom. Something that will really disgrace him in the eyes of all fandom!" "Possibly Redd Boggs did get a SD letter from King Martin. However, none of us...Aggie, Ben, no, Gordon Black, or any of the other regular members, received any sort of letter at all. All I got was a phone call from Algey and he said he was calling all the others to let them in on his juvenile hoax." "I think that most of the others feel the same way about it as I do, but won't say anything for fear of having Martin's wrath turned on them. He is a frustrated, rabble-rousing moron, and Howard is no better." "Ben /Singer/ is doing his best to keep peace with King Martin, despite the fact that his and Devore's needling turns sometimes to downright insults. Ben has to have a minor operation--a wisdom tooth that has grown in too big and is pushing against his jaw has to be cut out--and even that has become a target for their insults. Neither of them ever wanted an organized group in Detroit and they both slam Geo Young with remarks and insults that they'd never have the courage to say to his face, even if good-natured Bung would only laugh them off." "When Alger first told me about the hoax I agreed to play along, it seemed only a harmless fan-prank. But when I saw Alger's gloating face at the party I nearly vomited into the potato chip bowl." And there was one little tour-de-force which ended, "Yours for anti-Algerism."

Well, there you have it. The Alger Story. The statements made at the beginning of this, to the effect that I still like Alger and wish to hell that he's change his tune a bit, still go. What about is Mart? I've had my say. The rest is up to you.

... as this story is being out at its length, August 11. A lot of things have happened since page 2 was out some time ago. First, I have had several not from a regular stay in Detroit where I was called to attend to some personal matters. While there, I found out some very interesting things.

I talked to Tom Singer, Nancy Hester, Aggie Kasper, Edward Dovers, David Johnson and some others. I found that a certain rumor to the effect that Nancy Hester is having the SAC is entirely unfounded. It was started by Dovers who, in his own mind, thought it was some of humor, as trying to make the SAC. He called the SAC's office, gave them Nancy's name and address, and then spread the word about that she was having. I don't know what he caught in Detroit, but he said he had no record money I couldn't expect to call her, write her and telephone her to get her out of it.

I also discovered that Alger did not have the courage to read the Singer or Moore's copy of his Black Vortex, in which he had slandered her.

... got back on the main theme of the Alger story. When I first thought of publishing this thing, I wrote to several Michigan friends whom I thought of the writing. People I contacted, or who contacted me, included Tom Singer, Nancy Hester, Elliot Prochack, Roger Sims, Gordon Black, Ray and Barbara Wilson, Alice O'Connell, Aggie Kasper, Steve Wachtel, Joe Snyder, Ed Lass and others. Here are some of the things which were said in letters to me. I'll finish off the Alger story by quoting them and letting you draw your own conclusions.

... that the truth about Alger's latest childish antics is that he is a total failure. We are on your side, 100%. Attached was a letter written by Alger to this fellow and his wife. "This is all Dovers's and Alger's doing and completely I've seen to hate their guts. They have nothing better to do with their time than ridiculing people and try to make others look like jackasses when they are themselves both the biggest that ever lived." "I've seen a number of mistakes that when Alger suggested his little book, almost everyone argued. "I'd love to see him make the laughing stock of London. Something that will really shake him in the eyes of all London." "Possibly he'd do as well as a 30 letter from King Martin. However, none of us, Aggie, Tom, or Gordon Black, or any of the other regular members, received any sort of letter at all. All I got was a phone call from Alger and he said he was calling all the others to let them in on his juvenile hoax." "I think that most of the others took the same way about it as I do, but won't say anything for fear of having Martin's wrath turned on them. He is a frustrated, rattle-brained moron, and Howard is no better." "Tom Singer is doing his best to keep peace with King Martin, despite the fact that his and Dovers's gooding terms sometimes to downright things. Tom has to have a minor revolution-wisdom tooth that has grown in too big and is pushing against his jaw has to be cut out even though he has a great fear of their justice. Neither of them ever wanted an organized group in Detroit and they both aim to come with remarks and insults that they never have the courage to say to his face, even if good-natured they would only laugh them off." "When Alger first told me about the book I agreed to give him, it seemed only a harmless far-funk, but when I saw Alger's floating face at the party I nearly vomited into the potato chip bowl." "And there was one little four-de-force which ended, 'Yours for anti-Algerian'."

Well, there you have it. The Alger story. The statements made at the beginning of this, to the effect that I still like Alger and wish to help him in his change his name will go. What about it, Harry? I'm not saying anything. The rest is up to you.