

Official publication of the HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY,
a magazine devoted to the study of Horatio Alger, Jr.,
his life, works, and influence on the culture of America.

Newsboy

JACK BALES, Editor
Belmont
224 Washington Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22405



Horatio Alger Jr.

1832 - 1899



Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth B. Butler

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Convention Issue



HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY

To further the philosophy of Horatio Alger, Jr., and to encourage the spirit of Strive and Succeed that for half a century guided Alger's undaunted heroes--lads whose struggles epitomized the Great American Dream and flamed hero ideals in countless millions of young Americans.

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Newsboy is indexed in the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography.

The Society recognizes Bob Bennett's Horatio Alger, Jr.: A Comprehensive Bibliography, as the most current, definitive authority on Alger's works.

Newsboy ad rates: 1 page, \$32.00; one half page, \$17.00; one-fourth page, \$9.00; per column (1" x 3-3/4"), \$2.00. Send ads, with check payable to the Horatio Alger Society, to Bob Sawyer, 204 Mill Street, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-753 S. Percy Dean
8010 Esperanza Bay
Boynton Beach, FLA 33436

Percy learned of the HAS from Gil O'Gara, who mentioned it in his Yellowback Library. He collects humorous and political cartoon books and magazines, postcards, and comics. He is a retired from the Miami Police Department. Percy writes: "Ralph Gardner's and Gil Westgard's Sunday church service at the Unitarian Church in West Palm Beach was a huge success, and it prompted me to send in my application--with a little 'push' by Gil."

PF-754 John Peter Van Devere
11211 N. Freeway, #12
Houston, Texas 77037

John, a student, is interested in Alger, Philately, jewelry, and antiques. Jim Ryberg told him of the Alger Society.

PF-755 Benji Hara
918 S. W. 27th Way
Boynton Beach, FLA 33435

Benji saw the HAS convention sign on the motel during the last meeting, and he promptly joined up! He collects stamps, and enjoys gardening and amateur radio.

PF-756 G. H. Glassford
Lindenwald Lane
Downers Grove, IL 60515

G. H. heard of us at an antiques show. He is interested in sailing, sculpture, gardening, reading, and fishing. He is a surgeon.

PF-757 Lawrence R. Rice
20 Church Street, Box 181
Maine, New York 13802

Lawrence read about us in The Book of Buffs. Owner of 88 Algers, he is a Procedures Analyst at IBM. He writes:

"I have only one first edition and would like more, but am mainly interested in getting as many titles as possible." Lawrence also collects old 78 Gene Autry records.

PF-758 Salvador G. Mandine
59 Du Bois St.
Darien, CT 06820

Sal is an Assistant-Treasurer and is interested in Alger is nostalgic--"I read his books during the early thirties." Sal notes that a few years ago, the New York Times reported a meeting of the Alger Society, and that is how he learned of us.

PF-759 J. M. Clements
14022 Walters, #7083
Houston, Texas 77014

Jim Ryberg told J. M. about the HAS. He also collects Tom Swift, Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew.

PF-760 Donald E. Shoemaker
P.O. Box 402
Carnation, WA 98014

Donald owns 58 Algers, and heard of us through Dale Thomas. He is a real estate agent.

* * *
TWENTY-ONE IN THE SUN
by Gilbert K. Westgard II

When one hosts a convention of the Horatio Alger Society, the activities begin earlier, and last longer, than the schedule of events would indicate. For five days before the Thursday beginning at the open house at my home, various members were arriving at the Best Western Sage 'N Sand Motel where they relaxed and soaked in the pool and basked in the warm, Florida sunshine.

First to arrive was Bill Leitner, with his wife, Judy. They soon decided to visit a couple of local thrift shops in search of books. No Alger volumes were discovered, but Bill managed to find some by other authors who were to his liking and at least one item to contribute to

the HAS auction, which eventually brought sixteen times its thrift store price. Good going, Bill. Judy wanted to see some of the homes that were for sale, so we drove to one of the models, but found it closed. While Bill and I looked at what could be seen through the windows, Judy discovered the screened-in Florida room was open, and that the remainder of the house could be entered from the door beyond. She had just called to us from within the house when the burglar alarm sounded. Good going, Judy! We all beat a hasty retreat. So ended Saturday.

The next day, Sunday, Jerry and Elaine Friedland checked in. A call on the motel phone to Jerry let me know that Elaine was beside the pool, and that Jerry would soon be joining her. After a brief swim Jerry showed me the Alger volumes he had brought, and gave me the choice of one of them as a gift to add to my collection. It was a tough choice, but Jed, The Poorhouse Boy (in a first edition) will now have special memories for me of the one who so kindly presented it. Thank you, Jerry!

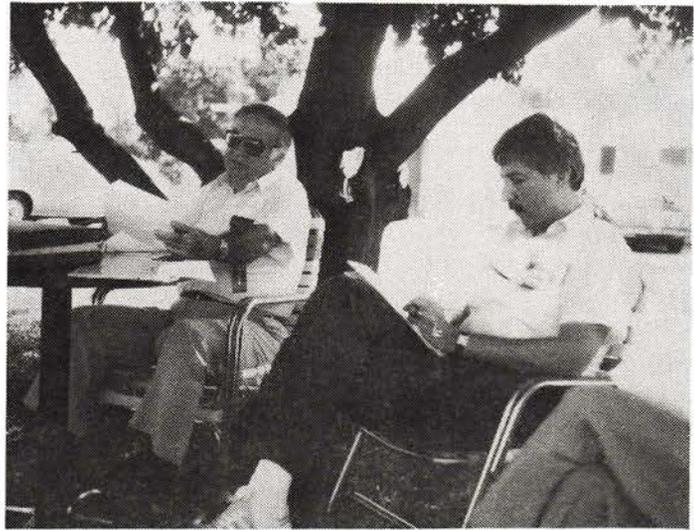
The Monday noon hour flight brought Ralph D. Gardner to the West Palm Beach Airport at the same time as the space shuttle was being launched at Cape Canaveral. The clouds prevented a view of the rocket's fiery tail in the sky, but Eastern Airlines settled gently onto the landing strip as scheduled, and within a few minutes Ralph had joined me for the drive to the motel. After lunch at the motel restaurant we sat beside the pool and discussed Alger. That evening we accompanied the Friedlands and the Leitners to a fine seafood restaurant in nearby Delray Beach.

On Tuesday Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas arrived. They were soon exploring the area and renewing friendships with those who had come earlier. We all remembered the HAS convention, "The Cleveland Connection," so ably hosted by Dale in 1979.

On Wednesday afternoon Ralph and I



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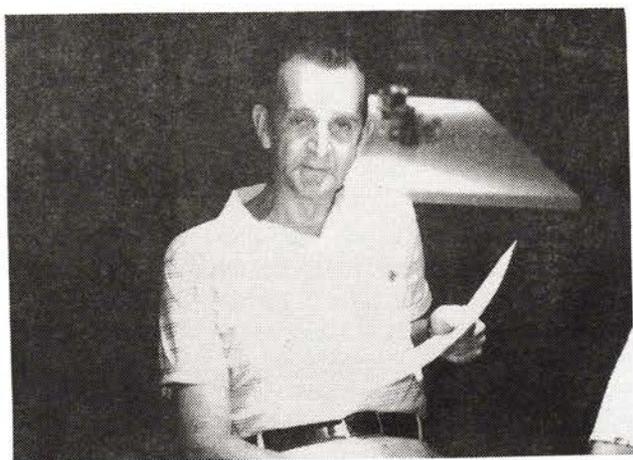
1. President Gene Hafner opens the meeting.
2. Gene Hafner speaks as Jim Ryberg takes notes.
3. John Walter, Rohima Walter, Jerry Friedland, Owen Cobb.
4. Bill Leitner, Dale Thomas, Judy Leitner, George Owens.
5. Jim Ryberg, John Juvinall, and George Owens.
6. John Walter, Rohima Walter.
7. Dale Thomas, Mary Ellen Thomas.
8. George Owens, Alice Owens, and her mother.
9. Owen Cobb.
10. Ann Sharrard, George Sharrard.



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were guests on WJNO radio. Our purpose was to discuss Horatio, his writings and ideals, and the work and purpose of the Society. We were also going to take calls from the listeners who were to nominate young people to receive a total of \$600 in bonds as our Strive and Succeed Award. There were no nominations, unfortunately, and so the money for this purpose was not spent.

Just after the radio broadcast Rohima and John C. Walther arrived on the train, having journeyed from Lafayette, Indiana via Chicago and Washington, D. C. It had been a long trip, and that evening we enjoyed a simple meal at a nearby Burger King.

Thursday brought our remaining members. Owen Cobb arrived in a sporty convertible, and was the envy of many until he was unable to fully close the top in a rain storm! Glenn and Lorraine Corcoran brought their relatives Chuck and Phyllis Glenn. Gene Hafner and John Juvinal got together at the airport, and drove down together in a rented car. Frank and Nan Jaques did not stay at the motel, but were present for various activities, having stayed in their condo in Boca Raton. George Locko was welcomed to his first Alger convention, and was soon making many new friends. George and Alice Owens brought Alice's mother along to see some of her childhood friends who were still living in Hallandale, where she had been raised. Jim Ryberg had a few first editions for sale from an Alger collection he had just purchased. Ann Sharrard and George drove in from their home in Gainesville, and were soon renewing friendships made at previous conventions. William and Nell Wright arrived in a van that was the largest vehicle at the motel.

Starting at about 7 p.m. everyone attended an open house at my home, about three miles from the motel. Delicious ham, very kindly furnished by Floyd R. Martin, formed the centerpiece of a repast that included potato salad, salami, cheese, chips, bread, beer and soda. Floyd furnishes hams to the White

House, and for anyone who wants the finest ham he's ever eaten, contact him at the address shown in your HAS Directory for some unforgettable eating. About 5,000 books lined the walls of the living room, including a complete Alger collection, and all but a few of the books of Oliver Optic and G. A. Henty. Above the entry to the Florida room are hung my HAS Award plaques, plates, items of Alger memorabilia, and two photographs of Edward Stratemeyer. After an hour and a half the guests left, only to gather again in the hospitality room at the motel, while I remained at home to straighten things up a bit, and to pack up remaining food and beverages for transportation to the motel.

Friday began with a trip to a donut shop to provide some edibles for our hospitality room. Here we gathered to decide just where to have our business meeting, which had been originally planned for an area beneath a large tree on the croquet course at the rear of the motel. However, the words written by Horatio in his poem, "Carving a Name," wherein he says, "I missed the shadow of the tree / That stretched of old upon the plain," were brought to mind when I found that only a day previous the tree had been cut down. The site for our meeting was therefore changed to the shade beneath a large tree just in front of the hospitality room. Here we arranged our chairs in a circle. This was the first time in twenty-one years that our meeting was held out-of-doors, and it was a pleasant innovation.

At the meeting we had the opportunity of meeting a new member, Mr. Benji Hara, and to hear how his father immigrated from Japan to the United States in 1898, and then used Alger's Mark Mason's Victory as a textbook for learning English at the turn of the century. Benji also told us something of his own experiences which were extremely interesting. He was on a tuna fishing boat with a Japanese-American crew that came into San Diego on December 8, 1941. The next three weeks he spent in jail.

Released, he returned to his home in San Pedro (Los Angeles) just in time to be sent off to an internment camp. After getting out of the camp he headed East to Philadelphia, but was unable to find work until, in the best Alger tradition, he took a trip to New York City and found a position with an electronics company. When the company moved to this area Benji came along.

In the afternoon quite a number of members went out to the Morikami Park and Museum of Japanese Culture in nearby Delray Beach. After hearing the story of the turn-of-the-century Yamato colony, we toured the museum, and then strolled along the nature trails. Near one of the bridges, with a waterfall in the background, we paused to toss food to catfish and koi that came to shore in expectation of something to eat. A couple of small snakes were also observed to be sunning themselves atop the lily-pads.

Some free time offered the opportunity to visit a hospital thrift store and a bookshop in Boca Raton. No Alger books were found, but Jim Ryberg was very successful in finding quite a number of items relating to Texas, while I added three volumes by H. Rider Haggard to my collection.

The evening brought everyone together at the Sun Wah Restaurant. Soup, egg-roll, sweet-sour pork, shrimp fried rice, bok choy chicken, noodles, tea and ice cream was provided in abundance. Following our repast Ralph Gardner administered one of his Alger Quizzes, which proved to be stimulating and provoking at the same time as it tested our knowledge of many of Alger's works. There was only a limited time remaining, so only one of the silent films scheduled, "Shadows," was presented. By 11 p.m. the events of the day were over, though even at that late hour members found their way to the hospitably room, while others visited in various rooms.

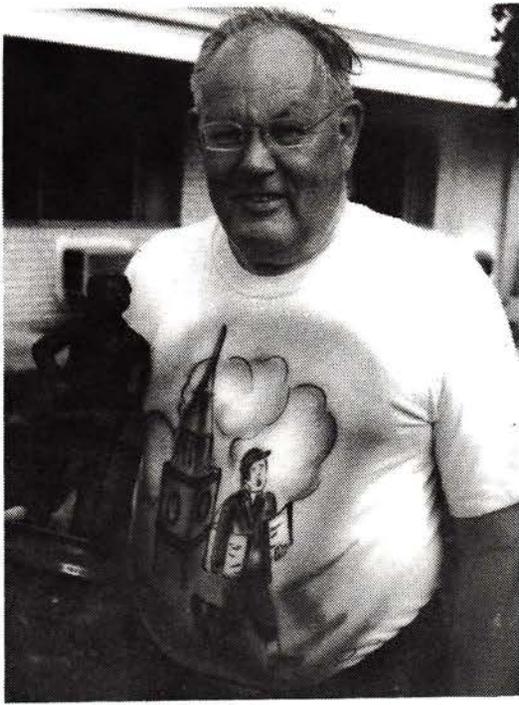
The Saturday morning book sale was

held outdoors, and lasted little more than an hour. Because many members came by air to Florida, and thus were restricted on the weight they could carry, the number of books being offered was quite a bit less than was offered in previous years. One item that proved to be highly popular was a statue of a newsboy owned by William Wright. It was a gift from his son, and was not for sale, though several tried to tempt him with sizeable offers. John Juvinall brought along tapes of old radio programs, and these proved to be very popular.

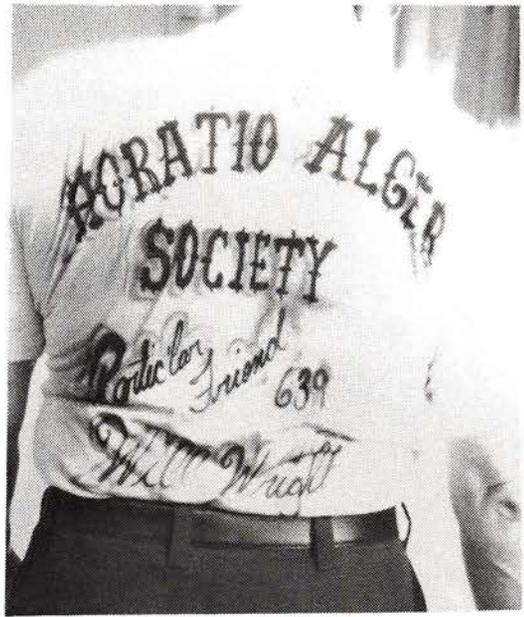
Several of us spent the afternoon exploring the home of Henry Morrison Flagler in Palm Beach. Our guide had been told to expect members of the Horatio Alger Society, and she made a special effort to point out certain similarities in the lives of Alger and Flagler. They were born within two years of each other, and were the sons of ministers. When Flagler left his parents' home it was with but nine cents in his pocket. Years later he built his home in Palm Beach of Italian marble, and spent \$2,500,000 doing it, and then another \$1,500,000 furnishing it. After the guided portion of the tour was complete we were able to wander about the rest of the house until it was time to get ready for the Award Banquet.

From the motel it was only a five mile drive to the New England Oyster House in Lantana. In a private banquet room with a capacity of several hundred our twenty-five members did not feel at all crowded, and enjoyed the view of the Intra-Coastal Waterway and the boats upon it. There was plenty of time to arrange the items for the auction, which Jim Ryberg had tagged earlier in the day. Two tables were covered, and there were several who speculated on how much the sale would bring.

The dinner was served buffet style, and each table arose to be served in turn. We dined on salad, steamship round, seafood Newburg, lasagna, baked potatoes, sour cream with chives, corn,



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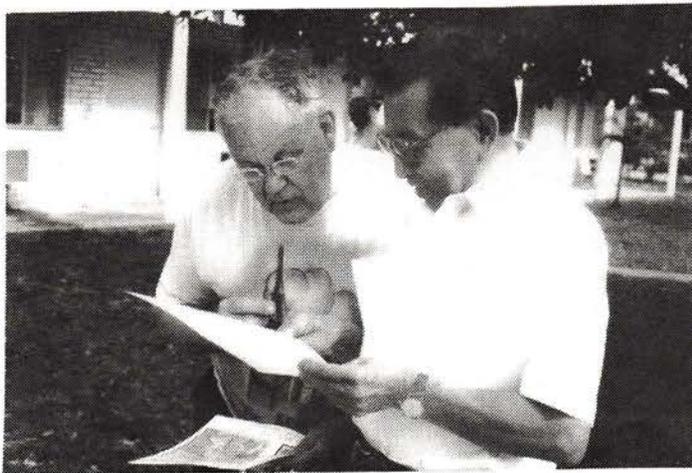
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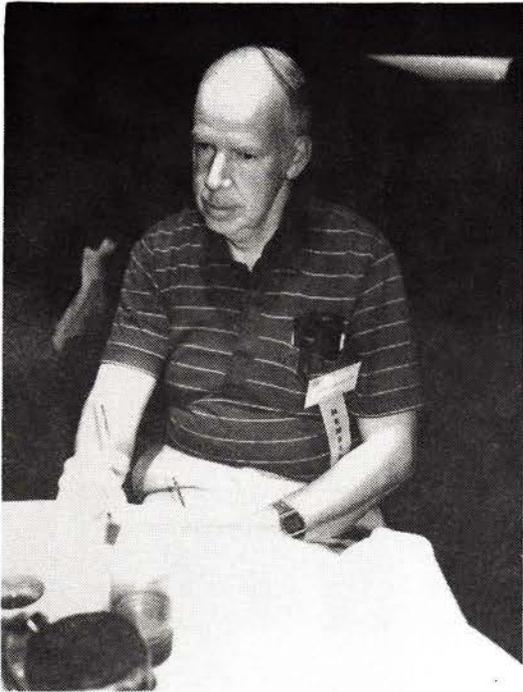


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11 and 12. Will Wright, fore and aft. Much in the manner of Ragged Dick:
"I've seen you before."

"Oh, have you?" said Dick, whirling round; "then p'r'aps you'd like to see me behind."
--Ragged Dick, page 208.

- 13. Lorraine Corcoran, Glenn Corcoran.
- 14. Nell Wright, Will Wright.
- 15. Will Wright, Benji Hara.
- 16. Rohima Walter, Jim Ryberg, Gene Hafner, Alice Owens, John Walter.
- 17. John Juvinall.
- 18. John Juvinall, Benji Hara.
- 19. George Locko, Gene Hafner, with George Owens in rear.
- 20. John Juvinall, George Owens.



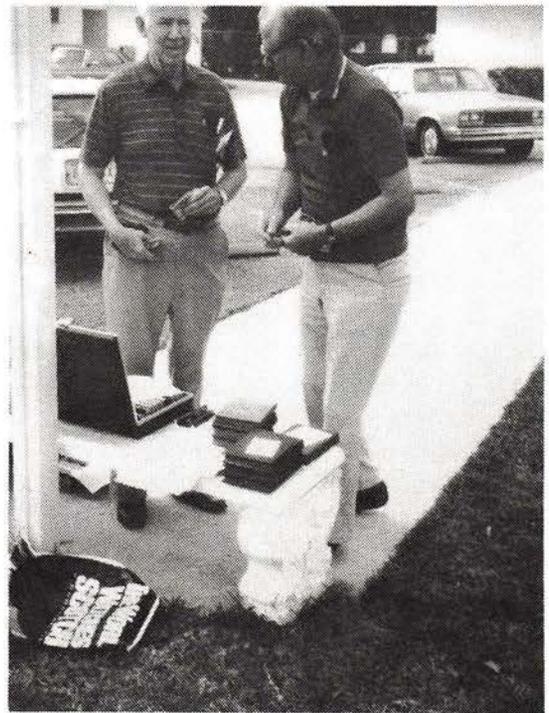
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rolls, and for dessert a delicious Key Lime pie.

Following the meal we moved our tables and chairs closer to the platform where Gene Hafner, Jim Ryberg, and I were going to announce the winners of the various awards.

Our oldest award is the Newsboy Award, which is presented to the person or organization, not necessarily a member, who has done the most to add to Alger's image. Brad Chase, the head of the committee, was unable to be with us this year, and so it fell to me to announce the choice by reading the inscription on the plaque. "The Horatio Alger Society 1985 Newsboy Award Recognizes NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE CRITICISM, VOLUME 8, By Gale Research Company, Detroit, Michigan, For its well balanced presentation of diverse materials concerning the life and works of Horatio Alger, Jr." Pages 13 to 49 of the named volume presents a two-page biography, followed by a list of Horatio's principal works, from Bertha's Christmas Vision (1856) to Alger Street: The Poetry of Horatio Alger, Jr. (1964), a chronological presentation of criticisms from 1868 to 1980, followed by three pages of additional bibliography that lists principal books and articles concerning Alger's life and writings, with brief comments on each item listed. This book may be found in most good libraries, and is recommended reading for all HAS members.

Alex Shaner was also unable to be present to give the Luck and Pluck Award, so again I had to fill in, and it was with some degree of trepidation that I read the inscription that Alex had chosen. "The Horatio Alger Society 1985 Luck and Pluck Award Presented to Ralph D. Gardner. 'Oh, he's a deep young rascal! You'd think butter wouldn't melt in his mouth; but he's a regular scamp.' --Horatio Alger, Jr., Luck and Pluck, 251:9". Over the years Ralph has performed many valuable services to the Society, and it was a pleasure for me to have a share in

recognizing them and paying tribute to this staunch member who has collected Alger books for nearly half a century. The award was in the form of a plaque showing the series half-title page from the second series of the Luck and Pluck books, with the inscription above. Many favorable comments were made concerning the appropriateness of using an illustration from one of Alger's books on this award.

Jim Ryberg then announced the winner of the Dick Seddon Award, first telling us in a moving manner of what a special fellow Dick was. Those of us who knew Dick felt Jim's remarks came truly from the heart. The award was inscribed, "The Horatio Alger Society 1985 Richard R. Seddon Award Presented to Owen R. Cobb In recognition of his comradeship and friendship."

The Presidential Award was of course presented by Gene Hafner. He told of how the winner had over the years been a devoted member who was always ready to donate items to our auction, and had attended many conventions, often at a sacrifice. The inscription read, "The Horatio Alger Society 1985 Presidential Award is presented to Rohima Walter in appreciation of her many contributions and continuing devotion to the Society." Everyone felt that Gene had made an excellent choice.

Following a ten minute break, during which there was ample opportunity to make final examinations of the items on which one might consider bidding, Jerry Friedland took on the role of The Young Auctioneer, and Jim Ryberg acted as his able and energetic assistant. Dale Thomas kept track of the bids and collected the money. During the course of the auction the souvenirs were distributed to everyone. These were decks of cards with the Cuthbert Bede illustration of the four Alger heroes used as a frontispiece for the later printings of volumes of the Ragged Dick Series, printed in black, with the name Horatio Alger above, and the dates 1832-1899 below in red. The design was on a tan

background. Before the evening was through the Horatio Alger Society had more than \$1,200 added to the treasury from the auction.

During a short break in the auction we had a drawing for a door prize, which was a teak box with brass inlays. The box was made for holding two decks of cards. Slips with the names of all members attending the convention, plus those who had made contributions, were inside the box. Jim Ryberg chose one of the slips and read the name of Wallace Palmer. Everyone was pleased that our good friend, Wally, would soon be receiving this prize.

The final event of the convention was a service honoring Horatio Alger, Jr. at the First Unitarian Church of Palm Beach County, in West Palm Beach. The program had a reproduction of the frontispiece from the original edition of *Ragged Dick* on the cover. Following a prelude, some opening words and a hymn, the Alger poem, "Carving a Name," served as a responsive reading with two lines being read by the minister, and a response by the congregation of the next two lines, until in this manner the entire poem had been read. I gave the reading, and used Alger's description of *Ragged Dick* as given in the first chapter of the book. Later, Ralph D. Gardner spoke about Alger's life, the typical content of his stories, and how they inspired generations of his young readers. I then gave a brief history of the Horatio Alger Society, followed by a reading from the eighth chapter of Helen Ford, telling Alger's thoughts concerning religion. Dr. Ralph N. Helverson spoke last, telling us the message of Alger for our present generation. After the service we had a question and answer session, and met a prospective new member, Percy Dean, for the Society. This brought to an end the scheduled events of the convention.

Dr. Helverson is the Pastor of the First Unitarian Church of Palm Beach County, and Pastor Emeritus of the First Parish of Cambridge, which was

founded in 1630. It was in the present building of the congregation in Cambridge that Alger graduated from Harvard.

Three members stayed for a bit of post-convention sunshine. Owen Cobb took Jerry Friedland to the airport on Monday morning, while I drove Ralph Gardner to the same destination late in the afternoon of the same day. However, we first enjoyed a stroll about Palm Beach, viewed the Brazilian Court Hotel, and had an early dinner at Chuck & Harold's, a popular sidewalk cafe on Royal Poinciana Boulevard. As we were eating, some sparrows joined us for some bread crumbs. Owen remained until Wednesday morning, when he drove to the airport for his flight home.

Sixteen members registered for the convention, and two others were counted as registered but not attending. These were Toshio Ueno and Wallace Palmer. Another two, Benji Hara and Percy Dean, were signed up as members. Both of these new members later came to my house to view my Alger collection, and to discuss other fields of common interest. Thus, for this convention host, activities were spread over a period of two weeks. Two weeks not soon to be forgotten. Two weeks spent with some of the finest folks I know, the members of the Horatio Alger Society.

 Next year plan to attend "Horatio's in Houston," May 1-4, 1986, with Jim Ryberg acting as the host of the 22nd annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society.

 Additional decks of the Horatio Alger playing cards are available. One deck \$5.50, and two decks for \$10.00 post-paid. Send orders to Gilbert K. Westgard II, 1001 S. W. 5th Court, Boynton Beach, Florida 33435.

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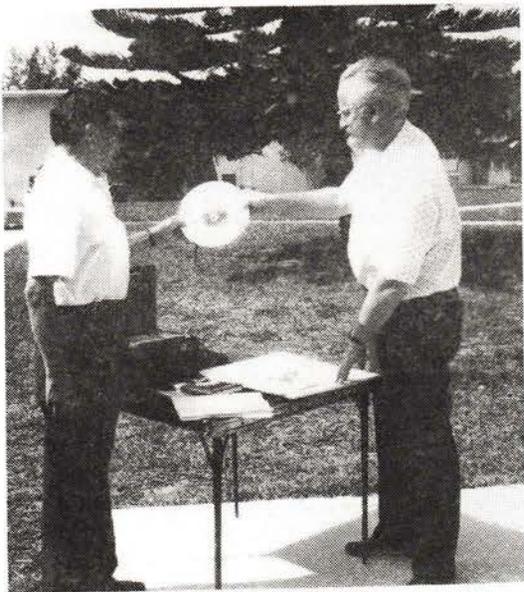
Editor's note: I want to publicly thank Gil for his marvelous convention coverage. Also, not only did he take dozens of pictures, he even labeled them all for me! I can always count on Gil for help!!



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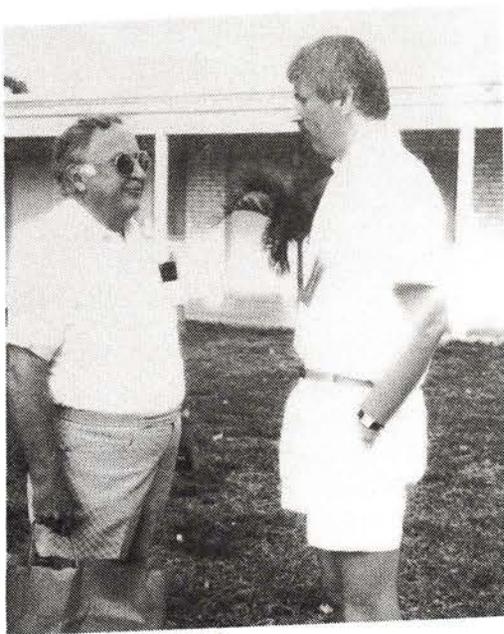
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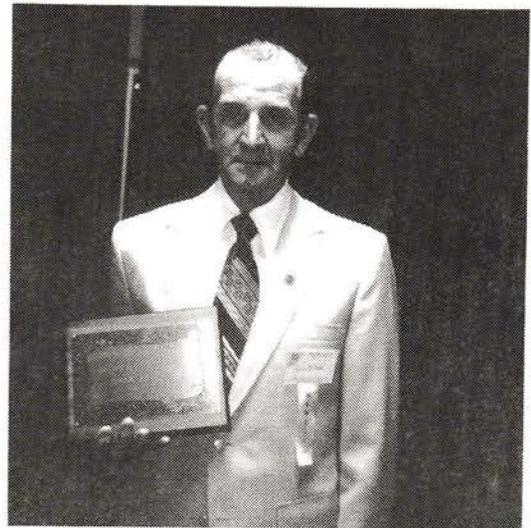


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21. Doris Dean, Percy Dean.
22. Frank Jaques.
23. Benji Hara looks at plate which was souvinir of the "Rosemont Twelfth Time," with Gilbert K. Westgard II.
24. Wynanda Helverson, Rev. Dr. Ralph Helverson.
25. Gene Hafner, Jim Ryberg.
26. Rohima Walter holds her Presidential Award.
27. Ralph Gardner holds his Luck and Pluck Award.
28. Owen Cobb holds his Richard R. Seddon Award.
29. Jerry Friedland auctioning some items donated by Rohima Walter.
30. George Owens, George Sharrard, Lorraine Corcoran.



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REMARKS AT THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, MAY 5, 1985
by Ralph D. Gardner

Dr. Helverson, members of the congregation of The First Unitarian Church of Palm Beach; thank you so very much for letting me and my fellow members of the Horatio Alger Society join you this morning.

A century ago, any school kid could tell you who Horatio Alger was. Then followed a long, lean period during which memories of him dimmed. The name of Horatio Alger became only indistinctly recalled.

But it appears that times are changing again. The pendulum may be swinging back toward some of the values of Alger's day; toward a bit of the nostalgia for times long gone-by. Days when skylines were lower. The air was sweeter. The word neighbor often held deeper meaning than it does today.

The name of Horatio Alger is back in circulation, for how often do we see a headline proclaiming someone's climb to success as "a typical Horatio Alger story?" His name now is a familiar part of our language. It has immediate identification as a uniquely American colloquialism that describes one who started at the bottom and struggled his --or her--way upward, to success.

I'm frequently asked: "But who was Horatio Alger?" In lectures at various universities, I ask students whom they think he was. I've gotten some interesting answers.

Frequently they believe Alger was a poor boy who worked hard and got rich. Just as often, I'm told he was the young hero of a long series of adventure stories, ending up rich, famous, and married to the boss's daughter. One, that amused me most, was the reply that Horatio Alger was the pen-name of Charles Dickens.

Let me assure you Horatio Alger was

the real name of a real person. He was born near Boston in 1832 and before he died there in 1899, he had written more than 100 crackling good adventure tales that were read, re-read, swapped and borrowed by most boys--and many girls--who were brought up in the United States between our Civil War and the post-World War One era.

Alger was an honor student at Harvard, later a Unitarian minister (as was his father); a teacher, an editor and eventually America's all-time best-selling author.

Those of you who once read Alger's stories recall his preference for such alliterative titles as Brave and Bold, Sink or Swim, Strive and Succeed, Wait and Win, Luck and Pluck, and dozens more; stories with heroes named Ben Bruce, Tattered Tom, Robert Rush-ton and Frank Fowler.

From your nods of recognition, I get the impression that these titles are familiar to some of you. But for the youngsters among you, let me describe, as briefly as I can, a Horatio Alger story in capsule form:

Alger's Hero was often a boy about fifteen years old; either an orphan, or the sole support of a widowed mother. He might have been a street waif who didn't know where he came from, or perhaps a country lad whose small home is encumbered by a mortgage that a wicked village squire is threatening to foreclose. In any event, the boy soon finds himself abandoned on New York's Lower Broadway. He has no friends, no job; no money. But he is ambitious, alert, honest and, when necessary, handy with his fists. He accepts such menial work as a newsboy, bootblack, or messenger, and soon wins a powerful benefactor and ally by rescuing a child from the path of an oncoming horse-car, diving into the East River to save a life or saving an elderly man from being mauled and robbed.

He also returned lots of lost jewelry

and wallets.

His bravery is rewarded with a gift of cash, which he invests in Erie Railroad stocks, and a better job, usually as a store clerk or office boy.

At this point he meets his employer's daughter--described by Alger as winsome and flirtatious--and early on she sets her cap for her father's young clerk.

I forgot to mention that, often from page one, our hero has enemies. These include street-corner bullies, the local snob, a drunken step-father, plus the variety of thugs, railroad con-men and others who conspire to harm him.

Because she shows uncommon shrewdness and ingenuity, he is sent upon a distant--and perilous--journey during which he has a dozen more adventures. He encounters a host of new and previously-introduced villains, but he also accidentally (perhaps in a blinding blizzard in the Rocky Mountains) meets the man who helps clear up the mystery of the Hero's own birth and background.

His mission ends in triumph and he returns to modestly accept his employer's praise; to blushingly relish the winsome daughter's warm welcome, and, in the nick of time, to return to the old homestead, where, in his new suit and carrying a gold pocket watch, he pays off the mortgage and sends the defeated evil squire on his way.

What do you suppose thrilled and delighted Alger's readers of generations past? I think they could identify with these young heroes. It was lustier than any literary fare then available for reading in the parlor. And many poor farm boys, city urchins and young immigrants found in Alger's delightful adventures a genuine blueprint for their OWN success. They sincerely believed: "If Ragged Dick could do it, so can I!"

And you can bet that many of them did!

Thank you very much.

RANDOM REPORTS FROM ALGERLAND
by Jack Bales

Evelyn Grebel sent me a charming little brochure called Plus: The Magazine for Positive Thinking. An article by Norman Vincent Peale is featured, and a picture of Alger and some of his book covers beautifully adorn the cover. A very nice item!!

(Alger, Horatio, Jr.) Pictorial National Library. A Miscellany of Science, Art, and Literature. Monthly. Boston. W Simonds. Vols. 1-3, July 1848-Dec. 1849. Complete and all published. Lacks only the title page for v. 1 & 2. Original publisher's decorated cloth. Some wear. 3 vols. in 2. Profusely illustrated with hundreds of woodcut portraits, scenes, etc. A scarce but relatively unimportant Boston literary month, but notable for the first appearance in print of Horatio Alger, Jr. on pages 249-241 of the October 1849 issue. This is a two column by 8 inch essay on Cervantes. It would appear that Alger wrote this piece when he was an undergraduate at Harvard, as a member of the Class of 1852. Apparently unknown to any Alger bibliographer or biographer. \$250

Bob Williman sent me the above notice, which appeared in the July 15-22 issue of AB Bookman's Weekly. The item is from the catalog of Harold M. Burstein & Company, 36 Riverside Drive, Waltham, Mass. 02154.

Ken White, 1440 W. Glenn, Springfield, Illinois 62704 writes that he collects G. A. Henty books and asks if I "can put a note in Newsboy asking if anyone who collects them will write me?" Ken also notes that he has 12 Oliver Optics plus six duplicates that "I will offer to someone that has some Algers I need. Most of the Optics are in good to very good condition and include one miniature Hurst edition."

Gil O'Gara writes that he "picked up about 40 of the old Tom Swifts a couple weeks ago. A local collector was moving back to college and felt he had to part with them. He only wanted about 25¢ a piece for them! I may be stupid, but I paid him more, since I would have felt I was cheating him otherwise." Gil said that he also got some green Rover Boys and some Algers too, "but they are not of the quality the Tom Swifts are." (Gil is the editor of Yellowback Library.)



The Beacon

The First Unitarian Church of Palm Beach County
West Palm Beach, Florida

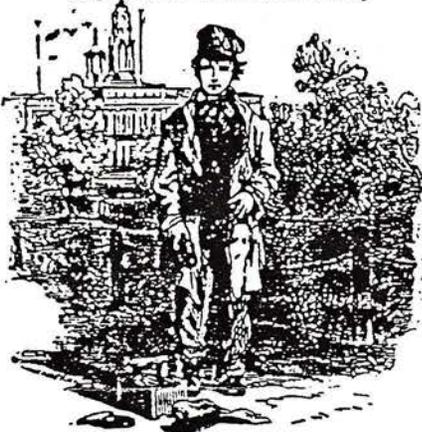
Dr. Ralph N. Helverson, Minister

Dr. Waldemar Argow, Minister Emeritus

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

The Horatio Alger Society is meeting in West Palm Beach and we are fortunate that members of that Society will be with us on Sunday. Ralph

HORATIO ALGER JR.



RAGGED DICK.

New York Public Library

Series half-title of an early edition of the first Alger book.

D. Gardner, author of a biography of Alger, will tell us something of Alger's life. Gilbert K. Westgard II will tell us briefly about the Society that is meeting here. In a word, Alger was a Unitarian clergyman at Brewster, MA., but was relieved of his post when the parish felt that he spent too much time writing stories. He graduated from Harvard in 1852 and attended a Commencement in the First Parish in Cambridge, where commencements were held at that time (1834-1872) until they became too large to manage. The service will reflect on this man who is almost forgotten in our time. Yet as the Encyclopedia Britannica says, "he was the most popular author in the U. S. in the last 30 years of the 19th century and perhaps the most socially influential writer of his generation."

So we will take another look at Alger. Many of you read his books, such as "From Rags to Riches" and the like. Does he have a message for today?

Morning Service, Sunday, May 5, 1985 at 11 a.m.

"STRUGGLING UPWARD"

(A Special Service on Horatio Alger)

"Some Pointers on Horatio Alger's life" - Ralph D. Gardner, author of the book: HORATIO ALGER.

Gilbert K. Westgard II will tell us of the Horatio Alger Society.

Dr. Helverson will reflect on Alger's philosophy for our time -- work hard, be honest, be true.