

# Newsboy



EDITOR

Jack Bales

1214 W. College Ave.

Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

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



*Founded 1961 by Forrest Campbell & Kenneth Butler*



"Booked in Boston" — the thirteenth annual convention of the Horatio Alger Society, is now history. Hosted by HAS Director Dick Seddon, this meeting broke all previous convention attendance records as fifty members (plus families) descended on the Boston area for four days of Alger talk, sight-seeing, and visiting. (See inside for details).

One of the highlights for early arrivals was the signing of a proclamation by Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis which proclaimed the week of May 15-21, 1977, as "Horatio Alger Week." Surrounding the seated governor as he signs the proclamation are: Bob Bennett, Ralph Gardner, Dr. Gilbert Westgard I (behind Ralph), Brad Chase, Carl Hartmann, David Barton (Dick Seddon's son-in-law), Gilbert Westgard II, Jerry Friedland, Pauline Westgard, aide to governor, Dr. Max Goldberg, Irene Gurman, and convention host Dick Seddon, who masterminded the whole event wonderfully. Hats off to you, Dick!!!!



## 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.

## OFFICERS

JERRY B. FRIEDLAND	PRESIDENT
BRADFORD S. CHASE	VICE-PRESIDENT
CARL T. HARTMANN	SECRETARY
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RALPH D. GARDNER	DIRECTOR
LESLIE I. POSTE	DIRECTOR
MAX GOLDBERG	DIRECTOR
LEO R. BENNETT	DIRECTOR

Newsboy, the official organ of the Horatio Alger Society, is published monthly (bimonthly January-February and June-July) and is distributed to HAS members. Membership fee for any twelve month period is \$10.00. Cost for single issues of Newsboy is \$1.00 apiece.

Please make all remittances payable to the Horatio Alger Society. Membership applications, renewals, changes of address, claims for missing issues, and orders for single copies of current or back numbers of Newsboy should be sent to the society's secretary, Carl T. Hartmann, 4907 Allison Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

A subject index to the first ten years of Newsboy (July, 1962 — June, 1972) is available for \$1.50 from Carl Hartmann at the above address.

Manuscripts relating to Horatio Alger's life and works are solicited, but the editor reserves the right to reject submitted material.

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REMEMBER: 1978 Convention time is not all that far away!!! Don't forget the date — — Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 7, 1978, in Jacksonville, Illinois.

\* \* \*

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PF-0A1 Irene Gurman  
2607 Marathon Lane  
Fort Lauderdale, Fla. 33312

PF-368 Gary Scharnhorst  
612 SE Peacock Lane  
Portland, Oregon 97214

PF-380 Carroll G. Holt  
150 Rumford Ave. — #402  
Mansfield, Mass. 02048

\* \* \*

## NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

PF-509 John F. Beirne  
P.O. Box 5  
Pomfret Center, Conn. 06259

John owns thirty-five Alger titles, and he learned of the Horatio Alger Society through HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas.

PF-511 Dr. John T. Dizer, Jr.  
10332 Ridgecrest Rd.  
Utica, N. Y. 13502

Anyone who is actively collecting boys' books has undoubtedly heard of John Dizer. A well known authority on the subject, he has authored many carefully researched articles on all facets of this collecting hobby. Welcome to HAS, John!!

PF-512 Charles Cobb  
2851 Howell Mill Road, N. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

Charles heard of HAS through member Dick Seddon on a Washington, D. C. interview. Owner of several Algers, Charles also collects stamps and plays golf. He is an attorney and realtor.

PF-513 Dr. Jerome R. Klingbeil  
3956 Atlantic Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90807

Dr. Klingbeil is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. At this time, no other information about him is known by your editor.

PF-514 Herman E. Kurland  
1763 Second Ave.  
New York, N. Y. 10028

Herman is a retired cab driver and former doorman, and is also an inveterate "letter to the editor writer." Quoting from a cover story in the May, 1958, issue of Auto Rental News: "If you are ever so fortunate as to ride in Herman's cab you will find him a man of sunny disposition, intensely interested in people and the world around him. You'll discover that he is an interesting conversationalist and quite a philosopher and that he likes people."

By the way, he also read Algers religiously as a boy.

PF-515 Robert F. Hatch  
125 N. Layton Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Robert collects first edition Alger books and other volumes in excellent condition. A financial consultant, his other hobbies include "collecting antiques and documents, tennis, and raising three girls." He learned of HAS from a former member, William Chase.

\* \* \*

# B O O K M A R T

The listing of Alger books in this department is free to HAS members. Please list title, publisher, condition and price.

Offered by Dale E. Thomas, 5397 East 132nd St., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125. Tel.: 216-663-5331.

The following guaranteed first editions are available.

Ben, The Luggage Boy	\$15.00
Brave and Bold	10.00
Digging for Gold	25.00
Facing the World	22.50
From Canal Boy to President	15.00
Helen Ford	25.00
In a New World	25.00
In Search of Treasure	32.50
Joe, The Hotel Boy	22.50
Mark Mason's Victory	15.00
Only an Irish Boy	20.00

Phil, The Fiddler	\$35.00
Slow and Sure	27.50
Strive and Succeed	30.00
Walter Sherwood's Probation	17.50
Frank's Campaign (2nd edition)	25.00

The following are reprints:

Adv. of a Tel. Boy	S&S	\$12.00
Adv. of a Tel. Boy	Federal	12.00
Joe, The Hotel Boy	C&L	14.00
The Western Boy	T&T	20.00
Rough and Ready	Loring	15.00
Luck and Pluck	Loring	17.50
Ragged Dick	Loring	40.00
Fame and Fortune	Loring	17.50
Young Captain Jack	Mershon	15.00
The Young Outlaw	H. T. Coates	10.00
Helping Himself	H. T. Coates	10.00
Nelson, The Newsboy	Mershon	12.50

Offered by Percy H. Seamans, Box 377, Lake Delton, Wisconsin 53940

Helen Ford	Winston	G	\$4.75
Ben's Nugget	Winston	G	4.75
Strive and Succeed	Winston	Vg	4.75
Sink or Swim	Winston	Vg	4.75
Phil, The Fiddler	Winston	Vg	4.75
Do and Dare	Winston	G	4.00
Frank's Campaign	Winston	G	4.75
Paul, The Peddler	Winston	G	4.75
(has color plate)			
Ragged Dick	HTC	G	10.00
From Farm Boy to Sen. McKay	G		8.00
Ben's Nugget	Burt	G	5.00
(boy's head on spine)			
Tom, The Bootblack	Burt	G	5.00
(boy's head on spine)			
The Young Miner	Burt	G	5.00
Tom Thatcher's For.	Burt	G	5.00
(boy's head on spine)			
The Store Boy	Hurst	G	2.75
The Young Adventurer	Hurst	G	2.75
Only an Irish Boy	Hurst	G	2.75
Joe's Luck	Hurst	G	2.75
Sam's Chance	Hurst	G	2.75
The Young Explorer	Hurst	G	2.75
The Young Salesman	Hurst	G	2.75
The Erie Train Boy	Hurst	G	2.75
Andy Grant's Pluck	Hurst	G	2.75
The Tin Box	Hurst	G	2.75
P. Prescott's Charge	Loring	G+	30.00
(1865 2nd edition - stated)			
Also a large number of Donohues, New York Books, and other cheap reprints.			



Dan Fuller, 609 Fair Ave. N. W., New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663, writes: "I would appreciate it if you would announce that my entire Alger collection is for sale. I will still buy Algers, but I have a new collecting interest: stringed instruments. I will sell the collection only in a single lot, but I will consider trades for old Martin guitars, Gibson mandolins, and various fiddles and banjos.

"My Alger collection includes 150 titles. Of these, at least 95 are first editions, first title appearances, first hardcover editions, etc. Of those, at least 60 are bona fide first editions (the 'at least' is because of several disputes about which edition was actually first).

"Among the collection are these high points:

"A very good copy of the hardback Number 91 (Putnam on cover); A very good Western Boy; A very good copy of Grand'ther Baldwin's Thanksgiving; The best Nothing to Do I have ever seen; A hardcover \$500 Check with the black strip on the spine; A good copy of Seeking His Fortune; A first of Ragged Dick; A framed Alger letter; Dozens of Alger story papers.

Those who are seriously interested may write for a list."

Mrs. Joe Beard, 1669 Dayton, Wichita Falls, Texas 76301, has seven Alger reprints for sale. These are Donohues and New York Books. Write her for list.

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#### 1977 HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY CONVENTION

"Booked in Boston"

Host - Dick Seddon

May 12-15, 1977

Attendance (in order of registration)

Morris Olsen - Mattapan, Mass.; Florence Schnell, - Seaford, Del.; Herbert R. Mayes - New York, N. Y.; Carl and Jean Hartmann - Lansing, Mich.; Evelyn Greble - Wyoming, Mich.; Bob Sawyer -  
(continued on page 5)

## Horatio Alger Society to Hold Convention

Some one hundred members of the Horatio Alger Society — all ardent admirers of the famed 19th Century author of stive-and-succeed tales for young Americans — will hold their Thirteenth Annual Convention in the Boston area from Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15, a period which Gov. Michael Dukakis will proclaim as Horatio Alger Week.

They will make their headquarters at the Waltham Motor Inn, according to Richard R. Seddon, of Winchester, who is Convention Chairman and a director of the nationwide organization.

"Our membership is extraordinarily varied," says Mr. Seddon, "including men and women in the professions, retired persons, farmers, students, shopkeepers, college professors, bankers, ministers, authors, publishers and others. It's an illustrious group, with members throughout the United States and abroad. They come from as far away as Alaska and Japan."

Alger, himself a Unitarian minister until he

became America's all-time bestselling author, was born in Chelsea in 1832, attended Harvard and lived for many years at Marlboro, then at South Natick, where he died in 1899. His earliest hero stories appeared during the mid-1860s, followed every year by three or four more with titles like *Ragged Dick*, *Tattered Tom*, *Brave and Bold*, *Fame and Fortune*, *Do and Dare*, *Frank and Fearless*, *Risen From the Ranks*, *Dan the Newsboy* and many dozens more.

These books, when published, were priced from a dollar for deluxe editions, to a nickel or dime for paperbacks. Today, many — including the paperbacks — are worth their weight in gold.

Society members will make short work of their business meetings and election of officers, in order to spend time at their favorite pursuit, hunting for Alger titles in area bookshops and visiting places where Horatio Alger lived, studied and worked.

Former Rep. John W. MacCormack, himself a

life-long Alger buff, will be guest of honor at the Saturday evening banquet, at which the Society's annual awards will be presented.

The above article is reprinted from *The Antique Trader Weekly*, April 13, 1977 issue, Dubuque, Iowa. (Thanks go to editor Kyle Husfloen for permission).



Gahanna, Ohio; Gilbert K. Westgard II - Des Plaines, Ill.; Owen Cobb - Cherry Hill, N. J.; Mark, Gail, and Wendy Preston - Bar Harbor, Maine; Edward and Mrs. LeBlanc - Fall River, Mass.; William J. McCord - Wurtsboro, N. Y.; Bradford and Ann Chase - Enfield, Conn.; Max and Ida Goldberg - Natick, Mass.; Paul and Ruth Miller - Vienna, Ohio; Ann and George Sharrard - Chelmsford, Mass.; Robert Jennings - Dudley, Mass.; Gilbert and Pauline Westgard - Boynton Beach, Fla.; Jack Bales - Jacksonville, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn S. Corcoran - Wilmette, Ill.; William, Judy, and Kenneth Leitner - Tenaflly, N. J.; Richard Bowerman - Cleveland, Ohio.

Also, Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Poste - Geneseo, N. Y.; Kenneth B. Butler - Mendota, Ill.; Carrol G. Holt - Mansfield, Mass.; Ralph D. Gardner - New York, N. Y.; Robert and Edna Banks - Framingham, Mass.; Eugene Hafner - Timonium, Maryland; Benjamin and Thelma McAdoo - Seattle, Washington; Don and Mrs. Elder - Chelsea, Mass.; Ralph and Mrs. Brandt - Bridgeton, N. J.; Robert L. Anstey - Natick, Mass.; Everett and Polly Johnson - Middleton, Conn.; Delbert and Hannah Brandt - Vineland, N. J.; Keith and Sharon Barnes - Dorchester, Mich.; Linda Neglia - New York, N. Y.; Helen Gray - New York, N. Y.; Dick and Mary Seddon - Winchester, Mass.

Also, John and Dorothy Beirne - Pomfret Center, Conn.; Marilyn Miller Saurer and Terry Saurer - Wooster, Ohio; B. Bradley Alexander - Churchville, N. Y.; Don and Grace Erickson - Glen Rock, N. J.; Bob Bennett - Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; David, Judy, and Julie Barton - Lowell, Mass.; Dale and Mary Ellen Thomas - Garfield Heights, Ohio; Alex Shaner - San Jose, Calif.; Irene Gurman - Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Robert and Mrs. Camp - East Hampton, Conn.; and Milton Salls - Little Falls, N. Y.

Visitors (not registered) - Jack and Mrs. Barker - Dunswoody, Ga.; and Roy Wendell - Medford, Mass.

Not counting guests, fifty members were in attendance - a record!!!

# ATTENDANCE AT HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY CONVENTIONS by Bob Bennett

	Members Attending
1965 - Mendota, Illinois	14
1966 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin	19
1967 - Des Moines, Iowa	22
1968 - New Haven, Connecticut	24
1969 - Kalamazoo, Michigan	9
1970 - Revere, Massachusetts	13
1971 - Sioux Falls, South Dakota	14
1972 - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan	20
1973 - Indianapolis, Indiana	30
1974 - New Philadelphia, Ohio	27
1975 - Geneseo, New York	35
1976 - Rosemont, Illinois	34
1977 - Waltham, Massachusetts	50
1978 - Jacksonville, Illinois	??

## HOSTS OF CONVENTIONS

1965 - Ken Butler  
1966 - Les Langlois  
1967 - Jack Row  
1968 - Ed Levy  
1969 - Forrest Campbell  
1970 - George Clarke  
1971 - Judson Berry  
1972 - Bob Bennett  
1973 - Paul House  
1974 - Dan Fuller  
1975 - Les Poste  
1976 - Gil Westgard  
1977 - Dick Seddon  
1978 - Jack Bales

## THIRTEEN CONVENTIONS

Carl Hartmann (65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77)

## TWELVE CONVENTIONS

Les Langlois (65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76)

## ELEVEN CONVENTIONS

Ken Butler (65-66-67-68-71-72-73-74-75-76-77); and Ralph Gardner (same)

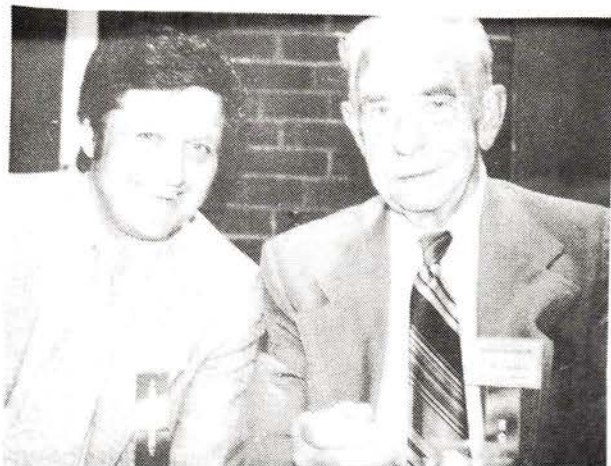
## TEN CONVENTIONS

Paul House (65-66-67-68-69-70-71-73-74-75)

## NINE CONVENTIONS

Jack Row (65-66-67-69-71-72-73-74-76)  
(continued on page 7)





Horatio Alger Society President Jerry Friedland with 1977 Convention Chairman Dick Seddon. Dick, "Booked in Boston" was great!!!



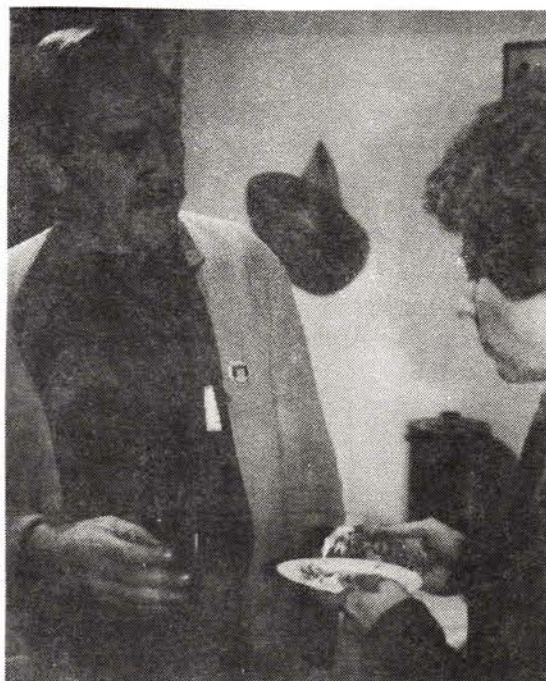
Irene Gurman conversing with HAS co-founder Ken Butler.



The Preston family - Wendy, Alger Society member Mark, and their mother Gail.



Horatio Alger bibliographer (and HAS Treasurer) Dale Thomas inspects the books in Dick Seddon's collection.



Bob Bennett, former Alger Society President, is deep in conversation with Helen Gray of the New York based Horatio Alger Awards Committee of the American Schools and Colleges Association. This organization annually gives medals to Americans of "rags-to-riches" careers.



EIGHT CONVENTIONS

Gilbert K. Westgard II (65-66-67-68-74-75-76-77); Bob Bennett (70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77)

SEVEN CONVENTIONS

Irene Gurman (69-72-73-74-75-76-77); Jack Bales (69-71-72-73-75-76-77); Dale Thomas (71-72-73-74-75-76-77)

SIX CONVENTIONS

Dan Fuller (66-67-68-72-73-74); Evelyn Grebel (72-73-74-75-76-77); Les Poste (72-73-74-75-76-77); Keith Barnes (72-73-74-75-76-77)

FIVE CONVENTIONS

Forrest Campbell (65-66-67-68-69)

FOUR CONVENTIONS

Max Goldberg (65-68-75-77); Judson Berry (67-71-72-73); Milton Salls (68-72-75-77); Herb Risteen (65-66-69-76); Ralph Anderson (66-67-68-76); Eugene Hafner (73-75-76-77); Carl Thieme (72-73-74-76); Dick Seddon (74-75-76-77); Amos Smith (73-74-75-76); Paul Miller (73-74-75-77); Bill McCord (73-75-76-77); Marilyn Saurer (73-74-75-77); Jerry Friedland (74-75-76-77); Brad Chase (74-75-76-77)

THREE CONVENTIONS

Ed Levy (68-70-77); Blanche Lloyd (65-66-73); Irving Poznan (66-67-73); Bette Bogue (66-67-71); Rohima Walter (73-74-76); Ralph Brandt (70-73-77); Glenn Corcoran (75-76-77)

TWO CONVENTIONS

Max Friedman (66-69); Eddie LeBlanc (68-77); Darel Leipold (66-67); Cecilia Wild (66-67); Joseph Wild (66-67); Joseph Wild (66-67); Eddie Westgard (67-68); Norman Hanson (72-73); Frank Eisenberg (68-71); Ann Sharrard (75-77); Florence Ogilvie Schnell (76-77); Gary Scharnhorst (73-76); Alex Shaner (74-77); Harry Lane (74-76); Mark Preston (75-77); Dick Bowerman (75-77); Bob Sawyer (76-77); Brad Alexander (75-77); Owen Cobb (76-77); Helen Gray (76-77); Pauline Westgard (76-77).

ONE CONVENTION

Keith Thompson (77); Ed Reynolds (70);



Architect Ben McAdoo and his wife Thelma traveled all the way from Seattle, Washington for the Boston convention.



Newsboy Editor Jack Bales makes a point during breakfast to former author and editor Herbert R. Mayes (who wrote first Alger biography in 1928).



Convention host Dick Seddon with his son-in-law David Barton and Dave's pretty daughter Julie.



Gladys Judson (70); John Sullivan (65); Roy Wendell (77); Hal McCuen (68); Morris Olsen (77); Frances Henry (65); George May (65); Pauline Millen (67); Paul Alger (68); William Murrell (76); Paul Fisher (75); Steve Press (68); George Miller (66); Don Shinner (67); Harlan Miller (67); Philip Neufeld (68); L. F. Hartsock (67); Norman Peterson (72); Jack Barker (77); Max Sheldon (67); Jacqueline Steele (68); Robert Birkhimer (67); Karl Weber (75); Sylvester Mangini (68); Al Sukut (71)

Also, Stewart McLeish (68); Russell Dock (68); J. Yale Rubin (68); Robert Banks (70); George Clarke (70); George Blackburn (72); William DiCarlo (70); Edna Banks (70); Joseph Festa (70); Gary Lemon (73); Keith Allen (72); Bill Henderson (73); Donald Erickson (77); Wallace Robinson (74); Benjamin McAdoo (77); Joseph Kellas (75); Alan Quick (72); Donald Elder (77)

Also, Robert Anstey (77); Bob Fertig (75); Carrol Holt (77); Bill Leitner (77); J. Boyd Mullan (75); Alta Bonk (73); Philip Atkins (74); Ira Marshall (74); Robert Camp (77); Lloyd Merrill (75); Bob Bickel (75); Herbert Mayes (77); Delbert Brandt (77); Robert Jennings (77); Harriet Stratemeyer Adams (76); Nancy Axelrad (76); David Barton (77); John Beirne (77)

\* \* \*



Former Horatio Alger Society President Dr. Max Goldberg talks earnestly with Paul Miller. (It was Paul's wife who played the piano for us Thursday night).

1977 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS  
HORATIO ALGER SOCIETY  
"BOOKED IN BOSTON"  
MAY 12-15, 1977

by Jack Bales

A total of fifty Horatio Alger Society members descended on Waltham, Massachusetts last May to attend the Society's thirteenth annual convention, thereby setting a record in terms of member attendance. Gracious and most capable host Dick Seddon had worked hard (like any true Alger Hero) to ensure the convention's success, and as the pictures in this issue verify, all who were "booked in Boston" had an enjoyable time. (But. . . I'm sure Dick had misgivings when a total of six inches of snow fell on the Boston area May 9th, cutting off power to 600,000 homes!! Fortunately, the snow was gone by the time of the convention).

Probably one reason for the high attendance was because this meeting was in the heart of "Alger country," and numerous members took advantage of the locality by touring all the spots with which Alger was associated. There was Harvard College — from which Horatio was graduated in 1852 (there was even a special Alger exhibit set up in the library). While browsing through bookstores Friday afternoon, Carl and Jean Hartmann and Brad and Ann Chase and I came upon quite by accident the corner of Washington and Bromfield Streets in Boston — where Alger publisher Aaron Kimball Loring once had his place of business. But. . . to start at the beginning. . .

For those who arrived early on Wednesday (May 11th), a special event awaited them — the signing of the proclamation by Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis which proclaimed the week of May 15-21, 1977, as "Horatio Alger Week." The proclamation read:

WHEREAS: Horatio Alger was a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts. He was born in Revere, Massachusetts in



1832, graduated from Harvard in 1852 and died in 1899; and

WHEREAS: During his lifetime he authored over one hundred books for young people, always stressing the home-ly virtues of good habits, honesty and diligence. He influenced the lives of several generations of young Americans; and

WHEREAS: To commemorate his memory and to further the philosophy he instilled in his readers and to encourage the spirit of "Strive and Succeed" that for half a century guided his undaunted heroes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 1977, as

#### HORATIO ALGER WEEK

and urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and to participate fittingly in its observance.

But most of the Alger collectors arrived on Thursday (along with their families and guests), and Dick Seddon was more than amply prepared for them. He and his most gracious and beautiful wife Mary had us all out at their magnificent home in Winchester, Massachusetts that night for an evening of good food and conversation. Everyone had the opportunity of renewing old friendships and meeting new Alger Society convention goers.

Again, this year the hospitality room in the Waltham Motor Inn was a successful feature. After we left Dick and Mary's home, we all went there to stay until way past midnight.

Unlike many conventions, the Horatio Alger Society's meetings are noted for their abundance of free time that is afforded each member. We've learned through past experience that people

simply do not wish to be pushed hither and yon from one event to the next. Friday was no exception.

All that was scheduled that morning was the business meeting. Most everyone attended it and we all discussed the Society's future. I recall that long time Dime Novel Round-Up Editor Eddie LeBlanc showed up at the convention during this meeting and contributed a great deal.

The Boston area has much to see, and that (and the following) afternoon saw HAS members out sight-seeing, browsing through antique and book stores, sampling the fare at such restaurants as the Union Oyster House — the oldest restaurant in the United States — and wandering, just as Horatio once did, the grounds of Harvard Yard.

Of course, the hospitality room was open all day for those who just wished to relax and converse with friends.

But all were back for the buffet dinner that night, specially arranged by our host Dick Seddon. Afterwards, Paul Miller's wife Ruth (an expert on the piano!!) played — while Bob Sawyer led — for an old-fashioned sing along.

Friday night was also marked by Ralph D. Gardner's annual HAS contest. Entitled this year as "Ralph's 1977 Boston Massacre," let me assure you that it was. Ralph asked us to name the heroes of given Alger books, name the stories in which given heroes were featured, write down the reissue titles of some Alger books, and more. Your editor kept up his usual yearly rivalry with Bob Bennett as to who could answer the most questions. Neither of us did as well as we wished. As I remember, Dick Bowerman (soon to be "Dr. Bowerman" on completion of a dissertation on Alger) scored the highest. I know that former HAS Vice-President Evelyn Grebel also achieved a high grade, as did Gil Westgard. As always, this contest was well received by us all, and I thank Ralph for providing us with it.





Terry and Alger collector Marilyn Saurer pose during the HAS Convention.



Alger short story authority Jack Barker and his wife stopped by to say hello Saturday afternoon. It was great to meet them.



Dr. Gilbert Westgard ("our" Gil's father), Irene Gurman, and new HAS member John Beirne really enjoyed themselves at "Booked in Boston."

Saturday morning brought the book sale, a feature which conventioners always thoroughly enjoy. Besides the usual Algers, members brought other boys' books such as Hentys and Oliver Optics. I noticed Eddie LeBlanc and his table of dime novel story papers; bibliographer Les Poste and his "books about books" were also present.

The afternoon was also "free." It was during this time that Bob Jennings, editor of the breezy and informative The Boy's Book Buff arrived with boxes of books for sale. Bob — with whom I've corresponded before — is a congenial person and he was soon at ease with the rest of us. His own account of the convention appeared in the May, 1977, issue of his magazine. (It's a good publication — six issue subscription costs \$4.00 — write Bob at RFD 2, Whiting Rd., Dudley, Mass. 01570).

More features of the convention: the arrival Friday of Herbert R. Mayes, — author of Alger: A Biography Without a Hero — a person whom I had looked forward to meeting for several years. Herb's a great guy, and we got to talk to him for quite a long time. There was Bob Sawyer, armed with his ever present whittling knife and stock of owls, along with lots of good conversation to whittle by. Bob — an Illinois resident — promised to help me out on next year's convention if I needed anything.

There was Helen Gray and Linda Neglia of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee in New York. They are two really beautiful and "fun to be with" people who are always welcome at an HAS convention. Saturday afternoon brought the surprise arrival of the Alger short story expert, Jack Barker, who was passing through the area with his wife. Marilyn and Terry Saurer were present again at a convention, and we got to talk to them for awhile about their (well, I guess she's the collector) growing collection of titles.

Many people talked with Morris Olsen — a long time Alger collector. I was pleased to see Mark Preston with his



mother and sister. Mark will soon be at college, and he looked as if he'd grown at least a foot since his last convention (in Geneseo, New York).

Ben McAdoo and I spent some time discussing rascism in Alger's (and other boys' books authors) stories. Ben and his wife Thelma traveled across the country from Seattle, Washington to attend. Gil Westgard was present with his camera - the pictures in this Newsboy were taken by him. Owen Cobb got a few good titles for his growing collection of boys' books. Brad Chase brought me a book to add to my collection of material on newsboys and the Newsboys' Lodging House; Jerry Friedland (armed with his inevitable stogie) gave me a book on the Five Points - New York's slum area back in the previous century.

Keith & Sharon Barnes and Evelyn Grebel have made it to quite a few conventions, as has Bill McCord - one heckuva pleasant guy. Florence Ogilvie Schnell attended her second meeting - Florence is related to John Ogilvie, an Alger publisher.

And the list goes on and on. All the good times that we all had. One feature of conventions is the banquet on Saturday night, and host Dick Seddon went "all out" in order that we'd remember it. Bob Sawyer had carved an "Alger plaque" for Dick in honor of all his work for HAS, and this gesture got the banquet off to a grand beginning.

Herbert R. Mayes was the guest speaker, and after I presented him with an HAS membership plaque, he spoke for awhile on literary hoaxes of the past. Herb, a really witty speaker, was enjoyed by all who attended the banquet.

Naturally, we all wondered who was going to win the society's annual awards. The "Newsboy" Award is given to the person who has done the most to add to our Hero's image. The "Luck and Pluck" Award is given to an HAS member for valued services to the society.

This year Gil Westgard received the "Newsboy" Award because of the rare Algers that he is reprinting, and Dale Thomas was given the "Luck and Pluck" Award for his outstanding dedication to the Horatio Alger Society - not only as Treasurer, but for all his other work also. We congratulate both Gil and Dale - they have both enabled the Alger Society to prosper and to attract new members.

Former HAS President Max Goldberg was also honored. He received an engraved "President's Award" for his long time service to the society, both as president and as organizer of memorial services at Alger's grave site.

Our annual auction took place after the banquet, with Ralph Gardner officiating. This relatively new idea caught on very quickly, and we've found that it is a great way to raise money for HAS. Before the bidding began, Ralph told how Roy Wendell donated a newsboy figurine at the 1974 New Philadelphia, Ohio Convention so that HAS's coffers could benefit. Other items were given, and \$207 was raised. This year \$1400.00 found its way into the treasury, and the society's officers wish to thank all who contributed things for the auction. It is your generosity that keeps us in the black. (See page 14 for more on the auction).

Though conventions usually end after breakfast on Sunday, this year things were different as Max Goldberg had arranged for a special Alger memorial service to be held at Alger's grave site. We all met at Max and Ida's "home-antique shop," and from there went to the cemetery in Natick where the Alger family is buried. Max read a eulogy, and pictures were taken.

Thanks go to Bob Coleman, Publisher of the Natick Bulletin for having a photographer take a picture of us at the grave site. He also had copies of his paper containing the picture sent to all HAS members. Thanks also go to Karen Ziner and Tom Maxwell of the South Middlesex News for the article and



picture about the event. Tom took the cemetery picture which will appear in the next Newsboy particularly for us, and he deserves special gratitude.

Also, accolades go to Rev. Thomas C. Mayne who officiated at the service — our thanks to him.

After the service we went back to Max and Ida's house for refreshments — Ida saw to it that we didn't leave hungry — and we said, "good-bye" until next year, when your editor — Jack Bales — will be hosting the "Jacksonville Jamboree" in Jacksonville, Illinois. The dates are May 4-5-6-7, 1978, so mark your calendar now!!

One final word — Dick and Mary Seddon hosted a fine convention, — it's going to be a tough act to follow and I have my work cut out for me. Again, we all appreciate the fine time they showed us. Also, Max and Ida's memorial service was like the icing on the cake — all in all it was a great convention!!!

\* \* \*



Max Goldberg (above) reads the eulogy that he prepared for the Alger memorial service in Natick Sunday morning. HAS President Jerry Friedland (right) gives Convention Host Dick Seddon a plaque engraved by Bob Sawyer in honor of Dick's service to the Alger Society.



Bob Sawyer plays the dulcimer that he made and donated to the HAS auction.



Newsboy Editor Jack Bales poses alongside the Alger tombstone with Linda Neglia (left) and Helen Gray, both of the Horatio Alger Awards Committee in New York. Ruth Miller is at far right.







Horatio Alger Society member Herb Mayes (left) makes a note while visiting convention goers in the hospitality room at the Waltham Motor Inn. Gil Westgard (right) points out the plaque identifying the Revere, Massachusetts birthplace of Horatio Alger, Jr.

#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Jerry Friedland

Our 1977 Convention, "Booked in Boston," was truly successful. Much thanks to Dick Seddon, our gracious host. Thursday night, Dick and his beautiful wife, Mary, made us all welcome at their lovely home. Dick's Alger collection isn't bad either!

Wednesday night, several of us visited the Boston State House where Massachusetts Governor Dukakis presented HAS with a proclamation commemorating our hero and proclaiming the convention week "Alger Week." A picture was taken of us with the governor.

Friday night, Ralph Gardner's Alger quiz was enjoyed by all. After our smorgasbord, with Ruth Miller on piano and Bob Sawyer as lead singer, we had an old-fashioned sing along.

Saturday night saw Gil Westgard presented with the "Newsboy" Award and Dale Thomas with the "Luck and Pluck" Award.

Our newly elected Director and Past President Max Goldberg was presented with a special award for the many efforts expended by him on behalf of this society and for his many years as historian.

Sunday saw Max holding a memorial service and tour in Natick. Our thanks to Bob Coleman, publisher of the Natick Bulletin, for the excellent coverage and for his kindness in sending copies of the paper containing the story to our members.

Book trading — before, during, and after our Saturday book sale was rampant. My personal thanks to Morris Olsen for increasing my chances of reaching one hundred first editions and to Paul Miller for those terrific copies of Golden Argosy.

Our accommodations in Waltham were excellent — large rooms, hospitality suite, two buildings at the motel solely for HAS members. Dick even provided us with excellent weather. It was



difficult to realize when it was time to leave that I had arrived Monday in a blinding snowstorm!

Fifty members attended — a new record. At our banquet Saturday night we had eighty-five persons in attendance. We were honored to have as our guest speaker the distinguished editor and author (he wrote the first Alger biography), Herbert R. Mayes. His wit and congeniality were enjoyed by all.

Carl Hartmann attended his thirteenth convention to keep his attendance record perfect. A convention without Carl and Jean just would not be the same.

We all missed Les and Bertie Langlois who were absent for the first time; only a trip to Alaska kept them away.

Ken Butler and Ralph Gardner made their eleventh convention. We missed Paul House who has made ten meetings and Jack Row who has been to nine. Bob Bennett and Gil Westgard made this one their eighth, and Jack Bales, Irene Gurman, and Dale Thomas reached seven conventions. Evelyn Grebel, Les Poste, and Keith Barnes attended their sixth, to draw even with Dan Fuller who better give up tennis or he will be left in the dust. [Editor's note: Dan is the tennis coach at Kent State University, and his matches conflict with HAS conventions].

Forrest Campbell follows with five conventions and was again missed this year.

Our Saturday night auction, which has become an annual event, reaped over \$1,400.00, a new record. Highlights of the auction were one of Bob Sawyer's (what a great guy!) dulcimers, a first edition of Ragged Dick donated by Dale Thomas (thanks, Dale) and a hand crocheted, third generation tablecloth donated by Pauline Westgard.

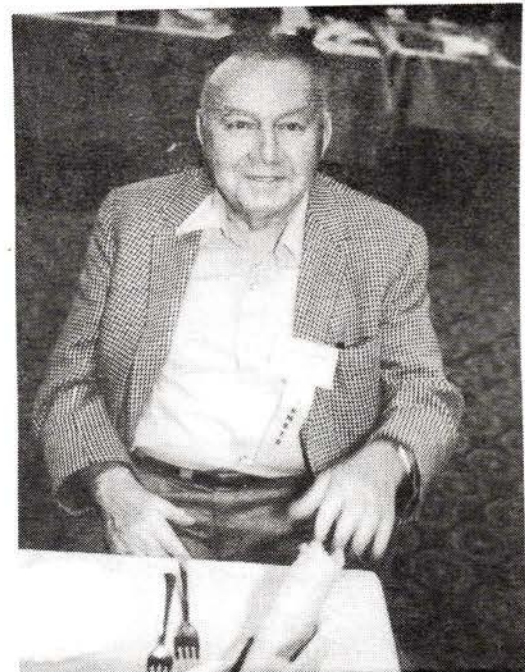
There were many other terrific items — an old toy typewriter sent by Rohima Walter, several first edition Alger books, and a beautiful, rare,

second edition of Paul Prescott's Charge donated by Morris Olsen, and much more. Les Poste was the successful bidder on Ragged Dick — \$260. Good buys are still there and Gil Westgard "stole" second of Paul Prescott for \$30.00. Gil's mom and dad, Pauline and Dr. Gilbert Westgard, got the dulcimer for \$160, and Evelyn Grebel went home with Pauline's tablecloth for \$100.

Next year — what do we do for an encore? Jack, you have your work cut out for you, but it could not be in more capable hands. Our hard working editor, Jack Bales, is hosting the convention next year (May 4th — 7th) in Jacksonville, Illinois, where the "Jacksonville Jamboree" will be awaiting us all — don't miss it! Jack has already begun making arrangements.

After the convention, I was fortunate to obtain a run of Good News — volumes 2-8, with complete Alger serializations as well as several short Algers — from the Rev. Donald Stennhauer. Included in the serializations are the extremely rare titles Dan, The Detective and Plucky Paul Palmer, which shows that the goodies are still there.

\* \* \*



Famous Alger collector Morris Olsen relaxing at the Saturday evening banquet. Auction items are in back of him.





Some of the Horatio Alger Society members in attendance at "Booked in Boston," the thirteenth annual convention of the organization, gather around "our Hero's" tombstone in a corner of Glenwood Cemetery in South Natick, Massachusetts. A special memorial service was arranged by Past Alger Society President Dr. Max Goldberg. Note large Alger family stone and three smaller markers for two of Horatio Senior's and Olive Augusta's five children — Augusta and Horatio Junior. The middle stone is for Augusta's husband, Amos. A floral wreath is in the center. (Thanks go to Bob Coleman, Publisher of the Natick Bulletin, who arranged for this photograph).



EULOGY TO HORATIO ALGER, JR.  
by Dr. Max Goldberg

(Editor's note: The following address was given at Glenwood Cemetery, South Natick, Massachusetts, May 15, 1977, at the Horatio Alger Memorial Service).

It is not given to many the honor of having a eulogy seventy-eight years after death. What prompted this phenomenon? Men and women from many states have come here to do homage to Horatio Alger, Jr. Certainly not for monetary reasons. It is more for altruistic ones. Perhaps to thank him for his concepts which allowed them to be a credit and success in their communities and in life.

Alger's teachings are not local nor limited in scope. Rather they are national and even international. He held no office, nor belonged to any political party. This assembly honors his memory because of its interest in the welfare of his country and humanity. His creed was kindness. His teaching was integrity, work, study and motivation. He believed with Washington Irving, who stated: "I am for curing the world's problems by gentle alternatives, not by violent doses."

Juvenile writers of his period produced adventure tales. Alger geared his theme to survival. He never was the prophet of gloom, but rather the champion of hope and courage. Now more than ever we must apply his enthusiasm as a catalyst for the future.

Before Alger's appearance, the outcast and homeless urchins had no one to turn to for advice, counsel, or encouragement. He gave them a golden nugget of information to attain confidence and success. He told them to refuse the status quo of their plight and to strive on with the banner of "Excelsior" to higher fields and leave behind the hardships of their lives for the American Dream.

The character of a man can be ascertained by his letters. A letter from

Alger to a friend stated, "You will best promote your own happiness by trying to make others happy." It showed the kindness of his heart, the simplicity of his manners and his understanding of human frailties.

It has been suggested that the American Dream may be recast to fit present society. But the American Dream will always exist. Who hasn't built castles in the air? Dreaming of achievement is common to all of us in whatever station of life. Alger has shown that with proper incentive and action, such as work, study, and thrift, people's dreams will come true. It was worth a try. They had nothing to lose, only to gain. They were inspired and spurred on to reach the goal of constructive efforts.

We need an Alger to cement the fracture in the foundation of morals and ethics more than before. To this day he has not been eclipsed in his teachings of ethics, humanities, and social reform. We are living in an iconoclastic world, where all cherished values are crushed and logic and reason are scoffed at. New schools of sophistry arise to break the pillars of the foundation upon which our country became great. One thinks of Prescott's preface to Ferdinand and Isabella that, "The Crises of a revolution, where old things pass away and new ones are not established, is indeed frightening." We must rekindle the embers of lost values, such as honor, integrity, and kindness. These are still the foundations upon which to build the structure of life.

Whenever men rose to great heights to overcome many barriers and hardships, it is usual to hear one say, "It's an Alger story." It has become a colloquialism and synonym for success. Obviously, the system works, because there are listed some 3,000 new millionaires in the last decade. A story about Bill Campbell, the new Red Sox pitcher, and of his success has in bold black type, "Horatio Alger, Jr. would have loved it." This is from a January, 1977, issue of the Boston Globe.



Prince Philip of England stated in an article, "Violent World," that "... a sympathetic and realistic understanding of human nature, not machine technology is necessary. Human ethics and moral value are more important than better products for consumer society." Alger antedated Prince Philip by one hundred years. He taught the boys reverence and kindness. That one cannot find happiness in an atmosphere of hate, bias, and arrogance.

It has been stated of Sir Christopher Wren that "if you seek his monuments, look around." Alger has human monuments, not stone ones. They are too numerous to relate.

Byron's poem on Sheridan is quite applicable to Horatio Alger, Jr.:

Long shall we seek his likeness,  
 long in vain,  
 And turn to all of him, which may  
 remain:  
 Sighing that nature formed but one  
 such man. . .  
 And then broke the die.

\* \* \*



Alex Shaner at the convention banquet Saturday evening.



HAS President Jerry Friedland (left) awards Max Goldberg an engraved plaque in honor of his years of service to the society.



Former society President Bob Bennett (left) gives HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas the 1977 "Luck and Pluck" Award.



Alger Society Secretary Carl Hartmann (left) gives Gil Westgard the "Newsboy" Award.



# Horatio 'Algerists' say they're dying breed

BOSTON (UPI) — Members of the Horatio Alger Society see themselves as a dying breed — an endangered species that still believes in success through hard work.

And some of them worry that maybe Alger, himself, is passe.

"Everyone has a dream. And if you want to have your dream, you have to work for it," said Max Goldberg, 75, a retired pharmacist and chiro-

practor and a member of the society.

"That's what Alger believed," Goldberg said of the 19th-century author whose name became synonymous with the rags-to-riches American dream.

Alger, a Unitarian minister, helped homeless newsboys and bootblacks in New York, then wrote several hundred novels and short stories to dramatize their plight and eventual success. He died in 1899.

Ragged Dick, Tattered Tom and Dan the Newsboy led readers who bought the 400 million copies of his books to the belief that anyone could do well in America through diligence, thrift and honesty.

"Sure it's nostalgic. And I am a great believer that luck plays its part. But that doesn't get away from the practical end of it," Goldberg said. "Alger really showed life as it is."

The 200 members of the Horatio Alger Society, who vary widely in age and occupation and come from as far away as Japan and Iran, are holding their annual convention in Waltham, Mass., today through Sunday.

They will trade Alger books and memorabilia, visit the old house in Revere, Mass., where Alger was born in 1832, and hold a memorial service at his gravesite in Natick.

The society started with two members 16 years ago when a retired Kalamazoo, Mich., postal employee met another Horatio Alger buff.

"Alger's stories mean if you strive, work hard and tell the truth, you'll succeed," says member Richard Seddon, 73, of Winchester, Mass. "It sounds corny today, but 100 years ago, it was the thing."

"The man was no great

intellectual. He wrote homey stories, no sex or violence. He was like the protesters today. He saw evil and tried to correct it."

Seddon, a retired refrigeration and air conditioning engineer, said the down-and-outers Alger wrote about never made it really big.

That idea has been popularized by the American Schools and Colleges Association which gives an annual Horatio Alger Award to someone from humble beginnings who achieves great fame and-or wealth, he said.



Evelyn Grebel shows off the tablecloth (donated by Pauline Westgard) that she won at the HAS annual auction.



Dick Seddon, Ben McAdoo, and HAS Vice-President Brad Chase pose for a picture in the motel's hospitality room.



Delbert (left) and Ralph Brandt at the Saturday evening banquet.



# Horatio Alger, his heroes and his spirit may never die

By William B. Hamilton  
Globe Staff

His prose was pedestrian at best. His life was so dull that several biographers felt they had to make up stories about him. His very name has become a cliché.

But no matter, for someone's going to have to come up with a new way of describing success or think of a better phrase than "rags to riches" before a Chelsea-born minister and author by the name of Horatio Alger Jr. will soon be forgotten.

And working hard (naturally) to make sure that no such thing ever happens and their hero's name lives on will be a diverse group of book collectors, history buffs and true believers called the Horatio Alger Society.

About 100 members of the society gathered in Waltham over the weekend for their annual convention, and for three days they bought and sold first editions of such Alger classics as "Ragged Dick" and "Tattered Tom," discussed Alger minutiae and visited some of the places that were associated with his life.

Massachusetts was where Alger was

born (1832) and died (1899) so there were plenty of places to visit, but probably the highlight was a memorial service yesterday morning at Alger's grave at Glenwood Cemetery in South Natick.

There, Max Goldberg, a retired Natick chiropractor eulogized Alger for having urged "the outcast and homeless urchins" of the late 19th Century "to refuse the status quo of their plight and to strive on with the banner of 'Excelsior' to higher fields and leave behind the hardships of their lives for the American Dream."

To Goldberg and a number of others, Alger's attraction is the philosophy he's come to symbolize, a philosophy that seems to harken back to the simpler times of their youth.

"I would say it's shaped my life," Paul Miller, a payroll adjuster from Vienna, Ohio, who read his first Alger book when he was growing up in a Pennsylvania coal mining town, said emphatically.

"Particularly now when youth is running rampant and doing anything they want," explained the convention chairman, Richard Seddon of Winchester, "a lot of people yearn for a time that was more stable, when kids

aren't out smoking pot and vandalism and all that stuff."

Finding youths who share a belief in those virtues has proved difficult in recent years. The "Ragged Dick Award," presented to a boy that lives up to the standards described by Hogatio Alger Jr., has not been given since 1968.

"Basically it's pretty hard to find a kid who's that poor who's going to want an award," explained an officer of the society. "Another reason is I think the society was disturbed that the kids who were given the awards, you never heard of them."

Not everyone is that concerned about the philosophy anyway. According to Jerry Friedland, the Alger Society's president, a New York lawyer, a majority of the members join the organization because of their interest in collecting the books which can bring in prices up to \$1500.

And there was one person at the convention who doesn't care much for either Alger or his books, but has contributed much of the mythology that surrounds Alger's life.

Herbert R. Mayes was a struggling writer in the 1920s, the age of

debunking, when a publisher suggested that he write a "debunking biography." Mayes agreed.

"It began as a serious effort but after a minute and a half of research he struck me as an awful dull fellow," Mayes, now 77, recalled.

Possessed of a vivid imagination and a determination that would have no doubt pleased his subject, Mayes decided to improvise. He made things up.

He gave Horatio a stutter. He gave him a nickname — "Holy Horatio." He said he adopted a Chinese boy who died in a tragic accident. He said he went to Paris and engaged in some torrid affairs. None of it was true.

The problem was that nearly everybody believed it. Mayes's biography — "Alger: A Biography Without A Hero" — became a standard work.

Three years ago Mayes admitted publicly to the entire hoax in the pages of "Newsboy," the Alger Society newsletter. Yet even today, hardly any book on Alger is without some product of Mayes's fertile imagination.

No one at this convention really seemed to care.

The Boston Globe Monday, May 16, 1977



## THE ALGER TRAIL

Dr. Max Goldberg of Worcester Street will lead a tour of Horatio Alger Society members and friends along Natick's "Alger Trail" this Sunday.

The group will assemble at the Pink Spinning Wheel Antique Shop, 728 Worcester Street (Route 9) at 11:00 o'clock and proceed to the home on Florence Street where he was living with his sister, Mrs. O. A. Cheney, at the time of his death in 1899.

Next stop will be the site of the former Old Natick Inn in South Natick, across the street from the Museum and Library on Eliot Street. The Museum will be open for inspection of Alger memorabilia.

Crossing the Charles River, the grave site will be visited in Glenwood Cemetery. Here the Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Mayne of the Eliot Church will open the ceremony and there will be brief talks by the Society officers and guests.

This week has been officially designated "Alger Week" by proclamation of Governor Michael Dukakis.

Harvard College will be displaying considerable Alger material during this observance.

The Natick Bulletin — Wednesday, May 11, 1977



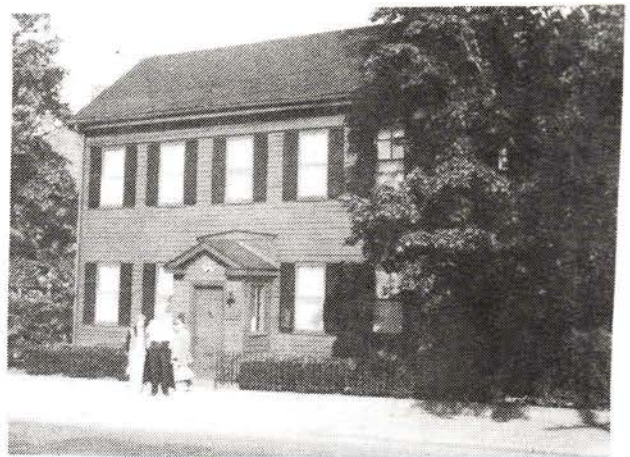
Julie Barton, granddaughter of Convention Host Dick Seddon, at the meeting.



HAS Treasurer Dale Thomas and President Jerry Friedland having a good time at the convention.



Alger biographer and authority Ralph D. Gardner talks with Dr. Leslie Poste in the hospitality room.



One point of the four day convention was the chance to see the Revere, Massachusetts birthplace of Horatio Alger, Jr.

MORE CONVENTION NEWS AND PICTURES NEXT ISSUE!!