

THE FOSSIL

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A NEW YEAR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Guy Miller

It is comforting to note that according to the volume number of this issue of *The Fossil*, we are entering our 104th administrative year with an apparently enthusiastic group of officers raring to push forward. For example, just recently, I received a message from our Webmaster Dave Tribby that our present 3-year Internet domain name rights (for www.thefossils.org) will expire in April. He recommends that we sign up for ten years this time. Imagine that—2018! He and Official Editor Ken Faig are envisioning horizons beyond my limited scope, indeed. I look in wonder at the fact that by the end of this administrative term, I will have served as your president a total of nine years, a bit too long some might say, considering how little, really, I have personally accomplished in that time. I am thinking in particular of membership growth, the primary measure by which most administrations are judged. I do brag that I ended my first stint (1994-95) with a fairly successful record, but in that term I focused my campaign on getting ex-Fossils back into the fold. During this go around it has been Ken Faig who has done any of the recruiting, and I am happy to see that they are all first-time members.

There's the rub: day after day I discover that fewer and fewer of the members in our beloved hobby of amateur journalism are the least bit interested in our past. This fact was brought home to me with a jolt when, a few years ago, the president of NAPA confessed that he had no idea who Alma Weixelbaum was, she who provided a portion of her trust fund to that organization, the interest from which still helps to support the activities of the group. I would hesitate

testing our members of AAPA and NAPA on their memories of Edward H. Cole or Edna Hyde McDonald or George H. Kay, for instance. Maybe they are too far in the past for us to expect youngsters to dwell on the accomplishments of these figures. But I despair sometimes, especially when I recall the remark of another former president of NAPA who dropped his Fossils membership because he wasn't interested in "reading about dead people." Well, okay. Still it would be nice if members of the hobby will be able to recall for a couple of decades the lives and endeavors of such individuals as the Wessons, Ralph Babcock, and our late Les Boyer. I am certain the likes of Dave and Ken will certainly make an effort to see that they do!

And with that thought I cannot feel discouraged as to the future of the Fossils. And I am further bolstered when I look over our cast of officers and consider what they have done and are doing to give the kind of support which spells success for any organization. Further, I am proud of a membership which is often a "silent majority" and at present is growing smaller, but which still comes forth with a generous outpouring of their purses whenever I have sought support for a worthy cause. This past year, for example, when I asked for donations to support Fossil Gary Bossler's gift to the hobby, *NAPA 1977-2007*, resulting pledges could have covered the cost of the entire book.

For the next few months, the ball is in my court. You will remember that with the 2008 elections we will be putting in place a whole new administrative structure. At that time, we will cast votes for only three people who will compose our Board of Trustees and who will proceed to pick one of their number as president and then go on to appoint all the officers and committees necessary for the Fossils to do its business. It is my responsibility to see that you get a new set of by-laws before elections. I am preparing them now and

should have them ready for distribution shortly after the dawn of 2008.

Anyway, let's salute the beginning of a new year of the Fossils!

HONORS TO DAVID L. TRIBBY AND DEAN REA

Guy Miller

David L. Tribby and Dean Rea, two devoted activists of our ajoy family, were presented awards by the Fossils at the 71st Convention of AAPA held in Portland OR August 17-21.

David was considered a “natural” for the recipient of the Fossils' coveted Gold Composing Stick Award, a tribute which has been presented but ten times prior since its inception in 1953. For the record, as well as for David's information, presentations were made to Edward H. Cole, Helen and Sheldon Wesson, Harry L. Lindquist, Edna Hyde McDonald, William F. and Matilda S. Haywood, Leland M. Hawes, Jr., Ralph W. Babcock, Harold Segal, Elaine J. Peck, and Victor A. Moitoret.

Actually a gold-plated printer's composing stick mounted on a testimonial plaque, it is awarded to persons for “outstanding merit,” i.e., “for outstanding accomplishment in the furtherance of the Fossils as an organization or for unusual endeavor on behalf of amateur journalism...” Without a question, David qualifies in both these provisions. A member of the Fossils, NAPA and AAPA, David has devoted the largest portion of his endeavors to the welfare of AAPA which he joined in June of 1970. David was active from the beginning in publishing and political affairs both as officer and mover and shaker—indeed, one member insisted that David had “from the very beginning...proposed one screwball idea after another.” Never mind, David did well by AAPA.

David is noted for his letterpressed journals, namely *The Handset Journal* begun in 1970—in May of this year attaining its 18th number—and *Tribby's Tribune* which saw its 96th issue in September. More remarkable may be his brainchild *Ink Cahoots* (name suggested by Helen and Sheldon Wesson) whose first number appeared in 1973. It consists of bound copies of contributions from AAPA members, something akin to the better known publication *It's a Small World*

originated by the late Bill Haywood and now carried on by Mike Elliston of Great Britain. Perhaps it was because *Ink Cahoots* did hit one member as a copycat of *IaSW* that he labeled the endeavor “Tribby's Folly” (nevertheless, that member was one of the contributors to the first edition). In any case, David will have the 35th production of *Ink Cahoots* in our hands before the end of the year, despite the number of other irons he has in the fire.

One of those “other irons” includes his organizing for AAPA a website capable of handling various tasks, including an on-line membership roster; a section giving all the information you ever wanted to know about AAPA along with an application blank; access to issues of *American Amateur Journalist*; and, lately, a link which enables the interested ajoy to access the so-called “E-journals” of such well-known ajoy as J. Hill Hamon and Hugh Singleton

David has performed a similar service for the Fossils as our Webmaster. When Fossil Martin “Mike” Horvat announced that he could no longer serve as custodian of the Library of Amateur Journalism and, moreover, would have to disband the American Private Press Association, the umbrella entity under which the Library was administered, David stepped in to salvage aspects of Mike's APPA website and to add other materials to form a new website (www.thefossils.org) for the Fossils, which includes issues of *The Fossil*. At the NAPA convention in Massillon this past July, Memorial Committee members Jon McGrew and this writer had to get some organized information—and fast—on the late Helen Wesson. And, there it was, on the Fossils website! So, David inadvertently supplied a service to the NAPA.

David also performed another unexpected service to this writer as he was preparing this article. David joined The Fossils in 1977, the same year that he was elected Editor of *American Amateur Journalist*. In an article for *The Fossil* (January 1980) entitled “The 250th Issue of *AAJ*,” David related his efforts in attempting to do a follow-up to Fossil Leland Hawes's exhaustive history of the first 25 years of AAPA, “The Stronghold of Youth,” which appeared in *The Fossil* of July 1961. In the process of reviewing David's piece, the writer recalled that it was in Lee's history that he had first read about an up and coming AAPA member by the name of Dean Rea. Thanks to David, that is where this account begins with an individual who was honored with the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism.

First, though, to refresh your memories about the Award: during the 1986-87 administration of J. Ed Newman, this hobby-wide award was instituted by an anonymous donor known only to the president but since identified as Fossil John Horn. Russ, the first recipient, received the award at his home in Salem VA in 1986. Since then, in addition to Russ's award, the plaque had been presented to 17 ajays representing all the major ajay groups: AAPA, NAPA, UAPA, and UAPAA. Dean Rea, then, is the 18th. Not strictly a Fossil Award, we are, however, honored to have been asked by John Horn to arrange for the selection and presentation of the plaque on his behalf. Asked for guidance in determining the acceptable candidate, John writes: "As an example of 'service to amateur journalism,' one need only look at Russ Paxton. The recipient should be a person who has given freely of his or her time and effort solely for the benefit of their fellow amateur journalists."

We first remember Dean from that Hawes-authored tome which refers to his activity at several points. Dean had joined AAPA in August 1942 (a runaway from the "gray-bearded" NAPA), a few months after fellow Missourian Les Boyer, and, in fact, in 1944 was co-editor with Les of the publication *The Missourian*. Lee notes, also, that around that time Dean was publishing *The Monthly Herald*. Of course, today, we look forward to receiving his hand-set letterpressed masterpiece *Oregon* (latest, No. 52, Summer 2007) and his duplicated delight *On the Oregon Trail*. Anyway, what particularly attracted our attention in "The Stronghold of Youth" is Lee's account of the lively 1960 convention in Brooklyn. This writer was a visitor to that affair, but doesn't remember the rounds of conversation. They involved what became the organization of the "Silver Spur" initiative aimed to bolster membership by urging the reinstatement of the "old timers." Dean Rea was one among the "Silver Spur" group which proved to be highly successful. Dean has continued to be successful in his quest for recruiting, his latest ventures in and around Oregon where at present he is the inspiration of an active club of Oregonians.

Of course, Dean held various offices in AAPA, including Official Editor and several rounds as president (first, in 1965-66). In 1995, Dean hosted a robust convention in Eugene OR and was highly visible at the recent meet in Portland. We remember that at Eugene, Dean—himself not a Fossil—made all the arrangements for the Fossils' annual luncheon which

had been scheduled for that convention. We know that the spirit of Russ Paxton smiled down on the Portland assemblage as Lee Hawes presented Dean the Paxton Award.

OREGON WELCOMES AAPA

David Tribby

The Red Lion Hotel on the River in Jantzen Beach on the banks of the Columbia River was headquarters for the American Amateur Press Association's 2007 convention, held from Sunday, August 19, through Tuesday, August 21.

Convention Chairman Ivan Snyder welcomed nearly 40 participants, who socialized, discussed amateur journalism affairs, toured points of interest, and heard about recent awards.

Sunday, August 19

By Sunday afternoon most of the folks who pre-registered found the welcoming table in the lobby and received a packet chock full of information about Portland, plus a copy of Roy Paul Nelson's book *The Cartoonist*.

More than twenty folks found their way to Chang's Mongolian Grill for the traditional Charlie Bush Chinese dinner. At this restaurant, diners fill their bowls with their own selections of raw meats, vegetables, and sauces, then hand the contents to a chef for cooking.

After returning to the hotel after dinner, many conventioners took advantage of the hospitality suite to continue their conversations.

Monday, August 20

Ivan Snyder called the opening session to order at 9:18 Monday morning. He read greetings from several members who could not attend: Russell & Delores Miller and Roy Paul Nelson. He announced that Marge Adams Petrone Limerick Contest entries needed to be submitted to the judges (Jiyani Lawson, Jack Scott, and Dave Tribby) by 11:30am on Tuesday.

Ivan called upon officers to give their reports, starting with "Doctor" Lee Hawes (who replied, "I don't do prescriptions!").

President Lee Hawes was pleased membership has held around 250 for the year. The

summer election period is coming to a conclusion. There was a candidate for each office, but one (Les Boyer, Secretary-Treasurer) died just after the ballots were mailed. Ivan Snyder has agreed to serve if nobody is elected. Lee thanked those officers who have served for the past two years.

First Vice President Dave Tribby suggested members review the AAPA Web site and pass on suggestions to make it a more effective recruiting tool. Last year the home page was reorganized to highlight information of interest to potential recruits. Dave observed that personal contacts, such as Lee Hawes has made with his writing friends, have been much more effective at recruiting than a classified ad purchased in a home schooling magazine. He hoped the amendment dropping the credential requirement would pass, removing a barrier for people filling out an application.

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Rystrom provided a written report summarizing the change in the membership totals and treasury balance over the past year. From August 2006 through July 2007, there were 31 new members, 4 reinstatements, 33 expirations, and 7 deaths, taking the membership total from 261 (including 32 household members) to 256 (and 33). The treasury remains in good shape, mainly due to donations made by members.

Official Editor Sean Donnelly thanked Ken Rystrom for his prompt reports, and Roy Paul Nelson for his timely reviews. Needing to produce an issue every other month keeps Sean in the AAPA loop. Leland Hawes has been Sean's anonymous co-editor, soliciting many of the published articles.

Mailer Jack Scott described his drive to Columbus (from Mt. Vernon), Ohio, to learn about recent Postal Service changes. One actually made the job easier: dropping the requirement for putting rubber bands around every ten bundles. (Jack donated a large box of large rubber bands to the auction.) All international mail now goes via air mail, pushing up AAPA's costs. Jack sends out about thirty sample bundles per year. If you know someone who might be interested please pass the name on to Jack.

At the conclusion of the reports, Ivan asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then asked if anyone had a topic related to AAPA not on the agenda that should be addressed.

George Hamilton rose and asked AAPA members to consider how we might work together with other hobby groups. Aren't there activities that could be coordinated, increasing results by reducing duplicated

effort? Today, AAPA has the membership and NAPA has the money. (The Amalgamated seems to have the most activity.) He recalled a coordinating committee he proposed in the mid-1990s, but foot dragging by NAPA leaders of that era kept anything from happening. Perhaps the time has come to try again.

Ivan pointed out printed copies of AAPA e-journals available for reading on a table at the front of the room for anyone who had not yet seen them.

Following a short break, Ivan introduced J. Damien Diachenko, who spoke on the subject "Journal Design." Joe handed out a brochure he produced for the convention, dealing with one idea per page. He then discussed each idea in detail: (1) type: work with what you have; (2) paper: match the paper to the printing process; (3) color: use as an accent; (4) content: freedom of the press is the spirit of AAPA; (5) pictures: easy to do with digital cameras—use clear images; (6) software: use a layout program, not a word processor; (7) output: get a device that will do the job—a laser printer may cost more, but it will produce better results and last longer; (8) budget vs. space: letterpress takes space, computer hardware and software cost money; (9) contemporary vs. traditional: progress is good—but please use proper punctuation and capitalization; (10) journal makeover: Joe showed an example of basing an amateur paper on a page from the Gutenberg Bible. You don't need a lot of fancy equipment and type—just do what you do well.

Following Joe's talk, members broke for lunch and then at 1pm reassembled in front of the hotel for a bus trip to downtown Portland.

First stop: headquarters of the Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC) where the group got to see the facilities that assist people who want to turn out small magazines. Computer and letterpress equipment were both present, as well as a library and the tools needed to create a zine. The visitors had the opportunity to chat with a zine publisher who was in the midst of a press run. Jiyani Lawson later signed Heather Lane up as a member.

As they finished looking over the IPRC, members walked around the corner to Powell's City of Books, a large store selling both new and used books.

The bus returned to the hotel in time for people to form informal groups and go to one of the nearby restaurants for dinner.

A little after 7pm, Dean Rea introduced the evening's speaker, William Sullivan. Dean met William while working at the *Eugene Register-Guard* in the

mid-1980s. William, a freelance writer, pitched the idea of a series of dispatches from a backpacking trip across Oregon's wilderness. Those articles from his 1300-mile trek were popular with readers and formed the basis of his first book, *Listening for Coyote*.

The topic for William's slide show, *Hiking Oregon's History*, came from his book of the same name. He told stories tied to Oregon, ranging from ancient native myths to a Japanese bombing during World War II. He had pictures to illustrate each story, along with maps to show locations. William donated a copy of the book for the AAPA auction.

Following the question & answer period after William's talk, members made their way to the hospitality suite for more socializing and snacks.

Tuesday, August 21

Tuesday morning's session started shortly after 9 o'clock with Jiyani Lawson teaching "Glueless, Stitchless Bookbinding." Participants found packages of paper (both text and cover stock) on the tables, along with tools such as razor blades and rulers. Jiyani showed how to fold, slit, and combine the text paper into a signature, then add a cover—again by folding, slitting, and working one side of the paper through the hole cut through another. Most of the students eventually caught on to the technique, and many of the completed books didn't look too bad.

About 10:40, Ivan introduced AAPA member Rebecca Gilbert for a presentation on the Independent Publishing Resource Center's mission, program, outreach, and impact. Back in 1997-98, customers of Reading Frenzy, a bookstore selling small independent publications, asked what it would take to create their own zines. Rebecca and her friends rented 300 square feet of nearby office space and stocked it with old computer and copying equipment, resource files, and a library of sample zines. Soon they started giving workshops on technical skills (editing, printing and computer operation).

The offices now take up 900 square feet (they could use 1500), and their lending library has grown to over 5000 publications. They hired a part-time outreach coordinator, but still depend upon volunteers for the bulk of the work. They provide a significant outreach to youth, particularly those who had not done well in traditional educational programs or who feel the need for a literary outlet. The IRPC has done about twenty events in the last year.

Their 200-250 members pay \$45 per year to belong...which just about covers the rent. In order to pay for the coordinator, keep the equipment running, buy supplies, etc., they apply for grants and solicit donations.

Tuesday morning's final segment, "Double Your Flavor, Double Your Fun: A Recruiting Strategy," was led by Dean Rea. He asked the question: "Why Recruit?" AAPA needs to retain enough members for bulk mailing—and also enough to hold a convention.

Recruiting tends to be happenstance. But if each member brought in one new member each year, we would double in size each year! Lee Hawes got his friends to write for *Gator Growl*. and then convinced them to join.

In his new job as high school sports photographer, Dean learned how technology has changed. He upgraded his computer system and Internet connection to upload digital photos from home. Blogs and e-journals are happening, so Dean urges AAPA to understand how to use them, and not shut out new methods and technologies.

Members broke for lunch about 11:40. When they returned to the meeting room at 1:00 they found tables full of interesting items for the annual auction. This year's auctioneer, George Hamilton, provided a running commentary on aajay history, the need for generous bids, personality quirks of various individuals, and just about everything else as he kept order among the bidders. He was assisted by Ken Rystrom and Jim & Helen Doolittle.

George moved 65 lots of merchandise. There were vintage amateur papers, books on a variety of topics, printing equipment, a CD of Burton Crane singing from the 1930s, and a drawing by Roy Paul Nelson. A C&P Pilot press brought the largest single bid, \$625. When the dust settled, bidders paid over \$1500 for the items.

Banquet

Members gathered at 5:30 for the official convention photograph, then made their way to the dining room. Following a buffet dinner, Master of Ceremonies Dean Rea spoke on a variety of subjects. He encouraged Jan & Ray Bourhill to find time in their busy lives to publish—perhaps while commuting on the ferry. Dean expressed disappointment that a last minute injury kept Fred Liddle from attending, particularly

since Monday would have been “Fred Liddle Night” at the Portland Beavers' minor league baseball stadium. Dean recalled others we miss who attended conventions in the Pacific Northwest: Helen Wesson, Byron Scott, and Les Boyer. He expressed thanks to: Jiyani Lawson, for making the Portlandia buttons; Nancy Karp, for framing the Roy Paul Nelson drawing sold at auction; Roy Paul Nelson, whose illness kept him from attending; and George Hamilton, for his skill as an auctioneer.

Convention Chairman acknowledged several new members: Brian Nelson and his daughter Ari, Paul King, and Carye Bye. He also announced the Marge Adams Petrone Limerick Contest winners: 3rd place, Wes Sullivan; 2nd place, William Sullivan; 1st place, Louise Fusfeld.

AAPA President Lee Hawes announced the AAPA Laureate awards. Judges Gordon Rouze, Richard George, and Linda Donaldson have completed their report, but due to Gordon's recent illness the certificates were not printed in time to be presented at the convention. They are now in the process of being signed. Winners included: art, Gale Mueller; prose non-fiction, Jim McDonnell and (honorable mention) Michael Coughlin; non-letterpress journal, Mike O'Connor and (honorable mention) Tim & Penny Dye; letter press journal, Ivan Snyder and (honorable mention) Dave Tribby; journal of overall excellence, Lee Hawes.

The Fossils, “the Historians of Amateur Journalism,” asked Lee to present two of their awards: the Russell L. Paxton Award to Dean Rea and the Gold Composing Stick Award to Dave Tribby.

Dean Rea introduced the banquet speaker, Ken Metzler, who was born in Boring, Oregon, and became a newspaperman, a journalism professor, and is now a freelance writer. His topic: “Say Something Important!” Ken acknowledged his Boring roots, He felt it unfortunate when newspapers used the town name as an adjective in headlines: “Boring Boy To Wed Needy Girl” may have been the worst. Ken believes the most important thing you can say is about yourself. Take the world from your perspective, enjoy it, and write about it. Try to let others learn something helpful from your experiences.

After Ken's address, MC Rea returned to the podium for a special presentation: another Roy Paul Nelson drawing, this one for Chairman Snyder in recognition of his many efforts to make the convention happen. President Hawes also thanked Ivan for his

many efforts in preparing an exceptional convention. Ivan had responsibility for selecting the venue, rounding up speakers, arranging bus transportation, preparing promotional material for the bundle, collecting registrations, putting together information packets that were ready for each person at sign-in, stocking the hospitality suite, and all the other details needed to run an AAPA convention. The convention program ran to eight pages plus cover, and was printed in three colors. Everyone got a personalized three-color name badge. By the end of the evening, as he realized he had pulled off the convention with no significant glitches, Ivan had the relieved look of someone who could relax.

Wednesday, August 22

Those who lingered an extra day made a couple of excursions south of Portland on Wednesday. First up was a visit to Roy Paul Nelson, the artist-cartoonist with the distinctive style. Later they visited the Nineteenth Century Operative Letterpress Museum in Salem.

Those Who Attended

Eric Bagdonas, Jan & Ray Bourhill, Carye Bye, Len & Bette Carrick, Joe Diachenko, Sean Donnelly, Helen & Jim Doolittle, Bob Fusfeld, Louise Fusfeld, Rebecca Gilbert, Ruth Gray, George Hamilton, Lee Hawes, Ray Jerland, Gary & Nancy Karp, Paul King, Jiyani Lawson, Ken Metzler, Ari Nelson, Brian Nelson, Dean & Lou Rea, Bob & Ann Rose, Ken Rystrom, Jack & Maurine Scott, Bob Siekmann, Ivan Snyder, Janell Sorensen, Wes Sullivan, William Sullivan, and Dave & Liz Tribby.

(The Fossil thanks Dave Tribby for permission to use his account of the AAPA convention, which can also be consulted online at <http://www.greenapple.com/~aapa/cons/2007/aapa07.html>. The online reported is illustrated by many digital photographs and includes a link to an album of additional photographs. We are also indebted to Dave for the high-resolution digital photographs of the Russell L. Paxton and Gold Composing Stick award presentations which adorn the covers of this issue of The Fossil.)

LESLIE W. BOYER
JAMES F. GUINANE
CHARLES C. MACAULEY
OUR FINAL SALUTES

Guy Miller

James F. Guinane of New Town, Tasmania, Australia, passed from amongst us on June 23 of this year. He came to amateur journalism in 1941 at the age of 19 by way of NAPA; but, because wartime restrictions made it impossible for him to pay his dues personally, a legend Burton J. Smith sponsored him. At the time of his affiliation, Jim had already been a publisher for some time of *The Waratah* and *Pen Points*—both passarounds—along with *News-Zine*. His NAPA credential was his first issue of *Mishap*. A handset letterpressed journal *Small Talk* was his last offering appearing in 1985 or 1986. But his hallmark journal *Churinga* (“the message stick”) will remain as one of the literary treasures of amateur journalism. Carefully crafted (typed, text right justified) in colors on an Ellams flat-bed duplicator, it first appeared in March 1943 and through its 21 issues devoted its pages to richly eloquent, brilliantly tailored observations much in the tradition of Jim's literary idol Ernest Edkins.

Besides his own publishing activities, Jim contributed to journals such as *Boxwooder* and *Campane* and *The National Amateur* (at various times serving as NAPA's Bureau of Critics chair) with rare insights into the personalities of various ajas as well as essays on their work. None of these persons whom he so vividly profiled had he ever met personally. But the reader has to keep reminding himself of this fact. He continued in this same vein in pages of *The Fossil* starting immediately upon reinstating in 1985. Notable among the articles is a two-part study “The Babcock Years” (Ralph B.) and memorial pieces “The Transgressions of Alf” (Ralph's older brother) and “My Long-ago Willametta” (Keffer).

Jim celebrated his induction into the Fossils in his December 1955 issue of *Churinga* (No. 21): “A strange achievement for *Churinga* is to attain its majority with this 21st issue and simultaneously to

celebrate its admission to the Fossils! We had looked forward to becoming of age, but the coming of such impressive age is a sobering thought. But we take heart from the fact that Australia, with its strange survivals from the past in such animals as wombats, platypuses and kangaroos, is known as ‘the land of the living fossils’—and hope that we may remain a living and lively Fossil.”

At that point we bid farewell to this rare amateur after a quote from issue 2 of his *Small Talk* (December 1986) concerning Les Boyer: “I have received from Les Boyer four copies of his enviable little journal *The Echo*....Nothing he writes in his all-editorial issues is obvious, contrived or boring. In No. 91 ‘My Wife, the Printer’ may seem obvious but only in the sense of being a ‘natural.’ With a title like that no one could go past. Every printer stops instantly in awe and every wife is immobilised by disbelief. Through another of his wife's interests, which Les reveals to us, we discover that she is a woman of admirable humor. Who else would go down on her knees at Westminster Abbey and in reverent posture take a brass rubbing of an old manhole cover? These words especially: ‘T. Crapper and Co., Sanitary Engineers...Chelsea, London.’” Such an introduction to *The Echo* leaves us little else to say in praise of the journal except that it reached its 100th edition in 1991. In “Shreds of News About Fossils” (*The Fossil* Vol. 88 No. 3, April 1991), the reporter has this comment: “Last year...*The Echo* had reached an impressive 99 issues. Many amateurs would at that point have rushed to the press to churn out a quick four pager to entitle them to membership in the rather exclusive ‘centurion’ category...But Les isn't that type, and he let the amateur world wait until the March AAPA bundle to reveal his classy 100th number. The first issue was back in May of 1943, so it required just short of 48 years for Boyer to reach this milestone.”

Leslie W. Boyer, also a member of NAPA (1944) and the Fossils (1962), is listed on the Secretary's roster as having joined AAPA on or about March 15, 1942, and through his active span of 65 years had exhibited intense interest in the hobby. In an article by then Fossil President Lee Hawes entitled “Fossil Les Boyer Is AAPA Stalwart” (*The Fossil* Vol. 62 No. 181, Autumn 1964), we learn that Les, the newly elected AAPA Official Editor, held his first office in AAPA when he was 15 years old (1944). From then on over the years, except for a period of necessary preoccupation with college work and the

U.S. Marines, Les poured generous energy into AAPA political affairs. In 1993 Les and Ralph Babcock were honored for their 50 years of activity with the comment that by that time Les had held “every position available in AAPA.” Writing of Les's terms as president in 1962 and 1963, Lee observes, “His terms were considered ‘solidifying years of building,’ which laid the foundation for the association's real growth and ‘grass roots’ strengthening through local chapters. At the time of his death of June 21 he was on the ballot as a candidate for Secretary-treasurer.

A similar interest that Les held for AAPA was also evidenced during his early years in the Fossils. Minutes of the annual meetings then held in New York City record that Les, then a resident of Hartsdale NY, took an active part in the proceedings. Later, from 1968 through 1971, he served The Fossils as Librarian, a post that was by the end of his stint becoming involved in controversies over the placement of the Fossil Library. His latest assignment was as a member on the Gold Composing Stick Award committee. In addition to this political activity Les contributed articles to *The Fossil*, including two articles on Sheldon and Helen Wesson—one entitled “The Fossil in Japan” (*The Fossil* Vol. 94 No. 298, April 1997) gives an account of the Wessons' toil in seeing through the publication of Truman Spencer's *The History of Amateur Journalism*. In reviewing his active ajoy life, it logically follows that Les would have been honored with the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism which was presented to him by President Victor Moitoret at the AAPA Convention in Tacoma, Washington, August 18, 1990. Opined the judges for the Award: “His interest in the hobby crosses organizational lines, and he has not taken part in the rivalries and controversies that occasionally occur except as a voice of reason that stressed the purposes of our organizations....”

A recent note of Lee Hawes brings good news about Les's large ajoy collection. Lee has asked Elaine to send it to him for the present, and he will see to its disposition.

Before rendering our final salute, we should mention that, besides *The Echo*, Les had also published numerous other journals, including *La Cucaracha*, *The Missourian* (with co-editor Dean Rea), *The Bibulous Bastard*, *The Metropolitan Amateur* (official organ of the Metropolitan Chapter of AAPA), *The &mpersand* and his latest journal *The Desktopper*.

Voices from the long past came to us upon

learning of the death of Charles Cameron Macauley. Charles and his older brother Robie were sons of George and Emma Macauley who were long-time active publishers, George from about 1910 through to his death in 1969. George's *The Hayfield* and *O-Wash-Ta-Nong* (among several other titles) and Emma's *The Distaff* made regular appearances in NAPA. Together they set aside a tract at their Pine Springs Ranch in Michigan. Dedicated as “Presidents Field,” it consisted of carefully arranged pine trees which from the air one could see forming the letters N-A-P-A. Eventually, Father George served as president of both NAPA (1937) and the Fossils (1954). In the meantime, the brothers published their own papers: Robie, who joined NAPA in 1933, printed regular issues of *Pine Needles* as well as teaming up with friend Ralph Babcock in publications such as *The Pink Chicken* and *The Little Wet Hen*. Charles, in a charming autobiographical sketch in *The Fossil* (Vol. 93 No. 4, July 1996), confesses that his paper *Grand Rapids Amateur* did not last more than three or four issues, and in fact, unlike his brother, he remained in NAPA but a short time (1936-38). However, he hastens to add, “As for me, I have always taken pride in having been born in a print shop (and an amateur one, at that) and still have type lice in my INTEL486 computer.”

Over the years, Charles kept up a regular correspondence with Victor Moitoret. Then in 1984, upon Vic's urging, Charles became a member of the Fossils and maintained his membership until his passing in May of this year. Thus, we close the book on the history of an illustrious NAPA family.

AMATEUR JOURNALISM: CRADLE OF ILLUSTRIOUS AUTHORS

Ken Faig, Jr.

Every hobby loves to record those of its exponents who have risen to fame in the outside world, and the amateur journalism hobby is no exception. The Fossils, in particular, were founded by men who had attained success in the world at large but who nevertheless recalled with fondness their boyhood days in the amateur journalism hobby. James Montgomery Beck, one of the Boys of '76 and a founding member of The Fossils, was a prominent member of the legal profession who rose to be Assistant Attorney General and Solicitor-General of the United States. Josephus Daniels was Secretary of the Navy under President

Woodrow Wilson and Ambassador to Mexico under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Cyrus H. K. Curtis and Charles Scribner rose to illustrious heights in the world of professional publishing. However, probably no member of The Fossils has risen to greater fame in the outside world than the inventor Thomas Alva Edison, publisher of the *Herald* in his youthful days. According to the sketch of Edison in Spencer's *History* (pp. 145-146), only two surviving copies of Edison's *Herald* were known: one hanging framed in glass in Edison's own home in Lewellyn Park NJ and the other in the Ford Museum in Dearborn MI. Even the illustrious name of President Abraham Lincoln had a fringe connection with the hobby of amateur journalism: his beloved son Thomas ("Tad") Lincoln was co-editor of an 1866 amateur paper *Brown School Holiday Budget*. Edwin Hadley Smith obtained a copy for his collection from Lincoln's old associate Sterling K. Rounds. The only other known copy hung for many years in the home ("Hilldene") of President Lincoln's surviving son Robert Todd Lincoln in Vermont. Edison's *Herald* and Lincoln's *Budget* would certainly be among the most valuable of amateur journals although very early items like Condie's *Juvenile Portfolio* might give them a run for the money on the auction floor.

However, if there are any illustrious connections with the hobby which are especially dear to amateur journalists themselves, the early efforts of men and women who rose to fame in the world of literature would be among the foremost. Spencer's *History* contains an extensive discussion of early precursors of the amateur journalism hobby in his chapter "Early Unorganized Amateur Journalism" (pp. 6-16). The most common instance of affiliation with the amateur impulse which we find cited in the lives of those who have risen to fame in the world of literature are juvenile manuscript magazines. The great Nathaniel Hawthorne created seven numbers of an amateur manuscript magazine entitled the *Spectator* in 1820. They are preserved at the Essex Institute in Salem MA and Edwin Hadley Smith reported on them in his *Library News* (no. 10) for June 1943. In England, the Brontës were also great creators of juvenile literary material. I am not aware whether any of the juvenile work of the Brontës was created in "periodical" or "chapbook" format. Later, Robert Louis Stevenson, at the age of sixteen, created a manuscript magazine entitled the *Sunbeam Magazine* ("an illustrated magazine of Fact, Fiction and Fun") in his home in

Edinburgh, Scotland. Starting around 1896 and continuing until 1909, Howard Phillips Lovecraft, later affiliated with UAPA and NAPA, created juvenile literary and scientific publications from his home in Providence RI—at first using pen and ink like Hawthorne and Stevenson and later using a hektograph.

From my perspective, there are three levels of association of such juvenile literary activity with the amateur journalism hobby. At the first level, we have the precocious juvenile author-editor who creates pen, ink, pencil and crayon "publications" in single or multiple copies for circulation among friends and family or even possibly for sale to neighbors. At the second level, we have the author-editor who does the same as his equivalent on the first level but uses a more elaborate method of reproduction: carbon paper, spirit duplicator, mimeograph, even printing press. Finally, on the third level, we have the author-editor who actually participates in the organized amateur journalism hobby albeit perhaps only briefly. I would like to discuss one instance at each level which has come to my attention. These examples will probably not be completely new to longtime amateur journalists but at least I hope they will not prove to be "old hat."

The famous fantasy author M. P. Shiel (1865-1947) is surely an example of a level one creator of a juvenile manuscript magazine. Shiel spent his first twenty years on the Caribbean island of Montserrat. Famously, Shiel's father crowned his son as "king" of the small islet of Redonda; and in later life Shiel and then his "royal" successor Fytton Armstrong created an entire Redondan nobility. (Shiel's fictional patents of nobility remind me of the very real patents of King Henri I Christophe (1767-1820) of Haiti; the College of Arms has recently (2007) reprinted their manuscript of Christophe's "Armorial of Haiti.") In *M. P. Shiel: A Biography of His Early Years* (Austin TX: Roger Beacham, 2005), Harold Billings cites several sources concerning Shiel's early literary activities: "at twelve I had written a novel, the MS. of which was long preserved in my family (never published); at thirteen I was issuing a penny-periodical, seven copies a week for seven "subscribers," written by hand—a labour of Hercules; and at fifteen I had a serial in a newspaper" (pp. 77-78). This "penny-periodical" was Shiel's pen-and-ink manuscript magazine *The Montserrat Spectator*. Curiously, he chose the same title chosen more than fifty years before by Nathaniel Hawthorne in Salem, Massachusetts—both doubtless recollecting Addison's famous eighteenth-century paper. A

fragment of Shiel's eighth number, published from Plymouth, Montserrat, on December 15, 1876, survives in the Henry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin and is reproduced on p. 61 of Billings's biography of Shiel. Not long after this issue was published, the young Shiel was sent away to boarding school in Devonshire, England. If Nathaniel Hawthorne and Robert Louis Stevenson can be cited a level one precursors of the organized amateur journalism hobby, M. P. Shiel, albeit of lesser fame, also fits the mold. Significantly, he issued his manuscript paper in 1876, the very year when permanent organization of the amateur journalism hobby was finally achieved in the United States with the founding of the National Amateur Press Association.

My level two exponent comes not from the nineteenth century but from the twentieth—the famous science fiction author Philip K. Dick (1928-1982). In recent years, Dick's readership has exploded and four of his early novels from the 1960s were gathered in an omnibus for the prestigious Library of America series in 2007. (A collection of H. P. Lovecraft's supernatural stories was published in the same series in 2005.) My source for Dick's juvenile literary activity is the chronology appearing in his Library of America volume and Lawrence Sutin's biography *Divine Invasions: A Life of Philip K. Dick* (New York: Harmony Books, 1989). Of Dick's first juvenile publication, Sutin records: "Discontented with mere marketing [selling magazine subscriptions—ed.], he established a periodical of his own. *The Daily Dick* cost one cent and was printed on a "dupli-craft" that reproduced Jim's handwriting and tiny masthead drawings. Two issues survive from December 1938." Sutin goes on to discuss a report of a lost dog and a "crudely drawn comic" that appeared in one issue. Dick and his mother Dorothy had returned to Berkeley, California in June 1938. Her son, whom she permitted to call himself "Jim" at this period, was enrolled in the fifth grade at Hillside School in Berkeley when he issued *The Daily Dick*. He had earlier attended the 1938 World's Fair in San Francisco with his father Edgar. I am unsure what a "dupli-craft" may have been and perhaps some other Fossil can enlighten us. When my family and I visited Thomas Jefferson's home Monticello some years ago, we were shown a device invented by Jefferson to duplicate a hand-written letter. (A mechanism attached to the pen impelled a duplicate pen at the other end of the device, which created the

copy of the original letter.)

However, Dick was not done with juvenile publications with the demise of *The Daily Dick*. Dick entered Garfield Junior High School in Berkeley in 1941. By this time he was a voracious reader and collector of science fiction pulp magazines. Dick's friend George Kohler had a small printing press, and in 1943 Dick and his friend Pat Flannery commandeered this press for a second brief attempt at a self-published newspaper, entitled *The Truth*. Sutin records (p. 37): "*The Truth* made its debut in August 1943 and went for two cents. "However, if we start to show a huge profit, we'll bring it down to one cent.") Its motto: "A Democratic Paper With A Democratic Principle." The writing was nearly all Phil's, including this fervid pronouncement: "This paper is sworn to print only that which is beyond doubt the TRUTH." It featured a serial story, "Stratosphere Betsy" (about a daring test pilot), and a comic strip hero, "Future-Human," who was Phil's first full-fledged SF creation." The illustrations for Sutin's biography do not reproduce either of Dick's juvenile publications, the surviving examples of which are probably owned by the Philip K. Dick Foundation. I don't know if any copies of Dick's juvenile publications survive outside of the Foundation; with the author's burgeoning fame, they would doubtless be highly collectible. In later life, as a professional author, Dick did attend science fiction conventions. I am unaware of any connection between Dick and organized science fiction fandom and amateur journalism during the period (1938-43) framed by his two juvenile publications. The Oakland Amateur Press Club was very active in 1938-39 and hosted NAPA's annual convention in 1939. The Moitorets were active in the Club. Among the members of the Club, C. Hamilton Bloomer, Jr. was very active in early science fiction fandom. In later life, Dick was well known for his battles with mental illness and drugs. He went through five marriages. However, his fiction is challenging to read and stimulates the mind. Examples should be readily available at your local library if you have a mind to sample the work of this early juvenile publisher.

My example of level three involvement with the amateur journalism hobby will doubtless not be totally unknown to our membership: L[yman] Frank Baum (1856-1919), author of the Wizard of Oz books. In its listing of "Other Amateur Journalists of the Past", Spencer's *History* includes (p. 157): "Frank Baum, 1868, *Home Journal*, author *Wizard of Oz*, etc."

However, in consulting Katharine M. Rogers's biography *L. Frank Baum: Creator of Oz* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002) and other sources, I have managed to learn a bit more which I thought I would share with the readership of *The Fossil*. Baum grew up in the Syracuse NY area. His father Benjamin Baum acquired a country estate which he called Rose Lawn (because of the hundreds of rose bushes on the property) just north of Syracuse in 1866. Rogers records (p. 4): "One day when Frank was fourteen, his father took him along to his office in Syracuse, and Frank wandered off and saw a small printing shop. He was so fascinated by watching the old owner work that he lost track of time, and he resolved to become a printer or a newspaper man. Benjamin bought him a small press. There was a fad for amateur journalism at the time, and it was possible to buy a child a press with all the other necessary equipment for something between fifteen and fifty dollars. Once Frank has mastered the techniques and taught them to his younger brother Harry, they decided to issue a monthly paper." The Baum brothers' paper was titled the *Rose Lawn Home Journal*, in honor of their home. The first issue (dated ca. October 20, 1870) is apparently not extant; according to Rogers, later issues followed on November 20, 1870 and on July 1, August 1, and September 1, 1871. Writing by the entire Baum family appeared in Frank's and Harry's amateur journal. The most famous piece was probably Frank's article "The True Origin of the Cardiff Giant" in the July 1, 1871 issue. It concerned a hoax concerning an alleged petrified giant exhumed on a farm only eight miles from Baum's home—actually a gypsum statute buried by Binghamton cigar manufacturer George Hull in 1869. Frank and Harry advertised their ability to print "cards, programmes, handbills, letterheads, billheads, etc.; at the lowest prices!" (Rogers, p. 5) and acquired a better press in 1873. Frank became interested in stamp collecting as well and printed an eleven-page *Baum's Complete Stamp Dealers' Directory* and formed a mail order business with a partner to sell foreign postage stamps. Then Baum and his brother teamed with Thomas Gold Alvord, Jr.—son of New York's lieutenant governor—to announce *The Empire*—"a First Class Monthly Amateur Paper." Apparently, no issues of *The Empire* survive and it may be that none were ever published. Frank and Harry Baum and Tom Alvord all entered Syracuse Classical School in 1873. So there were doubtless other fish to fry in their busy young lives. Young Frank Baum tried many business

endeavors until he finally settled upon juvenile fiction as his life's work. Today, legions of fans read and collect the Oz books. Millions more know of Oz as a result of the 1939 classic motion picture adaptation.

Sue Ferrara's article "Living in Oz's Many Settings" appeared in the Syracuse *Post-Standard* on June 5, 2003 and can be found in the Internet. It contains additional information about Baum's early homes in Syracuse and his early literary activity. Ferrara records that amateur journalists in New York could join the Empire State Press Association, which was formed in 1873 and held its first convention at City Hall in Syracuse on August 26, 1873. The presiding officer was William A. Fiske, who published *Our Gem* with Charles R. Sherlock. In 1870, Sherlock had teamed with Thomas Gold Alvord and Eugene B. McClelland to publish *The Empire*—so the paper announced by the Baums and Alvord in 1873 was probably intended as a revival of the earlier title. Frank Cropper's *The Amateur Journalist's Companion of 1873* lists both Baum brothers and Thomas Alvord. It seems likely that all three were in attendance when the Empire State Amateur Press Association met in Syracuse on August 26, 1873. The Rose Lawn estate went up for auction on March 11, 1880 after Benjamin Baum encountered business difficulties. His son Frank purchased the house itself while the Crouse family bought most of the land. Baum sold the Rose Lawn home to his mother for \$1 in 1883 after he married Maud Gage. Baum's mother sold Rose Lawn on September 24, 1887, seven months after the death of her husband Benjamin. The home was destroyed by two fires in the 1950s. Action Sports and Skate Center now stands on the site of L. Frank Baum's Rose Lawn on Brewerton Road (Route 11).

It would certainly appear that L. Frank Baum was involved in the organized amateur journalism hobby in 1870-73 and actually published at least one amateur journal *The Rose Lawn Home Journal*. Vincent Golden of the American Antiquarian Society confirmed that the Society's amateur journalism collection does not include any issues of *The Rose Lawn Home Journal*. It would surely be interesting to know more about the bibliography of *The Rose Lawn Home Journal* and *The Empire*. It may be the some Baum or Oz scholar has already undertaken a census of institutional holdings of these journals.

I hope you have enjoyed my brief discussion of three juvenile "publishers" who later attained fame in the world of literature—M. P. Shiel, Philip K. Dick,

and L. Frank Baum. The first two had no known involvement with the organized phase of the amateur journalism hobby during their period of juvenile literary activity. Baum, however, was certainly a full-fledged amateur journalist, albeit for only a few years. I believe Shiel and Dick deserve a place with Hawthorne and Stevenson in discussions of authors whose development included juvenile "publications." Baum deserves to be included with H. P. Lovecraft, Elsa Gidlow, Burton Crane, and Brooks Atkinson in the list of mainstream literary figures who participated in our hobby.

THE DANCE OF FALL

Martha E. Shivers

October is a golden time—
Colors abound with their hues,
Meadows and fields reaching prime,
blazing earth with picturesque hues.

Maples and oaks flash floral gowns,
The pine whispers...my green will stay.
Bronze leaves dance around as clowns,
And Indian Summer passes away.
Blackbirds serenade when they gather,
Robins call out their farewell song,
Wild geese honks announce cold weather,
Frost threatens with her white sarong.

Capture mem'ries now to remember
As winds bring in harsh November.

THE GIFT OF A STORM

Martha E. Shivers

Dark clouds rolled and tumbled,
eerie lights sliced the sky,
potato wagons rattled and rumbled
as evening was drawing nigh.

Gushing rain washed growth anew,
parched ground drank its fill,
drooping plants stretched toward the blue
while their feet enjoyed the rill.

Fragrances bounced and skittered,
sweeping upward as they swirled,

birds swooped and tittered.
joy reigned; God had cleansed His world.

THE TRUE SUCCESS

Elsie Alice Gidlow

*(Reprinted from E. Bruce Chaplin's The Enterprise
(vol. 3 no. 1) for March 1916.)*

Oh bard, pray can you tell me
Just what, and nothing less,
In your esteemed opinion
Constitutes a life's success?

(ANSWER)

A man's success in life, my friend,
Does not depend on fame,
Nor on a lordly title
Affixed before his name.

A bank account is not success,
And stocks and bonds untold,
A name that's known from East to West,
Or countless bags of gold.

But man's success in life, my friend,
The only true success,
The kind that keeps his heart e'er young
And makes his happiness

Is success in making others glad,
In soothing other's pain,
Success in cheering weary souls
To see them smile again;

Success in helping fainter hearts
Across the thorny bits;
Success in wiping tears away
Where brooding sorrow sits;

Success in light'ning other's loads,
In calming other's strife;

All this my friend, and nothing less,
Is true success in life.

(This early poem by Elsa Gidlow—marked “Entered for U.A.P.A. Laureateship”—is evidence that her activity in the amateur journalism hobby—specifically the Erford-Noel branch of the United Amateur Press Association—antedated the formation of her literary club in Montreal in 1917 and the publication of Les Mouches Fantastiques. I suspect that she began to participate in amateur journalism soon after she commenced work in Montreal at the beginning of 1915. By 1916-17 she was Second Vice President and by 1917-18 President of the Erford-Noel branch of UAPA. When LAJ opens at UW-Madison, one of my first intended projects is to search for more early poetry by Gidlow in amateur magazines 1915-20.)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

I'm grateful to Guy Miller and Dave Tribby for their contributions to this issue. Dave has enabled us to have a fine report of the recent AAPA convention for the historic record. In addition to his customary “President's Report,” Guy has furnished us reflections on our Gold Composing Stick and Paxton Award winners and fitting tributes to our deceased members James Guinane, Les Boyer and Charles Macauley. Personally, I think Guy's modesty about his achievements as President in his “President's Report” deserve some rejoinder. Without Guy's endeavors as printer, you would not be holding this issue of *The Fossil* in your hands. Without his contributions, every issue of *The Fossil* produced during my editorial term would have been a much lesser product. Guy brings to us the continuity of historical knowledge and recollection which help to provide our journal with its unique focus. Guy is in fact our active link between the great achievers of yesteryear and the living hobby. While relishing the past achievements of our hobby, Guy is very much an active amateur journalist. He richly deserves the appellation “Mr. Fossil” by which he is commonly known. Yet, he finds time to serve not only NAPA and AAPA, but also to publish his own *Lamplighter* and Louise Lincoln's *The Kitchen Stove*. So enough of modesty—thank you Mr. Fossil for all you do for this organization! When I wrote my article for

this issue about the amateur publishing activities of M. P. Shiel, Philip K. Dick, and L. Frank Baum, I thought that the names of all three of them would probably be unfamiliar within the context of amateur journalism. Only Baum received brief mentions in Spencer's *History*. However, in helping my friend S. T. Joshi with a reference for the forthcoming revised edition of his H. P. Lovecraft bibliography, I discovered Harold Ellis's article “L. Frank Baum, Amateur Journalist and Royal Historian of the Land of Oz” in *The Fossil* for January 1978. Harold's article develops more of Baum's later career than I covered in mine and includes a reproduction of the banner of Baum's own *The Roselawn Home Journal*. So far, I have not discovered an institutional library which owns a file of Baum's amateur journal. My article also mentioned a number of famous alumni of the amateur journalism hobby. Of these, Harold Ellis's article “Fossil Thomas A. Edison: An Update” in *The Fossil* for July 1982 provides additional information about Edison's somewhat obscure activities in the amateur journalism hobby.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's manuscript magazine *The Spectator* (1820) is justifiably famous in the annals of amateur journalism. Another of Russell L. Paxton's issues of *The Fossil*—this one dated October 1978—includes Robert H. Woodward's article “Maria L. Hawthorne: First Female Amateur Journalist,” concerning the involvement of Hawthorne's sister with his manuscript magazine. Woodward also noted that a transcription of all seven issues of *The Spectator* was published in *The New England Quarterly* (1931:4) at pp. 290-327. I suppose it all goes to show that few of the byways of the amateur journalism hobby have gone unexplored by *The Fossils*.

Paxton's issues of *The Fossil* are full of rich historical material. Perhaps at some future date we can devote the major portion of an issue of *The Fossil* to our distinguished former editor (1975-83) for whom our Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award is named. The best kind of tributes and retrospectives of course are those which can be published during the lifetime of the subject. My “Editor's Notebook” got crowded out of the last issue of *The Fossil*—one of the things I had wanted to mention in connection with our Vondy tribute was that Vondy was the subject of an entire issue of Lee Hawes's *Gator Growl* (April 1959) during her lifetime. Our last issue reprinted Tom Whitbread's and Verle Heljeson's fine tribute from that issue of *Gator Growl*. In fact, 2007 marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of Lee Hawes's wonderful journal—and the

front page of an early issue is reproduced as our inside back cover in celebration of this achievement. The Fossils wish *Gator Growl* many more wonderful years of publication.

In this issue, President Miller notes with sadness the passing of Fossils Les Boyer, James Guinane, and Charles Macauley. The community of individuals with a committed interest in the history of the amateur journalism hobby and its preservation is small but dedicated. In recent years, we have had a few additions to our membership but not as many as we would like. If you read *The Fossil* on the Internet, I hope you will consider joining our ranks as a member or as a subscriber. Our paper journal does include some wonderful illustrative material not included in the text so faithfully posted to the Internet by our Webmaster Dave Tribby (who truly wears many hats in the amateur journalism hobby). For my part, I promise to continue to do my best to bring you interesting content. Coming up in 2008 should be a special issue devoted to Jim Guinane and amateur journalism in Australia, assembled with the help of Fossil Trustee Stan Oliner. I invite *your* contribution if you can help me in any way to make the forthcoming issues of *The Fossil* better. Short news notes concerning yourself or other Fossils are always welcome. In recent past issues, we celebrated Louise Lincoln's 95th birthday and Marion Fields Wyllie's 100th birthday. I know we have many wonderful veterans of the amateur journalism hobby in our ranks and I would like to take note of *your* special occasions if you will allow me. Articles on any subject relating to the history of the amateur journalism hobby are always especially welcomed.

The centerfold illustrative section of this issue celebrates the thirty years (1935-64) that LAJ spent at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia PA—the same city that witnessed NAPA's birth in 1876. Fossil Cyrus H. K. Curtis (1850-1933), publisher of *The Saturday Evening Post*, donated \$5 million to enable the Institute to erect its building. Finally, I join Guy Miller in congratulating Dean Rea and Dave Tribby on receiving the Russell L. Paxton and Gold Composing Stick Awards. Both of these individuals have distinguished lifetime records of contribution to the amateur journalism hobby—with more to come!

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THE FOSSILS

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This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, a non-profit organization whose purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as "Amateur Journalism" and to foster the practices of amateur journalism. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the 1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University

of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually—\$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to *The Fossil* without privileges of membership is \$10. Make remittances payable to The Fossils, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.