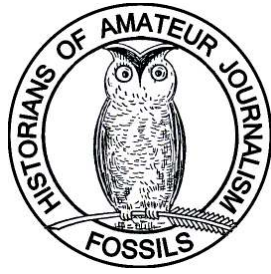


The



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Amateur Newspapers of Harrison County, Ohio

by Scott Pendleton


From The Jimhinker for fall 2012 (Vol. 42, No. 3), a publication of the Harrison County Historical Society, Cadiz, Ohio. Used with permission.

THE HOBBIES AND FADS of young people change from generation to generation. Many come about from changes in technology but sometimes arise from changes in society. Radio and the Depression created the escapism of Buck Rogers in the 1930s. Cheap cameras and postal rates created the real photo post card craze in the 1910s; the telephone ended it. Changes in printing technology created several hobbies in the second half of the 19th Century. The Amateur Newspaper hobby was made possible by the invention of a cheap printing press and the "invention" of adolescence.

Before 1867, the aspiring amateur journalist had to pay a printer, own a large press, or hand-write his newspaper. Production was either expensive or tedious, making for some short-lived publications with few copies printed. Very few hand-printed newspapers are known but, sur-

The invention that started a hobby: The Novelty Printing Press. Boston druggist Benjamin Woods invented a small cheap printing press in 1867. He advertised in newspapers and boys' magazines all over the country. According to this ad from Oliver Optics Magazine of August 1875, he had sold over 13,000.

DO YOUR OWN PRINTING.
NOVELTY PRINTING PRESS.
 Unequaled for Amateur or Business purposes.
13,000 IN USE.
BENJ. O. WOODS & CO.,
 Manufacturers and Dealers in all kinds of
PRINTING MATERIAL,
49 FEDERAL ST., BOSTON, MASS.
CARD PRESS, \$5.00.
 Send Stamp for Catalogue with Agents' Addresses.

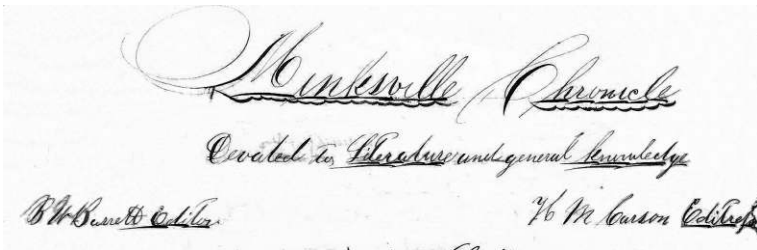


prisingly, Harrison County had at least one for which a copy has survived: *Minksville Chronicle*. Published by B. W. Barrett (Editor) and H. M. Carson (Editress) with the motto "Devoted to Literature and General Knowledge," it is neither dated nor numbered. However, its content places it shortly before the Civil War.

In 1867, Benjamin Woods of Boston invented a small hand-inking press. Woods was a druggist who needed a quick and cheap way to print labels. His table-top press design was novel and cheap to produce. The "Novelty," as he named his invention, was advertised in boys' magazines as a toy and sold for a few dollars. The aspiring journalist now had a way to cheaply and easily produce his newspaper and express his opinions.

The technology to cheaply produce a small newspaper coincided with the rise of a new societal class, the adolescent. The pre-1870 urban youngster generally entered the workforce into one of three categories: laborer, craftsman or businessman. The labor class was often illiterate and had attended little or no school. They were the farm hands, the teamsters, the brick makers and the miners.

The craftsman usually entered into a years long apprenticeship in his early teens. This class sometimes had schooling and may have been literate. They were the cobblers, the cabinet makers, the tailors and the stencil makers. The more successful would move into the busi-



Minksville Chronicle, single issue, undated, unnumbered, 2 pages, 8.5" x 11"; **Location:** Minksville, on Brushy Fork approximately one mile north of US 22; **Editors:** Brice W. Barrett (b. 1844) and Hanna M. Carson (b. 1836) **Notes:** It was one of very few amateur newspapers edited by a girl. Notice the title "Editress." **Sample content:** It now lies in Congress to determine whether this great confederacy is to be divided which our forefathers bound together with their lives honor and fortune and sealed with their blood. Whether it is to be torn asunder by a few southern profligates or whether the people will stand by the constitution for there is no real foundation for disunion but that slavery and freedom cannot exist together.

ness class. For example, Thomas Pittis moved from Deersville to Pittsburgh in the 1820s to become an engraver and stencil cutter. He moved to New York City in 1832 where he became prosperous through his trade and invested in real estate. He built a large house on Park Avenue where family history says he was a neighbor of our country's first multi-millionaire, John Jacob Astor. He made the jump from the craftsman class to the business class.

The youth of the business class were often privately educated and literate. After their education was completed they might enter the family business, start their own, or enter one of the professions. They were the bankers, shop owners, and newspapermen who generally owned the industries that employed the labor class.

The Industrial Revolution and compulsory education changed the teenage years, especially for the craftsman class. Furniture, glass, and even shoes were now made on an industrial scale. Gone were the apprenticeships. Many students went only to the eighth grade because high schools were not yet common or compulsory. What was a middle class teenager to do?

In her article "Youthful Enterprise: Amateur Newspapers and the Pre-History of Adolescence, 1867-1883" (*American Periodicals: A Journal of History, Criticism, and Bibliography*, Jan 2012), Jessica Isaac writes, "White, middle-class Americans who found themselves teenaged in the 1870s experienced that age much differently than the generations that preceded them. Middle-class teenagers of the 1870s were being held out of the workforce and inhabiting an emerging life category that had yet to be anchored by high school as it is today. They were a new peer group around which institutions and social expectations had yet to be formed." One way this new peer group connected was through amateur newspapers.

These teens referred to themselves as amateur journalists. Their clique was called "Amateurism" or simply "the 'Dom." They could mail their papers at the rate of one cent per pound thus allowing them to cheaply exchange papers with other youth around the country. Through this exchange of ideas and opinions and changes in society, a social norm developed and adolescence as a life stage came into being.

Before radio, newspapers were the main mode of communication. Every town had at least one paper; Cadiz, a village of 1,700, had four in the 1890s. Boys in the 1870s and 80s wanted to grow up to be newspaper men. Woods' cheap press made that possible and weekly or monthly "newspapers" sprang up all around the country.

Most papers were formulaic. The first two pages were usually dedicated to fiction and poetry. The third page typically included editorials, puzzles, riddles, or jokes and the exchange column. The last page usually had advertisements from local businesses and other amateurs. Although corny by today's standards, they give us a

glimpse of what boys were thinking during this period.

Many young publishers lost interest quickly, producing few issues before moving on to the next hobby. However, several local amateurs went on to publish newspapers and books, following in the path of nationally known onetime amateurs like Frank Baum (*Wizard of Oz*) and Joseph Pulitzer.

The heyday of "the 'Dom" was over by the late 1880s. There were several causes of this decline. The postal code changed in 1879 to a penny per paper, pricing some out of the market. Also, the more consistent publishers matured and their papers' emphasis changed from entertainment to education. Finally, society and what it expected out of adolescents, changed. The "job" of the middle class adolescent became education and the later papers reflected this in their more worldly content.

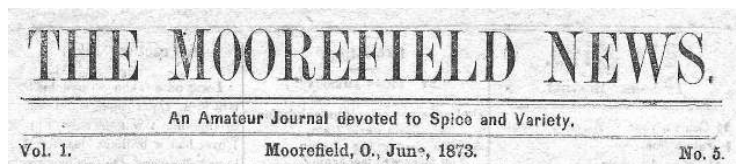
For its size, Harrison County has a remarkable number of amateur papers. What follows is a bibliography of known amateur newspapers from Harrison County. They are illustrated, described and, where space permits, samples of the contents are also provided.



Amateur Scholar, Vol. 1 No. 2, Jul 1876, 4 pages, 4.5" x 5.5", monthly; Location: Cadiz; Editor: Will J. McCoy (b. 1859) Notes: Will McCoy and his brother Charles operated out of the post office while their father was postmaster. It was common to have the post office in the back of the postmaster's business, forcing patrons to walk by the merchandise to get their mail. Sample content: Butcher- "Come John, lively now; break the bones in Mr. Williams' chops, and put Mr. Smith's ribs in a basket." John- "Yes sir; just as soon as I have sawed Mrs. Murphy's leg."



The Recruit, Vol. 1 No. 1, May 1873, 4 pages, 7.5" x 11.25", monthly; Editors: Justice Moore Schreiber (b. 1858) and W. McF. Ferguson (b. 1857)



The Moorefield News, Vol. 1 No. 5, Jun 1873, 4 pages, 7.5" x 11.25", monthly; Editors: Justice Moore Schreiber (b. 1858) and W. McF. Ferguson (b. 1857)

The Moorefield Weekly Gazette.

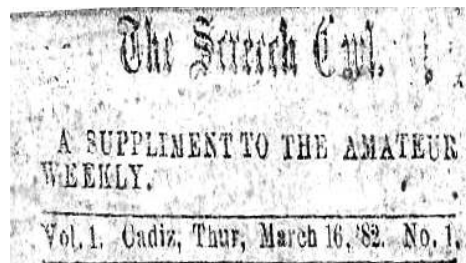
"Knowledge is Power."

Vol. 2. Moorefield, Ohio, March 7, 1874. No. 17.

The Moorefield Weekly Gazette, Vol. 2 No. 8, 1 Jan 1874, 7.5" x 10.25" and Vol. 2 No. 17, 7 Mar 1874, 7" x 9", 4 pages; **Editors:** W. McF. Ferguson (b. 1857) No. 8 and 17. Marion Beall (b. 1856) No. 8. **Notes:** Ferguson had three papers in Moorefield. The first, *The Recruit*, lasted one month, May 1873. Even though *The News* began the following month, it magically morphed into Vol. 1 No. 5! Harry McConnell practiced this same inflation of production. Ferguson's style matured as he did and the *Gazette* approached a professional small town paper in quality and content. It had local news with correspondents from Pumpkin Ridge, Dennison, and Flushing. It also had some original poetry and fiction. However, it kept the fiction, exchange, editorial, and joke format and still advertised itself as an "amateur journal devoted to the interests of the public." He had also outgrown his Novelty Press and was advertising it for sale. Ferguson would move to Coshocton and publish a weekly newspaper, *The Coshocton Commentator*, for several years in the early 1880s. **Sample content** (1 Jan 1874): WAR! In Dennison. Quite an excitement is now raging at that place, over the decreasing of wages. The R. R. having suspended business, on account of the employees refusing to comply with the arrangements of the road. The government having placed regular troops at that place, for the purpose of keeping down rioting. The road now bears the name of Pine Coffin & Short Life R.R. formerly the P'gh, C'ti, & St. Louis R. R.



The Amateur Weekly, Vol. 1 No. 6, 16 Mar 1882, 8 pages, 2.25" x 3"; **Location:** Cadiz; **Editor:** Harrie B. M'Connell (b. 1868). **Notes:** This is 13-year-old McConnell's first attempt at newspaper publishing. He would go on to author two books and work in the newspaper business his entire adult life, publishing the *Cadiz Republican* for 30 years. **Sample content:** What relation is a loaf of bread to a steam engine? Bread is a necessity. A steam engine is an invention. Necessity is the mother of invention; therefore, a loaf of bread is a mother to the steam engine.



The Screech Owl, Vol. 1 No. 1, 16 Mar 1882, 8 pages, 3.25" x 2", "A Supplement to *The Amateur Weekly*"; **Editor:** Harrie B. M'Connell (b. 1868) **Notes:** This paper is one 4" x 6.5" sheet printed on both sides and folded. The quality of McConnell's nascent attempts at newspaper publishing was poor!

THE GOLDEN HOURS.

VOL. 1. CADIZ, OHIO, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1882. NO. 13.

The Golden Hours, Vol. 1 No. 13, 6 Jul 1882, 4 pages, 5.25" x 5.74", weekly; **Location:** Cadiz; **Editors:** Harry B. McConnell (b. 1868) and John E. Hoffman (b. 1869). **Notes:** Young McConnell's third attempt at publishing and editing. Based on the date of this issue, we can assume his first two attempts, *The Amateur Weekly* and *The Screech Owl*, did not survive more than two months.

THE NONAME.

BY H. B. McCONNELL,

CADIZ, OHIO,

—JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER,—
1883.

The Noname, Vol. 1 No. 1, Jan 1883, 4 pages; Vol. 1 No. 2, Feb 1882(3), 12 pages plus cover; Vol. 3 No. 2, combined volume Jul, Aug and Sep 1883, 12 pages; 4.25" x 5.5"; *Noname*, Vol. 2 No. 4, Whole No. 22, Apr 1883; Vol. 2 No. 5, Whole No. 23, May 1883; Unnumbered, Jun 1883; Whole No. 27, Jan 1884; 4.25" x 5.5", 4 or 8 pages, monthly; **Editor:** Harry B. McConnell (b. 1868). **Notes:** The last of McConnell's four known amateur publications and by far the most polished. The numbering of volumes shows McConnell, like Ferguson from *The Moorefield Gazette*, was not careful! McConnell gives a history of his activities in Volume 1, Number 1 of *The Noname*: "With this issue we change the title of our paper to The Noname. We call it No.1 because our former attempts were under a different names and of a different size. While our pen is moving we will say something of "our" former attempts. During the holidays of 1881, we became the happy possessor of a printing press. We immediately borrowed font of Pica type and went to work ... We succeeded in printing it so that it could be read. During the first of last year we bought a few lbs. of type and went to work to print a paper. Six numbers of the *Amateur Weekly* were issued. A friend of ours bought a larger press than the one we owned. He tried to buy some type from us. We told him we would furnish the type if he would furnish the press and we would print a paper. July 8, 1882, a paper called *The Golden Hours* was distributed through Cadiz. The paper contained about 12,000 minion ems. Six numbers of *The Golden Hours* were issued. They were all badly printed and nearly all the content clipped, although No. 14 was somewhat improved. It contained nothing but original matter and was a little better printed than the others. During the time we printed this paper, we received only one exchange."

The Silver Arrow.

HORACE M. SIMMONS, PUBLISHERS "WE GATHER LIGHT TO SCATTER" TERMS: FIFTY CENTS A YEAR, FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

VOL. 2. DEERSVILLE, OHIO, MARCH, 1874. NO. 6.

The Arrow, listed by Homer Poulson in *The History of Deersville*, Vol.1 No.1, Apr 1873; *The Silver Arrow*, Vol. 2 No. 6, Mar 1874, 8 pages, 8 x 10.5", monthly; **Location:** Deersville; **Editors:** Horace

M. Simmons (b. 1855), John W. Reynard (b. 1852); Assoc. Editor: Harry St. Clair, Jr. (b. ?). **Notes:** Of the papers reviewed, *The Silver Arrow* is the best in quality and content, rivaled only by *Our Optic*. It was produced on colored paper and contains many original articles and poems. According to Poulson, the press and paper was sold in March, 1875, to J.B. Westafer of Newport, Tuscarawas County, and renamed *The Newport Silver Arrow*.

Sample content: Riddle No. 36

I'm an animal small
But 'Oh Cracky! I'm tall
If my angry passions rise.
For then I'm sure
Your nose can't endure
The stench that goes up to the skies.



Our Optic, Vol. 1 No. 3, 1 Mar 1883, 4 pages, 5.5" x 8", monthly; **Location:** Cadiz; **Editor:** Charles Augustus Hanna (b.1863). **Notes:** Hanna's first publication, *The Fiery Comet*, was printed in 1878 when he was 15. I have not seen a copy but its layout and content was likely similar to the other papers listed. The 20-year-old Hanna produced a paper typical of older amateurs. As these early editors matured, the hobby changed; gone were the jokes and riddles and in were the criticism and education. In Hanna's case, the entire issue is criticism. **Sample content:** Gleason has written a story! ... In his attempts at brilliancy he appears to lose all regard for the rules of grammar and rhetoric, and sacrificing correctness for what he foolishly imagines is eloquence, he has not only been guilty of several errors, but has totally failed of obtaining any compensating merit, either in added grace or beauty... Many of the prepositions, for instance, are used in so peculiar a sense as to cause us to wonder whether they were not promiscuously scattered over the story after he finished writing it.

Saunders' Occasional.

Published every once in
a while,

AND SOMETIMES IN BETWEEN, -BY:

O. F. SAUNDERS.

THIS COPY - - - FREE.

No. 1, Hopedale, O. June, 20, 1884. No. 1.

Saunders' Occasional, No. 1, 20 Jun 1884, 4 pages, 6.5" x 9.5", "Published every once in while, and sometimes in between"; **Location:** Hopedale; **Editor:** Oscar F. Saunders (b. 1868). **Notes:** Full illustration on back cover. Although unrelated to his paper, I did find that Saunders was discharged from the military in 1898 for insanity and was listed as an inmate at the Government Asylum for the Insane in the 1900 census.

Our Sedan, Vol. 1 No.4, Aug 1883, 4 pages, 5.5" x 7.5", monthly; **Location:** Cadiz; **Editor:** Jamison. **Notes:** The extant copy of this newspaper is printed on acidic paper and therefore in very poor condition and not worth reproducing. Large sections are missing including the editor's first name. A logical choice would be Oliver Jamison, born 1868.

Additional Titles from Public Collections

I found three large collections of amateur newspapers in public institutions: Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Rochester Institute of Technology, and American Antiquarian Society in Boston. The RIT collection has complete information online in a searchable spreadsheet. The American Antiquarian Society responded to my second inquiry with information on the *Amateur Democrat*. Even though I was willing to pay and simply asked for my options for research or the name of a professional researcher in their area, the rest of my emails went unanswered. The Western Reserve Historical Society has 15,000 amateur papers. I called and asked for an appointment to see the archive. They asked for detailed e-mail and said they would get back to me since they could not find the collection. I am still waiting.

Rochester Institute of Technology
Cary Graphic Arts Collection

The Fiery Comet; Jun - Oct 1878; Vol. 1 Nos. 4 - 6, Vol. 2 Nos. 1 - 2; monthly **Location:** Cadiz; **Editor:** Charles A. Hanna (b. 1863)

The Screech-Owl, Sep 1878; Vol. 1 No. 6; **Location:** Cadiz; **Editor:** W. G. Estep (b. 1860)

American Antiquarian Society

Amateur Democrat; Aug 1875, Vol. 1 No. 3; Nov 1875, Vol. 1 No. 6; Feb 1876, Vol. 2 No. 3; Sep 1876, Vol. 3 No. 4; Oct 1876, Vol. 3 No. 5; monthly/irregular; **Editor:** W. M. Ferguson, "Editor, proprietor, publisher and printer" for Vol. 1 and 2; W. M. Ferguson and Ed. J. Kellerd "editors and publishers" for Vol. 3. **Notes:** Is this the same W. M. Ferguson that edited in Moorefield in 1873-4?

The Daisy; May 1883; **Location:** Cadiz

The Fiery Comet; May, Jul, and Oct 1878; **Location:** Cadiz

Our Optic; Jan and Apr 1883; **Location:** Cadiz

The Screech-Owl; Aug and Sep 1878; **Location:** Cadiz

Star; Aug 1873; **Location:** Cadiz

Hopedale Enterprise; Aug 1884; **Location:** Hopedale

Editor's Notes: Harrison County is located in the west-central portion of Ohio. The county seat is Cadiz. In the 1870s and 1880s, its population was around 20,000. Thanks to Fossil Jack Visser who sent notification of this article, and to Scott Pendleton for providing a PDF file of the article (including illustrations) and allowing permission to republish it. ♦

Lone Scouts of America Tribe Papers

by Gordon Rouze

TRUMAN SPENCER'S *The History of Amateur Journalism* left out one of the most interesting chapters in a.j. – the day of the Lone Scouts of America Tribe Papers. By the time I became aware of the LSA, they had disbanded and merged with the Boy Scouts of America. I became interested in the Tribe Papers and, with the help of Russell Paxton, put together a sizeable collection. Russ, along with several other former Lone Scout publishers, including Marvin Neel, Martin Keffer and Ray Albert, were active in the new upstart AAPA which I joined in 1941.

The Lone Scouts of America was founded in 1915 by Chicago publisher William D. Boyce, who wanted to establish an organization similar to the Boy Scouts, but oriented toward lonely boys in rural areas or small towns where there was no BSA troop. Boyce made the American Indian the symbol and centerpiece of all LSA activities, because he thought the “loneliest figure in American history is the Indian.” Emphasis was on a close relation to nature and self-reliance. The only adult leaders were at the headquarters in Chicago where study work submitted to obtain one of the seven degrees was reviewed and graded. There were no uniforms, hats, or books of instruction to buy.

The first Tribe Paper was the *Black Hawk*, published in 1915 by Elgie Andriane, who had no way of knowing how fast and furiously his idea would catch on. By 1920, there were over 250 publications. Scouts had begun to band together in loose associations, or “Tribes,” dictated by geography or a common interest such as stamp collecting and became known as “mail” Tribes. At first the papers were a means of reporting the local scout news to their members, but before long the boy editors realized the need for income and a desire to show off their work. Aggressive efforts sought subscribers nationwide with subscription rates a few cents per issue. They also sold

advertising and compensated authors for their manuscripts and artwork.

Selling advertising and charging subscriptions may seem to take these teenage boy publishers out of the amateur class, but it's hard to imagine there was much, if any,

money left over after paying for the printing, postage and other expenses. In fact, most ended up like the youthful editor of the *American Advertiser* who reported that he was “\$88.69 in the red for a year's effort.” The mortality rate was high. Better papers lasted about three years. But what an education in business for these newly minted entrepreneurs.

Papers tended to be patterned after the national scouting magazines of the day with scouting news, adventure stories, cartoons, “how-to” instruction, and editorial comment. The majority were professionally printed eight-page publications,

typically six by nine inches. Some boys became printers, setting up their own print shops. Each Tribe Paper had a personality of its own – the personality of the editor was reflected in every page. Competition among the Tribe publications was fierce as each editor strove to make his paper the best. They boasted of their tremendous (?) circulation and sought out the best of the Lone Scout writers and artists. There is no doubt that the papers exerted great influence on the future lives of the enterprising editors of these interesting journals.

The Lone Scouts were absorbed into the Boy Scouts of America in 1924, thus ending this little-known, exciting period of amateur journalism. My collection of Tribe papers that had survived all those years of our moving and relocating as corporate gypsies has found a worthy repository. Some 900 issues of 250 papers from 32 states and 3 countries are now at their new home at The University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center in Laramie. Be sure and visit if you are in the area. ♦



Several Lone Scout papers from Gordon Rouze's collection

Faig Replaces Bossler as Fossils President

by David M. Tribby

KEN FAIG, JR., REPLACED Gary Bossler as president of The Fossils, effective September 30.

In mid-September, Bossler requested to be relieved of his duties as president, although he was willing to remain on the Fossil board. He noted, "As I approach my 79th year, things do not come as easily as they did even just a few years ago." His involvement with the Senior Olympics over the summer had become a significant commitment of time and energy. In addition, he had growing family obligations. "My immediate family is now at 57! Lots of family activities need my attention. They are all located within two hours." Bossler had served as president since November 2013.

Since neither of the other trustees, Dave Tribby and John Horn, wanted to take on the duties of president, Bossler recruited Faig as his replacement. Tribby agreed to step down from the board in order to make room, although he will continue to serve as official editor.

Ken Faig's first exposure to amateur journalism came from an interest in famed horror writer H. P. Lovecraft and his circle of writers. Faig's activity in science fiction goes back to the 1970s, particularly in the Esoteric Order of Dagon Amateur Press Association. He established Moshassuck Press in the 1980s to publish books about Lovecraft and related writers. He has also authored books for Hippocampus Press and Necronomicon Press. An online description of his 2008 book *The Unknown Lovecraft* notes, "For nearly forty years, Kenneth W. Faig, Jr., has been a leading authority on Lovecraft. He has devoted his career to probing obscure corners of Lovecraft's life." He also edited several collections of works by Edith Minner (two co-edited with Fossil Sean Donnelly), the result of painstaking research to recover the lost writings of NAPA's first woman president (elected in 1909).

Faig joined The Fossils in 1995 and soon was contributing articles to THE FOSSIL describing his research. The July 1999 issue announcing his appointment as historian also carried a multi-page article by Faig on Sam Steinberg, prominent NAPA publisher from 1889 to 1903. He continued as historian until his election as official editor in 2004. His volumes 101 to 108 turned out to be among the best ever, offering detailed coverage of historic topics and current affairs. He also served on the Library of Amateur Journalism Committee in 2004 when it had to be moved from Stayton, Oregon; the committee's work was vital to securing its new home at the University of Wisconsin.

Professionally, Faig worked as an actuary beginning in 1973. He retired last October after being employed by PolySystems, Inc., for 24 years. He met his future wife, Carol Gaber, when both worked at North American Company for Life & Health Insurance. Married in 1979,

the Faigs have two grown children, Edie and Walt. Edie, a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, has worked as a film negative cutter and bookseller, and is currently a master of fine arts candidate at USC-Roski in Los Angeles. Walt, a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, recently earned a Ph.D. in statistics from UC-San Diego and currently works as a data analyst for U. S. Cellular in Chicago. ♦

Faig Donates Collection

KEN FAIG DONATED HIS amateur journalism collection to the Special Collections Department of the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Known as the William H. Groveman Memorial Amateur Journalism Collection, it is the second-largest (78 linear feet) of eight collections related to amateur journalism held by the university.

The collection includes material donated to Faig by Bill Groveman, Stan Oliner, Hyman Bradofsky, Victor Moitoret, Guy Miller, Mike Horvat, Sean Donnelly and Arie Koelewyn as well as items collected by Faig himself. Bill Groveman, the primary donor, provided good coverage of amateur journals from 1935 to 2000, plus some earlier material. The collection also contains strong holdings of THE FOSSIL, for which the primary donors were Hyman Bradofsky, Stan Oliner, Guy Miller, Mike Horvat, and Faig himself. Faig added to the collection a group of amateur material relating to H. P. Lovecraft, including Charles D. Hornig's *The Fantasy Fan*, Francis T. Laney's *The Acolyte*, Harry O. Morris's *Nyctalops*, George Record's *The Dark Brotherhood Journal*, Robert M. Price's *Crypt of Cthulhu*, many journals published by Marc Michaud's Necronomicon Press, and a complete set of the mailings of the Esoteric Order of Dagon (EOD) Amateur Press Association from its founding in 1973 until April 30, 2014.

Mainstream amateur holdings include long runs of *The National Amateur*, Charles W. Smith's *Tryout*, Ralph Babcock's *Scarlet Cockerel*, Alf Babcock's *Alf's Cat*, Hyman Bradofsky's *Californian*, and Bill Danner's *Stefantasy*. There is also a fine collection of W. Paul Cook's amateur publications including his 1941 memoir of Lovecraft. (The Cook material contains only samples of his serials *Monadnock Monthly* and *The Vagrant*.) A fine set of amateur correspondence between Edna Hyde McDonald ("Vondy") and Helm C. Spink, donated by Sean Donnelly from the collection of Leland M. Hawes, is also included.

A summary description of the collection is available from the "Collections" page of The Fossils website (www.thefossils.org/collections.html). ♦

Centenaries of 2014 and Fossil Centenarians of 2015

by Ken Faig, Jr.

IT'S AN HONOR—but also a large responsibility—to succeed an amateur journalist of Gary Bossler's stature as president of The Fossils. However, in view of Gary's heavy burden of other responsibilities and in memory of my own amateur mentor Guy Miller, I decided I ought to accept the offer from Gary and his fellow board members (Dave Tribby & John Horn). In a way, I fit the classical Fossil mold now that I am fully retired from both professional and hobby activities—in a word, I am actually “fossilized” in the original ajay parlance. I think leaders like Guy Miller—who remained an active amateur journalist to the day he died—provide a better paradigm, but perhaps a classical mold Fossil in the president's seat is not a bad thing for the present.

The exciting if ever challenging present involves the observance of several notable centenaries in 2014. Probably the most important is the anniversary of the start of World War I in August 1914. Centenary observances will doubtless continue throughout the 2014-2018 period. Little did the world realize the precipice it was overlooking when the Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip fired bullets into the bodies of the Austrian heir-apparent Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the former Countess Sophie Chotek, in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. Since she belonged only to the minor nobility and not to a royal or even a princely house, the Emperor Francis Joseph would allow his heir-apparent only a morganatic marriage with Countess Chotek (Francis Ferdinand remained eligible to succeed to the thrones of the Austro-Hungarian empire, but his wife could never become his consort nor their children his successors).

With the assassination of Francis Ferdinand, the heir apparent became his nephew Archduke Charles (1887-1922), who in fact became the last Emperor of Austria (and King of Hungary amid many other titles) after the death of Emperor Francis Joseph in 1916. In 1917, Emperor Charles elevated Maximilian (1902-62), the eldest son of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and Countess Sophie Chotek, hereditary duke of Hohenberg; Maximilian's son Georg (b. 1929) is pretender to the ducal title today. Francis Joseph had earlier granted Countess Chotek the lifetime titles of Princess (1900) and then Duchess (1909) of Hohenberg. Emperor Charles died in exile on the island of Madeira in 1922, and in 2004 was declared venerable by the Catholic church. He was known for his efforts to bring an end to the war. Some church members are also promoting the cause of his wife Zita of Bourbon-Parma (1892-1989), who lived as a widow for two-thirds of a century. Their eldest son Archduke Otto (1912-2011), setting aside his royal claims, had a distinguished career in the European parliament.

Today their world is vanished—World War I forever changed the landscape of Europe and the form of its governments. The world of amateur journalism has seen correspondingly large changes since the time of World War I. We still have the benefit of venerable organizations like NAPA and AAPA (and The Fossils!) but the amateur landscape has changed dramatically over the past century. Perhaps the writing was already on the wall when the cost of printing (and of many other goods and services) spiked with the inflation that followed World War I. Fewer amateur journalists could afford to have their journals printed, even by fellow amateurs operating on a not-for-profit basis. The cost of amateur printing equipment—press, type, ink, paper—also spiked in the wake of the war.

Amateur journalists as prominent as Edna “Vondy” Hyde McDonald eventually had to turn to the once-despised mimeograph to produce amateur journals at reasonable cost. If the format of Vondy's *Bellette* was humble, its content was sterling. When nearly all of Europe was in Hitler's grasp during World War II, Vondy paid tribute to the brave underground publishers who kept the idea of resistance alive. Members of the “White Rose” society—including the very young Sophie Scholl (1921-43)—who were guillotined in Munich in 1943 for their involvement with such an underground press were martyrs to the cause of freedom of the press. The mimeograph they used to produce flyers protesting Hitler's war was an exhibit at their trial conducted by the notorious Nazi jurist Roland Freisler (1893-1945). Freisler was made infamous by his harsh taunting of defendants from the judge's bench. Watching film of his examination of those arrested for involvement with Col. Count Claus von Stauffenberg's failed attempt to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944, is a frightening reminder of the importance of the liberties granted to us under the constitution of the United States.

A more humble celebration is the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Providence Amateur Press Club on October 30, 1914. The club, encouraged by the prominent amateur journalist Edward H. Cole of Somerville, Massachusetts, consisted mostly of alumni of the evening high school system in Providence, Rhode Island. The evening high school alumni even published a magazine, *The Comrade*, and in recent years this journal, containing photographs of the alumni members, became available on-line. As a result, David Haden, proprietor of the notable H. P. Lovecraft blog Tentaclii, collaborated with me on a new, on-line edition of my 2008 monograph *The Providence Amateur Press Club: 1914-1916*, which includes photographs of several club members resurrected from *The*

Comrade. A simple Google search for “Providence Amateur Press Club” allows easy no-fee access to the new on-line edition.

The club consisted mostly of young blue collar workers from the northwest side of Providence. The radical socialist Victor L. Basinet (1889-1956) served as club president—he was still working in his father’s print shop at this time. He worked most of his life as a nurse, but later in life he became an artist of some note. Some of his paintings are hung in institutions. The other club leader was John T. Dunn (1889-1983), a tried and true Irishman whose refusal to register for the draft in World War I infuriated H. P. Lovecraft. (Dunn served two years of a twenty-year sentence in federal prison for his refusal.) Dunn worked as a plumber during his involvement with the club, but was ordained a Catholic priest in 1930 and served as a hospital chaplain in Ohio for most of his long career. When Lovecraft biographer L. Sprague de Camp interviewed Dunn in 1975, the aged priest still had vivid recollections of Lovecraft and his fellow club members. Dunn was apparently the last surviving member of the Providence Amateur Press Club.

The club, probably never exceeding a dozen members, did include young women as well as young men. One wonders what the young ladies like Eugenie Kern, Mildred Metcalfe, and Caroline Miller thought of the ever-serious Lovecraft. Sarah J. “Sadie” Henry (1879-1957), the sister of club member William A. Henry, teased Lovecraft by telephoning him to ask for a date. He told her he would have to consult with his mother before he could reply. If Sarah Susan Phillips Lovecraft was leery of her son’s involvement with the mostly blue-collar club, she was probably even more wary of the intentions of its young women members. Lovecraft never returned Sadie Henry’s call. She never married, and spent much of her later life as a jewelry saleslady at one of Providence’s downtown department stores. Of the other young women who belonged to the club, Mildred Metcalfe married Herbert Heald, a hat shop proprietor, and remained in that business in Providence for more than two decades after her husband’s early death in 1919. Caroline Miller married John Barlow, a zoology professor at Rhode Island State College, and raised a family. Like Sadie Henry, Eugenie Kern remained single and worked as a teacher. Like the female members, most of the male club members had ordinary occupations: for example, Peter J. McManus was a school janitor and Guy H. Kelso (whose poetry was much disliked by Lovecraft and other club members) was a carpenter. I could rattle on about the other members, but readers who are interested can find ample details in the on-line monograph.

Lovecraft’s own involvement with the club, which was an affiliate of his faction of UAPA (the so-called Hoffman-Daas faction, which survived from 1912 to 1927) remains something of a puzzle. He was probably urged to get involved by Edward H. Cole. However, the possibility re-

mains that he himself had enrolled at some point in the evening high school program. Lovecraft’s biographers L. Sprague de Camp and S. T. Joshi discovered that Lovecraft never completed high school—his senior year was disrupted by a nervous breakdown in 1908. Despite this setback, Lovecraft still had ambitions for a professional career (he at one time considered attending a technical school in New York City), but a high school diploma (or its equivalent) was essential for advancement. Thus, it would have been natural for him to consider enrolling in the evening high school program during 1909 to 1914. He is known to have enrolled in a correspondence course in organic chemistry in 1910. Regrettably, the records of the Providence evening high school, if they survive, are yet to be uncovered.

The Providence Amateur Press Club never amounted to much. It produced only two thin issues of *The Providence Amateur* and was effectively defunct by 1916. Other amateur clubs like the Hubbites of Boston, the Blue Pencillers of Brooklyn, and the Woodbees of Columbus were longer-lasting and more influential. Only Lovecraft’s involvement immortalized the short-lived Providence club. William J. Clemence (not a club member) was the only other well-known amateur journalist on Rhode Island soil, and he remained fossilized from around the turn of the century until the very end of Lovecraft’s life, when he became active in AAPA. Oftentimes, Lovecraft was the sole resident of Rhode Island on the membership rolls of UAPA and NAPA. He served as president of both of these associations—of UAPA in 1917-18 (when Elsa A. Gidlow was president of the rival UAPA faction) and of NAPA in 1922-23 (when he relieved William J. Dowdell, who resigned, at the urging of his friend executive judge James F. Morton).

While he refused to run for a full term as NAPA president in 1923-24 (as urged upon him by Edward H. Cole), Lovecraft did serve a traditional term as an executive judge (1923-24) following his presidential term. He served as one of the three NAPA executive judges again in 1935-36. Some aficionados of his work have questioned the time and energy he expended on amateur journalism, but Lovecraft continued to contribute generously to the hobby even after the Hoffman-Daas faction of UAPA expired during the 1926-27 official year. Lovecraft’s young protégé Edgar J. Davis (1908-49) had been elected president, and his recruit Victor A. Bacon (1905-97) was appointed official editor by Davis, but the faction gradually faded away over the course of the year. No election was held for the 1927-28 official year.

Lovecraft took a breather from amateur affairs in 1926-30, when he accomplished much of his most important professional writing including “The Call of Cthulhu,” “The Colour out of Space,” “The Dunwich Horror” and “The Whisperer in Darkness.” However, Lovecraft strengthened his engagement with amateur journalism after renewing his acquaintance with many old friends at

NAPA's Boston convention in 1930. He had last attended a NAPA convention in Boston in 1921—in fact, NAPA's 1921 and 1930 conventions were the only amateur journalism conventions (other than local Boston conferences) that Lovecraft ever attended. Curiously, he never attended any of the conventions of the Hoffman-Daas UAPA faction, although he would surely have been very welcome at any of them, especially Rocky Mount, NC, in 1915, probably the apogee of the faction in terms of attendance and enthusiasm.

The faction prided itself on its intellectual standards, recruited largely among high school and college teachers and students, and held the rival Erford-Noel UAPA faction in contempt for its lax standards. The Erford-Noel faction did have its own literary lights, including Elsa A. Gidlow, and was a fertile source for the “new blood” youth movements in amateur journalism that resulted in the birth of AAPA and other, shorter-lived associations during the 1930s. In addition to his executive judgeship in 1935-36, Lovecraft rendered herculean service to NAPA's bureau of public criticism in 1931-35, serving as its chairman in 1933-35. He was first appointed to the chairman's post by NAPA's 1933-34 president Harold Segal. Lovecraft died too early to determine what his attitude toward the newborn AAPA would have been.

The year 2014 also marks the 110th anniversary of the foundation of The Fossils on May 28, 1904. Guy Miller expressed to me his wish that The Fossils might survive to celebrate this anniversary, and through the dedication of Gary Bossler and his board, and especially through the efforts of official editor David Tribby, Guy's hope has been achieved. The rare human beings who survive 110 years or more are now called supercentenarians, and now the members of The Fossils belong to a supercentenarian organization. How much longer we shall be able to continue to publish a quarterly journal and to maintain a website remains to be seen, but we can be proud of what we have achieved so far. Our achievements have been well-recorded in Guy Miller's *One Hundred Years of the Fossils: 1904-2004* (Springfield OH: Potpourri Private Press, 2005). We would be worthy of memory even if we had never accomplished a single thing more than the publication of Truman J. Spencer's *The History of Amateur Journalism* (New York NY: The Fossils, Inc., 1957). Much of the content of both books is available on www.thefossils.org.

Through the efforts of institutional librarians like Robin E. Rider at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (where our LAJ collection is housed), Vincent Golden of the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester MA), and Greg Prickman of the University of Iowa (Iowa City), academic awareness of amateur journalism resources has been growing. We have begun to see a trickle of academic papers devoted to our hobby, which I hope will increase to a flood in future years, given the rich resources now available at these and other institutions. Amateur journals are so scarce that virtually every substantial collection

contains many unique items. For example, the Warren J. Brodie collection at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland, OH) contains the only known copies of Edith and John T. Minter's *The Webster Amateur* (1887) and Frank Graeme Davis's *El Gasedil* (“The Little Journal”) (ca. 1899-1905). Davis was an aficionado of the artificial language Volapük—once a rival of Esperanto. In Volapük, *gased* means journal, *-il* is a diminutive suffix, and *el* is the predicate “the.”

I intend to write more about centenarians in my next column, for in the first quarter of 2015 The Fossils will celebrate the one hundredth birthdays of our member Martha E. Shivers (February 13), who served faithfully for many years as our membership chair, and of our alumnus member Charles Hamilton Bloomer, Jr. (March 27), who played a strong role both in 1930s amateur journalism and then-emerging science fiction fandom. Martha's “Fossil Portrait” appeared in *The Fossil* whole no. 326 for October 2005, pp. 4-5. An article on Charles's 1930s activity appeared in *THE FOSSIL* whole no. 328 for April 2006, pp. 16-18, and a follow-up written by Charles himself appeared in *THE FOSSIL* whole no. 341 for July 2009, pp. 26-28. (Mr. Bloomer was better known as “C. Hamilton Bloomer, Jr.” when he published *Tesseract* as an early science fiction fan.)

If any members wish to send birthday greetings to our 2015 centenarians, I have these addresses: (1) Martha E. Shivers, 1526 165th Ave., Knoxville IA 50138-8939 and (2) Charles H. Bloomer, Jr., c/o Don H. Bloomer, 1601 Yellowstone Ave., Milpitas CA 95035-6915. *Ad multos annos*, Martha and Charles. You will be joining a select Fossil centenarian club that includes our late members Louise Lincoln (1912-2012), Marion Fields Wyllie (1906-2013) and James Larkin Pearson (1879-1981). Marion, who lived 106 years 3 months from Oct. 5, 1906 to Jan. 5, 2013, is probably our age record-holder to date. The Fossils (founded May 28, 1904) were not even two and one-half years old when Marion was born.

As for our current century, we can expect many changes, both in world affairs and in amateur journalism. If you don't like the events of today, stay tuned—the events of tomorrow will surely be different. Tragedy and suffering in human affairs are likely to persist—we can only hope to alleviate these aspects of the human condition. However, rays of hope persist, including the wonderful privilege of written self-expression. Electronic books and magazines may replace most paper-format publications, although I think there will always remain a place for fine letterpress printing. On-line discussion forums may replace old-fashioned bundle mailing comments. Perhaps the bundles themselves will migrate from the tender mercies of the post office to electronic posting areas.

Technology may change, but I predict the wonderful freedom of written self-expression, as evinced in the amateur journalism hobby, will continue to be an important

part of the human experience, unless a very dark night of barbarism descends upon our planet. The darkest night would be the extinction of the human species. Today there are even members of our species who advocate human extinction, while others want to kill everyone who does not share their own beliefs. It's a scary world, and simple discourse, whether spoken or written, relieves the gloom if a basic standard of courtesy can be maintained. Of course, some amateur writers, like yours truly, will always write more than they really ought. I say: better a surfeit than a famine when it comes to self-expression. ♦

Official Editor's Report

Production & Mailing Costs

by David M. Tribby

WOULD YOU RATHER receive your copy of THE FOSSIL folded to half its page size or unfolded? While most of us prefer it unfolded, our treasury benefits when it fits in a smaller envelope. The USPS charges 49 cents extra to deliver a large envelope. Of course, when an issue reaches 12 pages (like this one or July's) it needs a large envelope anyway.

The cost of the July issue broke down this way: 50 envelopes: \$17.38; printing of 50 copies: \$64.99; postage: \$56.78. The total, \$139.15, is about \$2.80 per copy. Some of those copies went to libraries and other non-members, so the cost per member was over \$5.

The costs for the four-page January and April issues averaged \$28 (about \$1 per member). Postage was lower because they weighed 1 ounce instead of 2 and were mailed in standard envelopes. Printing was also less expensive because Gary Bossler, who handled production, received a good price when he had them printed in Ohio. When I had the July issue printed here in California the production costs were higher.

Gary is handling the printing and mailing of this issue from Ohio. It will be interesting to have a comparison for 12-page issues from the two locations.

If we are able to produce larger issues of The Fossil for volume III, the total cost may be slightly more than is received from annual dues. If we have mostly four page issues members may not believe they are getting value for their payments.

No matter the size of an issue, I hope it includes topics of interest to you. Please write and let me know your favorite subjects, suggest ideas for future issues, or volunteer to write something yourself.

In closing, an apology to close readers for some odd hyphenations in the July issue. I thought I had reviewed everything, but a late minor tweak must have changed the layout just enough to cause automatic re-hyphenation and also to generate several widow and orphan lines. The online version of that issue has been corrected. ♦

AAPA Donates to LAJ and Issues Challenges

by David M. Tribby

IN THE AFTERMATH of The Fossils board's decision to donate \$1,000 to support ongoing work cataloging the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (see "Fossils Donating to LAJ" in the July issue of THE FOSSIL), the American Amateur Press Association board has made its own donation, and also challenged other ajay groups to donate towards an endowment that will ensure long-term support.

In the September *American Amateur Journalist*, AAPA President Peter Schaub reported an immediate \$3,000 donation from the treasury: \$1,000 for the cataloging work and \$2,000 to establish a permanent endowment. "To become fully funded at the minimum level, [UW requires] the endowment must reach funding of \$10,000. Once at this level, the endowment will produce earnings that will be used to support the LAJ." At the \$10,000 level, the fund would produce about \$500 per year for cataloging, preservation, and growth of the collection.

Schaub issued a challenge to individual members: "AAPA will match personal donations made by December 31, 2014, up to a total of \$500. I hope you are enthusiastic about this opportunity and will join me in personally supporting it."

He also challenged The Fossils and NAPA to join AAPA in funding the endowment.

As of mid-October, the University of Wisconsin Foundation had received \$3,940.05 to support the ongoing work (\$1,000 from AAPA, \$1,000 from The Fossils, and the rest from three individual Fossils). An additional \$2,000 from AAPA was held for establishment of an endowment.

Ben Strand, the Development Director for University Libraries and The Fossils' main contact at the UW Foundation, notes the LAJ "is currently being cataloged and processed, but it is a large and complicated collection. Due to the intensive nature of the project, it is estimated a dedicated graduate student, working part-time over the course of a year, would be able to fully catalog the backlog of materials. The cost of this support would be around \$13,000. Having the collection cataloged would allow for easier research, as well as allow for targeted growth of the collection in areas that may be missing."

New Fossil president Ken Faig is consulting with the University and other Fossil officers to determine participation in additional funding. Expect further details in the next issue of THE FOSSIL.

In the meantime, Fossils are encouraged to make their own personal donations; instructions are available on the web at www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html ♦

A. J. Collections Update

by David M. Tribby

THERE ARE SEVERAL updates to the continuing story of tracking amateur journal collections. Three articles in this issue touch on the topic: Gordon Rouze's donation to the University of Wyoming (reported on page 5), Ken Faig's donation to the University of Iowa (page 6), and fundraising to support the cataloging of the Library of Amateur Journalism (page 10). Here are some more bulletins.

Reference Specialist Abby Yochelson provided information about additional holdings at the Library of Congress. The July issue of *THE FOSSIL* included her description of their 31 "X collections," which contain over 6,800 amateur journals. In August, she visited the Rare Book Stacks and found 112 additional amateur journals. "In the stacks we found two archival boxes labeled Amateur Publications, each holding numerous folders. Each folder had a handwritten label in pencil with the title and volume and issue number(s). In most cases there was only a single issue in a folder but occasionally there were a few issues. In a quick glance, it looked like there was very little material earlier than 1901. Next to these boxes were two other boxes labeled Amateur Papers. Again, there were file folders with individual publications and, at a quick glance, they looked similar to the kinds of materials in the Amateur Publications." She extended an invitation to amateurs visiting Washington, D. C.: "You or any of your colleagues are very welcome to come to the Library of Congress to conduct research. Both the X collection (stored off-site) and these collections in Rare Books are tricky to retrieve, so advance notice is probably needed."

When Ms. Yochelson checked the Library of Congress stacks, she found bound copies of *THE FOSSIL* up through 1964. "If you have a run of *THE FOSSIL* from 1965 on that you would like to donate, I would make certain that it got into our collections." Arie Koelewyn recently brought to Fossil Tom Parson the *ajay* collection of Guy Miller. Tom hopes to sort through his own collection and Guy's to see if the needed issues can be found. Anyone else having extra copies of *THE FOSSIL* from 1965 to the present should contact Official Editor Tribby.

Jessica Issac, referenced in this issue's lead article, is a PhD candidate at the University of Pittsburgh who has been working with the history of amateur journalism since 2009. Her research, focused on the "Golden Age" of amateurism in the 1870s and 1880s, took her to several collections, including a month at the Library of Amateur Journalism. (She met Fossil Barry Schrader there last year.) She recently contacted *THE FOSSIL* editor. "The archives of amateur journalism do indeed hold interest for academics, particularly because they speak richly to our current moment of networked, participatory forms of publishing. I know of three or four others who are doing work on the amateur newspapers at the moment or who

have recently published on them." Her next article, for *Book History*, compares how well several *ajay* collections reflect the number of papers published from 1870 to 1890.

One of the collections referenced by Ms. Isaac had not previously been referenced by *THE FOSSIL*: The Library Company of Philadelphia. Their Amateur Newspaper Collection includes 225 issues of 131 publications from 16 states, mostly from the 1870s. Their website provides images of several newspapers in the collection.

Also newly discovered: the Walter Perkins Amateur Newspaper Collection at the McArthur Public Library in Biddeford, Maine, which includes over 130 papers from 25 states and Canada. Images of 28 items are available online.

To see the latest information on public collections of amateur papers, visit the "Collections" section of The Fossils website. ♦

NAPA's 139th Convention

by David M. Tribby

CONVENTION NUMBER 139 of the National Amateur Press Association was held in Annapolis, Maryland, on July 17-19, with sixteen members in attendance (the same total as last year).

Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boys reported membership stood at 106. Included in that total are 18 ex-presidents and 5 life members, all of whom do not pay the \$30 annual dues, and 12 family members whose dues are \$2 per year. The NAPA checking account had \$3,386.38 (with outstanding *National Amateur* bills yet to be paid) and CDs came to \$23,664.90. Total equity has decreased by about \$1,200 per year over the past 12 years. With reduced income from the trust fund and a predicted shortfall of \$4,800 for the upcoming fiscal year, members expressed concern for the long-term financial health of the organization. Dues would have to double for income to match expenses. Although financial support for the Library of Amateur Journalism was discussed, no action was taken.

Officers elected at the convention include Michelle Klosterman, president; Jim Hedges, vice president; Bill Boys, secretary-treasurer; Marc Brosey, recorder; Dave Warner, official editor; and Alice Warner, executive judge. Klosterman, Hedges, and Boys served in the same offices last year. Incumbent executive judges Jon McGrew and Arie Koelewyn continue their multi-year terms. The constitution was amended to combine the chairmanship of Publicity and Recruiting. The convention approved an amendment to the bylaws to re-establish distribution requirements for laureate entries, which had been removed in 2010 (see "NAPA Laureates and *THE FOSSIL*" in the January 2014 issue). Another modification to the bylaws added a new laureate category, letterpress printing.

NAPA plans to hold its 2015 convention in Columbus, Ohio, with the dates to be announced later. ♦

The Parson Update

On October 23, Fossil Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson sent an e-mail message to other officers that touched on a number of topics, including some beyond his duties of office. Here are excerpts.

Fossil Bank Account

The Fossils Bank account (statement through September 30) shows a balance of \$5,846.88. That includes all money received or owed by The Fossils at the present. We are billed a service fee of \$2 per month by PNC Bank to mail us a paper statement. This fee can be avoided if we change to online banking. However, any change for our account must be requested in person at a PNC branch bank. This also is their requirement for us to add any additional names for people authorized to sign checks or to access the account information. Currently I am the only possible signature on the account, but there are no PNC branch banks in Denver or west of the Mississippi. We should enable other officers to access the account.

The Graham/Wesson Collection

I am currently in possession of the collection of AJ materials which The Fossils received from David Macfarlane in July 2010. I have begun but not completed work on an Excel file inventory of these, and have kept records of all the research and history of how these journals have been handled. I am happy to share my info and files.

My assumption about this collection is that eventual disposition decisions remain with The Fossils. My own thoughts have been that the LAJ at the University of Wisconsin might ultimately receive the collection, but that it makes sense for it to be inventoried first so duplicates might find other disposition. Other libraries were also suggested for possible disposition when I first retrieved the collection after Stan Oliner died. Obviously, the current work on the LAJ at UW might indicate whether or not that could be the best answer. Dave Tribby has researched and posted excellent info about other library collections that might be considered.

The Englewood Depot Letterpress Museum

I have continued working here to set up the Englewood Depot Letterpress Museum, with plans to include my own AJ collection and all I obtained from Elaine Peck to become part of the Depot library collection. I would love to include the Graham/Wesson materials, but have not assumed they should be kept here. In addition, this fall Arie Koelewyn offered and delivered here a file cabinet and several boxes of AJ materials which were Guy Miller's collection. Arie prepared a rough inventory of these, which eventually I hope to refine to include with my inventory of the G/W collection (and then an inventory

eventually of my own collection here) so things can be researched and located wherever they are archived.

The Depot has received full confirmation of 501(c)(3) non-profit status from the IRS. We are still in the slow process of construction for the building to make it all functional, but have begun printing workshops through other studios here, and other events locally. For more information visit www.letterpressdepot.com

An August 13 update to the on-line membership spreadsheet by Tom shows a membership reinstatement by Linda Donaldson and a renewal by Frederick Moe. Many members come due in January. ♦

Make a Donation to Support the Library of Amateur Journalism!

TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- Ongoing work to sort & catalog
- Long-term endowment

TWO WAYS TO DONATE:

- Mail to The Fossils' Secretary-Treasurer
- Directly to Univ. of Wisconsin (*tax deductible*)

For further information visit

www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html

The Fossil

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www.thefossils.org

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