

# THE FOSSIL

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## FOSSIL PORTRAIT

Jack Swenson

A few years ago, my wife and I moved back to northern Minnesota, having lived elsewhere for most of our married life. “Elsewhere” in this case includes 22 different addresses in North and South Dakota, Illinois, Colorado and Washington, D.C. We're high school sweethearts, both graduates of Blackduck (Minnesota) High School. It was during high school years that I worked for the *Blackduck American*, as a printer's helper and high school news reporter.

After high school, I continued my education as a copy boy for the old Minneapolis *Star-Journal*, as fine a course in street life as was then available anywhere. The Navy beckoned and I served my time at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and at the Separation Center in Boston where I typed the discharge papers for Adolph Hitler's nephew, William Patrick Hitler. Taking advantage of the situation, I quickly got a transfer into the Public Information office under Lt. Frank McGrath, former city editor of the Boston *American*.

My return to civilian life put me back in broadcasting, first in Fargo and then in Bismarck. It was at Bismarck that I also worked as a news anchor on TV, and at the same time did some legislative reports for Commerce Clearing House and several national associations. It was this work that gave me the extra bucks with which I acquired a 3x5 Kelsey, my first press, and just enough type to get me hooked. I joined APA (#256) and later AAPA.

I also did some publicity work—a labor of love, really—for a traveling carnival, preparing a kit for their Canadian tour. At the same time, my TV work got me behind the scenes with clowns and band members from the Ringling circus, and Clyde Beatty and others from his show. We turned down a chance to spend a summer pitching popcorn, but accepted a move to Washington as a congressman's administrative assistant. When he decided not to seek re-election, it was back to

broadcasting and to Bismarck.

In 1963, I began work as a lobbyist for the petroleum industry, first in North Dakota and then heading the regional office of the American Petroleum Association in Chicago. That led to my being named CEO of the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association in Denver in 1975, a move that also saw my acquisition of an 8x12 C&P and a lot more type. In 1986, I retired from the RMOGA and we moved to Custer in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The press and some 200 cases of type went along with us.

My wife of sixty years and I have been APA mailers for three years. I've headed Fossils, hosted an AAPA convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, have gotten a laureate award for one of my Peripatetic Press journals. Have been publishing *Ephemera* ever since Ralph Babcock objected so violently to inclusion of that sort of thing in the AAPA bundles.

Probably as great an influence as any other amateur journalist exercised on my own work was that of the late William Pearce of Bismarck. A close second would have to be the influence of Harold Flint, an early writer, publisher, participant in a variety of activities. Pearce dropped out of APA, and I followed suit soon after, when that organization became bogged down in political sniping, while Flint earlier had been leading efforts to calm things down in the old United.

There are no longer Swiftset journals, and the “mimeoslop” decried by Sheldon Wesson is also long gone from the bundles. Computers and quick-print shops have brought more attractive journals into circulation, but composing in the stick I think brought more careful wording, much clearer expression and more creative thought.

*The Fossil thanks our busy Board of Trustees chair, Jack Swenson, for responding to our request for member “interviews.” Jack adds as a postscript: “I've been elected for a second term on our local six-county electric co-op, am now chairman of the board, am writing a weekly column for the Blackduck American,*

*share with Mavis the parenting of four grown children and six grandchildren. I could—and someday probably will—write a whole book about them.”*

## FOSSIL PORTRAIT

### THE WAY IT WAS

Martha E. Shivvers

A bitter cold February day in 1915 saw the birth of a daughter, after two lively little boys, on the family farm that had been secured with a land grant signed by President Franklin Pierce in 1856, by the great-grandfather. Four sons and three daughters were born later, but two baby sons didn't live.

It was a happy family—this mother had been a school teacher, the father had cared for the land. Strong work ethics were taught, but there were times of play, of explorations of the hills, timbers, rills and rolling meadows at the end of the mile lane that put children in an isolated realm to do the exploring—after work was completed.

The early education was received in the same one-room country school that the father had attended; high school followed.

On the farm, the Depression wasn't felt as much as by folks in towns and cities. Oh, there weren't many new garments and social activities were limited. As soon as the older sons completed high school, work with meager salaries was attained—some monies went to the parents “to help out.”

Having an insatiable desire to learn, and to teach in a rural school, the Daughter worked as a maid in influential town homes, earning \$5.00, then \$7.00 a week to attain money for Summer School at College. With a certificate to teach, the eighteen-year-old faced the first challenge of teaching twenty-four pupils ranging from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Salary \$40.00 per month. Another term of Summer School, then another teaching contract with twelve pupils, salary \$50.00 per month; the next year pay was \$55.00.

Romance entered the picture. Eventually the young married couple, on a farm, welcomed two sons and a daughter (later another daughter).

“Uncle Sam Needs You” took the young father into military service and the little family into “town.” An almost fatal illness struck him, an epidemic within the Camp. Discharge came within the year.

Frustrations, fears and anxieties were dealt with by writing. Writing of Faith, of Hope, of Trust, of Patience. A local newspaper printed some of these writings sans pay. Writing had been a passion ever since a pencil could put words on paper. Now, writing

brought forth the strength needed to cope with life's challenges.

Submissions of stories, of essays on ways to face life, were submitted to small magazines, religious booklets—more newspaper columns titled “From Here and There” with little payment—mostly just the honor of seeing one's “brain children” in print; but the writing provided the needed emotional lift.

In time organizations became known—an outlet for poetry with workshops, guidance, teaching and critiques. The United Amateur Press provided outlets for amateur writings. “Iowa Poetry Day,” “Lyrical Iowa,” and “Chaparral” presented opportunities for learning, opportunities to meet and share thoughts with other “hopefuls.” The opportunity came to become a part of The Rhymers (now only five members), to join N.A.P.A., which provided wonderful associations whereby “dream thoughts” were published—many of them. Then, the opportunity came to become a part of The Fossils, Inc.

Some newspaper columns continued—“Kitchen Stuffins” recipes were written for several years, providing a cookbook of many pages.

Illnesses and hospitalizations were many for the father; the two daughters and a son were also victims. All of the childhood diseases seemed to be severe. The Mother didn't escape health problems, but coped. Always the writings lifted the frustrations. The memories of siblings' explorings and pranks as well as other events were woven into narrations that, using facts as the basis, masked the events into stories.

When the children wanted to go to college, they worked and secured loans. But the Mother, realizing the need for more financial security, sought an office position in the city an hour away. She soon discovered that at age forty-five, “older women” weren't wanted, and when one job became available using her typing experience, the pay was nominal. Riding with other workers, time was spent memorizing needed information or composing a feature for an article or poem.

The father's condition worsened. Good, bad, good again, allowing his jovial spirit to bewitch family and friends. When he was fifty-nine years old, strokes required retirement from a job he loved—a rural mail carrier.

The father's condition still wavered—bad—then some good—then a nursing home. Sixty-eight years of marriage came to an end early one morning shortly after his ninety-first birthday. After the funeral of this much-loved grandfather, a request was made for the grandmother to write a story—history of the six families (couldn't find needed information on one). “We want to learn who we are.”

Now, a widow in an apartment attached to the

rural home of a son and wife on a lovely acreage. The two hundred sixty pages of hand-written story have been completed and await typing by another.

More newspaper columns have been written (stopped now). Bread and jelly are still being made as well as quilts; rural beauties treasured; inabilities accepted; and the Fossils Membership Chairmanship cherished.

My hope now is that as William Cullen Bryant wrote in "Thanatopsis," I will "so live that when (my) summons comes to join the innumerable caravan that moves to that mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, (I shall) go not like the quarry-slave at night, scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, (I shall) approach (my) grave as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

## THE MAGIC OF AUTUMN

Martha E. Shivvers

Autumn is a musical  
with drama, songs and art;  
fall harvest has a leading role,  
frolicking a lesser part.

Shade trees cascade their dresses  
of vermillions, yellows and browns,  
reminding us of Nature's humor  
as leaves dance around like clowns.

Blackbirds chatter in tree tops,  
their trip South will begin soon.  
Breezes take on a sharpness  
whistling—It's autumn, now, not June!

## FOSSIL PORTRAIT

Marion Fields Wyllie

Born in a farmhouse beside the Georgian Bay, in Grey county, Ontario, in October 1906. My parents were talented in various ways, but not in making money. Dad worked variously as farmer, driver-salesman, grocer, hired hand and, eventually, as market-gardener. We once lived on a farm across the way from a farmer's daughter who had a degree from the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and I got a couple of years of piano lessons. I was an only child till nearly ten, when my adored only sister was born. Mother taught me to recite—"Little Orphan Annie" and other Whitcomb Riley pieces. By high school, music and monologues had diminished in favor of writing, at which I was certainly

better.

This led me to seize any opportunity of writing small items for the local paper. In 1925 I got on as a copyholder (assistant proofreader, to the uninitiated) at a Toronto daily, the *Evening Telegram*. Most of my working life of fourteen years was spent there. I say "working," because in those days being a farmer's wife was not regarded as "working"!

During our forty years on the farm I was local correspondent for an Owen Sound daily and a country weekly. Through occasional forays into other publications, I met Dorothy Macaulay, and in 1971 joined two round robins led by her, the Poetry Newsletter and the Dreamboat. In 1972 she introduced me to another poetry round, The Rhymer, to which I still belong. Captained many years by Ina L. Mellichamp, also a UAP member, it now has two members in the States, Martha Shivvers and Grace Krogel, and three in Ontario, Helen Amos, Dorothy and myself. All these groups have spurred me on to keep writing and to try various forms of poetry. My *Soft Voices* was published quarterly for twenty years, first through UAP, then through UAPAA. In the latter I was fiction judge for a couple of years.

We retired from farming in 1979, with two of our sons, the youngest having died in a drowning accident in 1968. In 1993, after years of secondhand typewriters, I bought a Smith-Corona word processor and have resisted all temptations to switch to a computer. As to awards, there has been no Governor-General's prize; but I have been honoured with Fossil Writer of the Year, awards for poems and Solomettes in *ajay* journals and first prize for a sonnet by student in the Newspaper Institute of America. Also founded a Grey-Bruce Writers' group, still thriving as the Write Now Club.

My files have had to be downsized, but I remember a pretty UAPA journal in booklet form, which, years later, I emulated. C. U. Smith's *Ramrod* encouraged me to put more humour into my writing. Fellow-writers such as Martha Shivvers, Helen Amos and Ina Mellichamp, as well as Dorothy Macaulay, have encouraged me to hone my craft.

Over the years I seemed at times to see a deterioration in quality at the same time as numbers were declining. Lately, though members are few, there seems to be a resurgence of inspiration. I wonder if we will survive the computer age.

In 1990 Dee Burnlees and Elsie Jarl, both of Sauble Beach, hosted the UAP convention. Besides Dee and Elsie there were Watson Richards and myself from Owen Sound, Beth Smith from Stratford, Ontario, Bill and Betty Snodgrass of Chilicothe, Illinois, Lucille Roseberry from Florida, and Lisa Roose-Church from Michigan. We had a bang-up dinner at the Burnlees's

and tours of Inglis Falls and other scenic spots.

My husband and my second son had meantime died of heart trouble. In 1991, with George for company, I flew to Des Moines, Iowa, to be met by Martha and Woodrow Shivers and driven to their home in Knoxville. Their generous hospitality is among our treasured memories. Highlights of the convention in Atlantic were seeing again the Snodgrasses, meeting folks I'd only read of, and tours of the Pterodactyl Press and the Purple Martin Train.

If I make it to the last week in October I'll be ninety-nine. That's a long life, with many good and bad experiences. The ajay experience has been one of the best.

## PEACE BE WITH YOU

Marion Fields Wyllie

May peace go with you in your daily walk  
and so reverberate in friendly talk.

Sweet peace steal on you in the din of strife  
and be a close companion all your life.

In all deliberations give it part,  
till peace past understanding rule your heart.

## FOSSILS OF YESTERYEAR

FRANK ROE BATCHELDER  
1869-1947

William F. & Matilda S. Haywood

*Reprinted from Just Our Type number four for January 1957.*

“Business may monopolize our time, art may seize upon us, politics swallow us up, even Cupid may claim us for his own, but who of us can forget that he has lived and moved and had his being in that delightful atmosphere redolent of printers' ink and editorship and conventions and banquets? Not I.”

This quotation expresses the feelings of the hobby publisher as well as any words written on the subject and tells us, too, the biography of Frank Roe Batchelder, who said them. The enthusiastic boy printer was indeed sidetracked by other calls upon his time, but never entirely forgot the aromatic lure of printers' ink, as the Rip Van Winkle number of *The Go-Ahead* so ably testifies.

Batch, as he was known to his friends, was born July 24, 1869, in Worcester, Mass., where he lived until he moved to Riverside, Conn., in 1937.

At the age of eleven he became an amateur printer in a roundabout way which he described amusingly at the 1942 Fossils Reunion and subsequently in the revived *Go-Ahead* inspired by that gathering. His first press was acquired because the baby in the family of one of his friends persisted in eating the ink. The equipment was ordered sold by a parental directive, and eight dollars put Batchelder in the printing business. Visiting cards, billheads, tickets and a collection of poems came from the press.

## The publisher is born

Then, in 1882, the article which was to lure many boys to the hobby, the famous Harlan Ballard story of Amateur Newspapers in the July *Saint Nicholas* magazine, came to his attention. Using part of the Davy Crockett phrase, “Be sure you're right; then go ahead,” he launched *The Go-Ahead* on September 1, 1882. For a couple of years it appeared almost every month on publication day. Printed on a 5x7 hand press, the chase almost filled with two columns of small type, it represented quite a job. Before long the editor became president and official editor of the Worcester Amateur Press Club, vice president of the New England Amateur Press Association and a member of the Massachusetts Amateur Press Association. He attended conventions in Gardner, Boston, New Bedford and Portland, but could not afford National Amateur Press Association conventions, and did not join the larger organization until sixty years later.

Batchelder enjoyed the company of three associate editors, Arthur C. Smith, Warren J. Brodie and George A. Hough. He was also busy printing papers for other amateur publishers. Among these were *The Planet* for Frank S. C. Wicks, *The Worcester Amateur* for Edith M. Dowe, and some ten others.

At Worcester High School he published a school weekly for two years preceding his graduation. He also covered school news for the Worcester *Daily Telegram*. Graduation put an end to his amateur career for a time, as he joined the staff of the *Telegram* as a reporter. Later he was an associate editor of *Light*, a local weekly.

He had contributed verse to many amateur papers and while in high school began to contribute to the *Life* magazine of that day. For thirty years he was a constant contributor to professional periodicals.

Other calls were coming. In 1890 he became secretary to the Representative from his district, serving nine years. For four years he was Clerk of the House Committee on Banking and Currency. For a time he worked as Washington representative of the New York *Independent*, and in 1901 became assistant to the manager of a business engaged in the supply of military

equipment. He organized a corporation which purchased the interests of Gen. Anson Mills, inventor of the woven cartridge belt. For twenty-four years he was general manager and treasurer, and a director of the allied Mills Equipment Company, of London. He retired at 61 in 1930.

### A sleeper awakened

In 1922, after Fossil Leonard Tilden had invaded his Worcester office and persuaded him to join, he became a Fossil. He was not particularly active until 1942, when the old urge became too much to resist. Nudged by Edwin B. Hill and inspired by attendance at the Fossils Reunion, he woke from his sleep to publish the beautiful Rip Van Winkle number of *The Go-Ahead*. Joined by Warren J. Brodie and George Hough, he recalled the former days and promised future activity. In 1943 he was elected president of The Fossils, serving ably and continuing to publish a beautiful *Go-Ahead*. He printed *Intermezzo*, *Through the Years* (a 24-page collection of verses by daughter Alice B. Davis), and *Wendy*, *Six Years Old* (an 8-page paper of handsomely-printed verse on his granddaughter's birthday).

In our files we treasure a letter to Tillie, which says: "I was sorry to delete from *Intermezzo* the ¶ about you but the *Aonian* had just come in and I felt that I must give it a hand. I shall save your ¶ for a future issue!" Attached was a galley proof that looked like this (but set in Deepdene, however):

Whenever I am privileged to see *Spice*, or its editor, I am tempted to paraphrase an old juvenile jingle:

*"Sugar and Spice and all things nice—*

*That's what Tillie Schabrucker's made of!"*

So my congratulations to Mr. William Frederick Haywood are not the perfunctory kind; if I were as young as Bill he might well think me envious.

It is one of the nicest congratulations we received on our engagement. Another romantic item in our collection is a copy of *The Printer's Valentine*, reprinted by Batch in 1943 from the original, which he contributed to *Smart Set* magazine in 1903 and which later appeared in a folder of the Inland Type Foundry. Here, set in a heart-shaped pattern is a valentine composed in terms familiar to printers.

### Fate writes "30"

Amateurs everywhere were shocked by his death on February 5, 1947. But Batch will be remembered long after those who knew him personally are gone, for he left a rich legacy of publications and donated his collection of amateur papers to the

American Antiquarian Society. In October, 1948, his children, through son Theron, offered to award their father's 8x12 C&P Old Style press and equipment to a Fossil. It went to Ralph Babcock, on condition that when he was no longer able to use it, it should be reoffered to The Fossils. When, subsequently, Ralph turned it back, the press was awarded to the Haywoods. When we are no longer able to use it in amateur printing, the Batchelder press will once more revert to The Fossils. In the meantime, we hope Batch, running one of the Heavenly presses (it would not be Heaven without a press, would it?), will approve the work we are doing.

## THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Merry Harris

The Spirit of Christmas  
Embraced the world—  
Making it a better place,  
If only for a while.  
Hardened hearts become more caring—  
Sad hearts more cheerful  
And careless hearts more thoughtful.  
However briefly, we are compassionate,  
Wanting the best not only for ourselves  
But also for our fellow men...  
How sad it is that the spirit of Christmas  
Leaves our hearts,  
And as a new year dawns,  
The magic evaporates, and we  
Are our old selves again.  
How wonderful this weary world would be  
If we could celebrate this Holy day  
The whole year long...

## BOUQUETS TO YOU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Guy Miller

Yes, bouquet's a plenty are due to a number of you, first those of you who have purchased copies of our centenary, *One Hundred Years of The Fossils, 1904-2004*. As you know, \$10 of the purchase price of \$15 goes toward the printing of *The Fossil*. As your printer as well as your president, I have decided that, rather than send payment to the Secretary-Treasurer, I will apply the sums directly toward the cost of the issue in progress. So, for this October issue we start with a credit of \$60, thanks to Gary Bossler, Dave Tribby, Dale Speirs, Martha Shivvers, Elliott Ruben, and Robert Lichtman. As we extend those deserved bouquets, we

want to announce that there are still thirty-five copies of our first printing of fifty on hand. Send your check for \$15 payable to Guy Miller, 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield, OH 45503-1209.

Enclosed with this issue of *The Fossil*, is a copy of *The Connecticut Amateur*, an appropriate gift from our Historian Sean Donnelly. As you look through your copy, whichever issue it is (No. 1, 2, 4 or 5), you will undoubtedly find an item here and there of interest. Note that both Truman Spencer and William G. Snow were members of the group. Both of these gentlemen served as president of The Fossils and, as our ajay history informs us, distinguished themselves in other areas of our beloved hobby of amateur journalism, as well.

As we give our thanks to Sean, we also are delighted to extend bouquets to all of you who took time to mail in your ballots for our slate of officers for 2005-06. Twenty-five ballots were cast:

For President: Guy Miller

For Vice President: Lee Hawes

For Official Editor: Ken Faig, Jr.

The proposed amendment, designed to make several bookkeeping adjustments to our by-laws, was approved by 24 votes. Its provisions are included in the text of the by-laws which our official editor has published in this issue.

Our final bouquets go to those of you who have agreed to fill our appointive offices. Vice-president Lee Hawes will again serve as chairman of the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award Committee, and Secretary-Treasurer Stan Oliner will head the Gold Composing Stick Committee. Mike Horvat will continue as Librarian; Sean Donnelly, as Historian; Martha Shivers, Membership chair; and Dave Tribby, Webmaster.

In reference to Dave Tribby's service, I again call your attention to the new web page and urge you to check it out at:

<http://www.thefossils.org>

**SILVER BUCKLE PRESS:  
A WORKING MUSEUM OF LETTERPRESS  
PRINTING AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-  
MADISON**

Fossils interested in this private press housed in the same building (Memorial Library) as UW Library's Special Collections Department are urged to refer to the website:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/SBP/>

For the information of Fossils without ready Internet

access, we reprint the site's short essay "About the Press" here:

"The Silver Buckle Press is a working museum of letterpress printing dedicated to preserving the craft of fine printing through limited-edition publications, lectures, demonstrations, and tours. The Silver Buckle Press is part of the General Library System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is housed in room 236 Memorial Library.

"Silver Buckle's publishing program contributes to the intellectual life of the University and the furtherance of the book arts in society. Our books, pamphlets and broadsides present works of original scholarship; literary and artistic productions; and, on occasion, reprints of books unique to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries. The Silver Buckle Press offers educational opportunities for interested individuals and groups, and sponsors workshops related to printing and the book arts.

"The collection of 19th- and 20th-century equipment includes printing presses—notably an Albion and a Washington Hoe—approximately two hundred fonts of metal and wood type, a fine collection of printer's ornaments and cuts, and all the tools necessary to run a complete printing shop.

"The original Silver Buckle Press collection was put together by Robert Shaftoe (1921-1972), an art director at the Ford Motor Company. Mr. Shaftoe was a hobby printer, an active member of a Michigan printing chapel (a printer's club), and he helped set up the printing exhibits at the Dearborn Park Museum in Michigan.

"Robert Shaftoe named his press "Silver Buckle" after the nursery rhyme "Bobby Shaftoe went to sea, silver buckles on his knees." His description for the Silver Buckle Press was "a private press operated in pursuit of printing pleasure and enlightenment." It was his hope that after his death the Press would be preserved intact and that it would be operated by a museum or library.

"In 1973 the Silver Buckle Press was purchased from Robert Shaftoe's estate by the University of Wisconsin libraries upon the urging of Professor Walter Hamady of the University of Wisconsin Department of Art, who lobbied to bring the Press to the University.

"When the Silver Buckle Press came to Madison it was set up as a working museum. The "museum" part of that description refers to the preservation of the Press's distinguished holdings of type and printing equipment; the "working" designation describes our role of demonstrating the art and practice of printing through an active publishing program. Together these two ideas have been integral parts of the mission of the Press. The Silver Buckle is devoted to the

pursuit of printing excellence and to education on the significance of the cultural heritage of letterpress printing.”

UW Special Collections mounted an exhibit to celebrate the twenty-fifth (silver) anniversary of Silver Buckle Press at UW-Madison in 1998. In his introduction for this event, William C. Bunce, Director of the Kohler Art Library at UW-Madison, wrote as follows:

“Students of typography, administrators in need of commemorative documents, authors and lovers of the fragrant sheet—the book as expressive object—have been wonderfully enriched by the SILVER BUCKLE PRESS, brought here in 1973 with the help of Walter Hamady, proprietor of the Perishable Press and fabled Professor in the UW Art Department. The intention was, and certainly is, to provide training to support departmental instruction, resulting in imaginative printed broadsides and books not subject to the exigencies of the commercial press, representing the distinguished intellectual and artistic achievements of the university's faculty and its guests, relying completely on the talent and imagination of the university staff under the aegis of the General Library System. This it has done handsomely.

“Perhaps its publications—*A Printer's Exquisite Corpse* (1992), *Exquisite Horse: A Printer's Corpse* (1997), Lorrie Moore's *An Illustrated Excerpt from Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* (1995), Ron Wallace's *Blessings* (1998), and the exquisite little reprint of Frederick Jackson Turner's *The Significance of the Frontier in American History* (1984)—to mention but a few, speak most loudly for the Silver Buckle Press. But they are, in a sense, byproducts. Its most important legacy is to have helped send remarkable students, molded by the process of involvement, into the bookworld where they have become successful artists and mentors with presses of their own and national reputations. Bonnie Stahlecker, Diane Fine, Marta Gomez and Phyllis McGibbon are all participants in the Silver Buckle experience. Katherine Kuehn, who like so many of the SBP's curators, worked half time and maintained her own press, set an influential print and design standard against which students measured themselves. Barbara Tetenbaum, whose tenure as the press's curator was longest, organized the publication project of *A Printer's Exquisite Corpse*, printed its title page cards at the press, had BookLab boxes constructed for the edition of 100, and distributed this work very successfully. And thereby moved the Silver Buckle Press from an elegant local teaching and service operation to a significant participant in the national fine print world. The press is now thoughtfully guided by Tracy Honn, whose sophisticated and refined sensibilities are evident in its recent publications. The

Silver Buckle Press has brought distinction to the Department of Art, the General Library System and the intellectual community at large. We are indeed blessed with its presence.”

*Exquisite Horse* (1997) is the subject of an interactive exhibit available on the SBP website. Like its predecessor *Exquisite Corpse* (1992), *Exquisite Horse* combined the work of fine printers from across the nation in an elegant, boxed edition of 100 copies. Sixty copies were made available for sale by SBP at \$850 per copy.

The SBP website lists other books and broadsides available from the press, including printing material like *Specimen Book of Wood Type from the Collection of Silver Buckle Press* (1999) and *Calendar of Ornamental Material from the Collection of the Silver Buckle Press* (1988) and a commemorative T-shirt *Hot Type in a Cold World* (1998). The “collections” page of the SBP website lists among the holdings an 1861 Washington Hoe, an Albion handpress, a Vandercook T proof press, platen jobbers, simple proof presses and two small card presses and continues: “We have approximately 125 fonts of foundry type and eighty-six complete fonts of wood type. The SBP has a fine assortment of ornamental type used for printing decorations and borders, and a good selection of cuts, engravings, and electrotypes. Our library of printing history materials includes many original specimen books.”

Robert Shaftoe's friend and fellow hobby printer Robert Runser (Rob Run Press)—who worked with Shaftoe on the printing exhibit at the Henry Ford Museum—came to Madison to help SBP's first curator, Elizabeth Coberly Benforado, set up the press in College Library in 1973. The press was moved to Memorial Library in 1994. Early print-oriented publications from SBP included *The Silver Buckle Press: a short description of the press and its holdings* (1974), *Specimen book of decorative type* (1974), and *Specimen book of type from the collection of the Silver Buckle Press* (1986). Over the years, SBP published Wisconsin writers including Aldo Leopold, Lorrie Moore, Wallace Stegner, Frederick Jackson Turner, and Ron Wallace and numerous projects in support of UW-Madison departments and services.

SBP regularly employs two or three paid student printers during each academic year—usually graduate degree candidates in the Department of Art at UW-Madison. Over the years, SBP has offered workshops for small groups of printing students. In July 1996, Peter Kruty of Peter Kruty Editions, Brooklyn, NY, led a two-day intensive workshop “Printing on the Washington Handpress.” In April 1997, Ruth Lingen, of Poote' Press and Spring Street Workshop, New York, NY, offered a two-day

workshop on “Image Printing on the Vandercook.” The exhibition “The Silver Buckle Press: Twenty-Five Years of Exquisite Printing” was mounted in UW-Special Collections from October 15 through December 1998. Tours of the press are arranged for visiting groups.

THE 54TH ANNUAL REUNION AND DINNER  
NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB

APRIL 27, 1957

Ken Faig, Jr.

My interest in this Fossils' meeting was picqued by two mimeographed issues of *Newsletter To Fossils*, dated April 1957 and May 1957, which I found while reviewing the Groveman Collection. These newsletters were produced by Edward H. Cole—whether on his own equipment or equipment owned by the high school where he taught I do not know. Cole would have been approaching retirement age in 1957.

The first *Newsletter*, dated April 1957, begins as follows:

“On April 5 [1957] President [Harry] Lindquist, Secretary [Edna Hyde] McDonald, and Editor [Edward H.] Cole met at the New York Athletic Club to complete plans for the Reunion and Dinner on Saturday, April 27. Two of the Club's most attractive rooms are at our disposal from 2:00 p.m. till we ourselves see fit to depart. Come as early in the afternoon as you can arrange and foregather with your fellow amateurs. Vic Moitoret will be present with his movies of English amateurs and other films of various American groups may also be shown, probably about 4:00 p.m. All present are the guests of President Lindquist at a cocktail party at 5:00. Dinner will be served shortly after 6:00—and what a menu has been secured! There's no better food obtainable anywhere than at the New York Athletic Club, and Harry has wangled certain specialties of the house for our benefit. If anyone has been looking hesitantly at his pocketbook and reluctantly shaking his head, let him wake up to the greatest feast and accommodations possible to obtain in New York city and take advantage of a real bargain. Splurge for once in your life; you'll never regret it.”

Cole went on to discuss the program for the meeting, including the presentation of awards (silver cups and deluxe copies of Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*). Issues for discussion at the meeting included: (1) proposed establishment of a “Roll of Distinguished Amateur Journalists”; (2) proposed restriction of Fossil membership to those invited by a Membership Committee of ex-presidents; and (3) proposed publication of a *Fossil Annual*, a cooperative publication consisting of publications of individual

members.

The resulting meeting is well-described in Edna Hyde McDonald's minutes published in *The Fossil* for July 1957. Twenty-nine members (including surviving attendees William H. Groveman and Sonya {Mrs. Harold E.} Davids) attended while L. Verle Heljeson and Jeffrey and Patricia Jennings were unable to attend despite having secured reservations. Vondy reported twenty-two new members recruited during the year, four members lost to death, seven dropped for failure to renew membership, and three restored memberships, for a net membership change of plus fourteen. The treasury contained a balance of \$253.21.

Ed Cole reported on the meeting in his *Newsletter* for May 1957:

“Now that I have just completed distributing the type for the Menu, the last printing I accomplished for the Lindquist administration, I sense the finality of Time. The most vigorous administration that The Fossils has ever experienced ended with a Reunion as lustrous—and crowded with events—as the preceding twelve months. From two o'clock until after ten the affair was continuous—a slow gathering of old and new Fossils at first with the slow tempo and relaxation of renewal of acquaintance and reminiscence. Then the pace quickened; Vic Moitoret's films of both American and English gatherings of amateurs fascinated everyone for nearly an hour. The business agenda loomed so large that President Lindquist began the official session in the course of the cocktail party, kept it moving between courses during dinner, and was able to bring it to end by ten o'clock. It was an extraordinary meeting in many respects—the New York Athletic Club afforded the most comfortable and spacious quarters we have enjoyed since the old days at the Astor; no equal record of achievement has ever been presented to a Reunion; the presence of such persons of diverse opinions as Heins, Crane, Spink, Bonnell, Haywood, McDonald, and Cole made discussion and debate unwontedly lively and vigorous; important policies were undertaken; and an almost complete change in the management of The Fossils was accomplished in the election of a Board on which the long-time ‘war-horses’ are chiefly in minor and advisory place.”

Frederick Folger Thomas won the award for best Fossil paper of 1956 for *Far Afield*. Milton Grady won the award for best non-Fossil paper of 1956 for *Spectator*. Helen Wesson won the Fossil Literary Award for her article “The Phenomenon of H.P.L.” which subsequently appeared in *The Fossil* for July 1957. The winners received silver cups and deluxe leatherbound copies of Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*, which had just been published earlier in the year. President Harry L. Lindquist received the Gold Composing Stick Award.



The proposal for a “Roll of Distinguished Amateur Journalists” was subjected to lively debate and entrusted to a committee for implementation; I do not know if such a roll was ever published. Likewise, I am unsure whether any issues of the proposed *Fossil Annual*, approved by the meeting, were ever published. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee for new officers met some resistance; let Edna Hyde McDonald explain in the meeting minutes as published in *The Fossil* for July 1957:

“The Fossils, it should be remembered, is a corporation, organized under the laws of the State of New York. That is why we meet in New York annually, and it also explains why certain of our procedures do not conform to loose-jointed amateur standards. For instance, a Nominating Committee selects candidates for the ensuing year in just about the same way that management in business would select its officers and directors. These are submitted to the annual meeting for ratification. There is no ‘draft’ of individuals for office; no competition based on political rivalry; it is the assumption of The Fossils that to be selected for service in the organization is a merited honor. It has long been the tradition, and the practice of The Fossils, Inc., that when a Fossil is nominated for office he accepts the honor in the spirit with which it is tendered.”

William F. Haywood, nominated for President, at first declined on account of health problems. Others proposed for office by the Nominating Committee also declined to accept the proposed charges. Edna Hyde McDonald's minutes continue:

“It was necessary for Mr. Cole to clarify the situation. ‘Nobody declines any nomination in The Fossils,’ he said. ‘It is an honor to serve The Fossils. It is by no means a draft of the individual. It has been the continued policy of The Fossils that when a slate of nominees is presented by the Nominating Committee, which has been months in making its decisions, and which has given careful consideration to the matter, the slate is accepted, one vote is cast for the entire list of candidates, and the slate elected—with, of course, some exceptions on occasion, such as the demise of individuals between the time of their nomination and election; or the serious illness of individuals; or the remote residence of some one, etc.’”

The meeting allowed Earl Bonnell, originally nominated as Secretary-Treasurer, and Vic Moitoret, originally nominated as Director, to switch offices. Then the deed was done and the meeting instructed the Secretary to cast one vote for the proposed slate. William Haywood was inducted as President, and Sheldon Wesson took office as Official Editor. (The Wessons, then resident in Japan, did not attend the meeting.)

Like the proposal for a “Roll of Distinguished

Amateur Journalists,” the proposal to restrict new membership in The Fossils to those invited to join by the Membership Committee received lively debate. Charles W. Heins opposed the proposal. The proposal went to a vote and was approved, fourteen in favor, three opposed. I don't know how long membership by invitation only remained the official policy of The Fossils. It has certainly long passed by the wayside although abstinence from feuds and political battles remains a Fossil tradition. The requirement for an annual meeting in New York finally lapsed in 1985 when The Fossils, Inc. was reincorporated in Oregon, which remains our corporate domicile today.

In the May 1957 issue of the *Newsletter*, Edward H. Cole reflected on the factors which had contributed to the rise of The Fossils as a prominent force in the amateur journalism hobby:

“First, the willing co-operation of every member called upon to render service for the association. It has always been the tradition of The Fossils that it is an honor to serve; there is almost no record in its long history of a member being called upon to lend a hand but refusing—a service not infrequently rendered at the sacrifice of personal projects and time and effort. Such a condition has always eliminated politics and campaigns for election from the organization—a result eminently desirable. Let it continue. It's an honor to be a Fossil and it's an even greater honor to be called upon to serve.

“Second, the complete absence of bickering and exchange of personalities among our members. Everyone knows that such unpleasantries are the bane of amateur organizations and have inevitably resulted in marked decline or ruin to the organization in which they occur. The Fossils represent all amateur journalism and is made up of adults of long experience. The final vote of the Reunion to make acceptance to membership depend on invitation of the Membership Committee insures our growth to be through worthy, deserving members. That does not mean snobbishness, for on motion of Charles W. Heins, seconded by Edward H. Cole, the Committee must closely observe the provision of the By-Laws that any person active as an amateur journalist fifteen or more years ago, is eligible.”

The Fossils were unincorporated for the first twenty-three years (1904-27) of their existence, adopting a New York corporate entity in 1927 only to receive an inheritance. The original membership requirement of hobby activity prior to 1890 had been altered to activity fifteen or more years prior to application for membership. Clearly, the Fossil leaders had some intention to try to keep potential troublemakers out. The United Association, in particular, had just been through several years of bitter political infighting culminating in the attempted non-renewal of

the membership of Mary Lavinia Silvia for the anti-semitic tirades in her journal *The Old Oaken Bucket* at the end of 1956. The Fossil leadership, including Edward H. Cole (1892-1966) and Edna Hyde McDonald (1893-1962), wanted to minimize this kind of infighting within the membership of The Fossils. A membership filtering process for The Fossils was perceived as one mechanism to avoid these kinds of conflicts.

From the “Old Boys” alumni association of the years through the mid-forties, to the elite leadership of the amateur journalism hobby of the forties and fifties, to the organization of today, with a mix of hobby elders and members with a particular interest in the history of the hobby, The Fossils have continued to change to adapt to the times. Some members felt that our mission had been fulfilled when the Library of Amateur Journalism was donated to New York University Library in 1967 and some members probably feel that the same situation exists today with the donation of the Library of Amateur Journalism to the University of Wisconsin Library (Madison) in 2004. Only the future will reveal the destiny of The Fossils as an organization.

Over the course of our history, we have sometimes been attacked as an “elitist” organization. When Edwin Hadley Smith set out to promote the “Alumni Association of Amateur Journalism” following NAPA's Boston convention in 1930, he drew the support of many Fossils for the worthy aim of helping the active associations, then at a periodic low point. Fossil Official Editor Charles C. Heuman, however, felt that the Alumni Association was poaching on territory already covered by The Fossils. In a comparison published in *The Boys' Herald* for September 1931, Smith wrote of The Fossils: “organized to hold an annual banquet in New York” and of the Alumni: “not organized to hold a banquet anywhere.” He contrasted Fossils dues of \$5 per annum with Alumni dues of \$1 per annum and compared the lack of an official Fossil aid to the active associations with the use of half the Alumni dues to benefit the active associations (the other half went to provide subscriptions to *The National Amateur* for Alumni members). Of course, The Fossils had longstanding awards for achievements in the amateur journalism hobby and many individual Fossils actively benefitted the active associations and individual amateur journalists. There was probably truth on both sides of the dispute between Smith and Heuman over the Alumni Association of Amateur Journalism. The Alumni Association and other similar groups deserve their own histories.

As the forties progressed, *The Fossil* did become more conservative in reporting the fraternal aspects of the annual reunions, including the banquet menus. While those attending the annual reunions continued to enjoy good food and company, the focus

was on promoting The Fossils as a leadership organization for the amateur journalism hobby. Not every potential candidate for office succumbed to the blandishments of the Nominating Committee—in 1944 John Moody (1868-1958) declined the offer of The Fossil presidency made by then kingmaker Edward A. Oldham. Moody expressed his view that the leadership of The Fossils should be entrusted to a new generation of amateur journalists—a shift finally accomplished in the 1950s. In truth, he may also have been unwilling to accept the presidency of The Fossils because he continued to be actively involved in the management of his financial publishing and rating agency business. In the official minutes of their meetings, The Fossils de-emphasized good food and fellowship in favor of the business of the organization—much the same as today's charitable events (formal dinners, etc.) today emphasize the monies raised for charity rather than the food and fellowship enjoyed by the donors. (Photographs of donors participating in fund-raising events remain much in vogue in the local press and similarly *The Fossil* continued to publish photographs of our annual meetings even after they morphed into social events.)

I was fortunate to find a copy of the menu card which Edward H. Cole printed at The Oakwood Press for the Fossil banquet at the New York Athletic Club among the amateur papers which Bill Groveman gave to me. It is beautifully printed on card stock, light blue with dark blue ink on the exterior and cream color with black ink on the interior. The front cover is very simple:

54th  
Annual Reunion and Dinner  
[Fossil Seal - “alumni” version]  
New York Athletic Club  
April 27, 1957

The back cover has the logo for The Oakwood Press. One interior page has a reproduction of a deluxe leatherbound copy of Spencer's *History*, among the prizes presented at the reunion. Facing this is the dinner menu:

MENU  
All Fresh Fruit Cocktail  
Soup du Jour  
Celery Olives  
Breast of Capon with Virginia Ham  
Mushroom on Toast  
Green Peas Potatoes Parisienne  
Cherries Jubilee  
Coffee

A large part of the fun, of course, is that we get a look at the menu including the *specialites de la maison* that President Harry L. Lindquist “wangled”

from the management of the New York Athletic Club. (I suspect that Lindquist was a member of the club and obtained not only the banquet but also the offer of accommodation for out-of-town guests, a courtesy often available—for a fee—from such private businessmen's clubs.) As the principal entree, “Breast of Capon with Virginia Ham” sounds like a delightful alternative to the prime rib or roast sirloin of beef which later (1960s-1970s-1980s) dominated hotel banquet menus. A capon, by the way, is a castrated rooster—its use in cuisine apparently derives from Roman sumptuary legislation limiting the use of fattened poultry. (Like a eunuch, a capon will fatten on its own.)

The “Mushroom on Toast” probably corresponds roughly to this recipe for *toasts aux champignons* from *Larousse Gastronomique*:

“Grill the mushrooms or sauté them in butter. Arrange them on toast cut in rectangles or rounds, grilled or fried. Sprinkle with fried breadcrumbs. Put in the oven for a moment. Season with freshly ground pepper; sprinkle with chopped parsley. Serve on a napkin.”

*Larousse* describes *pommes de terre à la parisienne* as a variation of *pommes de terre noisette*: “With a round vegetable scooping spoon, scoop out pieces of potato the size and shape of cobnuts (hazel nuts). Fry them in butter in a sauté pan, season and cook until golden all over. Serve in a vegetable dish or use as indicated in the recipe” (e.g., as a garnish). *Larousse* continues for potatoes Parisienne: “Like *Noisette potatoes*, but smaller in size. As soon as the potatoes are cooked, toss them in greatly concentrated veal gravy or dissolved meat jelly. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.”

As for the *piece de resistance*, the Cherries Jubilee—*cerises jubilé* in French—I will again let *Larousse* provide the description:

“Simmer some fine, stoned cherries in syrup. Drain them, put them into little silver, fireproof porcelain or glass ovenproof dishes. Pour the syrup in which they have cooked over them, after boiling it down and adding to it a little cornstarch or arrowroot diluted with cold water. Then pour into each dish a tablespoon of warmed kirsch, and set flame to it at the moment of serving.”

Those of the Fossil brethren who accepted Brother Cole's recommendation to splurge were certainly well-rewarded at the 54th Annual Reunion and Dinner at the New York Athletic Club on April 27, 1957.

While we are no longer burdened with all the requirements of a New York corporation, we should probably pass along to some more official business after savoring the memory of that wonderful year of achievements in 1956-57, which saw the publication of Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* and the

induction of a vigorous “New Blood” administration at the annual meeting. As noted by President Miller, we have recently voted to attend our corporate By-Laws; a copy of the amended text follows.

## BY-LAWS OF THE FOSSILS, INC. AS REVISED THROUGH AUGUST 15, 2005

### Article I

Section 1. The name of this organization is THE FOSSILS, INC., registered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Oregon under ORS Chapter 61.

Section 2. The organization and its members shall be titled, “The Historians of Amateur Journalism.”

### Article II—Purposes

Section 1. Its 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.

Section 2. The Fossils, Inc., maintains an active interest in The Library of Amateur Journalism donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison.

Section 3. The Fossils, Inc., shall publish a journal, *The Fossil*, as near-quarterly as funds from the treasury or contributed for this purpose permit. The contents shall include items of official business and news of the organization, information regarding members and matters of interest to their associates to sustain fraternity within the Fossils, Inc., as well as communications in harmony with its purposes. Each issue shall contain historic articles dealing with amateur journalism and, at the discretion of the Official Editor, literary articles and reminiscences submitted by members.

Section 4. The organization shall foster independent publishing of significant historic material by amateur journalists.

Section 5. Otherwise, through liaison contact with newspapers and other media, The Fossils, Inc., shall sustain efforts to publicize the significance of independent publishing, its history in America and advantages derived from participation in amateur journalism as a stimulant for recruiting new members into the community of amateur journalism associations.

### Article III—Membership

Section 1. Any person who has been an active member of an Amateur Press Group, or its equivalent, and is interested in fostering the purposes and goals of The Fossils, Inc., as stated in Article II of the By-Laws, is eligible for membership upon acceptance of dues by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall drop from the roll all whose dues which became due on his or her renewal date are still not paid at the end of 45 days after that date.

### Article IV—Dues

Section 1. The annual dues shall be \$15 for single membership and \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife, if both are eligible to join. Renewal date shall be one year from date of joining.

Section 2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify all whose dues are unpaid thirty days prior to mailing ballots for annual election of officers.

Section 3. Nonpayment of dues shall automatically disqualify elected or appointed officers from further service in office effective thirty days from date of delinquency and the Secretary-Treasurer shall provide written notice of default and impending consequences as defined herein within fourteen days prior to effective date.

### Article V—Officers

Section 1. **President:** The President shall be elected for a term of one year. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all official meetings of The Fossils, Inc., appoint a replacement with approval of the Boards of Directors and Trustees when an elected or appointed office becomes vacant, approve expenditures of funds as authorized herein, appoint committees as required to pursue the purposes of The Fossils, Inc., and to be a member ex officio of all such committees, inform the Board of Directors and Trustees regarding policy and planning as they affect administration of the organization, and perform the customary functions of executive officer.

Section 2. **Vice President:** The Vice President shall be elected for a term of one year concurrent with the President. The Vice President shall preside at all official meetings from which the President is absent. In the event of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the office and shall appoint a

replacement Vice President with approval of the Boards of Directors and Trustees.

Section 3. **Secretary-Treasurer:** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years (or, if appointed, for the remainder of the term of the person replaced). As Secretary, this officer shall (1) keep the minutes of proceedings of the organization and other essential records, (2) pass upon the qualifications of applicants for membership, (3) determine member qualifications for voting in elections, (4) conduct official correspondence, (5) be responsible for the printing of ballots for the annual election, and fulfill the customary duties of secretary. As Treasurer, this officer shall (1) have charge of the funds of the organization, (2) make disbursements as authorized by the President, (3) furnish the Official Editor with a financial report for each issue of the official organ, and (4) shall submit a complete yearly report to the annual meeting.

Section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded by a recognized underwriter for an amount adequate to cover entrusted funds.

Section 5. **Official Editor:** The Official Editor shall be elected for a term of one year. The Official Editor shall have full responsibility for publishing *The Fossil*, as defined herein.

Section 6. **Librarian:** The Librarian shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Boards of Directors and Trustees when the office becomes vacant and shall serve until (1) submitting written resignation to the President or (2) replaced by majority vote of the Boards of Directors and Trustees. The Librarian will convey to the membership through *The Fossil* any pertinent communications from the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison, pertaining to the Library of Amateur Journalism.

Section 7. **Historian:** The Historian shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Boards of Directors and Trustees when the office becomes vacant and shall serve until (1) submitting written resignation to the President or (2) replaced by majority vote of the Boards of Directors and Trustees. The Historian shall compile a record of events and people of historic significance in the founding and development of The Fossils, Inc., including current year information determined to be of historic interest in the future. Copies of this accumulating history of The Fossils, Inc., shall be published, annually, in *The Fossil* and filed in The Library of Amateur Journalism.

Section 8. Vacating of an Office: An office shall be considered vacant in the event of (a) the submission of a written resignation by the office holder to the President (or, in the case of the President, submitted to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees); (b) the death of the office holder; or (c) the office holder's ceasing to be a member of The Fossils, Inc.

#### Article VI—Trustees

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of three members: the President in office and the Presidents of each of the two predecessor administrations.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, replacement shall be the Vice President from the administration of the (past) President vacating the office or, should this individual not be available for valid reasons, by election of a member nominated by the two remaining Trustees and voted by a majority of the Boards of Directors and Trustees in combination.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall serve as conservators of such special funds as may be collected for publishing projects sponsored by The Fossils, Inc., extending beyond the term of the administration in which the project is initiated. The Treasurer shall submit an accounting of such funds to the Trustees quarterly, and a majority of the Trustees shall be necessary to authorize disbursement of such special funds.

Section 4. Approval of a majority of the Trustees shall be requisite to initiating any projects involving the collection of special funds or initiating any projects, for which such funds are to be applied.

Section 5. Generally, it is the function of the Board of Trustees to sustain continuity of policy, and a majority vote of the Trustees shall take precedence over the Board of Directors, each voting as a separate body, on matters involving projects or activities which extend beyond the term of the administration in office at their inception. The Trustees shall function to stabilize fiscal policy and prevent expenditures excessive to funds-in-hand.

Section 6. The Trustees shall vote as a separate body except that they shall individually join the Board of Directors in deciding replacement of Librarian, Historian, or replacement Trustee.

Section 7. For parliamentary purposes, the first Trustee in order of past Presidents, shall be defined as the senior Trustee and chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. On election of a new President of The Fossils, Inc., the senior member shall be replaced and the three-Trustee order maintained.

#### Article VII—Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President (chairman), Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Official Editor, Librarian, and Historian.

Section 2. The general affairs of the organization shall be determined by their majority vote.

Section 3. Generally, the Board of Directors may resolve any matters of policy or business confined within the year of its term of office and disburse such funds as may be in the treasury. (Note limitations to powers of Directors under Article VI—Trustees.)

#### Article VIII—Nominating Procedures

Section 1. The combined Boards of Trustees and Directors shall oversee the formation of a Nominating Committee to produce a list of qualified candidates for each of the elected offices.

Section 2. The Secretary-Treasurer at a date deemed appropriate to that officer shall remind the members of the Boards of Trustees and Directors of their obligation to arrange for candidates for office, whereupon the officers shall either:

a. Form a Nominating Committee among themselves and choose a chairman which may be any officer except the sitting President, or;

b. Through committee action or some form of consensus, delegate the duties of Nominating Committee to two or more persons from the general membership.

Section 3. The complete ballot should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than June 30.

#### Article IX—Elections

Section 1. Elections of officers and amendments to the By-Laws shall be determined annually by ballots to be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer to all qualified voting members by July 10.

Section 2. Ballots shall be enclosed in an envelope signed and sealed by the voter. They may be returned in a second, outer envelope to the Secretary-Treasurer by mail at least fourteen days prior to the annual business

meeting or delivered to the Secretary-Treasurer at the beginning of the meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deliver the ballots in sealed envelopes to the chairman of a three-member committee appointed by the chairman of the meeting to count the ballots. The committee shall open the sealed envelopes, tally the votes for each candidate, and inform the chair of the result which shall be recorded by the Secretary-Treasurer and published in *The Fossil* by the Official Editor.

Section 3. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for election of officers or amending the By-Laws.

Section 4. Elected officers shall assume office on August 15.

Section 5. Amendments to the By-Laws shall become effective thirty days after publication in *The Fossil*.

#### Article X—Meetings

Section 1. Business meetings may be called by the President either at his/her pleasure or at the request of 5 or more members. Otherwise, all official business shall be conducted by mail.

Section 2. Proceedings shall conform to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. A meeting or reunion for fraternal purposes may be initiated by any Fossils member willing to host the event.

#### Article XI—Method of Amending the By-Laws

Section 1. Majority vote of qualified voting members of The Fossils, Inc., shall be required to amend the By-Laws as part of the annual election process; and such amendments shall be printed on the ballot with appropriate “Yes”/“No” boxes.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be determined by majority vote of the Boards of Directors and Trustees, voting as a composite body (each individual counted), before being submitted for membership consideration or shall be included on the ballot without executive board approval when submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer by any member and accompanied by at least twenty signatures of qualified voters.

#### Article XII—Resident Agent

Section 1. There shall be a Resident Agent native to the State of Oregon in which The Fossils, Inc., is registered as a non-profit corporation.

Section 2. The Resident Agent shall attend to whatever filings of forms as are required by the State of Oregon to perpetually maintain this arrangement in good standing and communicate whatever is deemed necessary to be known to the President.

Section 3. The President and Board of Directors shall provide whatever information or reasonable assistance required by the Resident Agent to maintain corporate status in good standing.

Section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer, on approval by the President, shall provide the Resident Agent with a check drawn on the account of The Fossils, Inc., for the annual Oregon State corporation filing fee.

#### MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Reported by Martha E. Shivvers, Chair,  
Membership Committee

American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street,  
Worcester, MA 01609-1604 (subscriber)

Belt, William G., 5407 Glen Falls, P.O. Box 4, Reistertown,  
MD 21136

Bossler, Gary, 145 Genoa Ave., S.W., Massillon, OH 44646

Botterill, Guy R., 5502 Craig Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212-  
3907

Boyer, Leslie W., 535 Kickerillo Drive, Houston, TX 77079

Brady, Donald E., 4224 Foxboro Drive, New Port Richey, FL  
34653

Bula, Allan, 65 Wickham Avenue, Bexhill-On-Sea, East  
Sussex TN39 3ES, England

Campbell, Miriam B., 575 El Paseo Place, Lexington, KY  
40517-4152

Chamberlain, Kent Clair, 625 Holly Street, Ashland, OR  
97520

Charter, Orma Jane, 8316 N.E. 33rd Street, Spencer, OK  
730843104

Conover, Theodore, 1766 Evergreen Court, Minden, NV

89423-5132

Diachenko, Joseph A., 9217 Mimosa Lane, La Plata, MD 20646

Donaldson, Linda K., 709 4th Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662-4005

Donnelly, Sean, 9037 Tree Valley Drive, Tampa, FL 33615

Faig, Kenneth Jr. & Carol, 2311 Swainwood Drive, Glenview, IL 60025-2741

Fontenot, Mrs. Eunice M., 3320 Elliot Street, Alexandria, LA 71301

Gage, Frederick H., 1394 Minot Avenue, Auburn, ME 04210-3724

Geier, Marguerita, 21253 N. 78th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

George, Richard S., 5276 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA 31210-2136

Gilbert, Annie Ri, HC76, Box 197, Marshall, AR 72650

Guinane, James F., 321 Park Street, New Town, Tasmania 7008, Australia

Halbert, Robert L., P.O. Box 848, Tyler, TX 75710-0848

Harris, Eula Lee (Merry), Apt. 3, 845 Commercial Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243

Hawes, Leland M., Jr., 5009 Dickens Avenue, Tampa, FL 336297514

Horn, John, P.O. Box 175252, Little Rock, AR 72222-7252

Horvat, Martin M., P.O. Box 741, Stayton, OR 97383-0741

Killie, J. F., P.O. Box 957588, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195-7588

Lichtman, Robert, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA 94611-1948

Liddle, Frederick J., 404 Erie Avenue, Tampa, FL 33606-3642

Lincoln, Louise (& A. Walrus), 400 South Broadway Place, Apt. 1277, Tucson, AZ 85710-3792

Macauley, Charles C., 731 Sea View Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Millar, Betty B., 2680 Ironwood Avenue, Morro Bay, CA

93442

Miller, Guy G., 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield, OH 45503-1209

Newman, J. Ed., 603 W. Warren Street, LeRoi, IL 61752-1041

Norris, Patty Sue, P.O. Box 34, Ocotillo, CA 92259

Oliner, Stan, 1278 Dexter Street, Denver, CO 80220

Parson, Tom, 157 South Logan, Denver, CO 80209

Peyer, Donald W., 338 E. Desford Street, Carson, CA 90745

Rogers, Richard M., 293-A Pulp Mill Bridge Road, Weybridge, VT 05753

Ruben, Elliott, 145 Windsor Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570-5910

Schrader, Barry, Suite 388, 900 E. Stanley Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94550

Scott, Jack E. 15 Mallard Pointe, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Shivvers, Martha E., 1526 165th Avenue, Knoxville, IA 501388939

Smolin, Harold, 6126 N. Springfield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659

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## WE WELCOME TO OUR RANKS

Richard Rogers

I understand that new members of Fossils customarily provide a self-introduction of sorts. I'd like to subtitle this "Some Notes on a Nonentity," which certainly would be appropriate, but H. P. Lovecraft has already snagged that one.

Nor is it idle to mention HPL, as it was his dedication to the cause of amateur journalism, and his conviction that the cause was a good one, that led to my interest. But on to the subject.

I was brought up in a small Connecticut seaside town. One waved at neighbors and tooted your horn when you drove by...and not doing so would be seen as unfriendly. Hard to imagine, these days. We kids went exploring in the woods and by the ocean, another practice that seems passé, but it helped foster an interest in the outdoors and a sense of both the wonder and the eeriness in nature, somewhat the atmosphere of Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

After college in Vermont, with a year at the University of London, I reluctantly and ineptly joined the world of work...when I could find work. Like many others whose plans were up in the air, I migrated to Washington, D.C. My first significant job there was as news editor with Iran National Radio and Television under the Shah's government...three years later came the revolution. But I don't accept responsibility for that.

Since then, life has had its usual ups and downs. At one time I worked with an American-Arab trade group in New York, and probably was the only person in history to go broke working for the Arabs. But go broke I did, and after a few years of idleness I stored my things in the attic of relatives, took what money I had and headed to Europe with ideas of teaching English.

That's how I began a journey that eventually took me to Japan, where I worked for eight years, teaching and then getting back into newspaper work. The Japanese spell followed time living in Portugal and Thailand. Much of my life since then has been spent in business journalism, including stints at Dow Jones and a California newspaper, *Investor's Business Daily*.

Two years ago I left California for Vermont, being possibly the only person in history who left Los Angeles for Vermont just in time for winter. Since then I have been trying to write a Vermont-based mystery and have been trying to keep going financially by day-trading stocks...and that is a sure-fire way for anyone to learn humility.

I've always loved to travel, as my overseas work background suggests, and on an impulse once

signed up for a vacation voyage to Antarctica on a converted Russian icebreaker. It was a unique trip...and though I saw no shoggoths, there were as many penguins as one would care to meet.

I've sprinkled Lovecraftian references throughout this narrative because he seems to be frequently mentioned in Fossils. A closely related writer, and one whom he himself admired, is Arthur Machen. I belong to a British literary society dedicated to his works.

At this point, I am sure, anyone still reading must be yielding to Morpheus, the god of sleep. But writing and literature are my chief interests in my personal life, in part because I like to think I have some ability in them, and I know that I have no ability in anything else. The amateur journalism movement is both a vigorous assertion of American self-reliant character and a reminder of times when words were in scarcer supply than in today's media-saturated society, and consequently drew more respect both from those who put them out and those who took them in.

Anyway, I'm pleased to be in the august company in which I now find myself, and am even more pleased than the rest of you can be to draw my remarks to a conclusion.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Fossil members—Jack Swenson, Martha Shivvers, Marion Fields Wyllie, and new member Richard Rogers—who took the time to comply with my request for biographical sketches. Jack, Martha and Marion all provide excellent examples of the wealth of experience and knowledge shared by long-time members. During the 1950s, membership of The Fossils represented the "elite" of amateur journalism. Our membership rolls still contain some of the most distinguished participants in the amateur journalism hobby, but in recent decades the role of The Fossils has shifted from an "honor society" to a voluntary association of amateur journalists particularly interested in the history of our hobby. Our new seal bearing the words "Historians of Amateur Journalism" speaks to that role. In making this shift, of course, the presence of our veteran members has been vital in keeping our organization on course through its ups and downs. Among our newer members, Richard Rogers is an excellent example of the energy and talent which will be essential to carry our organization forward into the twenty-first century. I thank all of our members who contributed biographical sketches to this issue and I invite all of our other members to consider submitting their sketches for future publication. If not a



biographical sketch, why not an essay on some aspect of the history of our hobby which is of special interest to you?

I also want to thank Fred Gage for making the excellent suggestion to put the titles of our articles and their authors' names in boldface type for easier scanning. I hope you will approve of the change. (David Tribby was already doing this editorial work for the electronic copies of the text portion of *The Fossil* which he has been posting to our website.) I welcome any other suggestions you may have to improve the content or the appearance of *The Fossil*. A little background regarding the production of the last volume of *The Fossil* may be in order. I have been composing the text using WordPerfect Version 5.0 with FaceLift Fonts. (I know that's ancient history but so am I and the fifteen-year-old IBM clone and laser printer I'm working with.) Our President Guy Miller has then been doing the layout for the covers and illustrations and doing the printing and the mailing at his Potpourri Press.

While Guy and I are having fun with *The Fossil*, it's not too early to be giving some thought to where we should be headed for the future. For the long term, I think a fully finished *Fossil* in PDF format—with all illustrations embedded in the electronic text—should be our goal. An enhanced PDF-format *Fossil* will make a better introduction for readers who encounter us on the Internet. It may also eventually facilitate ease of distribution to *Fossil* members who can receive a PDF-format *Fossil* as an e-mail attachment. Of course, we have no intention of abandoning traditional paper publication of *The Fossil* for the near-term future. Without paper publication, we would enjoy no illustrations whatsoever with our current production methodology. Also, putting a paper publication in the hands of our members on a regular quarterly basis is an important element of retaining members when renewal dues are payable.

With production help from President Miller, I hope to stay the current course with *The Fossil*. I am the first to admit that I am not primarily a publication designer—my primary aim is to put into your hands something worth reading. I do however welcome any and all suggestions for improving *The Fossil*. After all, it is your magazine. Hopefully already among us is the energetic individual who will be able to take *The Fossil* to an entirely new level after my term as editor is finished. By 2010 I hope *The Fossil* will have attained the objective of a fully-finished PDF electronic edition that I described in the preceding paragraph. Who knows what might await the reader of 2050? If our lamp is still burning in that future year, perhaps our organizational matters will be handled through an electronic newsletter. What if an unexpected burst of academic attention follows the opening of Library of Amateur Journalism at

the University of Wisconsin-Madison? Perhaps by 2025 *The Fossil* might have morphed into *The Journal of Amateur Printing and Publishing*—whether paper or electronic only the future will tell.

I put the Fall 1955 issue of Wylma Georgia Heard's *Bayou Blossoms* on the cover of this issue of *The Fossil* to remind us that amateur journalism has a long history in the Gulf Coast region that suffered so terribly from Hurricane Katrina this past summer. My thoughts go out to all the present-day amateur journalists in the region, including our former President Eunice Fontenot and current NAPA President Troy McQueen. I have a strong faith that the Gulf Coast will rebuild and I hope that NAPA will be able to hold its 2006 convention in New Orleans as planned.

I had so many excellent contributions to this issue of *The Fossil* that reaching a decision on the editor's prize for the best contribution was difficult. However, Guy Miller has been so faithful with his excellent "President's Messages" that I have decided to award the prize—a copy of H. P. Lovecraft's *Letters to Rheinhart Kleiner*—to him. It's difficult to imagine where *The Fossils* would be today if it were not for the efforts of Guy Miller. He has printed and mailed our quarterly journal for a long time and adeptly adjusted to the format change which I requested. He untangled the complexities of Patriot Act paperwork and managed to establish banking facilities for Secretary-Treasurer Stan Oliner when Stan assumed that office from Gary Bossler. (I admit that *The Fossils* are an unlikely terrorist front but I suppose all organizations look the same to banks.) Guy and his fellow *Fossil* Trustees Jack Swenson and J. F. Killie provided wise counsel when our LAJ Committee was wrestling with the difficult challenge of finding a new home for the Library of Amateur Journalism within a narrow time framework. As evidenced by his "President's Messages," Guy has made sure our business has been attended to—officers elected, necessary by-laws amendments adopted, corporate fees paid, quarterly journal printed and mailed—the list could go on and on. I think Guy's "President's Messages" have been all that an organization could wish for in terms of quarterly communications from its CEO. Thank you Guy—please enjoy HPL's comments on an earlier era of the amateur journalism hobby.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Harold Segal

*The Fossil* extends congratulations to Harold Segal on the occasion of the seventy-fifth [diamond] anniversary of his membership in the National Amateur

Press Association, which he will celebrate on October 21, 2005. Harold remains as active and as devoted to the amateur journalism hobby as the day he joined.

### Marion Fields Wyllie

*The Fossil* congratulates our senior member Marion Fields Wyllie on the occasion on her ninety-ninth birthday on October 26, 2005. Her fellow Fossil members all wish Marion the best of everything as she begins the one hundredth year of her life.

### THE OTHER FOSSIL LIBRARY

From NPR, November 2, 2003. Cities and states across the country are struggling with tight budgets, cuts in services and the prospect of raising taxes. That can seem especially challenging in small towns, which have scarce resources and limited alternatives. In isolated Fossil, Ore., population 450, the budget axe recently fell on a cherished local institution—the town library.

But as NPR's Howard Berkes reports, book lovers in Fossil are fighting back. One out of every four people in town is a dues-paying member of a group called Friends of the Fossil Library. In October, volunteers staged a murder-mystery weekend that raised close to \$1,000 for the library—10 percent of the yearly budget. With volunteers, the money will be enough to keep the library—a collection of some 4,500 hundred [sic] books crammed into a former garage—open for two hours a day, three days a week.

But that won't last long, and library advocates are working on ways to secure more reliable funding. Plans under consideration include the creation of a special library district and tax, and a possible partnership with a neighboring county.

*I found this story on the Internet some months ago at:*

*<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1478538>*

*and you might want to see if it is still available at that address or has been cached by Google or one of the other websearch firms. Of course, our own Fossil Library left Oregon in December 2004, after a stay of nearly twenty-five years, but I certainly wish the citizens of the small town of Fossil, Oregon success in their efforts to preserve their public library.*

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This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, Inc., 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, Inc., and mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.