

THE FOSSIL

Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism
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A PAUSE BEFORE MARCHING ON **President's Report** **Guy Miller**

The season has not been a pleasant one for our ajay family. Especially have AAPA, NAPA, and The Fossils had to part with too many friends who have added their unique touch to the rich fabric of those organizations starting long before almost any of us became a part of them. We are thinking in particular of Harold Segal, Elliott Ruben, and Ted Conover who began their activities back in the '30's. Then, add Al Fick, in comparison a relative "new comer" (1954), who in his fifty-five years among us left a legacy of artistic achievement that will extend well into our future.

But, as more than one poet has reminded us, time marches on; and The Fossils can but pause a moment before we once again must pick up the step. So, we have labored on, and feel that we have reason to be pleased in our efforts this season in helping to preserve the history of amateur journalism. Our Official Organ under the editorship of Fossil Ken Faig has well succeeded in keeping before us the vibrant spirit of our predecessors. We continue support of both the American Antiquarian Society and our own Library of Amateur Journalism housed in the Special Collections Library at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. To these institutions we have sent contributions of \$250 and \$500 respectively toward the maintenance of their ajay collections. The latest welcome information on this front is that Fossil Heath Row (NAPA Bureau of Critics Chairman) has arranged with the University of Iowa to place Elliott Ruben's vast collection with them. Last word from him was that he was planning to begin the job of packing and shipping in mid October.

Thus, with this issue, we head into the 106th year for The Fossils. We are a smaller organization membership-wise, but as strong in our objectives as they were to our organizers, in particular Edwin Hadley Smith, at that long ago day in April of 1904.

If I may be permitted a personal note: My Annabel was not a member of The Fossils, but from the beginning, when Potpourri Private Press first undertook the printing of *The Fossil*, she had served the group in helping to fold, collate, stamp, address, stuff and mail every issue, including the July 2009 number. Her help, of course, has been much valued by

the proprietor. And, although we know that she enjoyed the task, unfortunately, she had to move on to another offer she just couldn't refuse.

**IN MEMORIAM:
ANNABEL MILLER
1920-2009**

Annabel Rowe Miller, 89, of Springfield, Ohio, died Thursday evening, August 20, 2009, in her residence.

She was born in Springfield on June 3, 1920, the daughter of the late William H. and Wilmette (Baumgardner) Rowe.

Annabel was a 1938 graduate of Springfield High School. She retired from Columbia Gas Company having served in their public relations department. She served on the Clark County Board of Zoning Appeals for eight years and the Clark County Victim Witness Program. Annabel was a member of the Lagonda Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Home City Chapter 258 O.E.S. [Order of the Eastern Star], Fornightly Musical Club, and the Champaign Historical Society.

She is survived by her husband, Guy G. Miller, whom she married on May 29, 1969.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ohio Masonic Home Benevolent Endowment Fund, 2655 West National Road, Springfield, Ohio 45504.

This obituary for the wife of our Fossil President appeared on the website of Littleton & Rue Funeral Home, which was in charge of the private services. Annabel accompanied her husband Guy to many of the amateur gatherings which he attended, most recently the convention of the National Amateur Press Association in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Many amateurs will treasure their memories of Guy's gracious wife and share in his sorrow at her passing. Guy and Annabel had recently celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary.

**IN MEMORIAM:
HAROLD SEGAL
1915-2009**

Guy Miller

Friend Alvin Fick once observed that for Harold Segal NAPA "is the polestar of his life" and assigned to him the title "Mr. NAPA." That title Harold earned without contest during his 79 years of devoted service to the little world of amateur journalism. Harold was active in the several organizations of the hobby, including AAPA, APA, and The Fossils. But, in the end, the National Amateur Press Association was his first and lasting love; and if he had his druthers, he would not have chosen to cast a shadow over NAPA convention festivities at Parkersburg by passing from us as he did on its closing day July 18.

Ajay history has already placed Harold in the top echelons of both literary and graphic arts mastery. Evidence of these can be traced back to his NAPA affiliation in 1930 with his initial issues of *Good Timers' Club News* which after 10 numbers took on the more familiar title of *The Sea Gull*. The latter title ran through 47 issues, each of which consisted of 12 pages plus cover, printed one page up on Harold's 5x8 Kelsey. But his monuments

remain his 255 issues of *Campane*, his activity in the Amateur Printers Club (APC), and the 127 numbers of the famous (some insist on “notorious”) *Shampane* (*Shambler / Campane*), an “all stops out” collaboration between Harold and his forever friend Al Fick.

Harold joined The Fossils at the NAPA Boston Convention in 1959. When at Greenbelt in 1994 he was presented the prestigious Gold Composing Stick Award from the hands of long-time friend Victor Moitoret, Harold delighted those assembled by recounting a “lapse” on the part of the presenter in that Vic and he had made a “sacred pact” in the early '50's that, if Harold would take it upon himself to join The Fossils, Vic would speedily join the next day. Harold declared that he had carried out his part of the bargain, but Moitoret had reneged (The joke: Vic had joined a few years before Harold). In any case, Harold had the pleasure of returning a courtesy when he handed Victor Moitoret his Gold Composing Stick Award during the 100th anniversary luncheon of The Fossils at Lexington in 2004. While, on the subject of awards, during the administration of Fossil President Merry Harris (1990-94), Harold received the 1990 Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism.

Harold proved to be an active member of The Fossils, both at the annual meetings and on committee work, namely in 1965 as a member of the NAPA library committee whose assignment was to work with Fossil Stan Oliner to move the Library of Amateur Journalism from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia to Stan's home in Grand Junction CO for a year of evaluation. Harold also served as 2nd vice president for the year 1966-67 and was a candidate for Official Editor of *The Fossil* the following year. Matilda Haywood was elected. Harold dropped his membership sometime in 1968.

But Harold's major contribution to The Fossils might have been his feature article in the 1964 autumn issue of the Official Organ, “Is There a Place for the Fossils Today?” Harold's conclusion: “If we are to lie back, discuss the old days over and over, we are dead, only waiting to be carried away. If we are able to rise, seek means in some fatherly fashion to promote more activity and higher standards in present active organizations, then we are on our way to revitalization and purposefulness.” Interestingly enough, in the face of declining memberships and the rise of the E-journal, this question of identity, presented to The Fossils in 1964, is the very one that AAPA and especially NAPA should be grappling with today.

REMEMBERING HAROLD

Bill Groveman

The letter came from Ken Faig: I want to invite you, if you are able, to submit a few words of recollection of Harold Segal. Of course I would care to remember one of my earliest hobby contacts and later one of my most admired friends in the fascinating world of amateur journalism. But where to begin...

Harold and I met for the first time I believe at a meeting of the revived Amateur Printers Club at Vincent Haggerty's home in Jersey City in early 1941. There he extended an invitation to drive to Cleveland in his new Chevrolet for the upcoming NAPA convention along with Burton Crane, Robert Telschow and Sheldon Wesson.

Preliminary to the trip, we were put up at the Segal home in Philadelphia and shown

royal treatment by Harold's family. Wesson, all 6 feet 3 inches of him, required a chair extension to his cot. Telschow and I shared a bed. He must have suffered insomnia as he kept me awake for hours recalling long past restaurant dinners featuring lamb chops that he had enjoyed. The Segal home was on a streetcar route and at regular intervals throughout the night the rod leading from the trolley to the vertical electric line would spark and sizzle. In the morning the Segals wanted to know how we had slept. They were so used to the racket of the streetcars that it didn't bother them.

Almost as soon as we arrived in Cleveland Helm Spink appeared with the key to Warren Brodie's retirement office and well-equipped print-shop. They immediately set to work on the convention daily, *The Moving Finger*, and I can attest that Wesson, Segal, Crane and Spink barely slept for three days.

In the spring of 1942 Harold was already off to the wars and unable to attend a glorious reunion of old timers at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. There Edwin Hadley Smith led me to a bent over octogenarian and introduced Evan Reed Riale who as Secretary of the Philadelphia Amateur Press Club had issued an invitation to the amateur journalists of the Northeast to gather in the Quaker City over the 4th of July 1876 to celebrate the Centennial of American Independence. And equally important, at least in our little world, to organize the National Amateur Press Association. Shaking Riale's hand made me feel that I was shaking hands with history.

A few years later in London during the war I told Harold about Riale and he said he had met the man a decade earlier when he was eighteen and President of the NAPA. And he also recalled meeting George W. Bertron, another of the Philadelphia boy printers who had been present at the birth of the NAPA.

When Harold returned from the Second World War he had fifteen years of hobby activity behind him and could easily have retired into Fossilism. But amateur journalism was his life and he was just getting started. In the next six plus decades he set a record for convention attendance, helped to host uncounted meetings of the Amateur Printers Club at his home, published *Campagne* on a regular schedule, later teamed with Al Flick to publish a spoof journal *Shampagne* using the pseudonym Harvin Figal, and in his spare time held NAPA office top to bottom several times over and was honored with innumerable Laureate Awards. He was also a gentle critic and mentor to many a novice publisher in matters grammatical and typographic.

Harold Segal was a member of the NAPA for 79 years, claimed he wasn't ready yet to become a Fossil. When letterpress printing became a physical burden he reluctantly parted with his beloved Pearl press and switched to desktop publishing in his later years when that was the only way he could remain active. He was around for more than half the life of the association and even predicted its demise as a result of changes in its appeal to the present generation. Let us hope that he will prove to be wrong.

I have a fantasy of Harold arriving at the place that awaits us all, looking around until he came to a room with an endless line of computers and passing them by until he reached a distant corner where, under a coat of dust, he found a Pearl press. In short order he tracked down Sheldon Wesson, Burton Crane, Victor Moitoret and the Babcock brothers, Alf and Ralph. They cleaned and lubricated Pearl, washed down the type, and soon were happily at work on the first issue of the Celestial Amateur Printers Club paper, *Pi in the Sky*. This was Heaven indeed!

MY MEMORIES OF HAROLD SEGAL

Stan Oliner

I first met Harold Segal at the 1957 Washington, D.C. convention, including a brief stay with both Harold and Hazel after the convention. Several New Year's APC meetings pop into my memory as I remember seeing Nita Gerner Smith for the last time. A rider to a Virginia APC meeting in Segal's car along with Nancy and David. Gussie Segal knew what amateur journalism meant to Harold as she helped check in convention goers year after year. Vic Moitoret would probably nudge my memory re Harold's disdain of the hyphen in his typesetting. It is -30- for Harold, but not for the incredible output he managed to produce in his 79 years with us.

NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES OF HAROLD SEGAL

(Philadelphia Inquirer & Philadelphia Daily News, July 19, 2009)

Segal, Harold, July 18, 2009, of Wyncote, PA. Husband of Gussie (nee Kofsky) Segal. Father of Nancy Segal (Steven Metzger), David Segal and Wendy Segal (Lynwood Fessler). Brother of Charlotte Harris. Grandfather of Alyssandra (Scott) Holmes and Brayden Fessler. Great grandfather of Kale Holmes. Harold was an active member of the National Amateur Press Assoc. Graveside services, Mon. 2:30 P.M., King David Mem. Park (Sec. R), Bensalem, PA. The family will return to the late residence. Contributions can be made to the NAPA, c/o William Boys, 6507 Westland Dr., Knoxville, TN 37919 or the International Printing Museum, c/o Mark Barbour, 315 W. Torrance Blvd., Carson, CA 90745. Platt Mem. Chapels.

**IN MEMORIAM:
ELLIOTT RUBEN
1917-2009**

Guy Miller

Among the pictures in the *American Amateur Journalist* for November 1964, featuring attendees at AAPA's Labor Day convention is one showing "Three of the original Metchaps (formal moniker: Metropolitan Chapter of the American Amateur Press Association) which came into being just in time to sponsor AAPA's first convention in 1939 (some dispute here), and now in 1964 again partly hosting the 1964 New York meeting." Pictured in that photo are Helen Wesson, Bill Groveman, and Elliott Ruben who had been a member of AAPA since September 21, 1937. Available UAPAA records (courtesy of Fossil Jack Swenson) show that Elliott was a member of the United group as early as 1933; so, it

is reasonable to assume that he was among that early group who found the young AAPA more compatible with their restless energies. In any case, Elliott eventually became involved with the affairs of the group, serving as Historian under Presidents Mike O'Connor (1964-65) and Dean Rea (1965-66), followed by two terms (1969-71) as Official Editor. His *Random Thoughts* first appeared in the fall of 1963. Subsequent issues can be found in *Ink Cahoots* Numbers 1 (1973), 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Commentaries in those issues portray him as an avid collector of type (especially antique fonts) and a jay bundles. In one issue (*IC* 2, 1974) he announces plans to break up his bundle collection, but judging from latest reports, he obviously never got around to it.

In addition to *Ink Cahoots*, Elliott also contributed pages to Bill Haywood's *It's a Small World* (intermittently between 1975-86) and to APA's cooperative yearbook *Treasure Gems* (1978-81, 1986).

Elliott joined NAPA in 1965, but we find no record of activity. The opposite was true upon his affiliation with The Fossils in 1975 sponsored by J. Ed Newman. While he held no offices in that group he did take part in the discussions during more than several of the annual meetings, then held in New York, indeed authoring the motion that led to the Gemgraphics processing of the 1980's bundles as a way of relieving the space problem at New York University where the Fossil collection was then held. At his death on July 7 at the age of 92, one can observe that Elliott's devotion to our hobby is well-documented.

AAPA ALERT ON ELLIOTT RUBEN

(Ivan D. Snyder, AAPA Alert, July 22, 2009)

Elliott M. Ruben, of Rockville Centre, New York, died on July 7, 2009, at the age of 92. He has been with AAPA since it started. My records show that he joined in September 1937. I was not able to find the notice in the AAJ at the time he joined; but Vol. I No. 5 in December 1937 has a short story by Elliott: "Christmas Gift." And he has been a very faithful member all of these years. Elliott is survived by his wife Loretta Ruben, 145 Windsor Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 1157-5910.

IN MEMORIAM: THEODORE E. CONOVER 1921-2009

Guy Miller

By the time Ted Conover joined The Fossils in 1982 (proposed by Russell Paxton), he had a long record of activity in the AAPA. Ted joined that group in April of 1937, possibly another of those young activists who found AAPA more in harmony with their aspirations. At any rate, Ted soon became involved in the affairs of AAPA with his issues of *Scribbles* which first appeared in 1938. Later, he served as President, Official Editor, member of the Board of Directors, and we understand, in other positions.

Ted tells us (*Scribbles*, Spring 1991) that he took “a 20 year hiatus while we served four years in the army and then about twelve in the community newspaper business,” including two years as managing editor of *The Daily Standard* in Celina OH, returning to AAPA in the '70's. At AAPA's 1997 convention in Mt. Vernon OH, Ted as one of the scheduled speakers, regaled the group with tales of his experiences working on the various newspapers in Ohio. He also at that time commented on his preparation of another revision of his book *Graphic Communications Today* which was first published in 1985, after his retirement as a journalism professor at the University of Nevada where he taught from 1960 to 1982. Ted was 88 when he left us September 14, still proud to have been a member of the ajoy family.

A RECOLLECTION OF THEODORE ELBERT CONOVER
(from the Reno Gazette-Journal, September 27, 2009)

Theodore Elbert Conover, 88, passed away on Monday, September 14, 2009. He had lived in Gardnerville [Nevada] since 1992. Ted was a journalism professor at the University of Nevada from 1960 until he retired in 1982. He has named chairman of the Department of Journalism in 1965 and was credited with turning the random advertising, copywriting and public relations classes into a “sequence” of courses and adding broadcast journalism to the curriculum. Under his direction the department was first accredited in 1970. He continued as department chair until 1974. He also authored *Graphic Communications Today* which was first published in 1985. The book was for beginning design and journalism students. The fourth edition was published with author William Ryan in 2003.

Ted's education at Ohio University was interrupted by World War II. During the war he was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds received while serving in Europe. The second was for severe wounds, putting him in an English hospital for three months followed by a year of recuperation at Fletcher Army Hospital in central Ohio. On May 13, 1944, Ted married Edna Harsha of Grazeysburg, OH. It was during this time that he and Edna found a newspaper in Baltimore, OH, that had stopped publishing during the war. Fulfilling a boyhood dream of owning a newspaper, Ted and Edna bought their first newspaper. Over the next 13 years they bought and sold five newspapers bringing each of the weekly papers back to life. Ted also completed work on his journalism degree from Ohio University and his masters from Ohio State University.

Ted and Edna moved to Reno from Centerburg, OH in the summer of 1960 when he began his work in the journalism department at the University of Nevada. Ted was a life long member of the United Methodist Church. He was an active member of the Lions International, American Amateur Press Association, Kiwanis Club and Friends of the Douglas County Library.

Ted was preceded in death by his wife Edna, who died in October, 2004. Ted's family includes son David, his wife Pulou of Annapolis, MD and their daughters Mellisa, Litiana, and Laura, her husband Fotu Taua, their daughter Cierra; daughter Nancy and her husband David Elston of Portland, OR; and daughter, Linda Wampler, her husband Bill and their daughter Sarah of Rocklin, CA.

A celebration of life service will be held at the Carson Valley United Methodist

Church in Gardnerville on November 28, 2009.

**IN MEMORIAM:
ALVIN S. FICK**

Guy Miller

Al Fick was never a member of The Fossils, but a remaining impression is of his and Alma's presence at The Fossils luncheon during AAPA's 1997 convention at Mt. Vernon OH. At that luncheon Alma was chosen to receive the Hyman Bradofsky Memorial door prize of \$10. She needed a little convincing to dissuade her from the notion that it had been a "set up." Not so incidentally, that could have been their last AAPA meet, but not the last that we were to hear from them. Indeed, a note from Alma reached our household just days before Al's death on September 7.

Al joined AAPA in April of 1954. His credential was *Mohawk Smoke Signal* No. 1. Its headline announced "Blessed (?) Event," followed by "New AAPA Member Launches First Issue of Publication Into Midst of Unsuspecting Group!" We don't have in hand Al's *Mohawk Smoke Signal* No. 2 to report whether a similar greeting was extended to members of NAPA which Al joined in June of the same year. But, nonetheless, it did not take longer than a glance for both organizations to recognize his talents in writing and typography and to realize that "they had a valuable 'find,' one of those natural-born ajays who makes a mark from Day One," to quote Fossil Lee Hawes from his monumental tribute to Al in *The Gator Growl* No. 100 (June 2001). Maybe it helped that Al needed little or no initiation into ajay, for he came possessed of a 5x8 Kelsey and was already publishing a private journal for friends.

Al and Alma's first convention was AAPA's gathering the same year 1954 in Newark NJ. It was there that Al met Harold Segal and formed a close friendship which eventually resulted in visitations back and forth between households and spawned that memorable production *Shampane* composed of what we have summarized in another context as "pages filled with well-directed satire, unbridled hyperbole, zany off-the-wall observations, and preposterous puns."

Al's literary and publishing output included a number of one-of-a-kind issues, including some visiting fireman outputs, but his main vehicles were *Banderole* for AAPA and *Shambler* for NAPA. The only office we find that he held in either organization was as Chairman of the Bureau of Critics in NAPA. Never mind. Al's own self-criticism made him more valuable as writer and printer. And through those accomplishments he was a true and faithful amateur journalist.

**NAPA 134TH CONVENTION 2009
Parkersburg, West Virginia
July 16-18, 2009**

Bill Boys

(Reprinted from NAPA Email News, vol. 9 no. 1, July 24, 2009 &
vol. 9 no.2, July 25, 2009)

Convention Highlights:

Twenty-some members and guests gathered at the Comfort Suites, Mineral Wells, West Virginia (near Parkersburg). Business sessions moved smoothly; the elections were even completed in fifty-one minutes!

An outstanding display of hand-casting type, bookbinding and printing on an English common press by Austin and Jean Jones was the highlight of the afternoon of the opening day.

Field trips included a trip to the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club, a model railroad supply and repair establishment, Fenton Art Glass Works, and the Blennerhasset Island Museum.

Election Results:

President: Jack Visser, Wooster, Ohio

Vice-President: Bill Volkart, Amelia, Ohio

Official Editor: Gary Bossler, Massillon, Ohio

Recorder: Marti Abell, Rome, Pennsylvania

Executive Judge: Arie Koelewyn, East Lansing, Michigan

2010 Convention: Chicago area

2011 Convention: Nashville, Tennessee

Honorary Memberships:

By resolution, and in appreciation for their exhibit of several printing-related crafts (mentioned above), Austin and Jean Jones of Point Pleasant, West Virginia were voted Honorary Members of NAPA.

2008 Laureate Awards:

President Jack Visser announced at the closing banquet the following as the Laureate Awards for calendar year 2008:

ART: Laureate, Loy McWhirter, "redhanded: a song forre the loste," part 2, published in *The Boxwooder* #471; Honorable Mention, Lana Lambert, "Galleon," published in *Pennant Bravo*, May 2008.

EDITING: Laureate, Arie Koelewyn, for *Lake Effect*, nos. 15 & 16; Honorable Mention, Jake Warner, for *The Boxwooder*, nos. 462-473.

EDITORIAL COMMENT: Laureate, Loy McWhirter, for "redhanded: a song for the loste," part 3, published in *The Boxwooder*, no. 472; Honorable Mention, Bill Venrick, for "Respect - Service," published in *Wordwright Press Journal*, February 2008.

FICTION: Laureate, Robert Bierman, for "Your Father's Mustache," published in *The Boxwooder*, no. 473; Honorable Mention, Louise Lincoln, for "The Yellow Gingham Dress," published in *The Kitchen Stove*, no. 95.

HISTORY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM: Laureate, Jake Warner, for "Townsend Convention 133," published in *The Boxwooder* no. 469; Honorable Mention, Guy Miller, "Our Final Salute," published in *Lamplighter*, no. 17.

MISCELLANEOUS PROSE: Laureate, Loy McWhirter, for "redhanded: a song for the loste," part 1, published in *The Boxwooder*, no. 470; Honorable Mention, Fred Gage, for "Hush Money," published in *The Gage Pin*, no. 81.

POETRY: Laureate, Louise Lincoln, for "After the Storm," published in *The Kitchen Stove*, no. 97; Honorable Mention, Kent Clair Chamberlain, for "Song for Sleep," published in *Oregon Outlook*, no. IV.

PRINTING: Laureate, Bill Boys, for *Pennant Bravo*, April & May 2008; Honorable Mention: Arie Koelewyn, for *Lake Effect*, nos. 15 & 16.

Death of Harold Segal, Member 79 Years:

Harold Segal, who joined NAPA in 1930, died on the morning of July 18th, the last day of this year's convention. The news of his death reached us at the convention, and we were all saddened by the news, though it was not unexpected. The Memorial Committee Report at the closing banquet that evening included this tribute:

"News of the death this very morning of Harold Segal, truly one of the giants in the history of our Association, reached us just as we were preparing this Memorials Committee Report. Harold joined in October, 1930, so would have been a member 79 years this coming October. Harold's long history of publishing *Campagne*, his partnership with Al Fick in publishing *Shampagne*, his service in hosting the Centennial Convention in Philadelphia in 1976, his production of an updated history of the Association at that time, his service in many offices in the Association, his long participation in the Amateur Printers Club (APC) and his regular attendance at so many conventions are indications of the pre-eminent stature of this man's contribution to this hobby and to our Association. Coincidentally, Harold became a great-grandfather today, on the day of his death. And perhaps you might agree that it is not inappropriate symbolism that Harold's death occurred during a NAPA convention."

2009 AAPA CONVENTION: BACK TO OHIO

(from <http://www.greenapple.com/~aapa/cons/aapa09.html>)

AAPA held its convention in Ohio twice before in the new century: at Canton in 2001 and Cleveland in 2006. For 2009 the city was Columbus and the dates August 20 through 23.

Convention chairman Robert Tauber, book arts specialist at Ohio State University's Logan Elm Press, put together a program that kept delegates entertained and informed from Thursday afternoon registration through Sunday's picnic. He was assisted by wood engraver Dale Starr and a top team of Ohio members well experienced in putting on previous events.

The University Plaza Hotel in Columbus, located near The Ohio State University campus, was convention headquarters.

The first event of the convention was the traditional Charlie Bush Chinese Dinner held 6:30 Thursday evening at Hong Kong Buffet.

On Friday morning, delegates toured Ohio State University's recently renovated Thompson Library (including a Rare Books Exhibition) and visited the internationally prestigious Cartoon Library & Museum.

After lunch in the Library's "Berry Cafe," members and guests drove across campus to tour the OSU Book Arts Lab. First stop was the Logan Elm Press, where a Kelsey press

was set up to die cut a balsa wood wing, part of a model airplane construction kit.

AAPA member Susan Petrone, author of *A Body at Rest*, spoke on the experience of getting her book published.

Delegates then went up a floor to see how OSU preserves and restores old and damaged books.

At the silent auction, available during these early afternoon events, delegates placed bids on over 40 items. At 4:20 pm, auctioneer Sky Shipley, assisted by wife Johanna, held the live auction in which another 40 items were sold in about an hour.

On Saturday morning, delegates carpooled to the Chillicothe, Ohio, home/workshop of the nationally renowned printer/papermaker Dard Hunter (1883-1966). The day included a tour of the Mountain House and lunch at the shop/store in town.

At the Saturday evening banquet, AAPA President Lee Hawes announced the annual laureate awards and presented certificates to those winners who were present. Jared Gardner, an OSU associate professor of American literature, film, and popular culture, spoke on "Serial Citizenship, the Amateur Printer and the Rise of Periodicals in America from Franklin to the 19th Century."

The Logan Elm Press hosted a farewell picnic lunch on the OSU campus at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Those who attended the convention: Victoria Alt, Gary Bossler, William Boys, Mike & Kathy Coughlin, Linda Donaldson, Sean Donnelly, George Hamilton, Leland Hawes, Rich & Lynda Hopkins, Michael Jacobs, Austin & Jean Jones, Bill Justice, Jiyani Lawson, Jerry & JoAnn Martin, Aaron Martin, Guy Miller, James Patterson, Susan Petrone, Barry and Kay Schrader, Jeffrey Schroff, Jack & Maurine Scott, Sky & Johanna Shipley, Ivan Snyder, Dale & Debra Starr, Bob & Amber Tauber, Max Tauber, Dave & Liz Tribby, and Jack Visser.

Read more details of the 2009 AAPA Convention in comments posted to the AAPA Information blog, and view over 100 photos in the 2009 convention photo album.

AAPA 2009 Election Results:

Here are the top vote getters in this summer's AAPA election:

President: Michael J. O'Connor

First Vice President: Michael Coughlin

Second Vice President: David Griffin

Official Editor: Dean Rea

Secretary-Treasurer: Ivan Snyder

Mailer: June Bassemir¹

Manuscript Manager: Bill Venrick (*write-in votes*)

Board of Directors: Leland M. Hawes, Jr.; Susan Petrone; Barry Schrader

Amendments A-F: all passed

The Mailer takes office on January 1, 2010; all others take office on October 1, 2009.

Laureate Awards:

¹ President Michael O'Connor appointed Tina Person Mailer effective January 1, 2010, after June Bassemir resigned.

AAPA 2008-2009 Laureate Awards:

Prose Fiction: Laureate, Kathleen DesHotel, "Murmurings," *Pensees Avec Cafe au Lait*, February 2009; Honorable Mention, Heath Row, "A Requiem for Happy Things," *Hedge Trimmings*, December 2008; Honorable Mention, Charlie Robbins, "School for Scoundrels?" *Gator Growl*, March 2009.

Prose Non-Fiction: Laureate, Dorothy Smiljanich, "Dissolving Uncle George," *Gator Growl*, May 2009; Honorable Mention, David Griffin, "Art 102," *The Windswept Journal*, May 2009; Honorable Mention, Damon Pride, "Bishop's Bucket List," *Gator Growl*, December 2008.

Poetry: Laureate, Christopher J. Janus, "Seasons of Forgetting," *Gator Growl*, October 2008; Honorable Mention, Sheryl L. Nelms, "Early Alzheimers," *Amateur Observer*, December 2008; Honorable Mention, Bette Liberty Carrick, "The River," March 2009.

Journal of Overall Excellence: Laureate, Leland M. Hawes, Jr., *Gator Growl*.

Letterpress Printed Journal: Laureate, Dean Rea, *Oregon*; Honorable Mention, Ivan Snyder, *Amateur Observer*; Honorable Mention: David M. Tribby, *The Tribby Tribune*.

Non-Letterpress Printed Journal: Laureate, Richard L. Hopkins, *Detained in Philadelphia*, August 2008; Honorable Mention, Gregory E. McKelvey, *The Ink Zone*; Honorable Mention, Len Carrick, *Shasta Ramblings*.

Art: Laureate, Gale Mueller, "House Wren," April 2009; Honorable Mention, Roy Paul Nelson, *Ink Cahoots* cover, October 2008; Honorable Mention, Roy Paul Nelson, the printshop in the bedroom, *The Tribby Tribute*, June 2009.

Laureate Judges: Ray Jerland (chair), Richard S. George, and Johanna Shipley.

(Please go to the Internet address cited at the beginning of this article for many wonderful links to additional information and photographs.)

LIFE AND ME

Martha E. Shivers

When I was a little girl
Oh, that was many years ago
My hair was straight. I wanted curls.
But it just wasn't meant to be so.

I was a pain to my brothers
When walking the mile to country school,
Often stumbling, falling, spilling lunches,
Making us tardy, breaking a rule.

Time passed, we endured the Depression.
Then loved ones were called to the War.
Did hard times make us stronger, wiser
Than we were all those years before?

Marriage, home and children

Brought chores, school and friends,
Church and other activities.
So much to do until each day ends.

Alone now, I sit by the bay window,
Watching nature play out her score,
Remembering the fruits of past labors
Celebrating a birthday—ninety-four.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

We are all indebted to our President Guy Miller—who lost his own beloved wife Annabel this past August 20—for the rich tributes to Harold Segal, Elliott Ruben, Ted Conover, and Al Fick which adorn this issue of *The Fossil*. That Guy, in the face of his own recent loss, has contributed so richly to the remembrance in this issue is surely a tribute to his dedication not only to our organization but also to the amateur journalism hobby at large. Guy surely deserves credit as co-editor of this issue, for not only has he contributed much of the text, but he has also supplied and chosen the illustrations which adorn our covers. I have also to thank Stan Oliner and Bill Groveman, who have contributed their own tributes to Harold Segal to this issue.

I also give thanks to Bill Boys for his account of the 2009 NAPA convention in Parkersburg WV (NAPA's first-ever convention in that state) and to the AAPA website for the account of the 2009 AAPA convention in Columbus OH. *The Fossil* hardly qualifies as a “journal of record,” but I do appreciate the opportunity to publish some account of these important away gatherings. Bill Boys of NAPA and Fossil Barry Schrader of AAPA will be hosting the next NAPA and AAPA conventions in a common location in the Chicago area in July 2010. I am sure I am with a large majority of amateur journalists in wishing NAPA and AAPA success with this common undertaking. I hope to be able to attend.

Of the amateur journalists to whom Guy Miller and others pay tribute in this issue, I have personal memories of Harold Segal and Al Fick. I first met Harold at NAPA's 1996 Canton OH convention and resumed our acquaintance at NAPA's subsequent conventions in Cincinnati OH and Wilmington DE. Harold did me the honor of publishing my articles on amateurs Herbert Clarke and John Moody in *Campane*. (He even broke *Campane*'s usual rule against “serials” by running my article on John Moody in two parts.) Harold made me generous gifts of a copy of his centennial history of NAPA (*The First Hundred Years... [1976]*) and of a bound volume of *The Fossil* originally presented to Harold by “Boy of '76” George W. Bertron. Harold and his wife Gussie illumined every NAPA convention they attended. Canton '96 also marked my first and only meeting with Al and Alma Fick. My wife and I sat next to them on the canal boat excursion, and still remember their gracious friendliness toward us newcomers. Al was a gifted poet; his beautiful writing and his beautifully-designed publications did honor to our hobby.

I am still planning a future issue devoted to the writing of juvenile authors, especially as manifested in “publications” (sometimes called “family magazines”) which, like “little magazines,” can be considered “cousins” of amateur journals. Stan Oliner sent me an interesting article relating to author Jack Kerouac's sports-oriented private “publications,” which he began in his youth and continued into adulthood. Hopefully, our “juvenilia” issue will see the light of day sometime in 2010.

OUR CENTER SECTION THIS ISSUE

To *Fossil* subscriber **Dale Speirs** (editor of *Opuntia*) I give thanks for the wonderful bibliography of “Ephemeral Bibelots” by Frederick Winthrop Faxon which occupies the center pages of this issue. This bibliography originally appeared in the Boston Book Company's *Bulletin of Bibliography* between April 1903 and January 1904. The world of the “small magazine” has always had many features in common with the world of the amateur magazine. One of the titles featured in Mr. Faxon's bibliography, *The Thomas Cat*, was also pictured in Historian Sean Donnelly's article “An Ajay Time Capsule” on design of amateur publications at the turn of the last century in *The Fossil* for July 2005. Since our illustrative material is not scanned for our Internet readers, I can only add that you [the Internet readers] are missing something by not subscribing to our paper edition or better yet joining *The Fossils*.

Amateur journalists of the past century who dabbled in the world of “small magazines” and private press publishing included W. Paul Cook (1880-1948) and Charles A. A. Parker (1880-1965). Cook's *Monadnock Monthly* and *Vagrant* were pretty much exclusively amateur productions as was Parker's early *Literary Gem*. But with his one-shot magazine *The Recluse* (1927) and his private press The Recluse Press Cook pretty much crossed the line into the world described by Mr. Faxon in his bibliography. Parker's magazine *L'Alouette* in the early twenties also carried both amateur and “small magazine” credentials. Parker also published private press books, including Edna Hyde's poetry collection *From Under a Bushel*. In the thirties, Parker published a series of hardcover verse anthologies under the title *Threads in Tapestry*. Stan Oliner has suggested Parker's long career for a feature article in a future issue of *The Fossil*—a suggestion I hope eventually to act upon. Cook was NAPA Official Editor during the presidency of Rev. F. Graeme Davis (1918-19) and succeeded him as President in 1919-20. Parker did hold the NAPA presidency for the 1942-43 term and befriended the young Guy Miller early in the latter's amateur career, but was perhaps best known as Edith Miniter's replacement for fired Official Editor George Julian Houtain during her 1909-10 NAPA presidency. Parker pledged to adhere to the so-called “Parker Principles,” which included a commitment to produce a stripped-down *National Amateur* containing basically only official content strictly within the budgetary limits set by the NAPA constitution and by-laws. NAPA official editors earlier in the twentieth century had lavishly subsidized their volumes of the official organ.

FOSSIL NOTES

Gary Bossler is compiling an electronic archive of the contents of NAPA bundles.

To view his results so far please go to:

http://www.ohioamateurs.org/napa_bundle_lists.htm

Gary notes: "Anyone who would like to help by sending me similar files for the parts I haven't got to yet would be appreciated."

Heath Row is co-ordinating arrangements for the possible transfer of Elliott Ruben's substantial amateur journalism archive to a library collection.

Kent Clair Chamberlain was interviewed by Dean Rea for the September 2009 *American Amateur Journalist*. Kent is also the subject of a biographical sketch in Thompson Gale's reference work *Contemporary Authors* (vol. 234).

WE WELCOME TO OUR RANKS

We welcome to our ranks **Charles H. Bloomer, Jr.** Lee Hertzberg's early biography of Mr. Bloomer ran in our July 2006 issue and Mr. Bloomer's own recollections of his days in amateur journalism and science fiction fandom ran in our July 2009 issue.

We welcome to our ranks **W. Hal Shepherd** of Shoal Creek AL. Mr. Shepherd is the son of **Wilson Shepherd** (1917-1985), one of the founding members of AAPA and also (like Mr. Bloomer) a very active science fiction fan in the 1930s.

We welcome to our ranks **James Dawson** of Redwood Valley CA. James describes himself as a "POB mail junkie" who for "DIY/Simple Printing/Zines" uses "mimeograph, ditto, letter press, home xerox..." James describes himself as "well past youth," a Theravada Buddhist, an animal-rights Libertarian, and a vegetarian ("99% vegan"). He spends much of his reading time on philosophy, but also likes cryptozoology (Sasquatch, Pteradactyl, Thunderbird, ...) and "intelligent horror." His musical favorites include Alternative Rock, New Wave, Garage, Synth, Post Punk, and Goth.

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THE FOSSILS

<http://www.thefossils.org/>

This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, a non-profit organization whose purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as “Amateur Journalism” and to foster the practices of amateur journalism. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the 1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually—\$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to *The Fossil* without privileges of membership is \$10. Make remittances payable to The Fossils, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.