

The



Fossil

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Taken from a biography of ex-presidents published in the December 1978 *National Amateur* and edited with some information from Dave Tribby.

Anthony F. Moitoret

"LOOKING SO WELL we dare not call him Grand Old Man" Tony Moitoret graced NAPA gatherings as Toastmaster at Denver 1970 (50th anniversary of his presidency) and again at Kennewick 1978, a spry witty raconteur belying his 86 years.

Anthony F. Moitoret was born in San Francisco February 21, 1892 and died February 2, 1979. Prior to finding organized AJ, he had pencilled a series of journals called *Boys' Sun*. His first *San Francisco Sun* appeared April 1908, printed by Ericson of Wisconsin. He joined the United, and a month later joined NAPA. His paper (first 5 x 7 and later 6 x 9) appeared bi-monthly for two years. During those two years at Sacred Heart College Moitoret helped organize among his classmates and was President of the San Francisco Amateur Press Club. He went to the United 1909 convention at Seattle and was elected its Western Manuscript Manager. That same July the New York NAPA convention elected him Corresponding Secretary.

Hosting an October 1909 convention of Pacific Coast APA innocently drew vituperative outbursts from Seattle UAPA boss Erford's coterie, which shortly effected an end to the surge of California activity.

"Moit" devised a baseball league to grade activity, each paper counting as a game won. There was great interest in the 1910-11 National and United Leagues dividing various publishing centers.

From reporter for San Francisco Examiner, newspaper work led Moitoret east through Denver and Minneapolis to Cleveland.

There in 1916 he teamed up with energetic young William J. Dowdell on a series of papers. Without aid of any local committee they entertained the 1916 United convention and won the 1917 NAPA meeting for Cleveland; but that convention went to New York

when war intervened. In April 1917 "Moit" enlisted in the Navy and married Dora Hepner of Columbus, former UAPA President. Moitoret was chief yeoman on a transport, making nine trips to France.

After the war he became telegraph editor of the *Cleveland Press*. Tony ran for Official Editor in 1919, defeating Charles Isaacson 36 - 21. Midway through his term he moved from Cleveland to Chico, California becoming night news editor of *Chico Record*. California printing rates proved prohibitive, but President Cook refused his resignation and did the official organ printing.

The 1920 Cleveland convention elected 28-year-old Moitoret President, over W. T. Harrington 61 - 27; but defeated his running mate Dowdell for Official Editor. The Editor elected, Marjorie Outwater (Ellis) proved a storm center: her friction with the Treasurer led to the latter's resignation; bickering among easterners led to Mrs. Ellis' offer to resign, and though Moit persuaded her to finish the year, there was no July *National Amateur*. Intensive recruiting netted 117 new members.

Disgusted with the bitterness of politics, Moitoret resigned as Judge next year and dropped AJ.

He was political editor of the daily *Oakland Tribune* for ten years, with front page by-lines. Tony and Dora had four children. In 1934 a press installed in the Moitoret basement encouraged

formation of the Oakland Amateur Press Club by elder son Victor's classmates.

Journeying to Chicago that year to his first NAPA convention "Moit" invited the National to Oakland. Success of the 1935 affair grew from efforts by the entire Moitoret family. Aggressive recruiting (with Los Angeles help) mushroomed California membership from 14 to 55. Only five out-of-state members attended (first West Coast NAPA meeting in 30 years), but the 65 present made a lively gathering, well-entertained, complete with daily convention paper (*Oakland Sun*), baseball game, boat ride, sightseeing in San Francisco, and a week of post-convention festivities for younger amateurs.



After more than a score of years in newspaper work, Tony left in 1936 to campaign for repeal of the California chain store tax. Success led to similar work in Seattle with public relations firm of Braun & Co. in 1937. There he was active in American Legion and Navy League, as well as President of Seattle Advertising Club, and later in business for himself.

Moitoret joined The Fossils in 1938 and was chosen Second Vice President in 1941. Death of both President and Vice President within three months elevated him to the presidency, first of the "new" Fossils to lead that organization. His publishing included 14 *San Francisco Sun* 1908 - 21, 11 *Cleveland Sun*, 9 *Oakland Sun*, 4 *Tick Tock* (28 page 5 x 7 of literary rather than newspaper style) and 44 *Ding Dong*, several single issues and some co-edited with others.

He served four terms as Executive Judge, one as Critic, and three as Recruiting Chairman. His mid-'60s burst of activity also won him the History Laureate three times, in 1964 - 65 - 68. Kennewick made the eighth NAPA convention he had attended.

The above article must have been written by Ralph Babcock, who was Editor of the 1978-79 *NA*. That, as well as the following, which appeared in the March 1979 issue of the *National Amateur*.

Like storybook westerners who died with their boots on, our **Octogenarian Amateur** really enjoyed a marvelous performance and tribute at Kennewick, turned out his last paper, topped off with further recognition in the December **NA**—and passed on on February 2, 1979. Tony Moitoret would have been 87.



Tony Moitoret, Toastmaster at Kennewick
July 1978

The Moitoret Card File

TONY STARTED KEEPING a card file in which each amateur publication was recorded with publisher's name, date of publication, etc. were kept. At some point the chore was continued by his son, Victor. This proved to be a valuable tool for those doing research on past members publishing activity. However it came to an abrupt end when Vic passed away in January 2005.

These were in the hands of Stan Oliner and he made use of them frequently before his death. They are now in the hands of Tom Parson, who has been appointed to take Stan's place as Librarian in NAPA.

I have started an on-line record of NAPA bundles which may be accessed at http://ohioamateurs.org/napa_bundle_lists.htm. This only has NAPA activity shown and I'm sure does not come close to the information available in the Moitoret file.

—Gary Bossler

Guy Miller's Collection

Our thanks go out to Arie Koelewyn, who though he is not a Fossil member, made a trip from East Lansing, MI to Guy's home in Springfield, OH to rescue the substantial collection of amateur papers and correspondence. Guy had been in the process of downsizing, but still there was a substantial van load that Arie trucked back to East Lansing with the help of his friend.

I had planned to be there as well but complications with some surgery I was having at the time prevented me from being there.

Following is a copy of an e-mail received from Arie Koelewyn on January 16, 2013.

A Short Report on Guy Miller's Collection

On Saturday, October 26th, 2012, my friend Fred Stahmer and I set off from East Lansing, MI to Springfield, OH to retrieve the sizable collection of amateur papers that Guy Miller had amassed over the years. None of you know Fred, since he is uninterested in both printing and writing, but he has two characteristics that make him a great friend: he's willing and able to lend a hand, occasionally, when stuff is to be moved and he drives a mini-van. Though he was quite relieved to learn there would be no moving of heavy equipment or type.

Guy's sudden and unexpected death, left a huge hole in amateur journalism. He was the go-to-guy when you needed a bit of historical information or an obituary for deceased AJer. Luckily the folks settling the estate, Mary Teets and Ken Metzger knew of the importance of Guy's collection. Ken recalled the name of Gary Bossler and contacted Gary when Guy passed away while on a road trip visiting western US parks.

Gary brought in a few other AJ folks, including me, into the conversation and began arranging to have the Guy's collection picked up. It turned out that I was the one best able to get the collection from the house on Archer Lane.

Fred and I arrived about noon after a 4½ hour drive and were met by Ken Metzger, who opened up the garage and pointed to all of the things he thought were of interest. There was quite a lot and we were glad we had the van instead of my small Mazda. The materials fell into 6 main categories: NAPA bundles, AAPA bundles, boxes of individual papers, books on writing, a 4 drawer file cabinet with more amateur papers and files pertaining to The Fossils, and finally, some small pieces of equipment for book binding. In addition to writing, editing and printing, Guy had picked up the hobby of restoring book bindings; the estate didn't want them and encouraged us to take these items if we thought they might find a home with some amateur.

Fred and I scoured the garage fairly thoroughly and took pretty much everything that had some connection to amateur journalism, but were not invited into the house. Ken assured us that all of the AJ stuff was in the garage.

After a lunch at a nearby restaurant [Fred's normal "pay" for his assistance is lunch and a full tank of gas when we get home], the trip home was similarly uneventful. We quickly unloaded the van into my garage. There the papers sat for a few weeks. Eventually most of the material was moved into the back porch of the house. This area was originally a screened porch that was converted into a 4 season room. There I set up a work table and began sorting through the materials. Tom Parson, who is, similarly working his way through the Graham-Wesson collection offered to share his methodology of inventorying those materials. I have adopted the spreadsheet Tom is using to also catalog Guy Miller's collection, though not in such a detailed manner.

My aim is to provide a clear understanding of the materials present in the collection so that representatives of NAPA, AAPA and the Fossils can decide how best to place the materials in a permanent location. The process is slow and tedious, but I hope to have a full inventory in a few months.

—Arie Koelewyn

Congratulations and Condolences

FOSSIL MEMBERS, Alice and Marc Brosey of 11009 Wellesley Lane, Knoxville, TN are celebrating and mourning the birth of their son, Elijah Wilfred and the death of his twin brother, Isaiah LaRue on December 10, 2012. We are keeping the three of them in our thoughts and prayers. We are extending our wishes for continued health for Elijah and his mother, Alice.

Publisher Passes

LONG TIME Fossil member, Marion Wyllie, passed away peacefully in her 107th year, in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, January 5, 2013. I had just sent her at Christmas a writeup she had written about someone else, that I found on the Fossil website. I'm sure she was pleased to see it. Marion was also a member of the Rhymers, who circulated poetry. She and I co-published a paper for the UAP and hosted the 1990 convention here at Sauble Beach. The Amateur Presses just whetted Marion's appetite. She went on to publish a book of some sort nearly every year until the last when she was 105. She wrote beautiful pithy poetry, and loved humour and anecdotes from her past.

When I visited her on her 106th birthday in October she was very annoyed with her son and her niece because they were acting like teenagers. "That's OK when you are a teenager, but not when you are 70." I asked her how you should act at 70. She said, "That's when you should start acting like an 'old person'". I shall miss my dear friend, and the founder of the Grey Bruce Writers.

—Dee Burnless

Christmas Is —

by Martha Shivers

*Small lights
big lights
twinkling in the snow,*

*Short trees
tall trees
tinsel all aglow.*

*Grateful sharing
really caring
welcome at the door,*

*Joyful carols
thoughtful carols
new—and sung before.*

*Cozy fires
secret desires
candlelights and mirth,*

*Happy reunion
hushed communion
honoring Christ's Holy Birth.*

From The President . . .

YEARS AGO the organization I worked for had a declining membership. A young associate new to our group suggested the answer might be a challenge: Every member get a member!

We tried it at our next convention, passing out a badge at registration. EMGAM. We told attendees they'd get the answer to what the letters meant during the meeting. No prize, but satisfaction.

The program worked. The membership didn't double, but there was an increase.

Would it work for the Fossils?

Let's give it a try.

—Jack Swenson

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

IN TODAY'S MAIL (January 6, 2013) I got the PNC bank statement for the Fossils account through the end of 2012. The total shown in the account is \$6,463.65, exactly as expected except for deduction of an unexplained 20 cent "Service Charge" they posted on 12/3/2012.

I will follow up to get forms to add another signature or two to the account. Also will deposit the checks I have on hand. And so I am also ready any time to write a check for reimbursement or payment for costs for the next issue of the Fossil.

The most recent check I wrote, for the last issue of the Fossil, was for \$95.89.

Since November, I have had phone conversations with Mary Teets, Guy Miller's executor, and she wrote to the PNC Bank to have future statements sent to my address. An alternate possible plan would be to close the account and open a new account with a bank here, but I decided it would be easier just to change where they send the statements and continue with the current account, which has no fees. At present I am the only person able to sign checks on the account, and I do expect to add someone else appropriate to sign for the Fossils.

I do have several membership checks now in hand, which I need to deposit, so I need to contact the bank to make sure they have everything correct. Will do that now!

The checks on hand but not yet deposited are for: \$30 for Kent Chamberlain (2 years membership renewal)

\$15 for Martha Shivers (renewal)

\$15 for David Goudsward (new member already added to your mailing list)

and \$2 for the next issue of the Fossil for Gary Erwin (sample issue, mailing info below, to add to your list)

Total on hand, to be deposited: \$62.00

(which will bring our total to \$6525.85 - before expenses for the January 2013 Fossil mailing).

One further issue: at present I do not have a system for billing members for renewals. This was done by Martha Shivers and then taken over last year by Guy Miller. I'm thinking we should include a generic renewal notice with the next issue of the Fossil perhaps? or do a separate mailing? Just not sure how this was done in the past, since I did not handle it. It does make sense for me to keep track of the membership and take over sending out reminders etc, since the checks are coming to me for deposit. The PDF of your mailing labels are the only current member list I am aware of. Other suggestions?....

Add to your mailing list for the next issue of the Fossil:

Gary Erwin, DIN# 95B0644
Clinton Correctional Facility
PO Box 2000
Dannemora, NY 12929

—Tom Parson

Membership Dues Notice

IF YOU HAVE your last Fossil membership card, the expiration date should be on it. In one of his last President's Messages Guy had stated that there would be no dues notices sent until December. If you know when your membership expires, please send the \$15.00 annual dues to Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson and let him know what your expiration date is. We will get this straightened out as soon as possible.

FOSSIL BOARD: 2012-2014

Jack Swenson, President, 24353 Hines Road, N.E.,
Hines, MN 55647

copyboy@midco.net

David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA
94087 (completing the term of Barry Schrader)

dtribby@thefossils.org

Gary Bossler, 145 Genoa Ave. S.W., Massillon, OH
(completing the term of Guy Miller)

gbossler@thefossils.org

FOSSIL APPOINTED OFFICERS

Secretary-treasurer, Tom Parson, 157 South Logan,
Denver, CO 80209

Librarian, Martin M. (Mike) Horvat, P.O. Box 741,
Stayton, OR 97383-0741

Historian, Sean Donnelly, Univ. of Tampa Press,
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606

Webmaster, David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Official Editor, Vacant

Designer & Publisher: Gary T. Bossler, 145 Genoa
Ave., S.W., Massillon OH 44646

Editorial E-Mail: gary@bossler.com