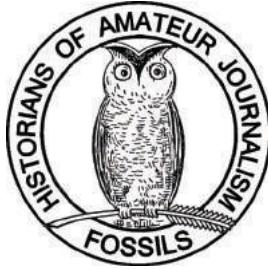


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United APA: Gone But Not Forgotten

by David M. Tribby



FOR MOST OF ITS 111 years, the United Amateur Press Association was anything but united. There was only one period longer than six years without two rival groups simultaneously bearing the United name. In 1945 Edna Hyde McDonald noted it was often called the “untied” amateur press association, and fifty years later Guy Miller suggested “Divided We Stand” could have been its motto.

Truman Spencer’s *The History of Amateur Journalism* ties the birth of UAPA to juvenile magazines of the late 19th century. A weekly, *Golden Days*, encouraged the formation of local clubs throughout America, many of which published papers with club news and notes. In 1895 one of the club members, fourteen-year-old William H. Greenfield of Philadelphia, had the idea to unite the club papers and editors into a national association. He announced the formation of the United Amateur Press Association, with himself as president.

Charles W. Heins considered himself a founder of UAPA, saying that a group of youngsters and not a single person started things in 1895. Guy Miller, writing in 1995, agreed: “Greenfield ... is accorded the honor of founder and first president only through self-proclamation and by getting the drop on the ‘older’ heads...” Willametta Keffer presented a different perspective in 1978: “Greenfield ... pointed out (*United Amateur VII/6*) that there were no ‘founders,’ although some have since claimed to be one of them, but only ‘a founder,’ himself. James C. Bresnahan supports this (in the 1905 Year Book) stating that Greenfield received only indifferent support until after the December 1896 election, and this by only a few locals.”

Apparently, the National Amateur Press Association, established in 1876, was unknown to UAPA’s earliest members. Those members tended to be younger than the National’s, and the senior organization generally regarded the junior as inferior, although a valuable recruiting and training ground.

The United grew, boasting 81 members on its first anniversary. There were vigorous campaigns for elective offices and an annual convention. Spencer reports 1898-99 as “one of its brightest periods.” But the administration elected in 1899 took controversial actions, leading to a bitter competition between the local clubs of New Jersey and New York. The secretary suspended the president and a director for non-payment of dues, and the president suspended the secretary. Soon there were two sets of officers and two official organs. The United had its first split.

In 1900, representatives of both factions put forth a “Harmony Ticket” to be elected at separate conventions in Boston and Jersey City, but the compromise failed. However, the organization elected in Boston, led by Charles Heins, did not last a year.

During 1902, the split behind it, UAPA membership reached 300. However, just three years later dissension brought turmoil and division for a second time, this time into three parts. In 1906, the faction led by J. F. Roy Erford of Seattle successfully pushed their presidential candidate to election at the Milwaukee convention. The other two factions combined forces and elected their own slate in Philadelphia. By 1910 the Erford faction prevailed, with the other group ceasing to exist. Membership stood at 277 and activity was on an upswing – even surpassing NAPA. But actions taken at the 1912 convention led to the third serious split of the United.

Only 11 delegates were present in La Grande, Oregon, much smaller than the proxy vote. Of the four presidential candidates, Helene E. Hoffman of New York City received the greatest number of total votes, 61, but two short of a majority. After proxies were discarded, Harry Shepherd of Bellingham, Wash., was elected by a vote of six to five. Afterward, Hoffman’s supporters argued the third candidate on the first ballot had withdrawn from the race and let his membership expire, so his three proxy votes



should not have been counted at all. They did not recognize Shepherd as president. Shepherd charged Hoffman and 12 others with insubordination and the directors dismissed them from membership forever. Once again, there were two separate UAPA organizations.

These wars between factions affected NAPA and its relationship with UAPA. As Edward H. Cole noted in *The Olympian* for September 1914, "... members of one faction either deserted the United for the National, bringing with them all their bitterness for the faction which retained and perpetuated the name United, or left amateur journalism. ... Members of the National held the members of the United in utmost contempt... From that day, the United has held a deep-seated distrust of the National."

According to Spencer, the faction led by Hoffman and her official editor, Edward F. Daas, "represented the literary and truly journalistic element." At the end of the year, they had 242 members. In 1914, Daas recruited into the United Howard P. Lovecraft, who not only became prominent in amateur journalism but gained renown as a writer of horror fiction.

Although the Erford faction started with fewer members, he was a tenacious recruiter. (Critics charged he paid membership fees for some recruits in order to control elections.)

During this time, both organizations were officially named United Amateur Press Association of America, although the "of America" suffix was often dropped in casual references. Apparently, "of America" was first used by the Erford faction in 1905. Willametta Keffer reports the Hoffman-Daas-Lovecraft faction officially removed "of America" from its title after several years.

The mid-1920s were a slow time for all of amateur journalism. Erford, aided by fellow Seattelite Clyde F.



Most Famous Member



A GOOGLE SEARCH (which includes book, newspaper, and magazine archives in addition to websites) turns up 179,000 "United Amateur Press Association" references. An astounding 73% of those hits include H. P. Lovecraft.

When Lovecraft joined UAPAA, the 24-year-old reclusive writer's only published work had been letters to literary magazines. Amateur journalism provided not only a venue for his essays, short stories, and poetry but also a bridge to people of similar interests who would become good friends.

The confidence he gained helped propel his literary career, and in 1923 one of his short stories was published commercially. Today, he is considered to be among the most significant writers of horror fiction. ◆

Noel, kept his faction going. The Hoffman-Daas-Lovecraft faction drifted out of existence during the 1925-26 official year.

In a 1946 letter written to Lee Hawes, Burton Crane summarized this period: "The battle between the Erford and Hoffman factions attracted a great deal of amateur attention. Most NAPA members belonged to one or the other of the United factions and interest was higher there than at home, because of the feud. Thus, from about 1915 to 1919, the United's Hoffman-Lovecraft faction was dominant. [Eventually] Howard P. Lovecraft got tired of dragging the United along all by himself and virtually quit. The faction did not fold up but amounted to less and less. The Erford faction did not gain. [Finally] the Lovecraft United folded. Neither of the remaining associations amounted to much. ... One should remember that Erford and Noel supported the UAPAA almost unassisted throughout the dead years. They kept it going."

The early 1930s saw new vigor in both the National and United, brought on by recruitment of a new generation of amateurs. By 1935 five different local Seattle groups were affiliated with UAPAA; multiple groups were needed because each limited its membership to twenty.

Some of the newcomers from other regions had their own ideas on how to run UAPAA, but Erford and Noel kept a tight grip on political power. In 1934, a group known as the Crusaders, led by George Henry Kay, began publishing papers pushing an agenda of reform. Their slate of candidates in the 1935 election were defeated at the New York City convention on a wave of proxies post-marked Seattle. The Crusaders did not split into a rival United, but instead formed a new group in 1936: the American Amateur Press Association.

Two years later, shortly after UAPAA reached 500 members (they soon limited membership to 300), there was another split, led by Jeffrey H. Jennings. This splinter group was short lived, producing only three issues of their *United Amateur*.

In 1942, Charles Hines, an early political rival of Erford who had moved on to NAPA, founded the United Alumni Association with the objective of bringing former members of all factions back to activity. (The Fossils had been active as "amateur journalists of the past" for nearly forty years, but its original membership requirement of activity before 1890 excluded most United members, and the tilt toward the National continued even after the requirement was reduced to 15 years.) By 1945 the United Alumni boasted 188 members. Hines printed the official organ, *The Phoenix*, using it to grind his many political axes in addition to presenting historical articles and association news.

Bringing together these former United members stirred up battles from the past. In 1945 a movement led by Anthony DeMarco, Morris Gerber, Haig Anlian, and others from Jersey City and Louisville, claimed to

represent the real UAPA, not the faction stemming from the 1905 split that "has masqueraded in the name of the original Association with the added appendage 'of America' following the real, true, name."

Edward Cole wrote an account of the split in 1945: "The United has again become the storm-center in amateur journalism. Few conversant with the recent history of the organization will be surprised to learn that revolt has again broken out. Attempts to reform the association from within having met with the customary purging of the dissenters from the ranks, a group of the dissidents 'reorganized' at Philadelphia on September 1 the original United Amateur Press Association. The enterprise has the assistance and the blessing of the United Amateur Press Alumni Association. The revived United has as its emblem the original seal of the association without the phrase 'of America,' which since 1906 has been used to distinguish the surviving branch from those groups which have split from it."

In January 1948, Cole had a followup report: "...the faction known as the United Amateur Press Association of America has suffered virtually a mortal blow in the death of J. F. Roy Erford. What has been going on behind the scenes since his death is now becoming public knowledge: on both sides feelers have been put forth to bring about reunion. ... Whether the miracle of a united United is in prospect only time can tell, but unquestionably it is closer to reality than at any other time in the past thirty years. ... [Dr. Clyde] Noel has been second only to Mr. Erford in shutting the 'of America' United behind the iron curtain, keeping its members carefully secluded from the contagion of other associations, and sedulously circulating calumnious charges about other organizations. Yet [his] *Comment* announces its editor as 'Member of the Amateur Press,' ... and its editor asserts, 'As a member of all the groups we should begin to work for consolidation of all the groups.'"

The rumors of reunion did not come to fruition. David Z. Gourman of Seattle emerged as new UAPAA leader, and the two Uniteds continued to operate as rivals. (An interesting side note: Clyde Noel left UAPAA and published his *Seattle Amateur* for UAPA, NAPA, and AAPA.)

In 1947, UAPA Secretary Edward Daas led the creation of the Milwaukee Amateur Press Club. For well over a decade, its monthly meetings drew more than a dozen

In the 1930s, the UAPA had a number of local clubs that published papers. (Library of Congress on-line images.)

participants, and many of the club's 20 or so members were active publishers and office holders.

UAPA became the most active ajay organization during the 1950s. Elections in 1952 and 1954 drew an average of 203 ballots; for comparison, only 33 members voted in the UAPAA's 1953 election, while NAPA averaged 104 ballots and AAPA 78 during 1952-54. Wilfried Myers's April 1954 UAPA Publishing reports the number of papers in the February bundles: UAPA 33, NAPA 14, UAPAA 10, and AAPA 9.

The April 1950 *Mail Pouch*, published by Mailer George Boehme (of Milwaukee), provides insight on UAPA activity. Of the 22 publications mailed that month only eight were printed or mimeographed by the publisher. Publishers sent twelve stencils for five additional papers, but for the remaining nine papers Daas cut 5 stencils and Boehme cut 21. Boehme then mimeographed 36 stencils (275 copies each), stapled 3 papers, and folded everything to fit the bundle envelopes. After Boehme's death in 1957, Daas took on the work. The July 1960 issue of his *The Man Says* notes, "When the work of Secretary, Mailer and Mimeographer became just too much for me, I asked for volunteers for the Mailer's job." He wanted to keep the mailer local because otherwise "it would mean packing the many papers I mimeograph each month."

Daas was re-elected secretary eight times, then in 1956 the constitution was amended to give him "life tenure in office." (Grace Moss Weitman became lifetime treasurer



Of the 64 UAPA titles published in the 1954-55 fiscal year, these six (*Chatterbox*, *Wheeling In The News*, *Green Mountain Cheer*, *Who*, *Ellisonian Echoes*, and *Messenger of Inspiration*) appeared the most often: twelve times. (Library of Congress images)

in the same election.) Dass spent a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources on UAPA, and didn't hesitate to defend it against those who tried to move it in a different direction. He remained active until his death in May 1962, a few weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1966, Willametta Keffer suggested that due to declining and overlapping memberships it was time for the groups to merge and "bring the twins together again." Guy Miller described the process: "Thanks to her careful engineering and support from UAPA and UAPAA stalwarts such as Jan Harler, Ray Albert, Karl Zeitner, and Miriam Campbell, a combined UAPA-UAPAA Roanoke convention agreed to a resolution 'to go on record as requesting that a ballot be sent to all members in good standing to determine their position in regard to merger.'

"All seemed well, for indeed a majority of members from both organizations did approve merger, and by August 1967 the two groups were cooperating." The vote in UAPA was 81 for and 4 against; in UAPAA it was 49 for and 5 against. The constitutions were reconciled and the same officers were elected in both groups. They chose "United Amateur Press" for the name of the new group.

Even though few voted against the merger, by 1971 those who felt they had "lost identity" started an offshoot group, using the "of America" name. There continued to be significant overlap between the two groups – for example, Patricia Saunders was simultaneously president of both groups in 1977-78.

Willametta Keffer reported each group's size in 1983: UAP 240 and UAPAA 50. She also noted both groups differed from NAPA and AAPA, with "... few printer-members. Publication is mostly by off-set, mimeograph or instant-printing ... but the advantage to the Uniteds is that first-class writers predominate, and the emphasis is on quality writing regardless of how it is presented."

During the Uniteds' centennial in 1995, Guy Miller noted "a heavy crossover of members. Indeed, when examining the journals, one sometimes has to look closely at the respective mailing envelopes to discover which bundle comes from the UAP and which from the UAPA." He also echoed Willametta's earlier comments: "For they remain true to the original concept of the boy and his pen, as distinguished from the boy and his press."

A small UAPAA website, untouched since 2004, remains accessible today. The webmaster's own contact information has expired, but several officers listed there are still active in amateur journalism: Official Editor Hugh Singleton as well as Directors Don Peyer, Kent Chamberlain, and James Lamanna, Jr.

Fossil Don Peyer, who joined UAPAA in 1989 (when membership stood at 74) and UAP in 1990, published *Don's Desk* for both groups. He maintained his membership until each organization ceased operations (UAP in 2002 and UAPAA in 2006). "In my estimation, these organizations were the victim of the digital age and the Internet. Not enough younger members were recruited to maintain the membership and do the work of mailing and other organizational tasks." Don was the UAPAA's penultimate president.

Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain, also a member of both Uniteds, feels the best years coincided with members' willingness to publish other writers in their papers. He also recalled several excellent conventions from the 1980s, and skilled writers who offered friendly, helpful one-on-one criticism to other writers. He saw UAP decline when members published themselves only, and noted "both groups suffered from scant treasuries."

Hugh Singleton recalled the final days of UAPAA: "No member would volunteer to serve as an officer, and [President] Jean Calkins and I felt that just the two of us should not continue to try and hold the organization together when no one in the group was sufficiently interested to do anything to help. As official editor I publicized the increasing difficulties facing the group for months before we ceased to exist, so all members knew what we needed to sustain our existence – there simply was not enough interest to stay afloat."

Jean Calkins replied to an e-mail inquiry. "My last issue of *Humoresque* for UAPAA was Nov-Dec 2006, so that is the ending date." She published the first issue in October 1998, about the time she joined UAPAA. People who were active in the group at that time include Dee Burnlees, Mary Arlene Shaver, Dusty Niendam, Martin Kornberg, Marion Fields Wyllie, Steven A. Hess, R. T. Leonard, Bill Snodgrass, Vishnu D. Joshi, Lucia Haase, Don Peyer, and Deborah Beachboard. "My joy was in 'meeting' some great people. We still correspond."

Fossil Martha Shivers joined UAP a few years before it went under, and appreciated the half dozen or so printers who published her poems.

By 2004 UAPAA membership was 39. Jim Lamanna saw this as a benefit because “it was easier for me to do a print journal for the bundle.” Unfortunately, it also limited the number of people available to do the actual work.

The United, stronghold of the amateur writer, slowly passed out of existence as its target group of recruits migrated to the Internet. Today it is not forgotten, as its former members retain happy memories of a community where they were encouraged to express themselves in poetry and prose. It is also remembered by science fiction aficionados as the group that nurtured H. P. Lovecraft. ◇

Many thanks to those who helped make this article possible: to the former UAP/UAPAA members who shared their stories about the latter days of the groups; to Ken Faig who reviewed an early draft; to Bill Boys who promptly provided NAPA election data from the 1950s; to Abby Yochelson, Reference Specialist at the Library of Congress, who provided a scan of an Edward Dass publication; and to the many people whose published work I built upon. —DMT

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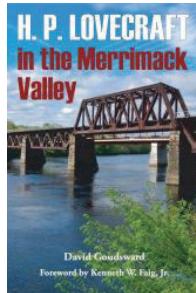
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The Internet Archive’s images from the Library of Congress amateur journal collection provides good coverage of UAPA papers from 1950 to 1962.

A Slice of Lovecraft’s Life

By Robert Lichtman



David Goudsward, *H. P. Lovecraft in the Merrimack Valley*, Hippocampus Press, New York 2013, ISBN 978-1-61498-057-5, 192pp. Foreword by Kenneth W. Faig, Jr. Cover photograph by Logan Seale, cover design by Barbara Briggs Silver. \$15.00.

IN HIS INTRODUCTION Faig writes, “I invite the reader to sit back and enjoy a neglected slice of the life of H. P. Lovecraft.”

Goudsward delivers in full measure. As a strictly part-time Lovecraft scholar, I wasn’t particularly interested in how the town of Newburyport in the Merrimack Valley served as inspiration for his fictional Innsmouth nor in how some of the sites he visited were those associated with the poet John Greenleaf Whittier; but as a fellow amateur journalist I found fascinating and quite accessible his detailed narrative on HPL’s visits with Edgar J. Davis, Myrta Alice Little Davies, and especially Charles W. “Tryout” Smith. Given the depth of the book’s bibliography, I’m certain that I’ve read bits and pieces of those amateur-to-amateur meetings, but Goudsward ties it all together neatly in a coherent and very readable story.

Adding considerably to the ambiance of the book are the many photographs of the places and people visited liberally scattered throughout and nicely supplemented in one of the many appendices, “Sites Open to the Public,” of interest to those who might want to trace Lovecraft’s footsteps on their own visit to this historic area. Other appendices include writing by both HPL and “Tryout” on their visits, a short HPL obituary by Smith (with Lovecraft’s middle name misstated as “Prescott”), and bibliographies of the published works of Davies and the publications of Smith.

Reasonably priced and not an overlong or difficult read, this book should prove both interesting and entertaining to both amateurs and Lovecraft aficionados. ◇

A. J. Collections Update

by David M. Tribby

THERE HAVE BEEN a number of activities related to amateur journal collections since “Public Amateur Journal Collections” appeared in the April issue of THE FOSSIL:

- Dave Goudsward forwarded an article from the February 2014 issue of *College & Research Libraries News*: “The New York Public Library has been awarded a three-year grant from the Aeroflex Foundation and Hippocampus Press to process and eventually digitize its Amateur periodical Collection. The collection is comprised of nearly 3,000 titles and more than 8,000 pieces spanning the years from 1872 through the early 20th century. ... The New York Public Library’s collection of these periodicals was built through a series of major gifts and purchases in the early 20th century, particularly through gifts from Bertram Adler in 1906 and from Charles W. Smith in 1940. The grant will allow the library to fully catalog this significant collection, physically stabilize items that were published on very poor paper, and eventually digitize selected titles.”
- Joseph Ditta, Reference Librarian at The New-York Historical Society’s Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, replied to an inquiry about their collections. “Our collection of amateur periodicals is fairly sizable, filling 28 boxes on 12 shelves. It is not cataloged, unfortunately, but in 2010 an intern went through most of the collection and created a spreadsheet listing the titles found in each box. Her list does not include holdings information, or dates, and she stopped at the second box of ‘S’ titles. Still, this partial list includes over 1,500 titles, which gives some sense of the extent of the collection.” He also forwarded two related articles published in the January 1947 *New-York Historical Society Quarterly*. Early in 1944, the Society received amateur journals from Fossils John J. Corell and Beecher Ogden. These were later augmented by Louis C. Wills (an early president of The Fossils and a trustee of the Society), Fred T. Singleton, and Matilda S. & William F. Haywood. In 1947 the collection stood at 750 issues of 183 different periodicals; clearly additions were made after that report.
- An article for an upcoming issue of THE FOSSIL references the Amateur Newspaper Collection at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Their Cary Graphic Arts Collection website includes a description of this collection, which has over 1,300 issues of 500 titles covering the mid-1870s to the mid-1880s. A finding aid on the website lists all the newspapers, including title, publisher, and date.
- The University of California’s Bancroft Library has a “preliminary” (although thorough) listing of contents for their Hyman Bradofsky Collection of Amateur Journalism. Assistant Manuscript Archivist Dean Smith was kind enough to forward a 140-page Word document listing contents of the four cartons of serials.
- Robert Lichtman points out that another University of California campus, Riverside, hosts the Terry Carr Fanzine Collection, which contains more than 74,000 items. You can search their Fanzine Collections Database by title or editor from their website.
- Images from the Library of Congress’s ajay collection provided helpful research for the UAPA history article in this issue, even though they only include first pages. After viewing Excel spreadsheets that Ivan Snyder and Tom Parson are in the process of creating to track their collections, I created one that lists the 6,804 publications held by the LC. Although it is preliminary, I would be glad to share a copy upon request.
- In order to read a full article in the Library of Congress collection, I filed a request for help. Reference Specialist Abby Yochelson provided a full scan. During the 17 day process, she kept me updated with interesting comments: “I am waiting for the needed item from offsite storage. It turns out to be a massive and complex collection so I’ve had to track down the appropriate staff member with the knowledge to retrieve it.” “The X collection stored off-site contains hundreds of boxes holding hundreds of folders of short, pamphlet-type material. As you found at the Internet Archive, the first page of these items has been scanned as an index to this collection. Box 1318B, Call number X-PN4827 is titled [Amateur Journalism]. There are 12 folders in the box containing 273 pieces.” “I was very surprised to learn that just the first/title pages of each item in the X Collection has been scanned. This is not typical of how we scan materials here, but it was intended as an index to the collection so that specific boxes could be retrieved and not as a freely-available online collection.”

The “Collections” section of The Fossils’ website has been updated to include links to this new information.

The next two articles describe developments in other areas related to amateur journalism collections. ◆

Another LAJ Visit

By Barry Schrader

KAY AND I SPENT a couple of hours at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Special Collections on May 15. We took around 45 minutes of that time talking with Librarian Susan Stravinski about the Library of Amateur Journalism collection. They currently have an intern working part time on inventorying and listing each item in each box of materials in an Excel spreadsheet.

She began by apologizing for the lack of response to several amateur journalists who attempted to contact her and the department head to discuss questions about the collection and ways to support it.

She provided information on how to donate funds to be used for the LAJ collection: by making a donation to the University of Wisconsin Foundation and adding the designation "Interns to inventory the UW Libraries Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) Collection." Details on making LAJ donations have been added to The Fossils' website.

Susan had answers to several questions forwarded by Dave Tribby:

Are you interested in receiving amateur journals that might be duplicates of items already in the LAJ? She didn't have an answer about what to do with duplicate AJ packets and loose material people may want to send them. They don't even know how many duplicates they have now in the scores of boxes to be cataloged and it will take years to get this material into spreadsheets, then make it available online for the public to peruse. There is no chance it will ever be digitized as there are millions of records waiting in line to be scanned already. We could hire a firm or professional to work just on our collection.

Is the library willing to share the LAJ inventory spreadsheet? I encouraged her to put the spreadsheets online for a limited audience and then keep adding to it periodically. They list the name of each journal, date issued, printer and/or publisher, and the city and state.

If someone were going to donate a collection of amateur journals to UW or another library, what sort of pre-donation organizing would be helpful? It would be best to leave journals in original mailing envelopes so each organization and date is kept together. If someone wants to sort them, please package them by journal name in order of date issued.



Susan Stravinski and Rebecca Robbennault look at a boxful of AJ materials being sorted, this one from the 1980s.

Are they aware of other libraries interested in collecting amateur journals, or who might be willing to start a collection if the opportunity arose? She is not aware of other university libraries that have large AJ collections, and appreciated the article in THE FOSSIL listing other collections. She mentioned two nationwide library publications where we might run an ad or article to let other institutions know we are interested in preserving AJ work and history: *American Libraries* (published by the American Libraries Association) and *Library Journal*. Contact information is available online.

In the four years I have been stopping by, I have found Susan to be very dedicated to preserving the LAJ and appreciative of the interest we show. ◇

Fossils Donating to LAJ

By David M. Tribby

FOR THE PAST YEAR, officers of the American Amateur Press Association have been searching for a way to honor the memory of Leland M. Hawes, Jr., by making a donation to preserve amateur journalism history. Supporting ongoing activities to catalog the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) was a leading candidate, but the board became frustrated when representatives at the University of Wisconsin Special Collections Department did not respond to President Peter Schaub's requests for information.

Fossil Barry Schrader provided a breakthrough when he made his fourth annual trip to the library (see previous article). He found that a donation to the UW Foundation with the proper designation will support the LAJ.

Armed with this information, The Fossils' Board of Trustees authorized a donation of \$1,000 to assist the LAJ work. This amount represents about 15% of the treasury balance, or \$30 per member (twice the annual dues). In addition, the Board urges individuals to make their own donations. Members can send checks (made payable to The Fossils) to Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson with a note that it is for "LAJ Fund." If you make a donation while submitting dues, please be sure to designate what amount is directed to the LAJ Fund.

For a donation to be tax-deductible, it must be made directly to the UW Foundation and not through The Fossils. The Fossils would like to know about donations its members make, so please contact the secretary-treasurer or official editor if you make a donation directly to the Foundation. You can find details on donating, including links to the Foundation, at The Fossils' website: www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html

At presstime, AAPA officers were reviewing the information and deciding how to proceed.

Details on donating have been sent to National Amateur Press Association officers with the hope that it can be discussed during their mid-July convention. ◇

A Visit to Haverhill

By David Goudsward

(Originally appeared in *Wave-Lengths* #58;
reprinted with permission of WHAV.net)

ON JUNE 9, 1921, retired small business owner Charles W. Smith received a visitor at his home on Groveland Street in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Smith was the internationally known and respected elder statesman of the amateur press movement and the publisher of *The Tryout*. His visitor was a long-time correspondent, officer of a national amateur press organization and a regular contributor to amateur journals, legendary for his critiques of fellow amateur writers and poets. His name was Howard Phillips Lovecraft.

Charles William Smith was born in Haverhill on 24 October 1852. As a teenager, he was fascinated with typesetting and acquired a small hand press to experiment with on his own. Although he was being paid to print calling cards and other small jobs for friends, even as a teen, Smith considered it a hobby.

Smith attended Haverhill schools, dropping out at thirteen to work in a factory as a stock clerk, not unusual for the times. His father began working in a local sawmill, and Charles and his brother Frank soon joined their father manufacturing wooden boxes for the shoe industry at the John Green Box Company on Fleet Street.

After his marriage to Ida Boynton, Smith lived with his parents on Auburn Street until after the birth of his children. His wife died in 1885, leaving Smith with two preteen daughters. He returned to Auburn Street so that his widowed mother could help to raise his daughters.

In 1885, Haverhill was the Queen Slipper City, with five daily newspapers to suit any political inclination from the *Daily Laborer* (social labor) to the *Haverhill Gazette* (conservative). It was also home to the largest amateur press club of New England outside of Boston, with two monthly journals, *Haverhill Life* and *Pick Me Up*. Ironically, in the midst of this publishing, Charles Smith had already

ended his involvement in amateur publishing after his marriage; he had already published three different journals, two simultaneously (one humorous and one general interest).

In 1888, Charles's brother Frank became too ill to work, so Smith returned to his childhood hobby of printing to help Frank have some money coming in. The brothers began publishing the *Monthly Visitor*, a widely circulated amateur publication that started in December 1888 and ran for 118 issues, the last issue coming off the press in October 1898. Charles knew going into the project it was never going to be a money-making operation, but it allowed Frank, as his health permitted, to look for advertisers while Charles ran the press.

Charles had worked his way up to foreman at the box company, eventually buying the company in 1897 from the retiring owner and renaming it the C. W. Smith Box Company. Located across the street from the back of Haverhill City Hall on Main Street, Smith expanded the business to sell the sawdust created in the box-making operation. Smith's business acumen, or at least his timing, was suspect at best; his purchase of the box company coincided with the introduction of less expensive cardboard boxes, and the wooden box industry began to decline.

The *Monthly Visitor* ceased publication in 1898 when Tryout discovered owning his business left no time for amateur journalism. In 1899, Smith's box factory suffered a two-alarm blaze that gutted the building. The fires started in an adjoining building but quickly spread to his three-story wooden structure, which was filled with dry wood and sawdust. The conflagration's intensity and proximity to the City Hall undoubtedly raised the specter of the Great Fire of 1882, which had leveled the downtown shoe manufacturing district. The *Boston Daily Globe* noted the mill had been the site of four major fires and the neighborhood of aging wooden industrial structures were among the most dangerous buildings in the city.

Smith sold the company, retired and moved in with his daughter and son-in-law on Groveland Street. With one brief exception, he would live there uninterruptedly from 1904 until his death.

After a decade of retirement, the boredom became too much. He dusted off his press and reentered the world of amateur journalism. The first issue of *The Tryout* was published in 1914 from a shed in the yard on Groveland Street. At the time, Smith was sixty-two years old, mostly deaf from his years in the mill, and further hindered with such poor vision that typesetting became somewhat of an adventure. The name *Tryout* was selected because he wasn't sure if he could see well enough to operate the press, so he thought he'd try it out. Smith gave the press an extended try out, hand-setting the type for 300 issues from 1914 to 1944.

The Tryout was legendary for its typographical errors, which infuriated contributors unaware of Smith's age and



C. W. Smith setting type at "The Tryout" case in his 90th year. Picture from January 1943 issue of Boys' Herald.



infirmities. Lovecraft, who gave Smith the nickname "Tryout Smith," was occasionally vexed by the errors but sympathetic as to the reason for them, and quaintly referred to them as "tryoutisms." Most of Lovecraft's poetry first appeared in *The Tryout*, and he became such a prolific contributor that he and Smith began publishing some of his work under pseudonyms just to avoid the appearance of Lovecraft monopolizing the pages.

When Smith's health declined in later years, the press was moved into the house, but by then the shed had been immortalized in Lovecraft's correspondence. In a letter to fellow amateur journalist Rheinhart Kleiner in 1921, Lovecraft described his first visit to Smith's shed as "a veritable curiosity shop, with all the odds and ends of forty years hung or strewn about. There are buttons, stamps, chromos, and dingy photographs on the walls, and in various corners sundry odd iron objects—a miniature anvil, for instance—washed in by the tides of the neighbouring Merrimack." The shed was demolished by a subsequent owner; the house was destroyed in a 1998 fire.

New Member

Frederick E. Moe

by David M. Tribby

FREDERICK MOE, our newest Fossil, was born 54 years ago in New Hampshire and has lived for many years in the south central village of Warner. Married to NanSea Griggs, he is the father of four and grandfather of six.

Frederick started writing and publishing in the 1980s. He was part of a team that produced *Bone & Flesh*, a mimeographed zine, in 1988. In 1990 he created *Color Wheel*, "a journal celebrating literary and fine arts in a metaphysical world." He edited it for fifteen years, producing issues as large as 96 pages. He currently produces the zine *Paper Radio*.

Even though he had been producing zines for many years, Fred first learned about amateur press associations in 2010. He joined AAPA in April 2011 and in January 2014 became its official mailer. In 2012 he launched Cuneiform APA; it produces a compilation zine, *Cuneiform*, three times a year, for up to thirty members. He is also a member of SFPA, the Southern Fandom Press Alliance. Frederick joined The Fossils in September 2013.

Frederick is employed as a social worker, radio program host, and producer for community and college radio stations. For several years he was a journalist/columnist for *The InterTown Record* and *The Argus Champion*, local community weeklies, and also served as chairperson of the Pillsbury Free Library trustees. He is passionate about

Tryout Smith churned out issues like clockwork until his health became too frail. The final issue was August 1944, ending *The Tryout's* thirty-year run. Charles W. "Tryout" Smith died on February 17, 1948, at the age of ninety-five and was buried in Haverhill's Hilldale Cemetery in a family plot.

Tryout Smith's legacy was far beyond that of the venerable amateur pressman. Amateur journals in general publication served as an incubator that encouraged new writers by disseminating their work, offering criticism and creating a support system for novice writers. *The Tryout* in particular was successful in encouraging new talent. Among the fledgling writers that gained confidence in the pages of *The Tryout's* thirty-year run were H.P. Lovecraft, publisher/writer August Derleth, curator/freethinker James Morton, novelist Edith Miniter, philatelic expert/editor Willard O. Wylie, syndicated children's author Myrta Little Davies, anthropologist R.H. Barlow, regional humorist W. Paul Cook, and many more. And thanks to Lovecraft's massive correspondence being published, today the address of the elderly ink-stained sage of 408 Groveland Street in Haverhill is as well known as the address of any literary figure. ◇

non-commercial radio, independent music, saving the postal service, free speech, liberty, and freedom. ◇

Patty Sue Hoover Norris

November 13, 1932 - March 6, 2013

by David M. Tribby

WORD WAS RECENTLY RECEIVED OF THE DEATH LAST YEAR OF Fossil Patty Sue Norris of Ocotillo, California. She first joined The Fossils in October 1988. A year later her husband, Walter, joined her on the membership rolls. At that time, Ocotillo neighbor (and Fossil) Merry Harris described her in THE FOSSIL as "a comparative newcomer to UAP ... No one would suspect that this soft-spoken poet-turned artist is an astute business woman with high administrative skills. Before her retirement she was a hospital personnel administrator. For several years she worked simultaneously as a personnel assistant, insurance clerk and first aide nurse for a major corporation."

Her husband Walter (April 13, 1921 – April 26, 2011) was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He retired from the U. S. Army as a major in 1966 after 26 years of service. He then earned a degree in environmental studies and later was employed by several hospitals as a director of environmental services. Walter and Patty moved to Ocotillo in the early 1980s after both retired.

Patty and Walter are interred together at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California. ◇

Great To Hear From You

by David M. Tribby

IN MY LAST MESSAGE I asked "What do you want?" Many thanks to those who wrote to express an opinion or report some news.

April's lead article, "Public Amateur Journal Collections," resonated with a number of members. (Check out the information members supplied in the follow-up article on page 6.) The topic of libraries' collections is a timely one – and one where The Fossils can make a difference. As noted on page 7, we are donating \$1,000 as an organization to support the inventorying of the Library of Amateur Journalism and also encouraging individual members to make their own donations. John Horn has already stepped up with his own donation; we hope it is the first of many. Our contact at the University of Wisconsin Foundation, Ben Strand, is excited about the LAJ and believes he could reach out to foundations to ask for grant money.

Each generation of Fossils has its own focus of effort under the general mission of preserving the history of amateur journalism. The first generation's main purpose was to encourage contact among those who had enjoyed the hobby fifteen to forty years earlier. Today we see the need to preserve amateur journals and catalog them for future access.

Another topic that brought mail: articles for THE FOSSIL. Dave Goudsward reported publication of his new book, and Robert Lichtman agreed to review it. Dave mentioned he is "constantly churning out material with Lovecraft or ajay connections," and sent along a couple of manuscripts. It was great to have enough material to expand to 12 pages for this issue. Jack Visser came across an article about early amateur journals, published in a local history newsletter. I hope we can include it in an upcoming issue. If you have an idea for an article, please send it along.

Let's continue the conversation. What did you find of interest in this issue? Do you have any additions to the history of the UAPA, or questions that were not adequately covered? (I'd love to find someone with access to the 1905-06 *United Amateur* who could tell me when the Erford faction added "of America" to the name – and why.) Are you interested in supporting the LAJ, or any other collection of amateur journals? Have you run across some interesting tidbit of ajay history that warrants further investigation? Tell me about it.

I'm also interested in hearing from anyone who reads THE FOSSIL on-line. According to Web statistics, the April issue was downloaded by 32 different people through the end of June. How did you find us, and what is your interest in amateur journalism?

Stay in touch!

No Fossil Balloting This Year

BECAUSE ONLY TWO CANDIDATES filed for the two open trustee positions, the board decided to skip the expense and effort of mailing out ballots, and declared the two candidates, incumbents John Horn and Dave Tribby, elected to the positions.

Under election rules, the incumbent president automatically carries over to the next term and the two other members of the board of trustees are elected for a two-year term.

A similar procedure was followed for the previous election, in 2012. ◇

Hawes Papers at Univ. of Tampa

FOSSILS LIBRARIAN Sean Donnelly was able to save a significant number of amateur publications in Leland M. Hawes' personal collection, and has found a home for them at the University of Tampa, where he works as assistant to the director of the UT Press.

Sean also preserved files of correspondence. He returned letters from Dean Rea, Tom Whitbread, and Mike O'Connor to their authors and sent those that remained (mainly written in the 1960s and '70s) to Dave Tribby.

Unfortunately, a number of other items were lost. Although Sean was in contact with Lee's family after his death last year, they did not request his help dealing with ajay items until they had cleaned out much of the house. Included in their cleanup was dumping the AAPA Official Organ Exchange and about forty years of ajay bundles that were still in their envelopes.

Sean notes, "As I have time this summer I will go through the two dozen boxes we have here and get a handle on what we have." ◇

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Tom Parson — July 11, 2014

THE FOSSILS BANK ACCOUNT currently holds \$6,943.03.

- This includes all renewals received and deposited through 5/31/14;
- Reimbursement expenses paid for the January issue of THE FOSSIL (\$20.15); for the April issue of THE FOSSIL (\$35.77); and for the annual fee for Internet Service Provider for our website (\$24.95).

Additional financial transactions pending:

- On hand to deposit for renewal of Sean Donnelly: \$15.00.
- Donation to be sent for the Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin, as approved by The Fossils Board of Trustees: \$1,000.
- On hand to deposit as a donation from John Horn to be sent to the LAJ: \$1,000.

Fossils total remaining: \$5,958.03. ◇

The Fossils' Presidents & Official Editors

By David M. Tribby

THE EARLY ISSUES OF THE FOSSIL included a full list of past editors on the masthead. Editor McDonald listed all nine previous editors in her final issue, number 130 for April 1951. Editor Babcock's issue 131 for July 1951 introduced several typographic changes – including dropping the list of past official editors. It never returned as a permanent fixture, although it made an appearance in July 1977.

Looking at the lists in early and later issues, I noticed something unusual. In August 1944 the editors (listed without dates) were Miller, Weinberg, Salabes, Fynes, and Heuman. In the next issue, January 1945, when terms of office were added, Weinberg disappeared from the list and Seaver was added. Which list was correct? Guy Miller provided the answer in his book *One Hundred Years of the Fossils 1904-2004*. Weinberg should have been included in the later list. Stinson (who appeared on neither list) was associate editor and published the September 1928 issue after Fynes' death. Seaver, the Recording Secretary, put out the next two issues. (Thanks to Ken Faig for suggesting Guy's book.)

Presidents typically served a single year in office, so they comprise a much longer list. It appeared less often – perhaps every year or so. I believe the full list was last run in January 1948. Editor Paxton picked up from that point and listed presidents of the past thirty years in October 1976. Of course, Guy Miller included the entire updated list in his book. ◇

Presidents of The Fossils

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1904-1905: | Charles H. Young |
| 1905-1906: | Charles C. Heuman |
| 1906-1907: | Frank J. Martin |
| 1907-1908: | Carl Fique |
| 1908-1909: | John F. Walsh, Jr. |
| 1909-1910: | John Edson Briggs |
| 1910-1911: | Louis Kempner |
| 1911-1912: | William T. Scofield |
| 1912-1913: | William K. Graff |
| 1913-1914: | William L. Terhune |
| 1914-1915: | Gustave Weinberg |
| 1915-1916: | Joseph M. Salabes |
| 1916-1917: | George M. Huss |
| 1917-1918: | G. Heidel Louden |
| 1918-1919: | Henry L. Bryan |
| 1919-1920: | Charles H. Fowle |
| 1920-1921: | Charles R. Sherlock |
| 1921-1922: | Joseph Dana Miller |
| 1922-1923: | Willliam G. (Will) Snow |
| 1923-1924: | William J. (Will) Eldridge |
| 1924-1925: | Charles W. Darr |
| 1925-1926: | Arthur Seitz |
| 1926-1927: | Leonard E. Tilden |
| 1927-1928: | Dr. Charles W. Richardson |
| 1928-1929: | James M. Beck |
| 1929-1930: | Charles H. Class |
| 1930-1931: | Evan Reed Riale |
| 1931-1932: | Edwin B. Swift |
| 1932-1933: | F. W. Koch |
| 1933-1934: | Michael F. Boechat |
| 1934-1935: | Truman J. Spencer |

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 1935-1936: | Fred H. Bowersock |
| 1936-1937: | Edward A. Oldham |
| 1937-1938: | James F. Morton |
| 1938-1939: | William Cogger |
| 1939-1940: | Josephus Daniels |
| 1940-1941: | Edward D. Stair |
| 1941: | Herbert C. Parsons |
| 1941: | Owel M. Jefferds |
| 1941-1942: | Anthony F. Moitoret |
| 1942-1943: | Willard O. Wylie |
| 1943-1944: | Frank Roe Batchelder |
| 1944-1945: | Frederic F. Heath |
| 1945-1946: | Dwight Anderson |
| 1946-1947: | Louis C. Wills |
| 1947-1948: | Edward H. Cole |
| 1948-1949: | Albert E. Barnard |
| 1949-1950: | Frederick F. Thomas, Jr. |
| 1950-1951: | Harry T. Cook |
| 1951-1952: | Julian T. Baber |
| 1952-1953: | Wesley H. Porter |
| 1953-1954: | Clement F. Robinson |
| 1954-1955: | George W. Macauley |
| 1955-1956: | Walter J. Held |
| 1956-1957: | Harry L. Lindquist |
| 1957-1958: | William F. Haywood |
| 1958-1959: | Horace L. Lawson |
| 1959-1960: | F. Earl Bonnell |
| 1960-1961: | Charles H. Russell |
| 1961-1962: | L. Verle Heljeson |
| 1962-1963: | Sheldon C. Wesson |
| 1963: | Helm C. Spink |
| 1963-1965: | Leland M. Hawes, Jr. |

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1965-1966: | Thomas B. Whitbread |
| 1966-1967: | Jeffrey H. Jennings |
| 1967-1968: | Harold D. Ellis |
| 1968-1970: | Emerson M. Duerr |
| 1970-1972: | Carla Patsuris |
| 1972-1973: | Jeffrey H. Jennings |
| 1973-1974: | Stan Oliner |
| 1974-1977: | Eunice M. Fontenot |
| 1977-1978: | Hyman Bradofsky |
| 1978-1979: | Harold Smolin |
| 1979-1980: | Karl X. Williams |
| 1980-1985: | Edward Sherman Cole |
| 1985-1986: | Richard (Dick) Fleming |
| 1986-1987: | J. Ed Newman |
| 1987-1988: | Joseph W. Curran |
| 1988-1990: | Victor A. Moitoret |
| 1990-1994: | Eula Lee (Merry) Harris |
| 1994-1995: | Guy G. Miller |
| 1995-1996: | Gary T. Bossler |
| 1996-1998: | Jack G. Swenson |
| 1998-2000: | Joseph W. (Bill) Snodgrass |
| 2000-2012: | Guy G. Miller |
| 2012-2013: | Jack G. Swenson |
| 2014-: | Gary T. Bossler |

Official Editors of THE FOSSIL

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1904-1912: | Joseph Dana Miller |
| 1912-1913: | Charles C. Heuman |
| 1913-1914: | Gustave Weinberg |
| 1914-1915: | Joseph M. Salabes |
| 1915-1928: | J. Austin Fynes |
| 1928: | Sam S. Stinson |
| 1929: | Frank L. Seaver |
| 1929-1934: | Charles C. Heuman |
| 1934-1944: | Truman J. Spencer |
| 1945-1946: | Edward H. Cole |
| 1946-1948: | Albert E. Barnard |
| 1948-1951: | Edna Hyde McDonald |
| 1951-1952: | Ralph W. Babcock |
| 1952-1957: | Edward H. Cole |
| 1957-1962: | Sheldon C. Wesson |
| 1962-1963: | Jeffrey H. Jennings |
| 1963-1964: | Victor A. Moitoret |
| 1964-1966: | John H. Dow |
| 1967-1969: | Matilda S. Haywood |
| 1969-1972: | Joseph W. Curran |
| 1972-1975: | Marvin E. Reed |
| 1975-1983: | Russell L. Paxton |
| 1983-1986: | Ralph W. Babcock |
| 1986-1987: | J. Ed Newman |
| 1987-1990: | Joseph A. Diachenko |
| 1990-1991: | Elaine J. Peck |
| 1991-1996: | Stephen Bayuzick |
| 1996-1997: | Donald W. (Don) Peyer |
| 1997-2004: | Linda K. Donaldson |
| 2004-2012: | Kenneth W. (Ken) Faig, Jr. |
| 2012-2013: | Gary T. Bossler |
| 2013-: | David M. Tribby |

The Fossils Membership List

July 1, 2014

- William G. Belt, Carroll Lutheran Village, 1000 Weller Circle, Apt. 222, Westminster, MD 21158
- Gary Bossler, 145 Genoa Ave. SW, Massillon, OH, 44646
- Marc & Alice Brosey, 11009 Wellesley Ln., Knoxville, TN 37934-5044
- Kent Clair Chamberlain, 321 Clay St., Space #11, Ashland, OR, 97520-1340
- Ken Davis, 4352 Woodview Ln., Racine, WI, 53404-1220
- James N. Dawson, P.O. Box 950, Spokane, WA, 99210-0950
- Sean Donnelly, Univ. of Tampa Press, 401 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL, 33606
- Kenneth W. & Carol Faig, 2311 Swainwood Dr., Glenview, IL, 60025-2741
- Frederick H. Gage, 1394 Minot Ave., Auburn, ME, 04210-3724
- Richard S. George, 5276 Zebulon Rd., Macon, GA, 31210-2136
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- Frederick Moe, 36 West Main St., Warner, NH, 03278-4213
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- Donald W. Peyer, 338 East Desford St., Carson, CA, 90745
- Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA, 90230
- Barry Schrader, 511 Roberts Ln., DeKalb, IL, 60115
- Jack E. Scott, 15 Mallard Pointe, Mt. Vernon, OH, 43050
- W. Hal Shepherd, #1 Hidden Hills, Shoal Creek, AL, 35242
- Martha E. Shivvers, 1526 165th Ave., Knoxville, IA, 50138-8939
- Jack G. & Mavis L. Swenson, 521 East Calgary Ave., Apt. 312, Bismarck, ND, 58503-0528
- David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Ct., Sunnyvale, CA, 94087
- Jack H. Visser, P.O. Box 173, Cadiz, OH, 43907-0173
- Thomas B. Whitbread, Univ. of Texas English Dept., 208 W 21st, Stop B5000, Austin, TX, 78712-1040
- Recently Expired Memberships:**
- Charles H. Bloomer, Jr., 1601 Yellowstone Ave., Milpitas, CA 94035
- Alan Bula, 65 Wickham Ave., Bexel-On-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3ES ENGLAND
- Linda K. Donaldson, 709 Fourth St., Portsmouth, OH 45662-4005
- Annie Ri Gilbert, P. O. Box 100, Harriett, AR 72639
- Martin M. (Mike) Horvat, 22275 SW 102nd Pl., Tualatin, OR 97062-7199

With Our Members

- Barry & Kay Schrader made their annual trip to California so Barry could run a printing exhibition at the Alameda County Fair. Dave & Liz Tribby and AAPAn Betty Williams met them for lunch in Hayward on June 25.
- Richard George recently donated several dozen vintage amateur journals, given to him in the 1980s by Hyman Bradofsky, to the Library of Amateur Journalism. (Barry happened to be there when the staff unpacked them in May.)
- John Horn taught "Letterpress Bootcamp" at the Penland School of Crafts in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina for two weeks in July.
- If you enjoy David Goudsward's article "A Visit to Haverhill" (pp. 8-9), check out his new book *H. P. Lovecraft in the Merrimack Valley* (reviewed on p. 5).
- Jack Scott retained 6½ x 10 Pilot and 3 x 5 Kelsey presses and 30 fonts of type, but most of his letterpress equipment has gone to Danny Kelly of Cleveland.
- Gary Bossler skipped his presidential message for this issue because he's tied up with paperwork in the aftermath of Ohio's Senior Olympics.
- If you recognize anyone in the "Recently Expired Memberships" section of the membership list, please send them a note with encouragement to reinstate. ◇

The Fossil

THIS IS THE Official Publication of The Fossils, a non-profit organization of those interested in the history of amateur journalism. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join. Dues are \$15 annually, or \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to THE FOSSIL without privileges of membership is \$10. For further information, visit our website:

www.thefossils.org

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Webmaster: David M. Tribby (contact information above)

Official Editor: David M. Tribby (contact information above)