

The Fossil

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It's Madison in July!

by David M. Tribby

THE AMATEUR JOURNALISM conference proposed by Fossils' President Ken Faig in the last issue of THE FOSSIL is becoming a reality. After a May visit to the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, including a look at the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ), Ken suggested having a conference in Madison to mark the progress made since the LAJ was transferred there in December 2004, and also to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of The Fossils' purchase of the LAJ from its originator, Edwin Hadley Smith.

During the May visit, Ken and fellow Fossil Barry Schrader had a close-up look at both the LAJ (housed in Memorial Library) and the Madison campus. The University staff encouraged the idea of a conference, and offered ideas on what facilities could be used.

Ken reached out to the National and American Amateur Press Associations to see if they would support a conference open to all amateur journalists.

NAPA put Madison on their ballot as a location for the 2016 convention, which must be held during July. Madison was selected. Later, Arie Koelewyn was appointed chairman of the 2016 NAPA Convention Reception Committee.

In early October, AAPA's board approved a regional meeting at Madison in conjunction with the amateur journalism conference. (AAPA has not held a national convention since 2012, preferring regional meetings throughout the year.) Barry Schrader will plan and coordinate the meeting agenda and accommodations on behalf of the AAPA.

A number of conference-related items need to be worked out, such as exact dates and what will be on the program. NAPA's constitution mandates business sessions on three consecutive days. In recent years, these have been held in the morning, leaving afternoons available for less formal discussions and presentations. Early indications are the conference will be held during the last half of July.

The LAJ will be the premiere attraction at the conference, but the University has additional related collections, such as their British Amateur Journalism Collection and (in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives) the papers of Fossil August Dereleth (1909 - 1971). Also of interest: the Silver Buckle Press, a working museum of letterpress printing equipment housed



Madison's Dane County Regional Airport has direct flights to many airline hubs, and is served by American Eagle, United, Frontier and Delta Air Lines.

in Memorial Library. The Press includes two hand-presses from the 1860s, a Golding Official No. 6 tabletop press, and a cylinder press. It holds over eighty fonts of wood type and 125 of metal, plus ornaments, borders, and cuts.

Anyone who has been an amateur journalist, plus those interested in any aspect of amateur journalism, are welcome. You can help by spreading the word and encouraging others to attend.

I would like to hear from all Fossils and other readers as to your likelihood of attending. Write me via postal mail or e-mail (my contact information is in the masthead) and let me know your likelihood of coming using the following informal scale:

- 0: Sorry, but there is no way I can make it
- 1: There is a chance, but it is not likely
- 2: Hard to say, but I'd really like to be there
- 3: Maybe I can, maybe I can't — but I'd like to
- 4: There's a good chance, if I work out some issues
- 5: Barring unexpected problems, I will be there

Getting a rough idea of how many might attend will help planners put the program together.

Attending a gathering of amateur journalists is an experience not to be missed. For some, it's a chance to catch up with friends, some of which you may have never met in person. Newcomers will make friends quickly with fellow hobbyists. And Madison has the unique attraction of the LAJ. ♦

Betty Liddle

August 5, 1924 - May 25, 2015

by David M. Tribby

GINNY PARSONS, daughter of Fred and Betty Liddle, recently conveyed news of her mother's death. "She was almost 91, and she had Alzheimer's. I have a vision that Betty and Fred are together again – free from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's – and it brings me great joy!"

Elizabeth Herring was born in New York, the youngest of three daughters of William and Lillian McCloskey Herring. She married Frederick Joseph Liddle on June 20, 1948.

After serving in the Marines during World War II, Fred became a photo-engraver in his native Long Island, New York. He also enjoyed using a home letterpress shop, and that hobby led him to join the Amalgamated Printers' Association. APA's monthly mailings included a few amateur journals among its printed ephemera.

Papers like Sheldon and Helen Wesson's *Siamese Standpipe* fired up an interest in amateur journalism; he joined both the American and National Amateur Press Associations in 1969. A few years later he joined The Fossils.

His well-printed *Rhatt Race* soon appeared in AAPA's bundles and received an honorable mention laureate for best journal of overall excellence in 1969-70 – the first of an eventual 26 AAPA laureate awards Fred would receive. A few years later he added *Flimsie Excuse*, a 2- or 4-page publication that could be turned out more quickly.

Fred's job was eliminated in 1970 as the printing industry shifted from letterpress to offset. While in Tampa, Florida, for the 1971 AAPA convention, Lee Hawes set up a job interview for Fred in the *Tampa Tribune* press room. A year later there was an opening, and the Liddle family moved south.

The new location brought new publications, including *Suncoast Amateur*, which became his large-format journal for AAPA. He also published *National Calamity* quarterly for NAPA.

Fred and Betty frequently opened their home for meetings of the Suncoast Amateur Press Society, which included local members of AAPA, NAPA, and APA. Although Betty did not participate in the hobby as a

writer or printer, she enjoyed meeting members and was a gracious hostess.

Betty and Fred shared a love of baseball, especially minor league teams, and together visited every minor league ballpark in the Southeast.

Fred was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease while in his 60s. After he sold his beloved print shop he continued to publish via computer – wearing out several printers as he sought to publish 1000 *Excuses*. (He surpassed that goal, making it to number 1013.)

By mid-2011, Fred and Betty decided they should move into assisted living. Leaving their home of 39 years, they moved to North Carolina to be closer to Ginny. Just weeks after the move, Fred suffered injuries when he fell out of bed. He died on August 7 at age 86.

A couple of years later, Ginny reflected on Fred's life and death: "If I had to describe my father in a few words, two of the best

would be stable and responsible. I always knew Fred Liddle was a good and smart man, but I wish I knew when he was alive some of the things I've learned since he died. While he certainly didn't talk about it, he quietly went about the business of taking care of his family right up until the end. I have come to realize that my dad was tired of dealing with the physical tolls his Parkinson's was taking and was ready to go. He also realized that he couldn't go until he made sure my mother would be taken care of, thus the move to Winston-Salem. I believe that every time he got sick or fell in Tampa, he fought to come back because he had to take care of my mother. Once he got her to Winston-Salem, that was no longer an issue and he felt free to stop fighting. My mother has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and is now in an assisted living facility. I think my father realized what was going on, but in true Fred Liddle fashion, he didn't talk about it, he just took care of it – all the while protecting my mother's dignity. Once he was no longer there to provide a buffer, it pretty quickly became apparent to me what was going on with her." ♦



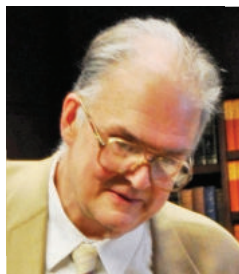
Betty and Fred Liddle at their home in Tampa, Florida. Photo taken by Barry Schrader, January 2011.

LAJ Fundraising, Madison 2016, and Early African American Amateur Journalists

by Ken Faig, Jr.

LAJ Fundraising

I have made a \$500 personal donation to the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison. If ten other donors will join me in making comparable donations, we can put the Hawes Fund "over the top," as respects the \$10,000 minimum principal required to put the fund into operation.



Ken Faig, Jr.

If you can't consider making a donation at the current time, perhaps you can consider a bequest to the Hawes Fund in your will. Ben Strand of the UW Foundation kindly provided me with the following specimen language for such a bequest:

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, a non-profit, non-stock Wisconsin corporation with its principal offices in Madison, Wisconsin, the sum of X dollars (\$X) to be used [to add to the principal of the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison, Wisconsin].

It is understood and agreed that should the purpose for which this bequest is instituted cease to exist, then the Foundation may devote said bequest for such other uses and purposes as it determines to be in accordance with my original intent in making this gift.

Or, for a general gift to the LAJ Collection, rather than the Hawes Fund, the following could be substituted for the bracketed text:

[for expenses associated with the cataloging, housing, conservation, maintenance and development (including digitalization initiatives) of the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison, Wisconsin.]

UW Foundation development officer Ben Strand (Ben.Strand@supportuw.org) is available to work with potential donors and their attorneys to tailor testamentary language specific to their requirements. I am sure that our editor David Tribby and Ben Strand of the

UW Foundation will update us on the funding status of LAJ-related donations in this number of THE FOSSIL.

Proposed Amateur Journalists' Gathering in Madison - July 2016

My last presidential message proposed considering a conference to mark the one hundredth anniversary of LAJ as a Fossil collection. The good news is the NAPA has chosen Madison as its July 2016 convention site and named Arie Koelewyn as chair of the Reception Committee.

Of course, NAPA will have to determine the details as to the convention facility and schedule. If time can be provided in the schedule for a visit to LAJ and Silver Buckle Press in UW's Memorial Library — such as Barry Schrader, my wife, and I enjoyed on May 20 — visitors will have an enjoyable and informative experience. LAJ and its resources deserve to be better-known by today's amateur journalists.

We'll have to see whether NAPA's plans attract interest from any other amateur journalists or amateur journalists' organizations. If Arie and his committee invite us to do so, The Fossils could host one of their traditional lunches at the convention. I intend to co-operate with Arie and his committee in the planning of the convention, and I will keep Fossils informed of developments. Hopefully, we will have further news in time for the January 2016 number of THE FOSSIL.

Nineteenth-Century African American Amateurs

I want to thank Vincent Golden of the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) for drawing my attention to the paper "The Emancipation of Boyhood" by Professor Lara Langer Cohen of Swarthmore College in vol. 14 no. 1 of *Common-Place* for fall 2013:

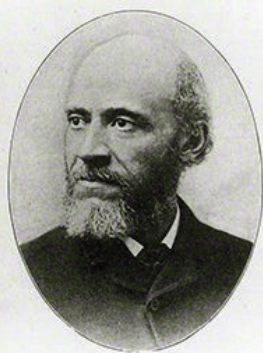
www.common-place-archives.org/vol-14/no-01/cohen/

Professor Cohen's paper is wonderfully illustrated with reproductions from original nineteenth-century amateur journals in the AAS collection. Early African American amateur Herbert A. Clark(e) (1858-1922/23) is one of the focuses of Professor Cohen's article. Clark is also treated in Paula Petrik's "The Youngest Estate: The Novelty Toy Printing Press and Adolescence 1870-1886" (pp. 125-142) in *Small Worlds: Children and Adolescence 1850-1950* (Lawrence KS: University Press of Kansas, 1992), edited by Elliott West and Paula Petrik.¹ I haven't found the Petrik paper on the Internet, but paperback copies of *Small Worlds* can be acquired inexpensively on AbeBooks and other bookselling sites. I also wrote about Clark in Harold Segal's *Campagne* for May 1999.

Now, Professor Nikki M. Taylor of the University of Cincinnati has published *America's First Black Socialist: The Radical Life of Peter H. Clark* (Lexington KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2013), a full-scale biography of the father of Herbert A. Clark. (Some substantial portions of this book are available on the Internet.) Professor Taylor, also the author of *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community 1802-1868* (Athens OH: Ohio University Press, 2005), shows how Peter Humphries Clark (1829-1925) moved from being a black nationalist (and emigration supporter) in his early life, through being a socialist in his middle life, to being an advocate of moral suasion in his later years. Clark married Frances Williams (1830-1902) in Hamilton County, Ohio, on July 27, 1854. They had daughters Ernestine and Consuela in addition to their son Herbert.

An educator by profession, Peter Clark served as principal of Cincinnati's segregated Gaines High School for twenty years from 1866 until he was dismissed in 1886. His political affiliations ranged from Republican to Socialist to Democrat, with various splinter groups in-between. He sought political patronage aggressively in his later career (he twice sought appointment as minister to Haiti, and also contended to be appointed president of Howard University in Washington, D.C.), and eventually fell victim to a bribery scandal in 1885. After a year as a principal in Alabama, he secured a teaching position at all-black Sumner High School in St. Louis in 1888. Retired from politics, Clark spent the last twenty years of his teaching career at Sumner, retiring at age seventy-nine in 1908. One of his last major initiatives was a National Day of Prayer to protest the lynching epidemic in America, which drew supporters like Rev. Augustus Tolton, and transpired on May 31, 1892. In later life, Clark was identified with the accommodationist policies of his friend Booker T. Washington. Peter H. Clark died in 1925 at the magisterial age of 96 in the home which he shared with his daughter Ernestine Nesbett (1855-1928) in St. Louis. Both his daughter Consuela (1861-1910), who became a physician and married William Richard Stewart (1864-1958), and his son Herbert predeceased him.

While Peter H. Clark never obtained the political preferment which he so ardently desired, his son Herbert A. Clark did hold a number of relatively minor political patronage posts after he and his father switched their allegiance to the Democratic Party in the 1880s. However, Herbert never graduated from Gaines High School (as did his sisters Ernestine and Consuela), and fell into his father's disfavor. As an amateur journalist, Herbert Clark published *Le Bijou (The Gem)*, a page from which is reproduced in Professor Cohen's



Peter H. Clark

article. He is known to have attended NAPA national conventions in Washington, D.C. (1879), Cincinnati, Ohio (1880) and Detroit, Michigan (1882). His image can be seen in the group photograph from the 1882 Detroit convention reproduced in Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* (1957) and in another view in Professor Cohen's paper. Clark's election as third vice president in Washington, D.C., in 1879, over the Southern George M. Carr, stirred much controversy and even the threat of a separate anti-Negro amateur press association which would have excluded African Americans. In 1880, in Cincinnati, Clark was elected recording secretary, but declined the office, and William F. Buckley was chosen in his stead.

Despite his lack of a high school diploma, Clark, like his father, worked as a teacher. In addition to political patronage posts, he also worked as an accountant, newspaperman, letter carrier, and Linotype operator. The 1880 census recorded Peter H. Clark and his family at 296 Poplar Street in Cincinnati; all family members were classified as mulattos in this census. Peter Clark liked to claim that he was the grandson of explorer William Clark (of the Lewis & Clark expedition) by a slave mistress, but Professor Taylor discounts this claim. In 1880, both Herbert, age 22, and his father, age 50, were working as school teachers. In addition to Herbert's older sister Ernestine Nesbett, age 30, and his younger sister Consuela Clark, age 19, Mississippi-born student Leanna C. Young, age 18, was a boarder in the household. Perhaps Herbert's romantic involvement with Leanna, along with his failure to graduate from Gaines High School, combined to alienate him from his father Peter Clark.

Herbert A. Clark married Leanna Celeste Young on July 5, 1883. His wife Leanna had been born a slave in Natchez, Mississippi in April 1863 or 1864. By 1892, Herbert and Leanna moved to St. Louis, where Herbert edited the *Afro-American News*. By 1900, Herbert was teaching school in Columbia, Missouri. He stated his month and year of birth as June 1860, which is inconsistent with his enumeration in his father's Cincinnati household at age 2 in 1860. More probably, he was born in June 1858.² In 1904, he and Leanna moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma, where Herbert worked first as a letter carrier. He later worked as an accountant, and as a newspaperman and Linotype operator in neighboring communities.

According to Paula Petrik (*op. cit.*, p. 141), Herbert founded the *Daily Searchlight*—the first African-American newspaper in the Indian territory—in Muskogee. Herbert and Leanna had no children. Muskogee historian Wally Waits records that Herbert Clark died at age 64, which would place his death between June 1922 and June 1923. His wife Leanna died on August 5, 1933 and was buried in Harding Memorial Cemetery in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where her husband Herbert A. Clark also presumably lies.

I suspect that students of amateur journalism will continue to find fascination in early African American

hobbyists like Herbert A. Clark and the controversy which they stirred. Like his father, Herbert A. Clark was a vigorous defender of the rights of his race. Another early African American amateur journalist and near-contemporary of Clark was Charles Randolph Uncles (1859-1933), who was a puzzler in the 1870s and became the first of his race to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the United States in Baltimore, Maryland in 1891. (Augustus Tolton was earlier ordained in Rome in 1886, and assigned to serve in the United States.) I wrote about Uncles in *THE FOSSIL* (whole no. 352) for April 2012. Uncles spent his clerical career teaching Latin in the Josephite order's preparatory seminary. Joseph Salabes recruited him for *The Fossils* in 1916.

Benjamin B. Pelham (1862-1948) (also known as B. Benjamin Pelham) was another African American amateur who, with Clark, attended NAPA's Detroit, Michigan convention in 1882. Although his image is somewhat blurred, he can also be seen in the group photograph taken at that convention. He was the son of Robert A. Pelham (1826-1904), a plasterer and mason, and Frances (Butcher) Pelham (1830-1906), who removed from Virginia to Detroit before the birth of their second son Benjamin on Feb. 7, 1862. Benjamin attended Everett School in Detroit. Pelham and his elder brother Robert A. Pelham, Jr. (1859-1943) worked for the *Detroit Post*, and Benjamin so impressed the owner that he paid for Pelham to take an accounting course at Briggs & Stratton Business College in Detroit. For three years while he was working at the *Post*, Benjamin published *Venture*, an amateur journal whose contents were described as "terse, witty and well-written." Then, on May 19, 1883, the Pelham brothers, along with partners Walter H. Stowers and W. H. Anderson, launched the *Detroit Plaindealer*, an African-American weekly newspaper which continued publication until 1894.

Benjamin married Laura Montgomery (1870-1921) of Sandwich, Ontario in 1895. They had two children, Frances H. Pelham (1897-1928) and Alfred M. Pelham (1901-1987). Benjamin worked for Wayne County, Michigan for over forty years and served as county auditor from 1906 until his retirement in 1942. He was the highest non-elected official in Wayne County and known as "Czar of Wayne County." His son Alfred M. Pelham was also working as an accountant for Wayne County when the 1940 U.S. census was enumerated. Alfred Pelham and his widowed father were then living at 4180 Burns Avenue in Ward 17 of Detroit. Benjamin's elder brother Robert A. Pelham, Jr. (born Jan. 4, 1859, Petersburg, Virginia) married Gabriella Redman Levi, daughter of Sanford Redman, in Adrian, Michigan on April 5, 1893. They had sons Fred R. Pelham (b. 1895/96)³ and Robert R. Pelham (b. 1898/99) and daughters G. Dorothy Pelham (b. 1897/98) and Sarah L. Pelham (b. 1902/03). Before 1900, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Robert Pelham, Jr. worked for the Census Bureau. He patented a tabulating device

in 1905 and a tallying machine in 1913. Robert A. Pelham, Jr. died on June 12, 1943, in Washington, D.C. His younger brother Benjamin Pelham died on Oct. 7, 1948, in Detroit, Michigan. Benjamin Pelham, his wife, his parents, his son Alfred M. Pelham, his brother Frederick B. Pelham (1865-1895) and his sister Meta E. Pelham (1855-1941) are all buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. The handsome family monument can be viewed on Find-A-Grave. (Despite his short lifetime, brother Frederick B. Pelham was a high achiever. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1887 as a civil engineer and was president of his class. He designed over twenty bridges for his employer, the Michigan Central Railroad. His "skew arch" bridge in Dexter, Michigan is still standing.)

The 1880 and 1900 censuses (sadly, the 1890 census was destroyed by fire) could undoubtedly tell us more about the racial composition of the nineteenth-century amateur journalism hobby, in which African Americans constituted a small minority. Nevertheless, three known African American nineteenth-century amateur journalists—Herbert A. Clark, Charles R. Uncles, and Benjamin Pelham—all had notable careers after their hobby involvement. Despite the lack of a high school diploma, Herbert A. Clark worked as teacher, accountant, newspaperman, letter carrier, and Linotype operator. Charles R. Uncles became the first African American man to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the United States (1891), and was a well-beloved Latin teacher in the minor seminary of the Josephite order. Benjamin Pelham and his brother, with two other partners, founded the first African-American newspaper in Detroit, and later became one of the most powerful political figures (albeit non-elected) in Wayne County, Michigan. None of these three men will probably ever receive a full-scale biography such as the one for Peter H. Clark (although perhaps the Pelham brothers—Robert A. Jr., Benjamin, and Frederick B., all high achievers—will eventually receive a joint biography). They all deserve to be generously remembered by the amateur journalism hobby. Among them, Charles R. Uncles was in the Fossil ranks from 1916 until his death in 1933. He was an honored guest at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania convention that marked NAPA's fortieth anniversary in 1916.

Participation of racial, sexual, and other minorities in the amateur journalism hobby will doubtless continue to attract the interest of academic students of our hobby. I wish there were a way of attracting and funding scholarly participation at amateur journalists' gatherings—or at least such gatherings hosted in proximity to institutional collections of amateur journals.

I know that the Lovecraft Arts & Sciences Council, the sponsoring organization for the NecronomiCon convention held biannually in Providence, Rhode Island since 2013, has succeeded in attracting vigorous academic participation. Professor Dennis P. Quinn of California State Polytechnic University at Pomona is co-ordinator of NecronomiCon's Henry Armitage

Symposium. The program for the August 21-23, 2015 Armitage Symposium shows the rich array of academic speakers whom Professor Quinn has attracted to the event:

www.necronomicon-providence.com/maps/

Of course, the 2015 NecronomiCon is expecting 1500 guests—so large is the cultural footprint of Lovecraft and his work these days, despite the author's regressive racial views. A forum like NecronomiCon provides academic participants with a much larger audience than an amateur journalism convention could hope to provide.

Nevertheless, we have our tale to tell; witness the work of academics like Lara Langer Cohen, Jessica Isaac, and Paula Petrik with amateur journalism collections. I predict that LAJ and other amateur journalism collections like it will be a fertile source of Ph.D. theses in the years to come. Figures like Herbert A. Clark, Benjamin B. Pelham, and Charles R. Uncles deserve to be remembered. Your generosity to LAJ can help academic recognition of our hobby and its influence to continue to flourish and to grow.

For further exploration, here are Web links that provide further information on these amateur journalists

Herbert A. Clark (1858-1922/23):

Wally Waits, "Herbert A. Clark's Life," Sept. 14, 2011: www.muskogeehistorian.com/2011/09/herbert-clarks-life.html

Wally Waits, "Leanna C. Clark," Aug. 24, 2011, Aug. 31, 2011: www.muskogeehistorian.com/2011_08_01_archive.html

Benjamin B. Pelham (1862-1948):

www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/24/detroit-plaindealer-african-american-newspaper-black-history-month_n_1296262.html
www.blackpast.org/aah/pelham-benjamin-1862-1948

Robert A. Pelham, Jr. (1859-1943):

www.books.google.com/books?id=2QUJ419VR4AC&pg=PA1022

Frederick B. Pelham (1865-1895):

www.mackinac.org/38

Charles R. Uncles (1859-1933):

www.thefossils.org/fossil/fos352.pdf

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Professor Petrik (op. cit., p. 345) consulted LAJ while it was under the care of Fossil Librarian Martin M. "Mike" Horvat in Stayton, Oregon.

² Petrik (op. cit., p. 131) states that Clark was only sixteen years old in 1878. This claim may derive from an amateur journalism source.

³ Perhaps named in honor of his early-deceased uncle, the engineer Frederick B. Pelham. ♦



AAPA Board Continues In Office

by David M. Tribby

THE FIVE ELECTED OFFICERS who make up the American Amateur Press Association's board of directors will continue for a second two-year term. The officers (President Peter Schaub, Vice President Brian Nelson, Secretary-Treasurer Ivan Snyder, Official Editor Clarence Wolfshohl, and Mailer Frederick Moe) serve a two-year term beginning October 1 of odd-numbered years, except for the Mailer, whose term starts three months later to coincide with the calendar year.

Editor Wolfshohl had filed for re-election before the July 5 deadline, but another candidate who had filed to run as president had to pull out at the last minute due to personal issues. With nobody on the ballot for four offices, the board extended the nomination date to August 23. Despite the board's best efforts to find suitable candidates, nobody stepped forward. On September 11, the board announced they would continue for another term, "because the incumbent board members enjoy working together for the AAPA." President Schaub noted "they cannot continue indefinitely," and others should consider stepping forward.

On July 1, AAPA cut over to a totally new website design (still at aapainfo.org). This was actually the second total redesign in as many years. Even before VP Nelson took office in October 2013, he was working to add an interactive component to the mostly static information that was already in place. An early addition was a Stories section, managed by Dave Griffin, for members to submit short fiction. To allow members to access interactive discussion boards, he chose the free and open-source package Drupal as the underlying software. It required significant effort by Nelson to translate existing pages into the new format. Later Webmaster Dave Tribby fixed numerous links that were broken in the process. That version of the website came on-line in December 2013.

Unfortunately, the version of Drupal being used contained a defect that hackers could exploit to take control of the system. When someone did just that in January 2015 and then sent a storm of spam messages, AAPA's Internet Service Provider took the site offline. Although the software was quickly updated to a fixed version, the event reinforced the need to stay aware of defect reports and actively manage the system—tasks that take a significant amount of time and vigilance.

In order to provide the needed maintenance support, and to migrate to a more modern and mobile-friendly design, the AAPA board agreed to hire a professional web design and hosting service. On July 1, the first phase of that work had progressed to the point where the existing content had been migrated to the new design. In addition, officers could easily add short articles on-line. There has already been an uptick in the

number of recruits received via the website since July. Addition of discussion boards for members is yet to be completed.

AAPA has not held a national convention since 2012, preferring several regional meetings throughout the year. As President Schaub noted in his September message, attendance at national conventions had been declining, probably because long-distance travel is difficult and expensive. During 2015 AAPA held regional meetings in April (California), September (Iowa and West Virginia), and October (Pennsylvania).

In other news, two long-time AAPA stalwarts let their memberships expire late last year. Dean Rea was the "dean" of members: he joined in August 1942 and had the longest continuous membership unbroken by periods of expiration. He had been an active publisher and officer for 70 years, most recently serving as official editor from May 2009 through September 2012. Dean earned 23 laureate awards for writing, printing and publishing. Mike O'Connor joined in January 1960. He served in many offices, from mailer in 1960-61 to president in 2009-11. He did the layout for many volumes of *American Amateur Journalist*, bringing a distinctive, professional look to the official organ. Mike and Dean both were professional newspaper men; they both were letterpress hobbyists who recently sold their equipment; and they both expressed the opinion that it was time for the AAPA to consider shutting down. ♦



NAPA Elects Klosterman to Third Term

by David M. Tribby

MICHELLE KLOSTERMAN was elected to a third consecutive term as president at the National Amateur Press Association's 140th annual convention, held in Columbus, Ohio, July 2 - 4.

Michelle's name appeared twice on the absentee ballot mailed to members in the April bundle: as a candidate for president and for executive judge. That ballot noted she "... has accepted nomination for *two* offices above. If elected to both, she will choose which one to accept as our Constitution does not permit a member to hold two elected offices." Two other names appeared on the ballot: Jim Hedges for re-election as vice president and Madison, Wis., for the 2016 convention site. There were no candidates listed for official editor, recorder, or 2017 convention site.

At the convention, Michelle was elected president, and she chose to accept that office. Jim was elected vice president. Hazel Cuadrado was nominated and elected recorder. The incumbent official editor, David Warner, was nominated and re-elected. Because Michelle could not be elected executive judge, two others were nominated: Jon McGrew, the incumbent, and George

Hamilton. George was elected on the fourth ballot, after absentee votes were no longer counted. Madison was selected as the 2016 convention site, and Carson, California, for 2017. (Three incumbents in multi-year terms were not up for vote: Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boys and Judges Arie Koelewyn and Alice Brosey.)

The secretary-treasurer reported a total of 104 members, a checking account balance of \$5,095.80, and CDs totaling \$23,729.66. The increase in assets was attributed to Official Editor Warner's printing *The National Amateur* himself and billing the association less than \$1,000 for the year, when \$4,000 had been budgeted.

Fifteen members (one less than last year) and three guests attended the convention. ♦

LAJ Donation Totals

by David M. Tribby

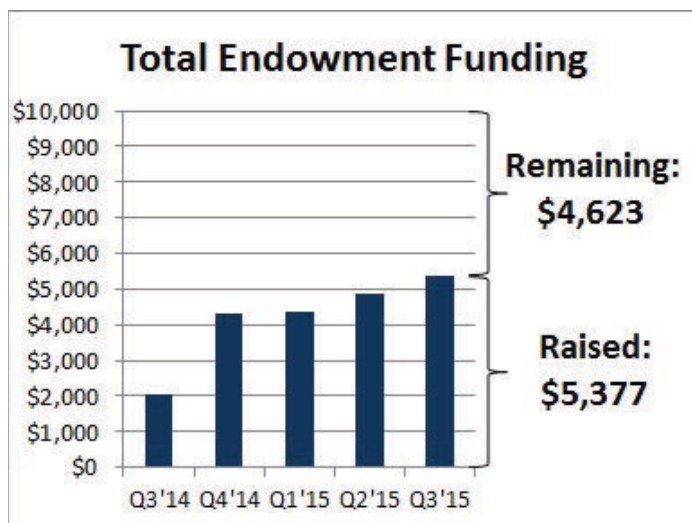
BEN STRAND, Director of Development for the University of Wisconsin Libraries, provided mid-October tallies of donations made to two Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) funds. The endowment fund (named in memory of Leland M. Hawes, Jr.) has received a total of \$5,377, while a separate fund for ongoing work tallied \$4,090.05.

The UW Foundation requires a minimum of \$10,000 to establish a permanent endowment. The Hawes fund has received more than half of this goal since fundraising began in September 2014.

Full information on making donations can be found on The Fossils' website:

www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html

Note: Total giving for ongoing work was overstated in the July issue of *THE FOSSIL* due to an error by the editor. ♦



Over the past year, donations to the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism have brought it over halfway toward the minimum goal of \$10,000.

Official Editor's Message

by David M. Tribby

JESSICA ISAAC, referenced in recent issues of THE FOSSIL for her academic research that included study of amateur journals at the Library of Amateur Journalism and the American Antiquarian Society, has earned a PhD in English Language and Literature/Letters from the University of Pittsburgh. While at Pitt, she received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014. Upon graduation, Jessica took a job as Program and Curriculum Director at Books@Work, a Cleveland, Ohio, organization that develops critical thinkers by offering literature seminars at the workplace. According to the Books@Work website, Dr. Isaac's responsibilities include serving as "liaison to the academic community, recruiting university professors, developing curricular and pedagogical tools, building partnerships with academic institutions, and spearheading assessment efforts." In a recent e-mail she noted, "The job is fun and really interesting. I spend much of my time finding professors across the country to teach with us and mentoring them in an unfamiliar teaching context." Jessica has agreed to adapt some of her research for an article in the January issue of THE FOSSIL.

The Fossils' research on public collections of amateur journals has led to placement of fifty years of *The National Amateur*. Harrison Church wrote to me after I mentioned the ongoing project in the January NAPA bundle. He wanted to get rid of his half-century of NAs and sought help finding an appropriate repository. Based on The Fossils' website listings, I identified four (New York Public Library, University of Virginia, Milwaukee County Historical Society, and New-York Historical Society) that held some issues of NA but lacked recent volumes. Harrison reported success in mid-September: "I wrote all the places you mentioned, and three of them said they would take the collection. So I sent it to Milwaukee last week. As long as I remain a member, I'll save up a few at a time and then send them along as well."

This issue of THE FOSSIL, the first of volume 112, uses a different font for heads and text: Book Antiqua, a computer font based upon Palatino. Herman Zapf designed Palatino in 1948 with inspiration from the letter forms of the Italian Renaissance. He expected it to be used as a display face, and was surprised at how widely it was used for book text following its release as a metal font by the Stemple typefoundry and German Linotype. After a long and productive career in typography, Herman Zapf died on June 4, 2015, at the age of 96.

The size for most text in this issue is set at 10.5 points – somewhat smaller than the 11 point Californian used in earlier issues (and this paragraph). Palatino's shorter ascenders and descenders (resulting in a relatively larger x-height) allow greater legibility in smaller sizes. ♦

With Our Members

- FOSSILS PRESIDENT **Ken Faig** and his wife Carol moved to a new home – about 1½ miles northeast of where they previously lived – on October 14. Since his retirement Ken has been working to downsize, including donating most of his amateur journals to the University of Iowa last year. His new address is in the masthead.
- **Kent Clair Chamberlain** needed a trip to the hospital in mid-September. "Call me Eric! Red signs while reading about danger led me to take a bus ride to the emergency room. Antibodies cured my bladder infection."
- **Peter Schaub** and his wife Connie visited their daughter and son-in-law in San Francisco during September. During the trip, he took the train south to Sunnyvale for a lunch with Official Editor **Dave Tribby** and a tour of Handset Press.
- **Dave Goudsward** headed to Massachusetts in late September to research nineteenth century *ajay* John Minter. "I have three particular spots I need to fill in – his arrival in the U. S., his arrival in Haverhill, and how he's related to the people he's buried with." ♦

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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