

The Fossil

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Fossil Profile

My Lifelong Love of AJ and Printing

by Barry Schrader

MY FORAY INTO amateur journalism and printing began in 7th grade when I decided to write a mimeographed newsletter for our rural Illinois neighbors one summer.

I typed up the copy and my mother used the mimeo machine at her school to run off a dozen copies; I added photos of neighbors and pasted them onto the newsletter I called *The Baseline Blarney*.

Fast forward to 1957. I was 16 and writing sports news for our local weekly, *The Genoa Republican*. My English teacher told me I was good at it and could become a writer, so the idea clicked in my head. The next two summers I got a part-time job as “printer’s devil” on the Genoa paper, pouring “pigs” (bars of lead) from molten lead to be used on the Linotype machine, also casting ad mats to be used in the makeup of letterpress pages, locked into forms and put onto the old Lee two-revolution flatbed press. I also redistributed handset foundry type from ads and job work back into the California job cases, cleaned the hand platen presses, and any other chores required of me. I guess that is when I “got ink in my blood” and wanted to become a “newspaper man.” Or maybe it was when I saw the movie *The Front Page* about Chicago journalism in the Roaring Twenties.

I enrolled at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and majored in journalism, graduating in 1963, then immediately started a job as editor of three weeklies—*Byron Tribune*, *Stillman Valley News*, and *Leaf River Register*—part of a chain of 10 weeklies in the Rockford, Illinois area. My job duties included writing the news, taking the photos, developing them, selling and laying out ads, then going to the printing plant in Durand,

Illinois each week to help make up pages, assist in the backshop, and help with the press run. My new bride Kay came along to help with the folding and mailing

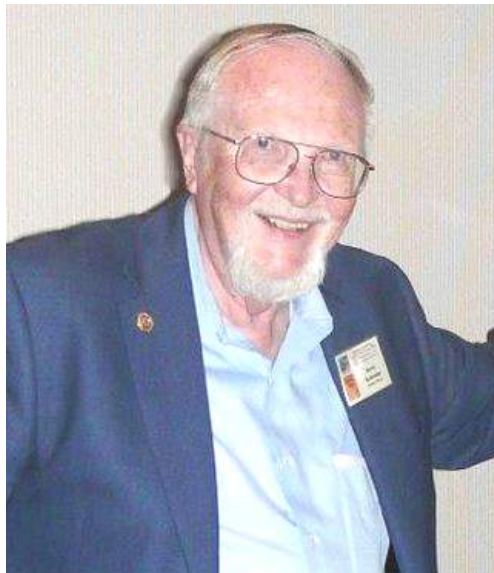
label tasks before we went to bed (at the publisher’s house) by midnight and arose early the next morning to haul mailbags of papers to the three post offices.

In 1964 I found my old Genoa hometown weekly (circulation 1000) was for sale and with the help of family put a down payment on the \$49,000 sales price to buy the paper. This included a commercial printing operation so I had to learn a lot about printing and job bidding/pricing in order to make ends meet while publishing the weekly paper. The job work brought in as much income as the weekly, but I soon learned that selling ads was the key to increasing revenue and concentrated more on the weekly while

leaving the printing business to the backshop crew.

Soon thereafter another paper, *The DeKalb County Journal*, in nearby Kirkland (circulation 750), was offered to me and I bought it for a mere \$2,000 (circulation list only). Being ambitious, I then decided to start a weekly in the county seat of Sycamore to compete against a rundown, poorly-composed paper in that community, and formed a corporation with partners who had the financing I needed. I had converted my other two weeklies into offset papers by taking the page proofs to the nearby *Belvidere Daily Republican* that had a Goss Community press, so they looked superior to the old letterpress papers in the rest of the county.

The long hours, pressure from the partners to make more money, and my wife having one baby and a second on the way, made me decide to sell out and find



Barry Schrader at the 2010 AAPA-NAPA Concurrent Conventions



Barry Schrader in 2015 at the Gutenberg Museum, Mainz, Germany

a career elsewhere. I had visited a relative in the Los Angeles area a few years before and decided to try my luck at daily journalism out west, so flew out to stay with her and look for work. On the third day, with resume in hand, I went to the *San Bernardino Sun* and was hired on the spot as a copy editor. They put me on two weeks probation; I passed, then flew home to pack up my family and belongings and drive a rental truck back to California. My pregnant wife and young son drove behind me in our 1966 Mustang.

A year later I found an editor's position open in the Bay Area community of Livermore. We moved up there, but then two years later went back to DeKalb, Illinois where new owners had taken over the *DeKalb Daily Chronicle* and were looking for an editor. I got that job, but four years later wanted to go back west and returned to the San Francisco Bay Area as editor of a new daily on the Alameda-Contra Costa county line, the *Valley Times*.

But a year later I decided to return to my former paper in Livermore, the *Tri-Valley Herald*, as editor. This time I stayed put eight years, before entering the more profitable world of public relations. I became the Public Information Officer, then Manager of Public Affairs and Employee Communications, for a Department of Energy nuclear weapons lab, Sandia National Labs, which had a branch in Livermore (headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico). After 20 years there I ended my career by moving across the street to another DOE nuclear weapons facility, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, where I worked in community relations and then became the oral historian for the lab.

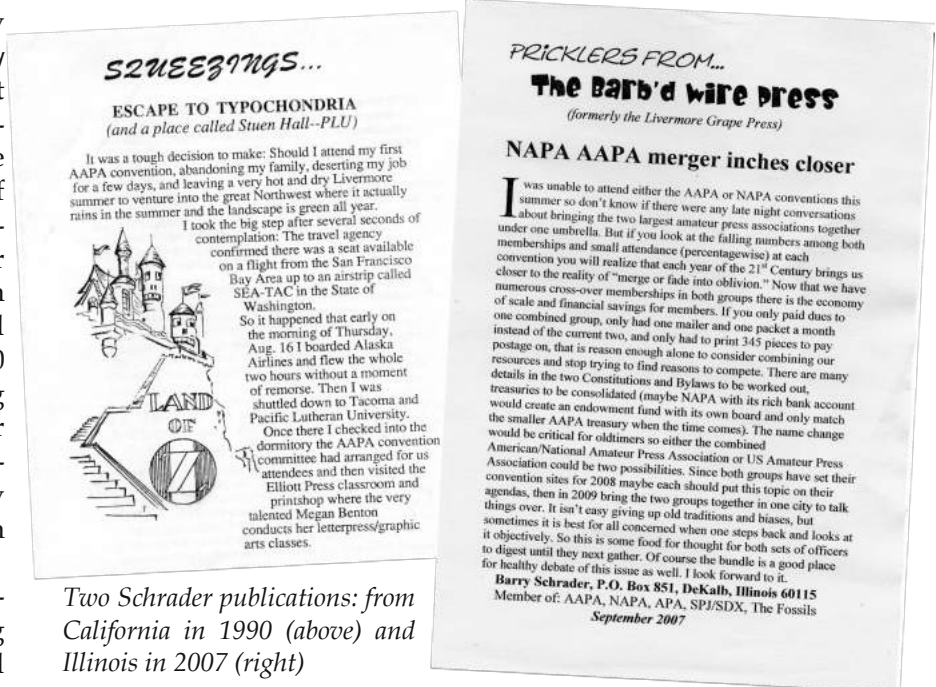
Now about my amateur journalism interest: I loved setting type and producing something on a hand press. When I found

one for sale in 1976—a 6x10 C&P Pilot with a cabinet of type and tools—I bought it for only \$200. That hobby grew to fill our garage in Livermore as I added more cases of type, a large motorized proof press, and a 10x15 Peerless hand-fed platen press, bought from an old printer, Gordon “Sully” Sullivan, who became a good friend and supplier of more equipment. My first house face was Bembo, then I switched to Goudy’s Californian. I took part in the Marin Small Press Club printers fairs in Mill Valley and then in San Francisco, and joined Sully in printing at the Charles Dickens Christmas Fairs on the SF Wharf. Those were exciting events and I cherish the memories of those fun times.

In the early 1980s I made friends with printer Fred Willams in nearby Hayward who published the quarterly journal *Type & Press*. He invited me to join the American Amateur Press Association. Kay and I became the best of friends with Fred and his wife Betty. Later I also joined NAPA, the Amalgamated Printers’ Association, and The Fossils. My hobby press was named the Livermore Grape Press and I produced journals off and on for 20 years as time allowed.

Kay and I also wrote and printed a small book on the trivia history of Livermore entitled *Will the Last Person Leaving Livermore Please Unscrew the Bulb in Fire Station One*. It was bound in hard cover and sold as a fundraiser for the local historical society. It sold out in a month and is now a sought-after collectible in that area.

We made many friends in amateur journalism and attended several conventions over the years. I even hosted two of them, one during 2000 for AAPA in Hayward (with co-host Dave Tribby) and another during 2010 in the Chicago area at Elk Grove Village (co-hosted by Bill Boys) when we had the first ever concurrent conventions of AAPA and NAPA. Later I



Two Schradler publications: from California in 1990 (above) and Illinois in 2007 (right)

helped organize Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. We raised enough money by that time to endow the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment for the Library of Amateur Journalism collection at the UW library.

Kay had me promise we would return to our roots in Illinois when I retired, so in 2006 I kept that promise, selling our home and the great majority of my hobby printshop and moved into a retirement complex (duplex with basement) back in DeKalb. Of course the desire to return to hobby printing overcame me and my basement soon saw the addition of an 8x12 motorized C&P, plus two table top presses, a proof press, and six cabinets of type, plus, plus, plus. This time I chose the name Barb'd Wire Press, so named after the invention of barbed wire by a DeKalb native Joesph Glidden. I also continued my column writing for the *Daily Chronicle* and it runs (almost) weekly to this day. (To peruse columns go to www.dekalbcountylife.com.) Over the past ten years I wrote probably 400 columns for the *Chronicle*. I collected my favorite 100 in 2010, published them in paperback, and sold about 500 copies locally. Then five years later I published another 100 of my favorites, but it did not sell out, so I donated the remainder to the county historical society to be sold at area museums.

Advancing age and a desire to slow down made me part with my printing hobby three years ago. I donated my C&P press and some type to the Glidden Homestead and Museum, and the rest I sold for a song to an NIU art department professor who wanted to teach beginning letterpress to his students. I was fortunate to find good local places to take the equipment as in too many instances it is sold for scrap after the owner either can no longer print or passes on.

My hobby provided me with so much enjoyment and a diversion from my busy career, probably to the detriment of my wife and two sons. But they tolerated my time spent in the printshop and trips to conventions across the country. The friends made in AJ over the years remain, although I miss those who have passed – too many by now to name.

I fulfilled one of my bucket list dreams four years ago while on a Rhine River cruise. I took a day away from the cruise and visited Mainz, Germany, getting to see the “holy ground of Gutenberg” where movable type was invented to print the Bible in the 1450s. The curator let me get up close and handle some of the implements reproduced at the museum and it was a thrill I will always remember.

So that is my life in AJ. I regret the decline in amateur printing and the AJ organizations that once were much larger. Maybe a resurgence in the “old ways” of print communication will happen in the next decade, but it is so difficult to fill your garage or basement with

heavy equipment when you can set all the type you want on a laptop and email your final product anywhere in the world.

Thanks to groups like AAPA, NAPA, APA, and The Fossils for keeping the hobby alive as best they can. ♦

New AAPA Officers

by Dave Tribby

FOSSIL FRED MOE'S resignation as president of the American Amateur Press Association caught members off guard. In a November 14 e-mail message to other officers Fred announced, “I find that with family, work, studies, and developing ministry, I simply do not have any quality time, or energy, to function as the President of the AAPA. So rather than take a leave of absence I am resigning my position as of this week so that AAPA leadership can move forward.”



Fred was more than halfway through his term, which began on October 1, 2017. In addition to his presidential duties, Fred wrote bundle reviews and other articles for *American Amateur Journalist* and often selected the best writing, journal, and project from the monthly bundle for promotion on the AAPA website. Fred also used his background in the zine world to reach out to those publishers.

Replacing Fred for the remainder of the term is Tommy L. White, Jr., who had been serving as vice president. Tommy, an AAPA member since April 2016, serves with the South Carolina National Guard and was deployed after Hurricane Florence hit the state last September.

AAPA officers then recruited a new vice president, whose duties include welcoming new members and recruiting. Believing that a new member would have a fresh perspective on these issues, they asked Fish Davidson, a member since December 2017. After asking a bevy of questions regarding the job, Fish accepted in mid-December.

Clarence Wolfshohl had been official editor since November 2012. Since nobody filed for the office in the 2017 election, he agreed to continue but asked for a replacement. His wish came true in mid-December when Edwin Feliu agreed to take on the job. Edwin has published several books of poetry, most recently *The Elastic Dome* in 2017.

Edwin will start editing with the March *AAJ* and see how it goes. Clarence will continue to handle layout and printing of the issues. ♦

AAPA Presidential Resignations

by Dave Tribby

IN THE AFTERMATH of Fred Moe's resignation as AAPA president (see article on page 3), AAPA Official Editor Clarence Wolfshohl asked an interesting question: "Has a president of AAPA ever resigned in mid-term before?" I count four instances:

1939: James Francis replaced by George Henry Kay

To start AAPA's third year, Official Editor Francis was elevated to the top spot. His first presidential message noted disappointment that illness had prevented him from publishing the final issue of the 1938 volume. Unfortunately, his sickness continued and for months he did almost nothing as president. The board of directors announced in the May-June *AAJ* that, because Francis's membership had expired in September 1938, he had not been legally elected. "George Henry Kay, as the member receiving the second largest vote in the last election for the presidency is hereby appointed president of the AAPA." It's interesting the board did not elevate either the first or second vice president, instead choosing AAPA's founder.

Official Editor Robert Price was optimistic: "The older associations are seizing on the recent situation ... as evidence of the coming demise of the American. ... They miss the vital point entirely. For if the association can move forward for almost a year with an official organ of sorts and a president who was no more than a name—what then will happen with an organ issued regularly and a president who is active!" In fact, AAPA activity did improve with the new leadership.

1943: George Henry Kay replaced by Helen Vivarttas

Although Kay had withdrawn as a candidate, he was elected president anyway. As his term began, the effects of America's entry into World War II were affecting all *ajay* groups. Many active members joined the armed forces and several officers had to resign. In the June *AAJ* Kay announced, "Due to the work of publishing a weekly paper and handling job printing" he would also resign. Before leaving, he filled the empty first vice presidency with Helen Vivarttas, who had served successfully as president in 1940. This put her in line to succeed him.

Lee Hawes's 25th anniversary history of AAPA, "The Stronghold of Youth," published in *THE FOSSIL* for July 1961, notes that Helen "stepped back into the top spot and immediately countered the trend downward. ... The spunky

gal from Weehawken, N.J., turned the tide again. She won election by a rousing vote for the new 1943-44 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1." (By the time she was elected she had become Helen Wesson.)

1945-46: Edward Wall replaced by Ray Allen Albert

As Ed Wall began his second term, he looked forward to re-establishing an annual convention in the post-War era. In his October message he suggested a "referendum election" on two items: 1) holding a joint convention with the newly-reorganized United Amateur Press Association, and 2) whether AAPA should participate in the Joint Co-operating Committee of Amateur Journalism that had been proposed by UAPA. Hawes describes the result:

After a deceptively calm response, the explosion came in January 1946. Linton Clark lashed out at the cooperating committee as a new version of the old bugaboo—amalgamation. And he questioned the legality of a referendum undertaken by Wall to determine if the membership favored participation.

The issue was thrashed around heatedly by mail and in the bundles. Wall ordered Mailer Irwin O. Brandt to print and to distribute copies of the referendum questionnaire in the bundles. At Director Clark's behest Brandt refused. Clark said only the board of directors could approve a referendum.

The president removed Mailer Brandt for "disloyalty and misconduct of office." But Brandt went ahead and mailed a February bundle anyway, refusing to recognize the removal. Another bundle was mailed by Dick Branch, named to succeed Brandt by Wall.

Disgusted by the legalistic malestrom, Wall resigned as AAPA president Feb. 15, 1946. First Vice President Leslie Boyer, 17 years old at the time, decided to step aside as his successor. Second Vice President Ray A. Albert then became Acting President. Relative calm returned to the association.

Albert let the referendum ride, and the Joint Co-operating Committee soon went into limbo. Several issues were left hanging unsettled by vacancies on the board of directors, but Albert left the positions unfilled intentionally so the association would have a breathing period.

1948-49: Wesley Wise replaced by Ray Allen Albert

President Wes Wise's first presidential message challenged members to produce better work: "Ajay is a spare time project, but that is no excuse for our work to be mediocre or frivolous. ... As a general rule, *ajay* publications



George Henry Kay (1955)



Ray Allen Albert (1945)



Helen Vivarttas (1939)

lack originality. We should certainly use our free press to create new and better forms, new and better thinking, new and better graphic art." Not everyone appreciated his "take no prisoners" attitude. Let's again turn to Hawes's history to read what happened:

Several months after he assumed office, a passing remark about Christianity stirred an undercurrent of comment from some amateurs.

Then in January 1949, "Faith or Facts," a tract advocating atheism, appeared in the bundle, written by AAPA member Florence Van Swearingen and distributed by the Freethinkers of America. President Wise felt that mailing it through the bundles was justified by reason of the free press principle.

The gap widened between him and a group of members who maintained such material should be barred outright from AAPA mailings. A middle group objected to the pamphlet only because of its obvious

non-amateur journal status.

The Chicagoan decided by April to resign. He released a statement which indicated his dissatisfaction with the turn of events: "It was found that my intense campaign for higher literary and typographic work, as well as my own personal religious views, resulted in considerable friction among a large number of AAPA members. I sincerely believe this friction resulted in a decline of publishing activity, and I feel that my resignation is for the best of the Association."

Ray Albert advanced to the presidency in a relief role for the second time in three years.

Ray, one of AAPA's founders, again stepped into the breach. As before, his focus on printing, writing, and publishing rather than politics and personalities provided a much needed stabilizing influence on the association. ♦

President's Message

Judson D. "Jud" Russell (1860 – 1910+): An Amateur Outcast?

by Ken Faig, Jr.

AT ITS MILWAUKEE convention in 1884, the National Amateur Press Association voted unanimously to expel Judson D. "Jud" Russell for "unseemly conduct." At



the following convention, Boston in 1885, NAPA apparently left a resolution restoring Russell's membership for a one-year probationary period unapproved. But Russell was apparently back among the membership by the time of the Philadelphia convention in 1887, when he offered a number of resolutions from the

floor. In July 1883, he had announced the candidacy of Willard O. Wylie for the association presidency in his amateur magazine *Harum Scarum*. (Wylie was elected at the 1883 New York convention, but later resigned in favor of Henry E. Legler.) These facts one can learn from Nixon's *History of the National Amateur Press Association* (1900). Russell did appear (as numbered individual 39) in the group photograph taken of the attendants at the 1885 Boston convention, but as far as I can determine his image is obliterated in the photograph and only his number remains.

Edith Minter published the following recollections of Russell in her essay "A Rearward Glance":

My first Napa convention, that of 1885, is a feverish memory. I am not quite sure what really happened, and

what was only a dream. It is recalled somewhat as the measles. Either they didn't come out and the doctor was worried thereby, or they did and he was worried all the same. Either Jud Russell was vindicated, and the Napa had trouble thereafter, or he wasn't and there was a row thereat. I couldn't tell you which happened at this date, but anyway there was Mr. Russell, who was supposed to have done something particularly dreadful. He stood in one corner of a large room, his eyes fairly blazing in his tall, narrow head, while the doors were closed, and everyone present was forced to vote yea or nay on whether he should be allowed to re-join the association. It was a dreadful martyrdom for the girl amateurs, who were the pioneers of their sex in attending amateur conventions—this being the very first that had any "lady members" in attendance. How could one vote "no," with that poor wretch standing over there and marking everyone of us on the tablets of memory? And yet how could one vote "yes" when he was such a bad and wicked amateur that no half-way decent amateur could be found who was willing to introduce him to "the ladies?"

Isn't it queer that you remember so well what leads up to the event, but never the event? I haven't the slightest idea whether I voted "yea" or "nay." I only recollect those blazing eyes and that long narrow head covered with curls, close fashioned, like those in plaster replicas of famous statues.

... Not everyone who was turned down left in disgust. There was Jud Russell, with as lean and meager a countenance as Don Quixote himself, and on perhaps

as helpless a quest, trying to get A. J. to take him seriously. I think, at this time, he was seeking readmission to the N. A. P. A.; the boys spent most of their waking hours declining to let him have enough of the floor to stand on in the convention hall, refusing to introduce him to the ladies, and finally locking the doors and forcing him to stay and see himself voted still an outsider; while at night, when they ought to have been asleep they made his life miserable with pillow fights and ice-water shower baths, pausing only long enough to invade the room of William S. Moore, who had come to Boston to secure "Frisco in 1886," and who went back to the Coast with just that inscribed upon his chest in red paint, "warranted to stick."

Boston 1885 was the first NAPA convention to admit ladies. Writing in the amateur magazine of a Mr. Wyckoff, Virgil B. Clymer had criticized those ladies for sitting down at the banquet at the same time as "Jud" Russell. Mrs. Minitter later narrated the consequences:

... And I think it was in the same issue that Mr. Clymer "attacked" the ladies of the N. A. P. A. for attending the banquet at the Boston '85 convention, when that meant their sitting at table with the vile and unspeakable Jud Russell! I believe I've mentioned before that in those halcyon days girls weren't supposed to be able to fight their own battles.

Edith May Dowe changed her name to Edith Minitter when she married John T. Minitter in September 1887. Later, the newly-married couple published their one-shot amateur magazine *The Webster Amateur* under the date November 1887. Therein the editors commented, perhaps reflecting Russell's presence at the 1887 convention: "Jud Russell as a member of the N.A.P.A. is like a Jack-in-the-Box. Now you see him, and now you don't see him. This is one of the years when he is seen."

Whether a detailed review of Edwin Hadley Smith's bound amateur journals for the year 1884 would reveal anything more of the "unseemly conduct" which occasioned the expulsion of the "vile and unspeakable" Jud Russell from the association at the Milwaukee convention, remains to be determined.

Perhaps it was matrimony that drove Jud Russell out of the active ranks of amateur journalism. Judson D. Russell married Mary S. Morrison in Kings County, New York on Aug. 9, 1888. The newly-married couple may not have abided long in Brooklyn. In the 1889 Hartford, Connecticut directory, Judson D. Russell was a salesman residing at 40 Village while Mary L. Russell was a dressmaker doing business at 1 Warner.

The census taker captured Judson D. Russell and his household in Hempstead, Nassau County, New York – in the western part of Long Island – in the summer of 1900. Judson, age 40, born December 1860 in California of New York-born parents, was working as a commercial traveler (traveling salesman). His wife, Mary L.

Russell, age 33, born August 1867 in New York of New York-born parents, had borne four children, of whom two were then living and of the household: daughters Ethel E. Russell, age 9, born July 1891 in New York, and Beatrice Russell, age 7, born September 1893 in Illinois. Also in Russell's household were two boarders: Herbert E. Ryder, born August 1868 in England of English-born parents, a clergyman who emigrated in 1889, and Francis J. Ryder, born February 1870 in England of English-born parents, a pressman who emigrated in 1899. Both Ryders (perhaps brothers?) were still aliens when the census was taken. Their relationship to Russell (or his wife), if any, is unknown. Judson and Mary claimed to have been married for thirteen years as of the census enumeration date. This claim, together with the conflict in Mary's middle initial, may place the Aug. 9, 1888 marriage in question.

Russell had broken into the drug and pharmaceutical press three years earlier. *The Pharmaceutical Era* for Feb. 11, 1897, reported that Russell had been working since October 1896 to organize the Druggists' Alliance of America (DAA) in order to protect retail (dispensing) druggists against claims of error. The *Era* reported that Russell, a former Congressional page, had worked as a reporter in the western U.S. and as a retail druggist in the eastern U.S. His business address as of the story date was room 918, 150 Nassau Street, in New York City. A few months later, in April 1897, *The Western Druggist* reported that the DAA had held an organizational meeting the prior month, electing John F. Morrissey, Jr. of Brooklyn as president and Russell as secretary. An organizing committee of one hundred members was heading the work, which was furthest advanced in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The stated purpose of the association was to "maintain a fund created by assessments, from which any direct monetary loss, within certain limits, sustained by reason of actual or alleged mistakes in the compounding of prescriptions or the sale of medicinal articles is to be repaid to such member if damages are secured." The DAA defended members against suits for damages.

Whether the DAA had failed by the time Russell was recorded in the census as a commercial traveler in 1900 is unknown.

Russell's marriage to Mary Morrison had failed by 1910, when the census recorded his former wife Mary as the wife of Connecticut-born ice cream manufacturer Charles [H.] Chapin, age 40, in Queens, New York. Her daughters Ethel Russell, age 18, a candy store sales lady, and Beatrice Russell, age 16, a candy store cashier, were also recorded in Charles Chapin's household, along with a daughter Phyllis Chapin, age 1. The Chapins had been married for three years as of the census date, so Judson and Mary had probably divorced between 1900 and 1907. The Chapins were recorded at

Webmaster Report

by Dave Tribby

14219 Broadway in Brooklyn, New York in the 1915 New York census; Charles was then working as a chauffeur and Beatrice Russell, age 20, was still a member of the household. Charles and Mary Chapin were recorded in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York, in the 1920 U.S. census and on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, in the 1930 U.S. census. Charles's profession was given as "automobile" in 1920 and as "office aid—automobile" in 1930. The Russell daughters were no longer in their household in 1920 and 1930. I have not found death records for Charles and Mary Chapin. Nor have I found any further life history for Ethel E. (last noted in 1910) and Beatrice Russell (last noted in 1915).

And what of Jud Russell himself? Trows' (formerly Wilson's) *Copartnership and Corporation Directory* for 1909 recorded Judson D. Russell as president of Rex Co., Inc., a New York corporation with \$2,500 capital. James S. A. O'Neil served as secretary, and Russell, O'Neill and Joseph Dana Miller were directors. Corporate offices were located at 237 Broadway, Room 401. In Polk's (formerly Trows') *Copartnership and Corporation Directory* for 1910 the information for Rex Co., Inc. was the same except that capital had increased to \$2,900 and corporate offices had relocated to 200 W. 34th Street. These are the last references I have found to Judson D. Russell. His fellow director Joseph Dana Miller was of course a famous amateur journalist in his own right, and served for many years as Fossils' librarian after The Fossils acquired Edwin Hadley Smith's collection in 1916. The Fossils and Miller's *Single Tax Review* shared office space in New York City until 1934.

Just what became of Judson D. Russell after 1910 I have not been able to discover. Perhaps a researcher with better access to amateur journalism materials than I will be able to discover more.

Note: There were other contemporary men named Judson Russell. Judson Russell, speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, died in Oxford, Miss. in 1902. A married Pennsylvania-born salesman named Judson S. Russell, age 45, was a lodger at 83 Lexington Ave. in Manhattan in 1910. (He had been married at age 22, which roughly fits with the marriage date [1887-88] of our Judson D. Russell.) A travel agent named Judson D. Russell, lived at 267 Michigan Avenue in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1890-91, and Judson D. Russell, varieties, did business in the same city at 346 Girard Avenue in the same year. Judson D. Russell boarded at 51 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan in 1886, and a Mrs. Judson Russell resided at 246 S. Grand Avenue in Los Angeles, California in 1901. Whether any of these individuals can be identified with the amateur journalist Judson D. Russell is doubtful. I searched for California-born Judson D. Russell in the 1880 U.S. census, but was unsuccessful. ♦

DURING 2018, The Fossils' website averaged 77 visitors per day, or a total of 28,240 for the year. Each visitor averaged 1.67 page views, for a total of 47,211 during the year. These statistics do not include additional traffic from the "robots" and "spiders" that regularly scan our site to search and catalog its content.

A deeper look at our web server's logs revealed an unusual pattern. During the first half of the year (and also in previous years), a noticeable amount of traffic came from an unusual combination of browser and operating system: Firefox and Windows 7. Nearly all of this traffic tried to access the page wp-login.php. This traffic is a symptom of a "brute force" attack to access the WordPress blogging system. Because The Fossils' website does not use WordPress, we were not harmed by the attack, but our true visitor count should be reduced by 10 per day, to 67, and 40,031 per year. By December, this traffic almost entirely vanished.

We continue to see strong access to online issues of THE FOSSIL. The ones published in 2018 were downloaded by the following number of visitors:

January 2018	160
April 2018	116
July 2018	268
October 2018	278

Of other issues available online, the most-viewed were July 2006 (308 views), July 2009 (269 views), April 2012 (231 views), and January 2007 (204 views).

The top referring sites are facebook.com with 223 (AAPA's Facebook page has been announcing new issues of THE FOSSIL) and wikipedia.org with 75 (links to the July 2006 and July 2009 issues of THE FOSSIL, and also pages related to the United APA history). We also received 1,789 visitors from search engines, mainly Google (1,342), Baidu (233), and Bing (132).

This month I revamped the "Amateur Journalism History" page (www.thefossils.org/history.html) to more prominently feature Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*, add a widget to search The Fossils' website, and (in addition to the previous Google Books links) add links to content in fanzine archives, The Internet Archive, and the NAPA website. I also added a search widget on THE FOSSIL page to search the content of online issues going back to October 2004.

If you haven't visited the website recently, please drop by and see what's available. Let me know any improvement ideas you might have. ♦

*If you are due,
don't forget to renew!*

Ajay Finances

by Dave Tribby

LAST APRIL, THE FOSSIL brought readers up-to-date on "Ten Years of Fossil Finances" covering January 2008 through December 2017. It's time for an update on Fossil finances, and, as a bonus, a look at the numbers of the two other major amateur journalism groups. Because NAPA presents a financial report covering its fiscal year starting July 1, I will also use the fiscal year for AAPA (starts October 1) and The Fossils (starts August 15).

Income from Fossil dues (\$15/year for individuals, \$20 for couples) and subscriptions (\$10/year) totaled \$535. Donations of \$50 brought total income to \$585.

The main Fossil expense was \$218.35 for producing and mailing four issues of THE FOSSIL. Expenses increased beginning with the July issue as our previous printer retired and production moved from Ohio to California. Another cost factor is an increase in postal costs. The annual cost of producing and mailing the official organ is expected to grow by more than \$75 for FY'19.

Other Fossil expenses include \$38 for the website (Internet Service Provider and domain registration), \$24 in monthly bank charges, and \$183 for creating and mailing the 2018 Gold Composing Stick award.

Income for the year was \$122 more than expenses. We should be able to handle the increased official organ costs without a dues increase, as long as some members continue to donate. With \$3,910 in the checking account, we can also take on special projects.

We have 25 members, with one couple. Included is Mike Horvat, who has been granted a free life membership. There are five paying subscribers and one free (Library of Amateur Journalism). The Fossils lost two members during Fiscal Year 2017-18, the couple Sean Wilmut and Beth Potter, and gained one new member, Pam Wesson, for a net loss of one member. No member deaths were reported during the fiscal year.

National Amateur Press Association

During their fiscal year, NAPA received \$1,739 income from dues. (They charge \$30 for regular members, \$37.50 for foreign members, and \$2 for a family membership. Ex-presidents receive a free life membership, while others can purchase one.) Members donated \$16, and there was \$1,900 income

from the trust fund Alma Weixelbaum established in 1963. There were \$881 in convention receipts for the banquet.

NAPA's largest expenses were \$925 (24% of all expenses) for *The National Amateur*, \$881 (23%) for the convention, and \$750 (19%) for monthly bundle postage and envelopes. They made a grant of \$1,000 to the International Printing Museum, site of the 2017 convention. NAPA did not list any expenses for their website because their webmaster has been paying that cost without reimbursement. Overall, income was \$53 ahead of expenses. Including its certificates of deposit,

	The Fossils	NAPA	AAPA
FINANCIAL			
Income			
Dues	\$475.00	\$1,739.50	\$3,065.00
Subscriptions	\$60.00		
Donations	\$50.00	\$16.50	\$776.93
Convention		\$265.18	
Interest			\$2.25
Trust		\$1,900.00	
Total	\$585.00	\$3,921.18	\$3,844.18
Expenses			
Official Organ	\$218.35	\$925.53	\$1,480.53
Grants and Awards	\$182.67	\$1,000.00	\$40.00
Website	\$38.11		
Bank Charge	\$24.00		
Bundle		\$750.00	\$2,447.29
Sec-Treas		\$87.57	\$171.66
PayPal		\$18.75	\$22.31
Convention		\$881.38	
Recruiting		\$169.59	
Misc		\$35.00	
Total	\$463.13	\$3,867.82	\$4,161.79
Net Income/Deficit	\$121.87	\$53.36	-\$317.61
Total Equity	\$3,910.02	\$26,479.04	\$6,231.31
MEMBERSHIP			
Regular	23	50	124
Same Household	1	11	21
Trial		5	
Ex-President		14	
Life	1	4	
Subscription	5		
Total	30	84	145
Change for year	-1	-6	-6

Financial data for the most recent fiscal year from The Fossils, NAPA, and AAPA; and membership count at the end of that fiscal year.

NAPA's treasury is by far the largest of any ajay group: \$26,479.

In a follow-up message with NAPA Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boys, he noted that, due to the timing of paying bills, only the first three issues of *National Amateur* were included in his report. The full cost of volume 140 would be about \$300 more than shown.

NAPA has a total of 84 members, including 50 paying full dues and 11 family members.

American Amateur Press Association

AAPA is the largest ajay organization with 124 regular members (dues \$25/year) and 21 same household members (\$2/year). Dues income of \$3,065 was supplemented by a generous \$777 in donations.

The largest expenses were for the bundle at \$2,447 (59% of total expenses) and *American Amateur Journalist* at \$1,4801 (36%). There was a "Hawes scholarship" grant of \$40 to Ken Davis to encourage publishing of his *Ken's Lightsome Journal*. No costs were shown for the AAPA website because the previous vice president, who worked on a redesign of the site during his term, has been paying the cost of domain registration. AAPA's Internet Service Provider had not been billing,

but started charging \$150/year in November. Total AAPA annual expenses were \$318 more than income. Their treasury stood at \$6,231.

Many thanks to AAPA Secretary-Treasurer John Carvalho for answering my questions and reviewing the results.

Annual costs on a per-member basis were:

	Fossils	NAPA	AAPA
Official Organ	\$7.28	\$14.59	\$10.21
Bundle		\$8.93	\$16.88

(The twelve NAPA bundles totaled 1 pound 10 ounces while AAPA's came to 2 pounds, 15 ounces.)

Latest Fossil Update

The Fossils Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson reports the following activity since the fiscal year closed on August 14:

Income - Renewals: 2 memberships and 1 subscription \$40. A donation of \$25 by Ivan Snyder. Total income = \$65.

Expenses - THE FOSSIL \$73.42; Bank fees: \$10. Total expenses = \$83.42.

Balance - As of January 2, 2019 = \$3,891.60. ♦

Official Editor's Message

Great to Hear From You!

by Dave Tribby

I CONSIDER IT the highest compliment when a reader takes time to reply to something that has been published in THE FOSSIL. I always enjoy hearing from readers, regardless of whether they are Fossils, subscribers, or part of the online audience.

Page 12 of this issue includes a letter to the editor from Dales Speirs, a subscriber from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in which he reacts to Ken Faig's last presidential message, provides background on actions he has taken to preserve zines, and proposes future actions that could be taken.

Dale's anxiety about preserving his zine collection, because his family has no interest in keeping it, is a concern I have heard from other amateurs. At this point in time, there seem to be more people who want to get rid of amateur papers than who have the time or space to collect them (see "Too Much 'Stuff'?" on page 5 of the July 2018 FOSSIL). I'll continue to publicize the availability of old amateur papers if you send me the information. The AAPA Alert and NAPA EMail News message services are another way to get the word out to potential collectors, as well as printing a notice for the bundles. Are there other good ways to announce

either an availability of papers, or an interest in collecting them?

Dale's discussion regarding the online repositories where he placed his zine, and his suggestion on where to place Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*, motivated me to update the History page on our website. We already have most of the *History* on the website as text files. In addition we have a link to a full scan of the book available via Hathi Trust Digital Library. This information is now presented near the top of the History page. I also added the two fanzine repositories that Dale listed. There are other changes on the page, which are described in my Webmaster Report on page 7.

Dale suggests The Fossils should create a repository to hold PDF files of amateur papers. As reported in the financial and membership reports beginning on page 8, we barely break even using the cheapest and smallest of websites. We could dip into reserves to fund a larger site, but keeping it going would eventually deplete our treasury.

Both AAPA and NAPA have "E-Journal" archives on their websites, with most journals in PDF format, although Word and html files are also present. These

began 15 years ago this month when J. Hill Hamon started e-mailing his *Whippoorwill E-Comment* to friends. He thought it was great fun to produce a colorful journal without the cost of printing it. A few others, notably Hugh Singleton, joined in, but not many have been published since 2011. (Clarence Wolfshohl has continued with an occasional *AAPA Miscellany*.) When AAPA revamped its website several years ago, the new host imposed a limit of 2MB on any single file. An amateur journal could easily go over that restriction. I'm not aware of any such limits on the NAPA repository, so perhaps they could encourage their members to upload amateur journals that are produced as PDF files.

Given the limited membership of The Fossils, AAPA, and NAPA, and the average age of members, one wonders what the ajay landscape will look like in another generation and who will be around to maintain the websites we have today. Would the Library of Amateur Journalism be interested in extending its collection into the digital domain?

Old Bundles Available

Continuing on the theme of preserving ajay papers, former AAPA member Nils R. Bull Young writes that he has a number of old bundles available to anyone who wants them.

I'm a little old now to be falling down the attic stairs again. Which is why I'm cleaning out the clutter (and, kid, is there a ton of it). I have found a huge pile of AAPA bundles from the '90s. They will all go into the recycling bucket unless someone wants them. I'll even pay postage to ship 'em in the continental US.

It's gonna be a while before I'm finished with the clean up and there are at least six or seven more piles of stuff up there to sort through. I can't believe the amount of stuff we've hoarded over the decades.

If you are interested, I will be happy to send you Nils's contact information.

Fossil Barry Schrader (see page 1) is another amateur who is cleaning up his collection of memorabilia, and he might be willing to part with some of his treasures.

NAPA Shenanigans in 1883-84

President Faig comes up with some intriguing topics for his messages. Who was this Judson Russell, and why did NAPA unanimously expel him in 1884?

Hoping to get more information on the incident, I turned to my recently-acquired bound volumes of *The National Amateur* (see October FOSSIL) to read the convention minutes, which I expected to see in the September 1884 issue. Unfortunately, that issue was missing. However, I did find an enigmatic reference in the "Personal Gossip" column of Vol. VII, No. 7 (Sept. 1883):

– Judson D. Russell, who, in spite of his genial and unblushing depravity, cannot cease to be interesting, made a speech at a public meeting for James G. Blaine [Republican nominee for president in 1884]. That equally audacious adventurer ought certainly to be proud of this new recruit.

What did catch my eye was the startling lead story in the March 1884 NA:

The National A. P. A. Disgraced

A SERIES OF UNPLEASANT REVELATIONS.
–HOW NINE LEGAL PROXY VOTES
CAME TO BE NOT COUNTED.

The controversy involved the counting of ballots at the July 1883 convention. In an East vs. West match-up, Willard O. Wylie and Henry E. Legler were the top candidates for president. The reported proxy voting totals at the convention were 16 for Legler, 13 for Wylie, four scattered. Legler lacked one vote for a majority. The convention then voted, with the result 31 for Wylie, 25 for Legler, and one for James Storms. Wylie was named the winner.

In that March NA, Official Editor Thomas G. Harrison reprinted an affidavit sworn by Eugene A. Brewster, a member of the proxy examining committee. He revealed that another committee member "... had suppressed and destroyed the 'duplicates' of certain proxy ballots, the form and manner of casting which was legal ... The fragments were conveyed from the room and thrown away by one John Fischer ... Enough duplicates of ballots were so destroyed to have legally elected Henry E. Legler to the presidency."



WILLARD OTIS WYLIE
10th President



HENRY E. LEGLER
11th President

Rivals in the 1883 election, eventually both Wylie and Legler were recognized as NAPA presidents. Pictures from Ex-Presidents of the National Amateur Press Association by William C. Ahlhauser (1919).

Editor Harrison contacted Fischer, who openly admitted his actions. His motivation was rooted in an incident at the 1882 convention, where Charlie Steele had pledged support for Fischer's candidacy as corresponding secretary. Fischer later discovered that Steele had instead worked against him. "From that time on, Steele had a sworn enemy in me. I would work day and night to defeat him. My anxiety to get even with him was the only thing that kept me in the ranks."

Steele, the 1882-83 official editor, was an early candidate for 1883-84 president. Fischer pushed Wylie to run against Steele, serving as his campaign manager. In February, Steele withdrew his candidacy, perhaps sensing that Wylie was the stronger Eastern candidate while Legler has solid backing throughout the West.

Fischer noted, "With Steele's withdrawal my interest in the campaign evaporated. Then appeared that unfortunate letter." The letter showed that Fischer, in his capacity on the credential committee, allowed anyone who supported Wylie to be admitted to NAPA at once. "I resigned (voluntarily) the chairmanship of the Wylie campaign committee and tried to shield him from all blame. I pledged him my word to stick by him and do all in my power to secure his election. How this election was secured, Brewster's affidavit fully explains, every word of which is only too true. Legler was elected by the nine proxy votes that I deliberately destroyed. And what reward did I receive for all this dirty work? For disgracing myself, for electing Wylie to an office to which he was no more entitled than I was, for all my trickery and swindling, I did not receive a 'thank you.' The ungrateful cur did not even write to me or even send me a copy of his paper. ... Some three months ago, I wrote to Charlie Watkyns and confessed everything to him. He advised me to expose the whole affair. I intended to follow his advice, but was afraid that its publication would only cause a rupture in the N. A. P. A., and would do more harm than good."

Although nobody accused President Wylie of being involved in throwing out the proxies, he announced his resignation in that same March issue, giving three reasons: "1st—On account of the unjust and malicious criticism, to which the present administration has been subjected. 2nd—To the fact that certain proxy ballots were destroyed at the New York Convention which would lead one to think that the office to which I was elected was not legally mine. 3rd—Because the sum necessary to carry on the administration, while perhaps forthcoming, would remain unappreciated by those who are constantly on the alert to find flaws in my official conduct."

However, the official editor pointed out a quirk: the NAPA constitution "... does not give the president the right to resign for any causes." While a president could

be removed for inactivity, Wylie had fulfilled all requirements. "No amateur or body of amateurs can accept his resignation except the National A. P. A. in convention; and the association can not hold a convention until July. ... Other officers of the association can resign or be discharged, but nowhere in the constitution is any similar proviso made for the president's individual action. ... He cannot leave his office as he intended—if he does desert it he will do so dishonorably."

Frank S. Arnett had been elected vice president, but was later found to have not paid his dues. Confusion reigned in NAPA over the following months, with nobody seeming to be in charge.

The 1884 convention voted to amend the previous year's minutes to list Legler as the legally elected president. Legler, present at the convention, took the chair and presided, but had earlier made it clear he was not a candidate for president. A later convention restored Wylie's name to the list of presidents.

Both Wylie and Legler remained active in NAPA. In 1939 at the dedication of Presidents' Field, a six-acre plot on land owned by George W. Macauley near Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wylie, the oldest living ex-president, made the dedication speech.

Miscellany

Since moving printing of the official organ from Ohio to California last July, THE FOSSIL has had production issues. In July the type was too light. The printer darkened the text for October, but that made pictures look a bit muddy. I took a close look at the PDF file I submitted for printing and found the text was rendered in gray rather than black! I didn't see this when reviewing the PDF file or the pages I printed at home because they were based on the full-color PDF. I have discovered a new way to do the black & white conversion, so hopefully this time the text will be dark and the pictures clear.

When entering FOSSIL articles, I bristle at using postal codes for state abbreviations. To me, two capital letters stick out typographically and do not read smoothly. Always spelling out long state names is awkward and cumbersome. Is it still acceptable to use the old-style state abbreviations that are about a generation out of date? I can always refer to my 1938 University of Chicago *A Manual of Style*.

Most of The Fossils memberships come due in January. Please check the envelope containing this issue and see if you have received a renewal notice. You can also look at the date printed on the mailing label. Renew promptly with Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson so you won't miss any issues! ♦

Letter to the Editor

From: Dale Speirs
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

I WAS INTERESTED to read Ken Faig's remarks in the October 2018 issue of THE FOSSIL about blogging and the preservation of zines online in PDF form. It is a subject that I have been thinking about and acting on for several years.

My basic problem is that no one in my family is interested in zines. I am 63, and have been thinning out my library, knowing that if I don't, it will be done by the younger generation with a recycle bin. Calgary (population 1.2 million) is down to one secondhand bookstore, which has no interest in zines, so I can't sell them.

I have distributed my books through dozens of Little Free Libraries around the city. My surplus zines went to freebie tables at local science fiction and readercon conventions.

I began publishing my zine *Opuntia* in March 1991 as a monthly. (In 1991, Timothy Berners-Lee invented a forum for scientific papers which he called the World Wide Web. A couple of years later, a company called Adobe introduced a new type of computer file called Portable Document Format or PDF.) On March 31, 2014, Canada Post raised postage rates to breath-taking heights, which killed the print version of *Opuntia*.

I then began publishing it as a PDF zine, available free from either www.efanzines.com or www.fanac.org. I also gradually scanned all the back issues, so now a complete run of *Opuntia* is preserved in two places.

I don't operate my own Website because no one in the family would pay to keep it going after my death, whereas the two sites mentioned above compile hundreds, if not thousands, of zines, and will outlast one individual.

The online *Opuntia* is published two or three times per month in full color and in fixed form as a locked PDF. Blogs are not the same thing. Their comments sections are idle chatter.

This is where The Fossils could step in and make a vital contribution. A website could be set up to preserve zines as PDF issues. An organization is needed to do the job because it will outlive any individual effort.

As a case in point, there was an enthusiastic science fiction fan in Vancouver, B. C., who set out a decade ago to immortalize Canadian fanzines on his website and made a big publicity splash about his efforts. Then illness and poverty caught up with him, leaving a dead site.

The APAS should all be organizing PDF archives to

preserve zines. Provide free downloads, since the next generation doesn't like to pay for anything.

Older zines, for a start, could be archived at www.gutenberg.org. More learned books, such as Spencer's history could be placed as a free PDF at www.academia.edu (where I archive a non-zine periodical, *Journal of Alberta Postal History*).

At the two Websites where I archive *Opuntia*, I also have a cumulative subject index to the zine from #1 onward. It has been written that all knowledge is contained in zines, to which I reply "Just try and find it." The index will, I hope, result in more readers looking into back issues and prevent the loss of knowledge.

That is the next step for zinedom, after archiving zines. I don't mean bibliographies or checklists of authors or fiction, but useful subject indexes. That is what future researchers want, and what is needed to ensure that the zines are read, not just sitting on a hard drive.

There is no point in preserving zines if future generations will never read them.

Editor's note: Please see my remarks beginning on page 9. ♦

The Fossil

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www.thefossils.org

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