

# THE FOSSIL

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## A LIFE WELL-LIVED: REMEMBERING RONALD JAMES YOUNG

Carolyn Rice Young

Often, when we lose someone through death we speak of them in glorified terms and elevate them to a level just under, if not equal to, the angels. My father-in-law would not have liked to hear himself talked about in eloquent and effusive terms but to those of us who knew and loved him those words just flow from our tongues. As Ron's son, Greg, has been going through his father's papers he found a hand written quote on a small piece of lined paper. It said: Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to slide in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, leaking oil and loudly proclaiming: "WOW...What a ride!" This speaks to the essence of Ron Young.

My father-in-law was born in Scranton, PA, January 17, 1921. He moved to Atlantic City in his early childhood and as a young adult he lived in Philadelphia, PA. That was where he met Helen. We sometimes kidded him about being a lady's man and he was at least for one lady. The story is that he met Helen in the doctor's office where she was a technician. As the story goes, he was leaning at the counter in the office engaging in a little flirtation when she disposed of an envelope with an interesting stamp on it. Being a stamp collector since the age of seven, he almost did himself bodily harm as he leaped across the desk to retrieve the envelope before it landed in the trash can. They were married three months later. It was a marriage of fifty-eight years until her death in December of 2000.

Dad served in WWII in the army as a first sergeant in the Forty-First Infantry Division. He never talked much about those years but did share some pictures when one of his grandsons was studying WWII in high school. He had been in the Philippines preparing for the invasion of Japan, which did not occur due to the dropping of the atomic bomb on

Hiroshima. He then went to Japan to assist with the clean-up process. He enjoyed the Japanese people and was an anomaly to them because he was so tall.

My father-in-law had an active life. Professionally he served as a civil engineer with Catalytic Construction Co. in Philadelphia and then as aerospace was swiftly developing in Denver he came west to join the Martin Co. After taking a few years off from Martin to be the project engineer for the Boy Scouts in the building of Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch in Elbert, CO, he returned to Martin by way of a transfer to New Orleans, LA. While there he was an engineer working on the main fuel tanks for the space shuttle.

Dad was active in many volunteer organizations in his lifetime. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver which is the highest award conferred on an adult volunteer. He also served as an advisor to the Arapahoe County juvenile courts. He was very active in the Masonic fraternal organizations, including lodge, shrine, and consistory. His Masonic activities were a life line for him after the death of Helen. While in Louisiana he transported children to the Shrine hospital in Shreveport, an eight-hour drive. He would spend the night and bring them home the next day. He also served as the president of the Slidell Library Association.

The quieter side of Dad's life included voracious reading, stamp collecting, for which he won awards, and, as all of you all know, his other great enjoyment was amateur printing. In 1955 he received a Kelsey 5 x 8 and enjoyed it for many years. He later located a Kelsey Union Rotary 10 x 14 Job Press which went with them to Louisiana and was used well and often until their move in 2000 back to Colorado. There was always a room or more accurately an entire garage dedicated to presses, box upon box of print and papers of every weight and color. After the move to Colorado he became quite the whiz on the computer and continued to publish the *Plumb Line*. He also edited the journal, *The National Amateur*, for NAPA

which he had been a member of since 1969. He enjoyed going to the annual meeting of NAPA, enjoyed participating in The Fossils and was planning on being in Montrose in September 2004 for the AAPA annual meeting. He made a 10,000-mile road trip during the summer of 2004, attending meetings and sightseeing.

Ron Young was a gentle and thoughtful soul. He had been known to buy a meal anonymously for people in restaurants on several occasions. On one such occasion he saw two military men and their families out for dinner just prior to the war with Iraq. Upon leaving he told the waiter he wanted to cover their bill. One of Dad's neighbors had moved here from Russia and was having a difficult time finding a job because her English was so poor. He went to her front door and knocked and informed her that God told him to pay her tuition for classes to improve her language skills. His benevolence was always quiet.

Ron had two children, Greg and Carol. Both are married and provided him with two grandsons who delighted in him as much as he delighted in them. He also had two great-grandchildren who brought him laughter with their antics and gave him permission to once again go shopping for tricycles and red wagons.

He will be missed by many but my father-in-law was not afraid of dying. He knew where he was going and conversations led me to believe that he was rather intrigued with what he was going to find when he got there. I imagine that his only regret is that he never got his cheese cake recipe perfected.

His life was an inspiration and I know no greater thing can come from his death than we find ourselves called to live a more meaningful life.

Ronald James Young entered into life eternal September 12, 2004.

#### THOSE LAZY SUMMER DAYS

Martha E. Shivers

I love an early summer morn  
when skies are limpid blue;  
breezes gently sway the leaves  
and the grass is damp with dew.

I love the early songs of birds  
trilling from bough and reeds;

they orchestrate a melody  
as mates are hunting seeds.

I love the calmly moving days  
when chores have all been done;  
a book to read, or visits made  
or resting in the sun.

Those happy days, those lazy days  
when thoughts roam at ease;  
laughter and fun take precedence  
and I can do as I please.

#### LANDMARKS

Harold Segal

*The Fossil* joins amateur journalists everywhere in congratulating Harold Segal upon the occasion of his ninetieth birthday on January 5, 2005. *The National Amateur* for March 2004 featured a story on Harold, widely known as "Mr. NAPA." Harold received a Kelsey 3 x 5 press for Christmas 1929, some months before he entered organized amateur journalism. He will also celebrate his diamond (seventy-fifth) anniversary as a member of NAPA in 2005, on October 21.

Harold joined The Fossils in 1959 (fourteen years after his first eligibility in 1945) and remained on the membership rolls for slightly less than a decade. Harold was an instrumental member of the NAPA Committee which wrestled with the fate of LAJ after the Franklin Institute requested its removal in 1964. His article "Is There a Place for The Fossils Today?" appeared in *The Fossil* (whole number 181) for Autumn 1964.

Harold served as NAPA President in 1933-34, elected to replace Edwin Hadley Smith who resigned immediately after election at the 1933 convention. As NAPA President, Harold was the guest of The Fossils at the special meeting held at the Franklin Institute on December 2, 1933, to confirm deposit of LAJ with that institution. Fossil President Michael F. Boechat called that meeting after some New York Fossils, led by Charles C. Heuman and Joseph Dana Miller, resisted removal of LAJ from its longtime home in the Fossil private library in room 1302, 150 Nassau Street, New York City.

Congratulations to Harold on a landmark

birthday! Like Charles "Tryout" Smith (1852-1948), Harold is not about to give up hobby activity as he enters his tenth decade of life. The Fossils hope to see many more issues of *Campane* and *Shampane* before Harold finishes his wonderful career as an amateur journalist.

Birthday greetings can reach Harold at 25 Washington Lane #213, Wyncote PA 19095.

Martha E. Shivvers

Another ninetieth birthday celebrant in the coming weeks will be The Fossils' faithful Membership Chair, Martha E. Shivvers, who will celebrate her birthday on February 13, 2005. Martha is an accomplished poet, whose work continues to appear in the amateur press (as well as this issue of *The Fossil*). Martha has been a widow since losing her husband in November 2003 after sixty-eight years of marriage. In addition to her work as poet, Martha keeps busy with work on her family history, which she is writing for her grandchildren. It will cover the Shivvers, Sherwood, Bailey and Haines families. Martha has four children: Melvin Shivvers, architect, of DesMoines IA; Douglas Shivvers, retired scientist, of Knoxville IA; Kathy (Shivvers) Cable of Corpus Christi TX, private school librarian; and Barbara (Shivvers) Schnell of Glenview, IL, artist.

Birthday greetings can reach Martha at 1526 165th Avenue, Knoxville IA 50138-8939.

#### GET WELL WISHES

All members of The Fossils will be saddened to learn of the serious illness of our longtime member and former president and official editor, Captain Victor A. Moitoret, U.S.N., Retired. Vic has been hospitalized following a post-surgery fall.

Born April 14, 1919, Vic inherits ajay blood from both sides of his family: his father Anthony F. Moitoret (1892-1979) and his mother Dora M. (Hepner) Moitoret (1888-1968), wed April 9, 1917, were both prominent amateur journalists. Vic's outstanding collection of amateur journals was described by him in the article "The Reader and Collector," in *The Fossil* for February 1964.

Vic received The Fossils' coveted Gold

Composing Stick award for his lifetime of service to the amateur journalism hobby at the NAPA convention in Lexington KY in July 2004. Vic's beloved wife, Rowena (Autry) Moitoret, well-loved in amateur journalism in her own right, passed away in 2002.

Get-well wishes can reach Vic at 3812 Tom Lyons Drive, Silver City, NM 88061.

#### INTERNET REPORT

David Tribby

For about four years, Mike Horvat has maintained a Web site packed with information about amateur journalism history. Among the content of his American Private Press Association site is the complex text of Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*, including a cross-reference by state.

The same illness that forced Mike to retire as The Fossils' librarian last fall is keeping him from maintaining the APPA site. It's paid up until next summer; after that it will disappear from the Internet. Ken Faig and Guy Miller asked me to do what I could to save the content (over 360 files and 5 Mbytes). The situation also raised a question: should the Fossils have a Web site of its own?

My first action was to copy all the files onto my own computer for safekeeping. When I examined them, I found all the files were linked using Mike's domain name ([www.appalibrary.org](http://www.appalibrary.org)). That was fine as long as they were hosted at that address, but in order to make their location more flexible I modified the files to link with each other through relative file paths.

After that work was completed in December, I copied the entire site to a temporary location under my personal account in order to prove all the pages would link properly when moved to a new Web location.

There have been almost no content changes yet, but some modifications will be needed. At the minimum, we replace any APPA references with The Fossils. We also need to decide what new Fossil features would be appropriate. If anyone would like to see the work in progress or offer suggestions, please send me an e-mail at: [dtribby@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:dtribby@stanfordalumni.org).

I still need to check with Internet experts, but it looks as if the cost for a small-scale Web site for The

Fossils would be about \$25 per year. With a little luck, The Fossils will have its own Web site up and going this summer.

## ONWARD AND UPWARD

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Guy Miller

The New Year is off to an optimistic start with the news that our Library of Amateur Journalism has arrived safely at its new home on the campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. And what a journey it has been, as you will discover in the detailed account by our Official Editor. All that remains is the signing of the donation agreement by the Fossils Trustees and the settling of shipping charges.

We were satisfied that we had on our LAJ Committee individuals with deep backgrounds in Fossil history as well as research institutions and the capability of bringing this massive job to a successful conclusion; and your president has been in the best position to appreciate what a debt we all owe to Ken Faig, Jr., Leland Hawes, Jr., Martin "Mike" Horvat, and Stan Oliner. But I know that Lee and Mike and Stan will readily agree that special gratitude is due Chairman Faig who adroitly exercised the organizational skills that were necessary to maneuver "Operation LAJ" through the various twists and turns along the way.

Actually, Ken's labors began as early as the year 2000 when he was assigned the task of spearheading a dialogue of the how, when, and where of preserving our Library. The results of his activities in this area, during which time he drew upon the expertise of a number of ajays both Fossils and Fossil friends, culminated in 2002 in the formation of the LAJ Committee, the objective of which was "to examine how we can help the APPA achieve its goals for now and into the future." At the dawning of this year 2005, the future has arrived. Mission accomplished, Ken.

In connection with our search, this is an excellent moment to tender my thanks to former Fossil Ivan Snyder of Portland OR who, at the beginning of our search, volunteered to visit Mike Horvat and the LAJ as my "eyes and ears." Ivan made a thorough assessment which he detailed in a series of carefully crafted e-mail messages. These reports afforded me the

insights I needed to proceed. In this context, I also thank AAPA member L. W. "Jiyani" Lawson, who accompanied Ivan, for the Library photos which he took during the visit. And finally I thank all of you who offered suggestions and supplied information to me and the LAJ Committee.

Other happenings occurred, of course, during the past year. We had an election which resulted in the change of some officers. Five-year Secretary-Treasurer Gary Bossler "passed the beans" to Stan Oliner and seven-term Linda Donaldson stepped down from her job as Official Editor in favor of Ken Faig. We might remark in passing that, while seven years is not an office-holding record—J. Austin Fynes served thirteen years—it's a good stretch! At the Fossils luncheon in Lexington in July I presented Gary with an award in recognition of his faithful service. I did not have the opportunity to so thank Linda who held her post despite debilitating eye problems. As we wish her full recovery, we hope that one day we will be permitted to call upon her again for help.

And now, onward and upward as we tackle the challenges of this new year.

### HISTORIAN'S REPORT

#### FINDING A NEW HOME FOR THE LIBRARY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM

Ken Faig, Jr.

In July 2004, Mike Horvat, curator of the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) since 1980, informed President Guy Miller by e-mail that he would be forced to surrender his charge because of illness. President Miller wrote to his LAJ Committee (Ken Faig, Jr., chair; Lee Hawes; Mike Horvat; and Stan Oliner) and fellow Fossil Trustees (Jack Swenson, chair; J. F. Killie) to notify them of Mike's communication on July 24, 2004. He requested that the LAJ Committee tackle the job of finding a new home for LAJ. He also addressed his communication to Fossil Vice President Ron Young and former Librarian Les Boyer, and asked Ron to make arrangements to visit Mike Horvat to survey the situation in Stayton OR, home of LAJ since 1980. In 2004, LAJ resided, with Mike's own science fiction and fantasy (SF&F) collection, in an annex building on the grounds of the Paris Woolen Mill Complex at 535 East Florence Street in Stayton. LAJ and the SF&F collection had

been moved from the main mill building to the annex building in the summer of 2003. The main mill building, which had been on the National Register of Historic Places, was demolished by the owner between October 2003 and January 2004.

Lee Hawes and Stan Oliner conducted early discussions of LAJ with institutions. The University of South Florida in Tampa FL, now the home of the William F. Haywood Collection and the future home of the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Collection, had made an offer to receive LAJ in 1979, after New York University Special Collections had decided it no longer wished to house LAJ. Lee now revived these discussions but found South Florida Special Collections reluctant to make a new offer for LAJ because of the size of the collection. Lee's friend and recruit (and new Fossil) Sean Donnelly of the University of Tampa Press also made inquiries of his own institution. Unfortunately, University of Tampa Special Collections shared University of South Florida's concerns about the size of LAJ. Sean, who has two books of W. Paul Cook's writings in press from University of Tampa Press, also considered making a bid to become the new private curator of LAJ. His plans included placing LAJ in a storage unit and working on it in his home several boxes at a time. In the end, however, Sean decided not to make a bid to assume responsibility for the collection.

Stan Oliner conducted discussions with Vincent Golden, curator of newspapers and periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society, home to a 55,000-paper collection of amateur papers centered on nineteenth-century papers. This collection, fostered by Frank Roe Batchelder in its early years, was greatly enlarged by the collection of Truman J. Spencer (1864-1944) following his death. In the end, the offer which the LAJ Committee received from Vincent Golden at the American Antiquarian Society was to receive the entirety of LAJ in Worcester. The Antiquarian Society would retain the nineteenth-century portion of LAJ for its own collections and find an institutional partner library to take the twentieth-century (and later) portion of LAJ. Mr. Golden assured the LAJ Committee that every journal would find an institutional library home. Mr. Golden also offered the Committee valuable advice about transporting a large collection like LAJ to a new home. The offer from the Antiquarian Society was the first received by the LAJ Committee and the Committee considered it carefully in light of Antiquarian Society's long experience with amateur

journals. In the end, however, the LAJ Committee, in consultation with the Trustees, decided that it would be best not to split LAJ into two components unless no other alternative was available.

Fossil Vice President Ron Young had begun to make plans for his visit to Mike Horvat in Stayton OR, to survey the LAJ situation, when his heart surgery intervened. From his sickbed, Ron assured President Miller that he still planned to make the trip as soon as he was able. Regrettably, as we all know from Carolyn Rice Young's moving memoir, Ron did not recover from his surgery, but suffered complications and expired on September 12, 2004.

Pressure on The Fossils and the LAJ Committee increased as the calendar turned to October 2004. Wampler Family LLC of Waldport, Oregon, owners of the Paris Woolen Mill complex, decided to demolish the remaining structures on the property, including the annex building housing LAJ and Mike Horvat's SF&F collection. Originally, Mike Horvat was informed by the owner that The Fossils would have until the end of 2004 to remove the collection, but then the owner received information that there would be a tax advantage to commencing demolition during calendar year 2004. For some weeks, the Committee had to operate under the assumption that LAJ needed to be removed from the mill annex building by mid-November 2004. By November, however, the Committee was informed that the owner had arranged with the local fire department authorities for the annex building to be used for a "test burn" in early January 2005. That still meant that LAJ had to find a new home before the end of 2004. Transferring LAJ to temporary storage in the Stayton OR area remained in active consideration as an option until nearly the very end of the decision process. The additional cost involved militated against this option, but the security of the collection militated in its favor. At least half-a-dozen break-ins occurred at the mill annex building while the collection remained, the final such break-in actually penetrating to the collection area. Mike and Susan Horvat and the Committee were concerned about the possibility of vandalism or arson as the time for the fire department "test burn" approached.

President Miller recruited two Oregon amateur journalists, Ivan Snyder (a former member of The Fossils) and L. W. "Jiyani" Lawson, to substitute for Ron Young. By arrangement with the Horvats, Ivan and Jiyani visited LAJ in its quarters at the Paris Woolen Mill annex building on October 21, 2004. Ivan

and Jiyani reported favorably on the condition of the collection to President Miller. In addition, Jiyani posted an article concerning the collection and its need for a new home on the Internet at: <http://hometown.aol.com/remaile/myhomepage/photo.html>. The article was accompanied by photographs taken by Jiyani during the visit. The article posted by Jiyani also communicated Mike Horvat's preference for a new individual curator for LAJ. However, the size of the collection made a new individual curator difficult to find. To be shelved in a manner to allow access, LAJ would require at least two full-sized rooms in a private home. Some amateurs felt that only an amateur journalist with a separate shop or office could hope to accommodate a collection as large as LAJ. Even then, the logistics of accommodating visitors wishing to use the collection would remain.

Mike Horvat made a summary inventory of LAJ available to the Committee in October 2004: 340 bound volumes Edwin Hadley Smith collection; 600 other bound volumes (mostly eight-pagers from the 1880s); eighty-eight boxes of amateur journals filed by year/title; twenty boxes of amateur journals filed by title; eighty-five boxes of amateur journals filed by bundle; one box of unsorted amateur journals; eighty boxes of unsorted amateur bundles; three boxes of photographs and other memorabilia; one nineteenth-century amateur press; and twenty-five boxes of Willametta Keffer's correspondence. LAJ essentially resolved itself into two components, which Mike had kept separate: (1) the original Edwin Hadley Smith collection as augmented by subsequent Fossil librarians including Mike himself; and (2) the collection of Willametta Keffer (1906-1989) as rescued by Mike Horvat and Stan Oliner from the Keffers' Roanoke VA home ("Shady Acre") in 1990. Willametta's correspondence was basically in alphabetical order by correspondent and her "antique" amateur journals were also in alphabetical order by title. But most of the rest of her collection (including riches like British Amateur Press Association and Amalgamated Printers) consisted of unsorted bundles. The Edwin Hadley Smith component of the collection was much better organized: in the original bound volumes for the period extending through 1942 (supplemented by loose papers sorted in the same manner); then loose papers sorted by title for the period ca. 1943-1965 when Nita Gerner Smith and Bernice McCarthy Spink continued Edwin Hadley

Smith's labors (the collection was housed at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia PA during this period); and then bundles sorted by association by date for later years.

Under pressure from the limited time remaining at the Stayton OR site, LAJ Committee Chair Faig sent the following letter to a select list of institutional libraries under the date October 18, 2004:

"Dear [Librarian]:

"Since 1916, The Fossils, Inc. have maintained the world's largest collection of amateur journals. A brief inventory of the Library of Amateur Journalism as it exists in October 2004 is attached to this letter. The collection as originally assembled by Edwin Hadley Smith (1869-1944) consists of over 340 bound volumes of amateur journals organized by year of publication and title. Since that time addition journals, filed in boxes, have been added to the collection.

"Martin M. Horvat of Stayton OR has been librarian-curator of our collection for the past twenty-five years. Now because of illness he must relinquish these duties and The Fossils are searching for a new home for the Library of Amateur Journalism.

"I'm acting as Chairman of the Library of Amateur Journalism Committee for The Fossil Board. If you think your institution might be interested in providing a home for this collection, please call me at your earliest convenience. We are facing a mid-November 2004 deadline to reach a decision regarding the future of the collection.

Sincerely yours,  
Kenneth W. Faig, Jr.  
Chair, LAJ Committee  
The Fossils, Inc."

This letter was mailed to a number of libraries with amateur journalism collections, including the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. We also sent letters to the Newberry Library in Chicago IL and the Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin TX.

In the end, however, telephone calls and electronic mail proved far more effective than letters. The Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland OH houses an 18,000-paper collection of amateur journals (1870-1918) donated by Warren James Brodie (1863-1945) in 1918. Kermit O. Pike, Library Director & Chief Operating Officer, recommended that we consider the Lilly Library, "a library of special

collections,” at Indiana University in Bloomington IN. He also generously offered his facilities for temporary storage of LAJ if that became necessary. An e-mail directed to Lilly Library Director B. Breon Mitchell on October 21, 2004, triggered a week-long evaluation process by that famous institution. LAJ, housed in approximately 300 boxes and weighing approximately 15,000 pounds, is a large collection by any library's standards. The Lilly Library is in the first year of a new off-site storage facility for large collections. In the end, Lilly Library decided that they did not wish to undertake another large collection in the first year of their new off-site facility.

By this time, however, the contacts which eventually resulted in a new home for LAJ, had already begun. In the late 1980s, the University of Wisconsin Library acquired for its Special Collections Department the 8,500-paper collection of British amateur journals (1912 to mid-1970s) assembled by the late Ralph A. L. Breed (1895-1983). Yvonne Schofer, Humanities Bibliographer for the UW Library, had kindly responded to the Historian's *Survey of Institutional Collections of Amateur Journals* (1999) with a description of the Breed collection. When the LAJ Committee chair spoke with her on October 18 concerning LAJ, Ms. Schofer responded with an enthusiastic expression of interest. In addition to the Breed collection of British amateur journals, UW Special Collections has other allied collections, including the collection of “little magazines” originally assembled by Dr. Marvin Sukov of Minneapolis MN and since considerably enlarged by UW library. From May 28 to August 15, 1999, UW Special Collections mounted an exhibit, “On the Margins: An Exhibit of Little Magazines, Amateur Journalism and Works by American Women Writers,” timed to coincide with the July 15-18, 1999 meeting of the Society of the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) hosted by the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America on the Madison UW campus. It is possible to explore the many rich collections held in UW Special Collections on their website: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/SpecialCollections/collections.html>. In addition, the Wisconsin Historical Society, right across the street from UW's Memorial Library (which houses the Special Collections Department), has all the literary papers of former Fossil August Derleth (1909-1971), writer and founder of Arkham House Publishers, including his full correspondence with H. P. Lovecraft,

and an extensive collection of underground newspapers.

In late October, the LAJ Committee breathed a sigh of relief when Mike Horvat informed us that the owner of the Paris Woolen Mill Complex had extended our deadline through the end of calendar year 2004. This reflected the new arrangement to make the annex building housing LAJ and Mike's SF&F collection available for a “test burn” by the Stayton OR fire department in January 2005. At about the same time, Stan Oliner of the LAJ Committee received favorable intelligence from professional sources concerning the condition and operations of the UW Libraries. The UW Libraries Director, Ken Frazier, is known for strong support of Special Collections, and the library has a reputation of making new acquisitions available for use in a timely manner. On October 29, the LAJ Committee chair notified Ms. Schofer of UW Libraries that The Fossils had identified UW Special Collections as the primary candidate for donation of LAJ. The chair requested that UW provide The Fossils with a proposed donation document and asked for assurances relating to retention of non-duplicate materials and willingness to continue collecting current ajay bundles. The Fossils also informed UW of our extension in our Stayton OR quarters through the end of calendar year 2004.

The month of November transpired as UW Special Collections continued to evaluate our proposed donation. At the beginning of November, Bill Venrick featured an account of Jiyani Lawson's visit to LAJ on October 21, 2004, in the electronic journal “AAPA Alert” which Bill conducts on behalf of the American Amateur Press Association. Bill was also kind enough to publish a follow-up written by the LAJ Committee chair which contained the paragraphs:

“So far, we [Fossil LAJ Committee] have developed two excellent institutional candidates to assume responsibility for the collection: University of Wisconsin Special Collections in Madison WI (which already owns the Ralph A. L. Breed collection of British amateur journals) and American Antiquarian Society in Worcester MA (which has the Truman J. Spencer and other amateur journal collections). Wisconsin has offered to take the entire collection; Antiquarian Society would retain only the 19th century portion of the collection and send the 20th century portion of the collection to an institutional partner.

“We have certainly not ruled out the possibility of a new individual curator to succeed Mike

Horvat. This would need to be an individual with an established commitment to amateur journalism, willingness to join The Fossils if not already a member, good health, and the ability to accept and to care for a collection consisting of approximately 300 banker's boxes of material (ca. 15,000 pounds). Any amateur journalist wishing to be considered for this position should apply to a member of the Fossil LAJ Committee or to Fossil President Guy Miller."

Bill Boys kindly ran a reference to our search in "*NAPA E-News*" as well. LAJ Committee dialogue during the month of November ranged far and wide and covered issues including (1) inclusion of Willametta Keffer's correspondence in the donation; (2) inclusion of the nineteenth-century amateur press in the donation; and (3) possible splitting of the Edwin Hadley Smith and Willametta Keffer components on the collection between two donee institutions. The sense of the Committee was that inclusion with LAJ was the best shot at getting Willametta Keffer's correspondence into an institutional library. Stan Oliner and Mike Horvat included this correspondence in their 1990 rescue mission on the basis that the correspondence puts flesh on the otherwise largely anonymous (to society at large) individuals who participate in amateur journalism. The Keffer correspondence also helps put the large female membership in *ajay* into a women's studies context. The Carson CA International Printing Museum was considered as an alternative donee for the nineteenth-century amateur press (once exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute exhibition "The Boy and His Press") but the sense of the Committee was that a specimen amateur press was a useful accompaniment to LAJ, which also includes a memorabilia component. While the idea of splitting LAJ into separate Edwin Hadley Smith and Willametta Keffer components makes some sense because of significant duplication between the collections for the period of Willametta's active involvement in *ajay* (late thirties to late eighties), the sense of the Committee was that LAJ should not be split. (This was the same sense which motivated the Committee to prefer the offer from UW to the offer from Antiquarian Society.) The Keffer collection has riches of its own not duplicated by the Edwin Hadley Smith collection. The existence of duplicate will allow a donee institution (1) to consider holding some material both in bundle and in individual paper form and (2) to cultivate trading relationships with other institutions collecting amateur journals.

UW Special Collections Curator Robin Rider became the central figure in The Fossils' negotiations with UW as the month of November 2004 transpired. On November 23, 2004, the LAJ Committee chair communicated the following information to Ms. Rider by e-mail:

"Subject to time constraints on our removal from the present building in Stayton OR, The Fossils are amenable to any inspection you may wish to conduct of our material. My understanding is that the material is currently 95% boxed. Your inspection could include affixing any color-coded labelling or numbering system you might wish to use to help to identify material. Another advantage of an on-site inspection would be the opportunity to consult with the present curator, Mike Horvat, regarding the organization of the collection."

On-site inspections are standard procedures with most libraries before accepting large proposed donations. Such an inspection protects both donor and donee from unexpected complications once the donation is shipped. (B. Breon Mitchell had informed us that such an inspection would be a necessity if Lilly Library decided to pursue our proposed donation.) With the assistance of Mike and Susan Horvat, arrangements were made for Robin Rider to conduct an on-site inspection of LAJ in Stayton OR on December 1-2, 2004. In the meantime, on November 24, 2004, Ms. Rider furnished to The Fossils an electronic copy of the proposed donation document for review.

The inspection visit on December 1-2 transpired as planned. Mike forewarned Robin Rider that the Paris Woolen Mill complex owner had turned heat off in the annex building at the end of November so she was able to bring the necessary warm clothing. Mike informed the LAJ Committee that the inspection visit went well and that Ms. Rider found that his own labelling of the collection boxes would be sufficient for UW's organizing work. In the meantime, Mike had made contact with University of Oregon Special Collections Director James D. Fox. Mr. Fox viewed both Mike's own SF&F collection and LAJ at the Stayton OR site on December 3. After viewing the collections, Mr. Fox made an on-the-spot offer to accept donation of both, with full responsibility for packing and shipment to be borne by University of Oregon. By Monday December 6, Mike had received an e-mail from Mr. Fox reiterating Oregon's willingness to accept donation of both LAJ and Mike's

SF&F collection. The e-mail commented on the synergy of the two collections and the synergy of both collections with Oregon's existing collections in printing and popular culture. A proposed donation document was promised following a meeting of Oregon library authorities on December 9.

Developments moved very quickly over the next week. UW Special Collections curator Robin Rider confirmed UW's willingness to accept donation of LAJ by telephone on December 8. Lee Hawes was able to provide his fellow LAJ Committee members with some information concerning University of Oregon Libraries. The LAJ Committee chair pointed LAJ Committee members and Fossil Trustees to the websites for both UW and UO Special Collections. An electronic draft donation agreement relating to LAJ was received from UO on December 10 and forwarded to LAJ Committee members and Fossil Trustees. The donation agreement included a written commitment to assume responsibility for packing and shipping LAJ from Stayton OR to UO's Knight Memorial Library in Eugene OR.

The LAJ Committee reported to The Fossil Trustees favorably on UO's last-minute offer over the weekend of December 11-12. The Trustees concurred with the LAJ Committee's recommendation and UO and UW were notified of the decision on Monday December 13. Since UW Special Collections Curator Robin Rider was on vacation the week of December 13-17, the LAJ Committee chair notified UW Libraries Director Ken Frazier on the decision; while expressing disappointment, he extended good wishes to UO on its acquisition. Mike Horvat notified UO Special Collections Director James Fox of the decision on the same day, and Mr. Fox expressed delight that both LAJ and Mike's SF&F collection would be coming to Oregon. On Tuesday December 14, UO indicated that shipping these large collections totalling 600 boxes would begin at 10:30am on Thursday December 16. Startlingly, on Wednesday December 15, Mr. Fox notified Mike and Susan Horvat that UO would have to withdraw its offer after review of staffing and processing costs. A letter sent electronically under the date of December 17 confirmed this decision.

After learning of UO's reversal, the LAJ Committee chair sent a e-mail to UW Libraries Director Ken Frazier informing him of the situation and asking if UW Special Collections was still interested in receiving the donation of LAJ. Fossil President Guy Miller was kind enough to leave a

telephone message with Mr. Frazier the morning of December 16 expressing The Fossils' continued interest in donating LAJ. Mr. Frazier called the LAJ Committee chair later that morning and affirmed UW's interest in receiving LAJ. He also indicated an interest in Mike Horvat's SF&F collection if Mike wished to negotiate on that separate issue. Mike indicated to the LAJ Committee that the University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA) would view his SF&F collection and LAJ on Friday, December 17. This visit resulted in Iowa's acquisition of Mike's SF&F collection. The LAJ Committee received no offer from University of Iowa relating to LAJ.

With Mr. Frazier's reaffirmation of UW's willingness to accept donation of LAJ, the LAJ Committee and The Fossil Trustees now solidified behind the UW acceptance. Based on information provided by Vincent Golden of American Antiquarian Society, The Fossils decided to use Yellow Truck to ship LAJ from Stayton OR to Madison WI. The Horvats' willingness to complete the necessary boxing and taping and to assemble and manage a local loading crew made it possible to use Yellow Truck to ship LAJ. Susan Horvat called the LAJ Committee chair to indicate readiness to proceed on the morning of Monday December 20. UW Special Collections Curator Robin Rider, just returned from vacation, reaffirmed UW's willingness to receive LAJ. A Yellow Truck trailer was dropped at the Paris Woolen Mill annex the evening of Monday December 20 and Mike and Susan Horvat and their crew loaded the truck with the 300 boxes of LAJ on the morning of Tuesday December 21. At 2 p.m. on Tuesday December 21 LAJ left Stayton OR, bound for Madison WI, after a nearly twenty-five year stay under the care of Mike Horvat. Thus LAJ began a journey of almost 2100 miles and a journey into a new era of its history. LAJ was delivered to UW on December 30, 2004. UW staff unloaded the Yellow Truck trailer. A large part of the expenses of moving LAJ was provided by a bequest left by the late Ralph W. Babcock (1914-2003) who thereby benefits his longtime hobby even posthumously; UW also shared in the expenses. The final donation agreement is expected to be executed by The Fossil Trustees in January 2005 and will be published in facsimile in a future number of *The Fossil*.

The collection will be housed temporarily at Steenbock Library because of construction underway in the Memorial Library vaults. After it is organized, it

will be available for use in the Special Collections Reading Room (room 976) of UW Memorial Library at 728 State Street, Madison WI 53706. A collection as large as LAJ will inevitably take some months to organize and to make available for use, and *The Fossil* intends to keep members posted on progress. Fossil members with a specific inquiry can call the UW Special Collections Department at (608) 262-3243.

It is interesting to reflect that LAJ spent about half of its first century with private custodians and half with institutional libraries. If we start counting with Edwin Hadley Smith's 1903 decision to devote full time to organization of his collection of amateur journals, we record periods of private curatorship under Edwin Hadley Smith (1903-1908), Fossil Private Library (Room 1302, 150 Nassau Street, New York NY) (1916-1935), Stan Oliner (1964-1967), and Mike Horvat (1980-2004). We record periods of institutional curatorship under Pratt Institute (Brooklyn NY) (1908-1913), Columbia University (New York NY) (1913-1916), Franklin Institute (Philadelphia PA) (1935-1964), and New York University Library (New York NY) (1967-1980). Franklin Institute was the longest-serving institutional curator at twenty-nine years and Mike Horvat was the longest-serving private curator at twenty-four years. The LAJ Committee chair does not believe he is violating any confidences in relaying UW Special Collections Curator Robin Rider's opinion that The Fossils ought to be very grateful to Mike and Susan Horvat for preserving and increasing such a large collection for so long. The Fossils can surely state: We are grateful!

The LAJ Committee and The Fossil Trustees realize that opinion will be divided concerning the wisdom of the decision which we reached after a very trying six-month process which began with Mike Horvat's communication in July 2004. Bill Venrick's "*AAPA Alert*" carried these words of a veteran amateur journalist:

"I hate to think how many times aj libraries have been accepted by institutions forever only to be dumped a decade or two later. Edwin Hadley Smith did a great job getting the Franklin Institute to accept a collection (I even wrote an article about it for the magazine of the company where I was working at the time), but they dropped it "for lack of space." And probably for lack of interest. It was never on public display as far as I know, so how could anyone really be interested?"

The LAJ Committee hopes that the donation

of LAJ to UW Special Collections will be differentiated from past institutional agreements. The only real association of LAJ with the Franklin Institute was the founding of NAPA in Philadelphia PA in 1876. LAJ probably got into the Franklin Institute only through the clout of Fossil Cyrus H. K. Curtis (1850-1932), who donated \$5 million to construct the building. It was a deposit, not a donation, so Franklin Institute had little motivation to expend any monies on housing or developing the collection. Similarly, the 1967 agreement with New York University Library, while it was a donation and not a deposit, expressly stated that The Fossils would remain responsible for all expenses beyond shelf space. The exact circumstances relating to LAJ's short stays with Pratt Institute (1908-1913) and Columbia University (1913-1916) are probably beyond recovery at this point in time. By way of contrast, The Fossils had no special entree into UW Libraries. From the first, UW Libraries have been interested in LAJ for its own inherent interest and its excellent fit with existing collections. UW Libraries assume all responsibility for the expenses of organizing, maintaining and developing LAJ. The LAJ Committee believes that there is an excellent chance—probably 95% or better—that LAJ will be preserved in UW Special Collections for the next one hundred years or longer.

Donation agreements today do not provide for care in perpetuity because of the uncertainty that any institution can successfully honor such a promise. We do not know what the collecting and preservation paradigms of tomorrow will be. As many Fossils will remember, the project to record LAJ on microfilm in 1980-82 was unsuccessful. Simply put, we picked the wrong contractor. However, Bill Haywood's and Jeff Jenning's dream of making LAJ widely available in an alternative medium may be realized more rapidly than we can imagine at the present moment. Google, Inc. has just completed negotiations to create digital images of tens of millions of books in five university libraries. How long will it be before electronically cataloged digital images of LAJ will be available to ajays and scholars around the world? We do not know. The LAJ Committee can only state that we have done our best to find a good curator for a large, specialized collection within a narrow time framework. For the short term, the objective of the UW librarians will surely be to make major portions of LAJ available for use quickly. Accomplishing this objective for the Keffer component will clearly require more time and work than the

Edwin Hadley Smith component. The LAJ Committee and The Fossil Trustees can only express the hope that we have chosen wisely. History will be our judge. We wish we might have the benefit of knowing how things will stand with LAJ in 2104, but we must leave that to our successors.

#### EDITOR'S NOTES

Ken Faig, Jr.

The transfer of Library of Amateur Journalism from Mike and Susan Horvat to the University of Wisconsin Library dominates this issue. I thought the membership would want timely information concerning this important development. Chairing the LAJ Committee was a lot of work but I benefited from the contributions of all the Committee members (Lee Hawes, Mike Horvat, and Stan Oliner) and the support of The Fossil Trustees. I am certainly glad that our work has now reached a successful conclusion.

Some excellent material is already scheduled for forthcoming issues of *The Fossil*. We should be reviewing new collections of writing by amateur journalists Samuel Loveman (1887-1976) and W. Paul Cook (1880-1948) (aka "Willis Tete Crossman"). I have written a gastronomical tour of the Fossils' annual banquets 1904-1950 which I hope will be of interest to the membership. I'm hoping as well to have some member interviews like the one with Ralph W. Babcock that *The Fossil* carried in 2001.

In the last analysis, *The Fossil* belongs to you the members and your interest or lack thereof will determine whether it flourishes or fades in the years to come. *The Fossil* cannot and will not become the editor's personal vanity press. Such a destiny would not befit the breadth of knowledge and experience in the amateur journalism hobby which our members share.

Was there a particular amateur journalist who influenced your own experience in the hobby? *The Fossil* would love to have your recollections of that person.

Is there a particular association or period of activity that is most prominent in your memory? *The Fossil* would love to have your memoir on this subject, whether the subject be AAPA in the 1970s, UAPA in the 1980s, amateur letterpress printing 1950-2000—wherever your interests lie.

Do you have strong opinions concerning the

current state of the amateur journalism hobby or its possible futures? *The Fossil* would welcome your views.

In the last analysis, *The Fossil* belongs to you the members. Our numbers may be small. Our average age may be high. Our stamina may not be what it was twenty or thirty years ago. However, our love of the amateur journalism hobby remains undiminished. *The Fossil* is one small token of that love.

#### FOSSIL OFFICERS 2004-2005

President, Guy Miller, 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield OH 45503-1209, (937) 390-3499, <guy@mailstation.com>

Vice President, Leland M. Hawres, Jr., 5009 Dickens Ave., Tampa FL 33629-7514, (813) 837-1314, <lmhawesjr@earthlink.net>

Secretary-Treasurer, Stan Oliner, 1278 Dexter Street, Denver CO 80220, (303) 355-9630, <soliner@yahoo.com>

Official Editor & Historian, Ken Faig, Jr., 2311 Swainwood Drive, Glenview, IL 60025-2741, (847) 657-7409, <moshasuk@interaccess.com>

Librarian & Custodian, Martin M. (Mike) Horvat, P.O. Box 741, Stayton, OR 97383, (503) 769-6088, <acquisitions@APPAlibrary.org>

Membership Chair, Martha E. Shivvers, 1526 165th Avenue, Knoxville, IA 50138-8939, (641) 842-3212

#### Board of Trustees

Jack Swenson, Chair; J. F. Killie; Guy Miller

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This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, Inc., a non-profit organization whose purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as "Amateur Journalism" and to foster the practices of amateur journalism. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the

1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually—\$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to *The Fossil* without privileges of membership is \$10. Make remittances payable to The Fossils, Inc., and mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.