

## **THE FOSSIL**

*Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism*  
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### **A HISTORIC MOMENT**

#### **President's Report**

**Guy Miller**

Yes, a historic moment it is. Our first election under our new set of by-laws has been successfully conducted and the officers have taken their places. As outlined, the election was for three members to compose the Board of Trustees. All other offices have become appointive. In addition, the position of Vice-President has been eliminated. All officers will serve for a two-year term. In 2010 only two positions on the Board will be open: the incumbent President will remain as carry over but will relinquish his title, and the new Board will proceed to choose one among them once more for President for 2010-12. That's the "game plan," so to speak.

On August 4, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson delivered to the President the results of the election:

Number of ballots received = 21

Louise Lincoln	1
Danny L. McDaniel	8
Guy Miller	18: Elected
Stan Oliner	18: Elected
Jack Swenson	17: Elected

Immediately upon receipt of the report, I called upon the newly elected members to give to the Secretary-Treasurer their choices for the new President to serve for the 2-year term 2008-2010. Their choice was that I should be that person. And so, I begin another stint at the end of which I will have had a ten-year try plus an earlier term (1994-95). Hopefully, by 2010 all of you will have had enough of me and, mercifully, put me out to pasture!

In the meantime, I am very pleased to tell you that everyone I have asked has agreed to work along with the Board for the next two years: Ken Faig, Jr. will continue as our Official Editor, Tom Parson agrees to stay on as Secretary-Treasurer; Sean Donnelly remains as our Historian; Mike Horvat accepted our call to continue into his 29th year as our Librarian; Dave Tribby stays at his post as Web Master; Martha Shivvers will assist Tom Parson as Membership Chairman. In addition,

Lee Hawes stays as the Chairman of the Russell L. Paxton Award committee. And Gold Composing Stick Chairman Stan Oliner will be happy to hear that I have been able to fill his request for a female AAPA member in the person of Linda Donaldson. Tom Parson makes up the third person on this committee.

So, there you are. Looks like a promising two years coming up, doesn't it!

## **IN MEMORIAM: STANLEY E. COFFIN**

### **Guy Miller**

When Stan Coffin joined with newly-weds Bill and Tillie Haywood, Jeff Jennings, Willametta Turnepseed (later, Keffer), and this tag-a-long to make up the Adventurous Six at NAPA's 1944 Boston Convention, he had already been a member of NAPA for a decade, had attended the 1942 New York meet along with father George, and at 27 was in his second year at Columbia University for advanced study of journalism and allied subjects. We might observe that Stan was so involved in "doing the town" as part of this congenial group that he missed his train back to New York and had to stay over until the next day. He didn't act as though he were sorry, though.

Stan was introduced to NAPA in 1933 at the age of 16 by father George, himself a member for hardly a year. Records show that Stan's credential was a paper entitled *The Typewriter*. A cursory search through the pages of *The National Amateur* fails to reveal details of this number or a record of Stan's activities. He obviously did contribute in some way, because convention reports show that his proxy ballots were accepted at the annual meetings. But, one has to remember that, although from 1930 NAPA had some kind of mailing services, yet many journals during the '30's and early '40's were privately circulated. Moreover, in 1934 a member had only to have "at least one contribution of prose or poetry to or issued one number of an amateur paper." In addition, "Publication must circulate among at least 100 members of NAPA or in kindred organizations." The member was required to furnish the Recorder proof of activity. In an announcement in a recent NAPA *E-Mail News* (edited by NAPA Sec'y-treas. Bill Boys), Stan's wife Margaret disclosed that, besides a collection of bundles, Stan also leaves behind a press of some kind which Margaret says he got from a member in New York years ago. So, Stan could have been both a contributor and a publisher.

The activity of Dr. George Coffin (both of Stan's parents were ministers) is easier to trace, for his credential "White Cocoon" and subsequent poetry appeared in the well-respected *Ripples from Lake Champlain* issued by Dr. Coffin's friend and sponsor Earl E. Kelley, NAPA president in 1931. Further examples of his poetry and essays can be found in issues of *The Fossil*.

Dr. Coffin joined The Fossils in 1954 on the invitation of Edward H. Cole, President of the NAPA in 1912 and of the Fossils during the term 1947-48. Later (1959), Stan also took membership in The Fossils and at the 1969 meeting was a candidate for 2nd vice president but not elected. He seems to have dropped membership shortly thereafter. Dr. George Coffin was more active. At the reunions which he attended, he served on committees, was called upon to give the invocations, and in 1961 was selected as a vice president along with Verle Heljeson. A last reference to Dr. Coffin was at the 1969 July Reunion: "The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by 1st Vice President

[Albert] Keshen, using the gavel and block donated by former Fossil Coffin.” Dr. Coffin had presented the base of Vermont marble in 1960 and also, at a later date, the gavel which was fashioned from Vermont maple. The final fate of these items is not known.

In the meantime, both Stan and father George remained active in NAPA and attended several more conventions after the New York 1942 and Boston 1944 affairs. Stan appeared with Margaret at the 1952 Roanoke Convention and again with Margaret at the 1957 Washington DC meet. His last convention was at Frederick MD in 1966. By this time, Stan was a highly regarded NSA code-breaker. Said Stan, “There was never a code I couldn't solve.”

At the time of his death on January 7, 2008, at the age of 91, Stan was busy on Library of Congress research for a book about George Washington and was about to observe his 75th year in amateur journalism.

References: *The Mailer*, vol. 6, no. 1, July 1944; *The National Amateur*; *The Fossil*; *NAPA E-Mail News*, July 30, 2008; [Washingtonpost.com](http://Washingtonpost.com), “NSA Analyst Stanley Coffin, 91.” *The Fossils congratulate the Amalgamated Printers' Association (APA) on its fiftieth anniversary. The fiftieth anniversary Wayzgoose was held in West Springfield, Massachusetts in June 2008. The Fossils thank APA Archivist David L. Kent for his account of the 2008 Wayzgoose and for allowing us to reprint his note on the origin of the term “Wayzgoose.”*

## **WAYZGOOSE 2008**

### **David L. Kent, Archivist, APA**

The purpose of the 150-member Amalgamated Printers' Association is to foster interest and excellence in the art of letterpress printing, so its aim is quite different from such aspiring writers' groups as NAPA and AAPA. However, there is an overlap in the membership, for example from NAPA Ralph Babcock and Harold Segal, and from AAPA Mike O'Connor [founder of APA, to AAPA, back to APA], Les Boyer, Fred Liddle [originator of the APA annual in 1971]. For years there have been regional and national wayzgoose gatherings, to which printers of any association, or none, are invited. In 2008 John Barrett of West Springfield, Massachusetts, agreed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of APA at the national wayzgoose he was hosting June 5-8.

Following visits to Old Deerfield Village and Sturbridge Village, and an open house at Letterpress Things, the usual swap and sell on the 7th whetted appetites for the stealth collectors' delight, the wayzgoose auction. The legendary duo of Dave Churchman and Dave Peat whipped the group into a frenzy, which found novices bidding against themselves. Following the group photo, a splendid banquet was served. Rich Hopkins presented a slide show on the history of APA 1958-1975, followed by David Macfarlane's speculation on the place of letterpress in a computer age.

Joining these, I presented the APA Tramp Printer award. As I recall it: “APA has members from all the continental states, with nine exceptions at last count, from Australia (Charles Klensch), Austria (George Hamilton), Canada, England. All from differing political, educational, social, religious, and economic backgrounds, some of whom would never find occasion to speak to some of the others. But we have one interest in common—letterpress—despite these sharp differences. To illustrate: On one hand, we had Lillian Worley, a cultured and very sophisticated woman, fully aware of the social graces. She was responsible for what has become the APA archives; she had

been the backbone of many gatherings of the Goose. And on the other hand, we have Guy Botterill [some laughter], born and bred in Baltimore. So here's my story. This is a true story. Or part of it is true. Or that part is probably true. Or it should be true.

“I attended the Goose a few years ago. When I walked into the hospitality suite, I saw Lillian seated, her husband Parker standing by. I had heard that Lillian was upset by something Guy had said, so I went out onto the veranda where I found Guy smoking. I explained this and said, ‘Guy, you know I would never ask you to apologize for anything you ever said, but could you, ah, come back and say something to Lillian?’ ‘Sure,’ he said, and flipped away his cigarette. I came back into the room and caught Lillian's eye. When she saw me, her face broke into that lovely smile of hers. But when she caught sight of Guy coming in behind me, her facial expression changed: it was as though she had suddenly seen a snake. This didn't slow Guy down a bit. He walked over to her and said, ‘Lillian, baby,’ [considerable laughter] ‘Dave tells me that something I said has upset you. If that's the case, I want sincerely to apologize to you, because I wouldn't want anything I said to offend or upset you.’ Lillian raised her head. She lifted her arm and took his hand in hers, and looked right at him, and said, ‘Guy....Thank you. I accept your apology.’ Then Guy went his way, and Lillian went her way, and the two of them never spoke to each other, ever again.

“Now the board has unanimously named Guy Raymond Botterill, Jr., as APA Tramp Printer. I did everything in my power to persuade Guy to come here, at least for the banquet, but he just wouldn't do it. So I wrote and asked whether he would write a few lines by way of appreciation of the award. He sent this card, asking me to read it to you tonight. I have no Baltimore accent, but this is Guy: ‘I have greatly enjoyed my 35 years as a member of the Amalgamated Printers' Association. I am very honored to have been made an APA Tramp Printer. Thank you all very, very much. Cheers - Guy.’ So now Guy joins the company of the other current APA Tramp Printers who have contributed so much to preserving letterpress: Parker Worley and Neil Shaver. Thank you.” [an intense burst of applause].

After the banquet, a group of us sat telling Botterill stories for two hours (Churchman, Hopkins, Rick von Holdt, Peat). A poster was taken, on which everyone wrote inappropriate comments, destined for Guy. Then the Kit-Kat Club of APA (Steve Saxe, Churchman, and others) continued discussing matters of such moment as the identity of D. B. Cooper, the survival of the Lindbergh baby, the motivations of Hieronymus Bosch, and whether a packet of Botterill joke cards should be wrapped in plain brown paper and offered at the 2009 wayzgoose in Iowa. Just before midnight, a handsome lady dressed in no more than two handkerchiefs leaned in the doorway and invited us all to party with her at a strip bar down the street called Wrinkles. We shot furtive glances at each other and evidently decided it was probably for the best if we stayed put. But if Guy had been there....

## **THE WORD**

**David L. Kent. Archivist. APA**

*(Reprinted from The Word, a keepsake for guests at the Colonial Wayzgoose in Concord, Massachusetts, written and printed at the Vernal Equinox 1985 by D. L. and Carol Kent of Erespin Press.)*

As described by Moxon in 1683, a “way-goose” is an entertainment given by a master printer to his workmen about Bartholomewtide (24th August), marking the beginning of the season of working by candlelight. It later came to mean an annual festivity held in summer by the employees of a printing establishment, consisting of a dinner and usually an excursion into the country.

But why the word “way-goose”? Nathaniel Bailey's Dictionary (5th edition, 1731) defines “wayz” as a bundle of straw, and “wayzgoose” as a stubble-goose, an entertainment given to journeymen at the beginning of winter. Bailey is not mistaken, for the word “wase” appears as early as 1375 with the meaning of a wisp or bundle of straw or reeds. So a Wayzgoose is a Stubble-Goose; and why a Stubble-Goose?

In 1655 Christopher Bennet issued an enlarged edition of *Healths Improvement or, Rules comprizing and discovering the nature, method and manner of preparing all sorts of food used in this nation...* Written by that ever famous Thomas Muffett. And little Mr. Muffett (1553-1604) there recorded the opinion, “A young stuble goose feeding itself fat in wheaten fields, is the best of all.” That the printer of this work, one Thomas Newcomb, seized the image and the occasion to name what is known yet today as the Wayzgoose we have to conjecture.

To those who strenuously resist such homely etymology, we shall have to say that yes, it is possible that the word “Wayzgoose” derives from the Latin “res cuius,” translated roughly “their thing.” But, to each as he may prefer.

## **NAPA 2008**

### **Bill Boys**

*(Reprinted from NAPA Email News (vol. 8 no. 1) for July 19, 2008, by permission of the editor.)*

#### *July 15 - Convention Opens in Townsend, Tenn.*

Twenty-nine members and guests were on hand this first day. Unfortunately, President Arie Koelewyn was called away this morning before the opening of the convention, due to his father's serious condition with advanced pancreatic cancer. Vice-President Bill Volkart assumed the chair, and appointed Jake Warner as President pro tem. (July 17 update: we learned with sadness that Arie's father passed away on July 16. We extend our condolences to him and the Koelewyn family.)

Those here so far are: Marti & Guy Abell, Gary Bossler, Bill & Ruth Boys, Becky Hamm, Jim Hedges, Lisa Holt, Gerald & Judy Jenny, Michelle Klosterman, Arie Koelewyn, Louise Lincoln, Jon McGrew, Ty Pattison, Harold & Gussie Segal, Harold Shive, Jack Visser, Bill & Gigi Volkart, Alice Warner, Dave & Melody Warner, Jake & Leah Warner, and Tom Whitbread. John Anthony came in the evening to participate in the desktop publishing forum.

#### *Convention Takes Two Initial Actions About The National Amateur Clearing House*

The status of the National Amateur Clearing House was one item of discussion. Alice

Warner agreed to investigate the possibility of obtaining approval to make it a graduate study project to digitize the entire corpus of *The National Amateur* in her upcoming graduate school work in Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University. In the meantime, Dave and Melody Warner agreed to store the nine boxes from the Clearing House, which have been cared for by Jackie Grissom ever since the death of Vic Moitoret, her father, the last Custodian of the Clearing House. This will give Jackie back the space she has kindly used to store the boxes, and will give NAPA time to discover whether Alice can obtain approval for her idea of a graduate study project. Depending on the outcome of that, we can be at a better point to decide whether to continue the Clearing House or not.

#### *July 16 - Slate of Officers Elected*

The officers for 2008-9 will be:

- President, Jack Visser, Wooster, Ohio
- Vice-President, Bill Volkart, Amelia, Ohio
- Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Boys, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Official Editor, Arie Koelewyn, East Lansing, Mich.
- Recorder, Marti Abell, Rome, Pa.
- Executive Judge (3-year term 2008-11), Guy Miller, Springfield, Ohio

#### *2009 and 2010 Convention Sites*

Invited by Stan Oliner and Tom Parson, Denver was easily elected as the 2009 convention site.

In the only contested election, Parkersburg, W.Va., was chosen as the proposed convention city in 2010, coming in ahead of Nashville, Tenn. Harold Shive declined to host an original bid to convene in his hometown of Pennsboro, W.Va., but agreed to co-host in Parkersburg with Gary Bossler.

#### *Three Amendments to the Constitution Pass*

Members may now serve on multiple committees; the duty of the Executive Judges in regard to approving the budget for *The National Amateur* was clarified; and the President was designated as a secondary signatory on all Association financial accounts. All three amendments passed by wide margins.

#### *Resolution Passes to Appoint Exploratory Committee to Meet with AAPA*

Discussion on the pros and cons of a merger or at least a closer relationship with the American Amateur Press Association (AAPA) led to a unanimous convention resolution directing the President to appoint a committee to meet with the AAPA to explore the idea of a simultaneous or contiguous convention.

*July 17 - Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Giving  
Absentee Voters Ballot Secrecy*

Members will vote next year whether to extend ballot secrecy to absentee voters by introducing an inner envelope which must contain the absentee voter's signature, as opposed to the present requirement of having the signature on the ballot itself.

*Banquet Speaker Describes Sequoyah;  
Notes Long-Missing Cherokee Printing Press*

Charles Rhodarmer, Director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, described the life of Sequoyah, with special emphasis on his invention of a syllabary for the Cherokee language, which gave him his justly-deserved fame, and the subsequent founding of a Cherokee press in northern Georgia, which published a newspaper as well as various books, and produced a much higher literacy rate among the Cherokee than among Georgia whites at the time. The fate of the actual printing press is unknown, but possibly it was removed and put into service at another Georgia town to produce an English-language newspaper. But even if so, from there its fate is unknown. Could it be sitting in someone's barn? Was it junked? Charlie would like to discover its fate, and would especially love to learn if it were still in existence somewhere.

*2007 Laureate Awards*

President Arie Koelewyn emailed the results of the Laureate competition to the convention today:

- Miscellaneous Prose: Judge, Dawn Martin, Editor, Michigan State University Press.
  - Laureate: Ann Vrooman, "Bringing Grandpa Home," in *The Boxwooder*, no. 453, April 2007.
  - Honorable Mention: Richard Orr, "41 Plus 41 Is 82," in *ORRiginal Thoughts*, no. 120, June 2007.
- Editorial Comment: Judge, Eric Freedman, Professor of Journalism, Michigan State University.
  - Laureate: Marsha Barrett, "Personal Observations: Illegal Aliens," in *Minor Review*, January 2007.
  - Honorable Mention: J. G. Hidden, "26 Lead Soldiers," in *The Garrette Philosopher*.
- Printing: Judge, Mark Barbour, Director, International Printing History Museum, Carson, California.
  - Laureate: Jake Warner, *The Boxwooder*.
  - Honorable Mention: Harold Shive, *Impressions By Hal*.
- Poetry: Judge, Ken Faig
  - Laureate: Arthur Graham, "Redundant Handset Type," in *The Boxwooder*, September 2007.
  - Honorable Mention: Louise Lincoln, "Flawed Tragedy," in *The Kitchen Stove*, February 2007.
- History of Amateur Journalism: Judge, Ken Faig
  - Laureate: Jake Warner, "Massillon: Convention 132," in *The Boxwooder*, August 2007.
  - Honorable Mention: Guy Miller, "The Spirit is With Us—Welcome to Massillon," in

*Lamplighter*, September 2007.

Arie reported that results for the Art, Fiction, and Editing categories were still outstanding at convention time.

*Russel L. Paxton 2007-8 Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism  
Goes to Bill Boys*

I am honored to be the recipient of this award by The Fossils, in view of the distinguished list of previous honorees. I am grateful to The Fossils award selection committee for their kindness. The plaque will have an honored place in my printshop, and I hope that there will be many more honorees receiving this award in the future history of our hobby.

*Post-Convention Gathering and Picnic*

Twenty-five of the attendees were in Knoxville at the home of Bill & Ruth Boys for this event. Among the number were new members Hazel Jones and Margaret Kuring, who had not been able to attend the convention itself, as well as Juanita Murphy, a guest from the Creative Writing Group at the O'Connor Senior Center in Knoxville. Thus, the total attendance at one part or another of this convention was thirty-two.

*(The Fossil thanks Bill Boys for permission to reprint his excellent account of NAPA's Townsend convention. The NAPA and AAPA e-mail newsletters together represent a tremendous vehicle for rapid communication of important news of the amateur journalism field. Responsibility for the AAPA e-mail newsletter has recently passed from Bill Venrick to Ivan Snyder.)*

**CONDIE AND THE JUVENILE PORTFOLIO**

**James M. Beck**

*(reprinted from The Fossil vol. 3 whole no. 9 for April 1907)*

When I was an amateur journalist, from 1874 to 1878, it was the common belief that the first amateur journal ever published in this country was the *Juvenile Port-Folio* and that its youthful publisher and editor was one Thomas G. Condie. The truth of this was generally assumed and in the little histories of the fraternity, which were published from time to time, Condie was always referred to as the "father of amateur journalism." No one at that time ever questioned the tradition and yet no one, to my recollection, ever gave any facts to sustain it. In 1878, in an address before the Kesytone Amateur Journalists Association, of Philadelphia, I questioned the truth of the tradition and argued that it was wholly improbable that in the infancy of American literature, when there were few literary magazines of any kind and literature as a distinct profession was almost unknown in this country, that any amateur journal in the true sense of the word existed. Unfortunately for my reasoning, I have recently found that tradition may be reliable, for at the recent sale of the library of

Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>, I was fortunate enough to purchase a full file of the *Juvenile Port-Folio* and have found that the tradition was in all respects accurate. An examination of this file has resulted in a number of interesting discoveries which I think the “fossils” should enjoy with me.

From this file and from some scattered contemporary records I have been able to ascertain much of interest with reference to the personality of Condie. He was born in Philadelphia in 1797. His full name was Thomas Gray Condie. He was the son of a bookbinder named Thomas Condie, and to his father he owed his literary aspirations. The elder Condie himself had printed a professional magazine in 1797 called the *Philadelphia Monthly Magazine*. It lasted only a year and is interesting as containing the first extended biographical sketch of Washington. It also contained a graphic description of the terrible yellow fever plague, which in 1798, as previously in 1793, visited Philadelphia and more than decimated its inhabitants. Probably to this plague and the paralysis of trade which resulted was attributed the short life of the elder Condie's magazine.

When the younger Condie was fifteen years of age he commenced the publication of the *Juvenile Port-Folio*. He had entered the University of Pennsylvania some time in 1812 and from this fact and the inherent evidence of his periodical it is clear that he was young man of more than average culture. He subsequently graduated from the University and received the degree of A.M., but his magazine, which continued from October 17, 1812, to November 23, 1816, was therefore published during his collegiate studies at the University. Curiously enough, I have not found in the four volumes of the *Port-Folio* any reference either to the University or to his college life.

The ambition of the project must be measured by the conditions of the times. That period was the very beginning of American literature as a distinct profession. While the newspapers contained much literary matter there were few distinctive literary periodicals. One of the few was *The Port-Folio*, which was commenced in 1801 and was published by Joseph Dennie until his death in 1812. As the *Port-Folio* was designed for older readers, Condie named his periodical, which was intended exclusively for the youth of Philadelphia, the *Juvenile Port-Folio*. He commenced its publication on October 17, 1812, and continued it, without a break, each week, until November 23, 1816. I question whether this record has ever been surpassed in the records of amateur journalism.

The paper was called the *Juvenile Port-Folio and Literary Miscellany*, and it was dedicated “to the instruction and amusement of youth.” It was published each Saturday, the price being 12 1/2 cents per month, payable in advance. The young editor was sufficiently ambitious to announce with his first number that at the close of each year a title page and index would also be published, together with a list of subscribers; and this promise he carried out, for the four volumes are carefully indexed and the subscription lists attached show for the first year over 600 subscribers, among whom was the then Secretary of the Treasury. It was a four page periodical, measuring 8 1/2 inches long by 5 1/2 inches wide, and containing two columns to a page.

I wish space permitted me to recite the opening editorial, which is addressed “To the Juvenile Public.” It is written in the ornate English of Dr. Johnson, from which no one of that period wholly escaped, with the exception of Benjamin Franklin, who in this, as in many respects, anticipated the more simple and lucid English of our day, as compared with the turgid, ornate and

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker (1843-1916), Governor of Pennsylvania (1903-07).

pompous style of the Eighteenth Century. With this limitation, however, Condie's claim to literary ability was not inconsiderable, for his English is always excellent for an under-graduate. Thus he says in his opening editorial:

“In order, therefore, to make up for his own deficiency (‘the inexperience of youth’ to which he had apologetically referred), he respectfully solicits the favor and assistance of such of the literary youth as may have time and inclination to favor him with their communications. He has also the promise of a few gentlemen of polite taste to condescend their aid, ‘to diffuse elegant and instructive literature, to sooth trembling merit, and to ROUSE AND FOSTER INFANT GENIUS.’”

The capitals are Condie's. After stating his purpose to make his paper a source of “edification and amusement” for the youth of his day, he adds, quite in the style of Dr. Johnson:

“Besides the more general subjects of literature, its pages will always be open to such extracts of popular interest as may be judicious and entertaining; also a general selection of rare anecdotes, points of wit, brilliant repartee, &c. Our purpose will be to render this department, lively without licentiousness, brilliant without tinsel, and elegant with elaboration.”

Upon these lines he built his little journal, which differed radically from amateur journals of to-day, there being then no amateur politics or personal quarrels with rival editors, to fill up the pages. The last page of each number was devoted to original poems, most of which imitated the styles of Pope, Swift and Dryden. From this plan, which was obviously modelled on the literary periodicals of his day, he never departed, and in his address to his readers, on the completion of his first volume, he indulged himself in Johnsonese with the self-complacent reflection that the volume would

“form a plenteous intellectual field in which both the serious and the gay may cull from the flowers of literature which adorn it, such as will improve the heart and regale and exhilarate the fancy.”

In this address he refers to the death of his father and to the aid which the elder Condie has been to him in his ambitious venture, and he also especially recognizes “the great support he has received” from the “fairest of creation, last and best,” and attributes to “their glowing pencils the finest specimens of prose” and “many a wreath of native poesy twined by their delicate hands.” He refers to the reputation which his little paper had already established in Philadelphia and hopes that it will continue to be “a brilliant satellite to that great planet in the literary system from which it derives its name.” As stated, this referred to the *Port-Folio*, which was at that time published for older readers, by Dennie.

At the close of the first quarter Condie wrote an editorial, acknowledging the public support which he had received. His acknowledgement is interesting not only because of its characteristic literary style but especially because of the use of the term “Amateur,” which is probably its first use in connection with juvenile journalism. He said:

“The reception it has met with, is beyond his (the Editor's) expectations. The subscription roll being not less distinguished by respectability of character, than by its numbers; it is embellished with a brilliant assemblage of Polite Beauty, Literary Taste, Liberal Opulence, and an emulous Phalanx of the Juvenile *Amateurs* of both sex; it is to their indulgence, more than to the merits of the Editor, that the work is indebted for its increasing circulation; of this partiality, he humbly solicits a continuance, while, by unremitting attention and perseverance in its literary improvement, he hopes to give more satisfaction.”

The index to the first volume shows a very wide range of subjects, chiefly referring to moral questions and the praise of “the fairest of creation.” Beyond a few references to Washington and to the naval heroes of the war of 1812, the *Juvenile Port-Folio* had no reference to the great political events of the day. It closely imitated in its contents the *Spectator*, the *Rambler* and other periodicals of the Eighteenth Century, and the influence of Addison and Steele in prose and essays and Pope, Swift and Dryden in poetic effusions clearly dominated the taste of the youthful editor and that of his contributors. The book illustrates the great difference between boys of that time and the present. They were then more serious-minded and, from our standpoint, more priggish. The love of athletic sport or outdoor adventure seemed to have no hold upon them. This is not surprising when their only literature were books of the Sanford and Merton variety, and they caught from the stilted times in which they lived an introspective moral spirit which led them to moralize ceaselessly on the beauties of frugality, chastity, honor, etc. The spirit of moral didacticism runs through all four volumes. The hero of the little novelettes was apt to be a Tom Jones, and the heroine a simple-minded Amelia. No theme was more interesting to our great grandparents than the betrayal of feminine innocence.

In his address, which precedes the second volume, Condie says:

“that no work of the same nature, in this city, ever received so respectable a patronage from liberal and ingenious youth of both sexes; they deem it their peculiar property and many take a very great interest in its success.”

Apparently this was more than an editorial boast, for from time to time he refers to contributions which were declined for lack of merit, and these were apparently considerable in number. Indeed his paper seems to have attracted more than local attention, for the list of subscribers contained a number of names in other states of the Union as far north as Boston and as far south as Savannah.

To those of us who have had no experience, as boys, in the publication of a paper, the marvel is that, without any break in its continuity, a fifteen year old boy could have commenced and continued this publication for four years. It appears from the second volume, published on April 30, 1814, that for a time the publishing department had been supervised by other hands, but that at that time he had again assumed the publishing department, and he states that his increased circulation will “preclude the possibility of finishing the delivery of each number on the day of publication.”

The *Port-Folio* was probably not only the first and longest-lived amateur journal, but it was also one of the most, and possibly the most successful, financially. Commencing with a subscription list of 600 for the first volume, the last volume had 1,100 subscribers. Among the subscribers can be noted many prominent Philadelphia families, among others the then Secretary of the Treasury, Dallas.<sup>2</sup> Assuming that none of these were deadheads, each paid \$1.50 per year, a total of \$1,650, which in those days was no inconsiderable sum. It probably gave Condie a gross income which was easily equivalent in our day to at least twice the amount. As there were no advertisements, this was apparently the sole source of income. How much of this was consumed by the expense of the periodical is of course a matter of conjecture. Paper was probably higher, but upon the other hand the expense of printing may have been less. The supposition is reasonable, however, that the young publisher received a substantial net income, for those days, from his periodical.

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<sup>2</sup> Alexander J. Dallas (1759-1817), Secretary of the Treasury (1814-16) under President James Madison.

He was certainly well-satisfied with his venture, for in his preface to the fourth and last volume of the *Juvenile Port-Folio* he stated his intention to enlarge his periodical and change its character from a juvenile magazine to one for all classes of readers. The new periodical was to be called the *Parlour Companion*. His introduction to the fourth volume written after its conclusion, records his disappointment at the failure of the public to respond to his call for subscriptions to a more ambitious literary periodical. Either due to this cause or because of a change in his plans, he apparently abandoned his purpose, for I can find no record that the *Parlour Companion* was ever published, while the *Juvenile Port-Folio* suddenly terminated its exceptionally successful existence with the termination of the fourth volume. This may have been attributed to the evil times then prevailing. The war of 1812 was then in progress and business was paralyzed. The paralysis of public credit was so great that when President Madison attempted to float a loan of \$20,000,000, to keep the army in the field, he was obliged to offer 7 percent interest and a bonus of 20 percent on the capital; and even then the popular subscription was a complete failure. Fortunately for the country, Stephen Girard, the Philadelphia banker, took the entire loan and saved the credit of his adopted country. Probably the universal distress which these events reflect had its effect upon Condie's plans. Another and equally plausible explanation is the fact that the youthful editor suddenly determined to abandon journalism for the bar, for he was admitted to the Philadelphia bar on September 12, 1818. As he must necessarily have studied two years, it is clear that he commenced the study of law about the time that he terminated his journalistic career.

To those of us who have made similar attempts at amateur journalism, it is interesting to conjecture how Condie made such a success of his journalistic venture. So far as literary contributions were concerned, he never seemed to be at a loss and this is the more remarkable, as few of the contributions were printed over any name. They were either anonymous, or some classic *nom de plume* was adopted by the contributors. Many of the anecdotes he doubtless obtained from contemporary literature, but the short stories, the occasional serial novels, the moral essays, the poems, were all apparently contributed by the young ladies and gentlemen of Philadelphia. Under his publisher's notice, after stating that his paper was published weekly "at 22 Carter's Alley, opposite Mr. Girard's bank," appeared each week the seductive invitation "where a letter box is placed for literary communications." Evidently the young people with literary aspirations at that time were less disposed to parade their authorship, for, just as young Franklin, as stated in his autobiography, stealthily crept by night to drop his first essays of literature in the letter box of his brother's printing shop, similarly the young people of Philadelphia, when the Nineteenth Century was in its "teens," apparently slipped under the cover of night up Carter's Alley to drop their essays, poems and novelettes into that wonderful letter box.

The "fossils" will, however, wonder how he ever secured over one thousand subscribers. Not many amateur journals have had a paid subscription list of such a number. Estimating Philadelphia's population at 40,000, and allowing for the large families then prevalent, the households of Philadelphia may be roughly approximated at 7,000. All of his subscribers, with the exception of about 50, were Philadelphians. Apparently, therefore, he had, out of every seven homes in Philadelphia, at least one subscriber. Eliminating the poor and the illiterate—always the majority in any community—it would seem equally probably that a majority of the cultivated homes must have taken the *Juvenile Port-Folio*. We get an inkling how this was accomplished by the following advertisement, which occasionally appeared in the *Port-Folio*:

“Wanted, an active young lad to solicit subscribers for the *Juvenile Port-Folio*, to whom a liberal recompense will be given.”

Apparently a house to house canvass brought the result and made possible a successful weekly publication for over four years. Assuredly the young man who, in the midst of his collegiate duties, showed so much literary ability and business capacity must have been a man of no small parts, and the question naturally suggests itself as to the remainder of his career.

All that we know of Condie's further career is that after practicing law for sixteen years he died at the age of thirty-eight years. Whether he was as successful as a practicing lawyer as he had been as an editor is a matter of conjecture. Success in one field does not argue success in the other; and yet, it is difficult to believe that one who at the unstable time of life continued a weekly publication for over four years could have failed in any profession, with the persistence, fidelity, application and industry which his journalistic career unquestionably shows.

It is fitting that in Condie's city the present National Amateur Press Association should have been formed, and if the facts now disclosed had been known then, perhaps the faithful, who journeyed to Philadelphia in the Centennial year, might have found somewhere in Christ Church or St. Peter's Churchyards the mound, under which rest the remains of one, whose name after nearly a century is still preserved in the annals of amateur journalism.

### **TO THE READERS OF THE JUVENILE PORT-FOLIO**

**Thomas G. Condie, Jun.**

*[upon Completion of Volume One, December 11, 1813]*

The Editor would be wanting in duty, to his numerous patrons, and to himself, were he to permit his *First Volume*, to go into the world, without respectfully expressing his sincere gratitude for the very liberal encouragement with which the work has been honoured, and which far exceeds his highest expectations; for as far as he has been able to learn, wherever the work has been received, it has met with very universal approbation.—The first number was issued to *Three Hundred* subscribers only, which in the course of the year have increased to upwards of *Six Hundred*, and were he to include those who have taken only one or two quarters, and then left off, the list would rate upwards of *Seven hundred*.

From the number of New Subscribers which are at present daily received, and making a proper allowance for those who will drop off with the First Volume, he has every reason to hope that he will issue the *First number of Volume Second*, to about *Seven Hundred subscribers*, and, that during the month of January, the list will swell to *One Thousand!*

Many enquiries have been made to know, whether he is the *real*, or only the *ostensible*(\*) editor? To this question, he replies in general terms; that, the plan of the work originated with himself: at first it was intended to be on a smaller scale, confined in its circulation to his schoolmates and Juvenile friends—this was found impracticable, being inadequate to defray the expense; the present plan was then adopted, which placed it under the patronage of the public for its support. With these views he composed the *Proposals*, and *Address to the Juvenile Public*. These he submitted to a literary friend, from whom they received some improvement, previous to publication.

What may justly be termed the *Editorial Department*, rests with him alone; no piece has

been published, which has not been either selected, or approved of by him, whether received through the medium of the LETTER-BOX, or from other resources, and in all cases wherein he found himself at a loss, one or other of his friends were consulted.

The duty of Editor only, would in itself, be both agreeable and instructive; but the work of publisher, *viz.* attending to the circulation of the numbers, regulating the subscription list, collection and disbursement of monies, and correcting the proofs, were also performed by him, excepting what assistance he received from his father, in those short, and uncertain intervals, which occurring during a severe and lingering *Pulmonary Consumption*, with which he has been long afflicted.

The Editor, however, intends at the commencement of the second volume, to confine his labours solely to the business of CONDUCTOR, and with the assistance of some literary friends, to arrange the matter so as to produce an agreeable and instructive variety; and he will continue, as he has hitherto done, to exercise his selecting office with his best judgment, and with all possible impartiality.—The publishing or pecuniary department, will therefore, for obvious reasons, be conducted under the inspection, and in the name of his Father; This new arrangement arising out of its extended circulation, will be of great benefit to the subscribers, and also to the work itself.

During the publication of the first volume, many hints for its improvement have been suggested, by numerous correspondents, to most of which he would cheerfully accede, were it possible to adopt them.—He has been early and frequently requested, to designate all pieces which are *original*, as such; were he to comply with this request, he would lead his readers into great error, as at least *three fourths*, of what is communicated to him as original, are copied from other works.—He has oftener than once, had sent him as original, a piece copied from a Philadelphia newspaper, with the initials of the person who copied it annexed as those of its author. Another mode recommended is to annex the word *Selected*, to all those pieces which he knows to be such, mentioning the author or book from which the piece is taken; this will not in his opinion be attended with any advantage, as the other matter would by many be taken for original. There are many pieces which pass for original which are copied from European publications, but so altered and adapted to the country, (*Americanized*) that it is difficult to detect the imposition; this species of *literary cobbling* is carried on to a great extent. The Editor will therefore, as formerly, only mention as original, those pieces which he really knows to be such.

It has been observed that the first volume generally, is of too pathetic, serious and moral a nature, and that it is deficient in pieces of wit and humour; to the last the editor readily assents, having found it more difficult to procure a sufficiency of *chaste* wit and humour, than any other species of matter, for it often happens, that pieces in this department are rendered disgusting with oaths, &c. or so gross in both sentiment and language, as to render them unfit for this work.

It is the intention of the Editor, to enrich the columns of the succeeding volume, with many articles in various departments of literature, in addition to those generally found in the first. Biography, than which nothing is more instructive, or excites a stronger interest, will always furnish entertainment; biographical anecdotes, and sketches of original character; manners, customs, and characters of nations, or people, either newly discovered, or not generally known; remarkable historical facts and anecdotes, with a variety of other matter, from the various departments of polite literature.

Animated by past favours, and happy in the prospect of increased resources for his future exertions, the Editor closes his first year's labour, and cheerfully prepares for its renewal.

(\*) When the work commenced, the Editor was not fourteen years old.

*[upon completion of Volume Two, December 10, 1814]*

The completion of another volume of the Juvenile Port-Folio, affords the Editor an opportunity of once more returning his sincere acknowledgements for the ample patronage with which he has been honoured. Repeated favours, demand renewed and enlarged expressions of gratitude: and, although variety of form in the indication of his sentiments may be nearly exhausted, his sense of your liberality will ever be unbounded. When he commenced his work, he earnestly solicited your indulgence, and promised that no exertion should be wanting on his part, to render the numbers as instructive and entertaining as their limits would admit. How far he has fulfilled his engagements, you must now determine. He however hopes, nay, is authorized to believe, that your decision will be characterised by that liberality, which has governed you on previous occasions: and though single numbers may be found deficient in variety, yet when collected in the volume, he flatters himself they will form a plenteous, intellectual field, in which, both the serious and the gay, may cull from the flowers of literature which adorn it, such as will improve the heart, and regale and exhilarate the fancy.

With the conclusion of the first volume, new arrangements were adopted, which were supposed calculated to ensure and extend the reputation then possessed [by] this work. With some degree of confidence, therefore, the Editor can request his Subscribers, and the Public, to consider this volume, as a specimen and pledge of his future exertions.

Early in the present year, the Editor sustained an irreparable loss, by the death of an indulgent parent; to whose judicious observations, more than to the Editor's own judgment, the Public are indebted for the manifold improvements the work has undergone since its commencement.

This severe bereavement, which has deprived him of the anxious solicitude and unwearied aid of the most affectionate and attentive of parents—his best guide, protector, counsellor, and friend,—will induce renewed and more strenuous exertions on his part; and, he trusts, the increased assistance of liberal and literary friends to support and improve this arduous undertaking for so Juvenile an Editor.

To his Correspondents, he returns his thanks for their former assistance, and looks again to them for a continuance of their very liberal aid to supply that variety, which combines instruction with novelty, and elegance of sentiment with purity of taste. He hopes that the native genius with which they are so liberally endowed, will be brought into extensive and energetic action in his behalf. The Editor would indeed be wanting in gallantry as well as in gratitude, were he not also to acknowledge the great support he has received from the “Fairest of creation last and best.” 'Tis to their glowing pencils he is indebted for some of the finest specimens of prose that have appeared in the present volume, whilst the poetic columns have been adorned with many a wreath of native poesy, twined by their delicate hands; whether under the auspices of “the winged boy,” of “Mirth's laughter loving face,” or, “fraught with many a heartfelt sigh, and glowing tear.”

From these sources he hopes to condense light, sufficient to render the Juvenile Port-Folio a

brilliant satellite to that great planet in the literary system from which it derives its name.

Hoping that his future exertions may meet a continuance of your approbation, the Editor once more subscribes himself,

Your grateful and much  
obliged humble servant,  
THOMAS G. CONDIE.

*[upon the completion of Volume Three, December 9, 1815]*

It would be unbecoming in us, at this period, to dilate upon our merits, or to court favor by professions: what we have done, is already before the public; and their unceasing patronage, is manifestly the most unquestionable test of our deserts:—With Pride we have received their favors—with Gratitude we acknowledge them. And, we trust, that, in the volume just concluded, they will discover no relaxation in our endeavors, by blending instruction with amusement, to beguile the tedious hour; but, on the contrary, will find, that each succeeding volume excels the former, as well in the variety, as in the interest, of its subject matter.

In the outset of the Publication, it was our intention, almost solely, to confine ourselves to Elegant Selections, from those works, which, from their nature and expense, are rendered inaccessible to the general mass of readers; but, from the liberality, the taste, and the genius, of an extensive circle of correspondents, we have been enabled to present our readers, with as rich a repast of original matter, as Magazines in general contain; and, that of the present volume, of a more Mercurial cast than has fallen to the share of any former.

Many of our contributors, have, no doubt, been surprized, to find their communications rejected, whilst selections have frequently been inserted in their stead: To these, as a general answer, we reply, that mere originality, without any other recommendation, will never been a sufficient passport to our pages.

It is, and ever has been, our earnest desire and endeavor, to encourage every rising spark of Genius: and this, we conceive, has more effectually been executed, by rejecting those crude efforts, which, though they may receive our approbation as meritorious School Exercises, possess neither a sufficiency of Judgment, of Fancy, or of Novelty, to recommend them for the Public Eye.

We have observed, that most of these abortive attempts have been in the Poetic Department; scarce is a Youngster freed from the trammels of the School, than he conceives himself a Scott, a Byron, or a Moore, in Embryo; and pants for a niche in the Muses' Temple. Disappointment, however, is their most usual attendant: To woo the Muses with any hope of success, requires a vigor of Genius, an acumen of Research, a powerful and vivid Imagination, and a Taste, cultivated by an extensive acquaintance with those admired Modern, as well as Ancient, Models.

—“But fruitless is the attempt,  
By dull obedience, and by creeping toil  
Obscure, to conquer the severe ascent  
Of High Parnassus. Nature's kindling breath  
Must fire the chosen genius; nature's hand  
Must string his nerves, and imp his Eagle wings,  
Impatient of the painful steep, to soar  
High as the summit, there to breathe at large

Aethereal air, with bards and sages old,  
Immortal sons of Praise.”

Indeed, so difficult a character was that of a Poet considered by the ancients, that he who succeeded, was supposed to be under the influence of an inspiring divinity, Apollo or Minerva, who guided his Pen, or spoke by his Mouth.

We pass, with pleasure, from these unsuccessful candidates for Poetic Honors, to that “finished few,” whose chaste and elegant productions, have stamped value upon our Miscellany, far beyond what any efforts of our own could have effected. To these we again look, nor look, we trust, in vain, for a continued supply, as their fancies may lead, of Poesy, or humble Prose.

In again launching forth our little Bark, we earnestly entreat a continuance of those Genial Breezes of Public Patronage, without which, every inducement to act would be destroyed, and the value of applause annihilated: Without which, Poetry, would sink into dulness,—Philosophy, lose its powers of research,—and even Eloquence itself, evaporate into froth and mummery.

And here, we turn, with confidence, to plead our cause, to that fairer part of creation:—

They, for whose favor, every wit is bright,  
All critics comment, and all Heroes fight;  
Protection from the Fair, at once conveys,  
Ample renown, consolidated praise;  
For, truth acknowledges, in nature's name,  
The Smiles of Beauty, are the wreathes of Fame!  
Urg'd still by them, by their reward, impress'd,  
Each noble passion animates the breast;  
They form the Heart, to every aim refin'd,  
Exalt, delight, and dignify mankind.

T.G.C.

*[upon completion of Volume Four, December 7, 1816]*

“*VIR sapit qui pauca loquitur*—He is a wise man who speaks little,” is a maxim, the truth of which the Editor readily acknowledges: But circumstanced as he at this time is, he must be excused should he be found deviating for a moment from its dictates.

The conclusion of the present Volume, is an occasion which demands more than ordinary attention. Regretting the numerous disadvantages to which, from the narrow limits of this work, he has been exposed; and prompted by the advantages which must necessarily have resulted from such a measure, the Editor conceived the idea of enlarging it, and continuing its publication under a new title:—This plan he imparted to his Friends, by most of whom it was warmly advocated. Under these circumstances,—believing that he was consulting the wishes of his Patrons, as well as himself,—stimulated by the recollection of former favours; and, supported by that faith, “which is the evidence of things seen and the earnest of things hoped for,” he presented his Proposals to the Public:—He cannot but regret, how widely different from his expectations has been the result. The projected alteration has met, instead of the warmth of approbation, with pointed dislike,—instead of generous support, with chilling indifference. The Editor is sensible, however, that many uncontrollable circumstances have operated in retarding his success. The embarrassed state of money concerns—the general stagnation of trade; are causes to which he willingly attributes his

failure: And he is confident, that, in many instances, economy has drawn the purse which liberality would have expanded.

Yet, few are those who have, on the present occasion, been his encouragers, among them, he perceives with heartfelt pleasure, many of his earliest and most respected patrons;—

“They, with learning, spirit, sense endow’d,  
Whom real feeling rescues from the crowd.”

Such repeated instances of their favour demand his warmest gratitude;—they cheer his labour—confirm his confidence—quicken his zeal: thus encouraged, he can look forward to the future without doubting; and acknowledging what he has already received, resolve by every effort to merit more. He acknowledges also the obligations he is under, to those Ladies and Gentlemen who, although not Subscribers to the *Juvenile Port-Folio*, generously volunteered their support to his new work—Should they be inclined to continue their subscriptions to it in the present form, he assures them, his utmost endeavours will be exerted for their satisfaction; and, although he cannot promise every advantage which the enlargement seemed calculated to ensure, he trusts they will discover at least sufficient merit to entitle it to their patronage.—For, although he has been disappointed in his hopes, he will not suffer regret to diminish his exertions.

Believing that it will tend to the advantage of his publication, and, at the same time, meet the general wishes of his Subscribers, the work, although it will experience no addition to its bulk or price, will hereafter assume the title of *THE PARLOUR COMPANION*. And it will be the earnest desire of the Editor, to comprise in it as many of the excellencies and advantages of the former *Miscellanies* of a similar nature as circumstances will admit of;—at the same time avoiding as much as possible their deficiencies: And for this purpose, he hopes not only to preserve the assistance of previous contributors, but also to ensure the aid of additional contributions.

He trusts that those liberal Friends, who have so kindly and so ably contributed to the decoration of the Volume just concluded, will unite inclination to ability in behalf of the succeeding.

“For these are Genius' fav'rties: these  
“Know the thought-throned mind to please,  
“And from its fleshy seat to draw  
“To realms where Fancy's golden orbits roll,  
“Disdaining all but wild'ring rapture's law,  
“The captivated soul.”

Many a “region of thought” remains still unexplored:—The changeful scenes of Fashion, Opinion, and Manners, will always present subjects for their speculation. The image of Error, as discordant as that of Nebuchadnezzar, still rears its imposing front. Vice still employs her seduction: and though many a valorous band has fought against the influence of prejudice, it still remains bold an unvanquished.

**THOMAS GRAY CONDIE. JR.**  
**1797-1838**

**Ken Faig, Jr.**

There is really very little that I can add to the excellent portrait of Condie and his *Juvenile Port-Folio* painted by James M. Beck (1861-1936) in *The Fossil* for April 1907. Only a few minor

points in Beck's essay merit correction. The Pennypacker-Beck file of *The Juvenile Port-Folio and Literary Miscellany* apparently lacked the final two numbers of the magazine, which actually ended publication with its issue of December 7, 1816, rather than that of November 23, 1816, as Beck states. Today, the Harvard University file of *The Juvenile Port-Folio* has been digitized by Google Books and can be viewed and searched by anyone with an Internet connection. It is also available as reel 212 of American Periodical Series II (1800-1850). Also, although Beck was not aware of any copy, Condie actually did publish his successor magazine, *The Parlour Companion*, from January 4, 1817, to August 21, 1819, a period which includes his admission to the bar on September 12, 1818. *The Parlour Companion* is also available in the American Periodicals II (1800-1850) microfilm series, as reel 219. An excellent bibliographical description of Condie's *Juvenile Port-Folio* may be found on the American Children's Periodicals 1789-1872 site on the Internet at <http://www.merrycoz.org/bib/1820.htm>. On this site, *The Parlour Companion* can be found in [removed.htm](http://www.merrycoz.org/bib/1820.htm), since it has been identified as a periodical published for adults, rather than for children.

The University of Pennsylvania Archives publishes a sketch of Condie in its "Penn Biographies" ([http://www.archives.upenn.edu/histy/people/1700s/condie\\_tho\\_g.html](http://www.archives.upenn.edu/histy/people/1700s/condie_tho_g.html)):

Thomas Gray Condie (1797-1838)

A.B. 1815, A.M. 1818

A founder of the Philomathean Society

Attorney

Editor of *Condie's Magazine*

"Thomas Gray Condie was born in Philadelphia in 1797 to Thomas Condie and Elizabeth Holmes. His father was a Philadelphia bookseller and author of first a memoir (in 1800) and then a biography (in 1829) of General George Washington. Young Thomas attended the University of Pennsylvania, where on October 2, 1813, he was one of thirteen founding members of the Philomathean Society, Penn's first student organization.

"After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania he went on to practice law and to become the editor of *Condie's Magazine*. He died in Philadelphia in 1838."

Beck writes that Condie practiced law for sixteen years (1818+16 = 1834) and that he died at the age of 38 which is consistent with his dying in 1835-36. I do not know whether Beck or the University Archives has more reliable information in this regard. I was unable to find an obituary for Condie on Ancestry.com nor have I been able to consult the Philadelphia Directories for the period 1785-1839 which can be found at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The 1870 U.S. census records a medical doctor, Francis Condie, aged 74, in Philadelphia. Perhaps he was a sibling or cousin of Thomas Gray Condie, Jr. WorldCat on the Internet records copies of *Memoirs of Gen. Geo. Washington, first president of the United States of America* by Condie's father, published by John Russell, Jr. at Hartford, Connecticut in 1813.

I wish I had something more to convey regarding the life of Thomas Gray Condie, Jr., but I do not. It would be wonderful to know whether he married and had children or to what extent he was successful as a member of the bar. We may also wonder whether any portrait of Condie exists. I suspect that *The Juvenile Port-Folio and Literary Miscellany* (1812-16) and *The Parlour Companion* (1817-19) are likely to remain the most lasting memorials of the "father of amateur journalism in North America." Condie's claim to this title is probably undisputed if publishing by

youth defines “amateur journalism.” The fact that after its very rare first eleven numbers (dated in 1812), *The Juvenile Port-Folio* was conducted on a fully commercial basis may cause some to dispute Condie's title. However, we should remember that most youthful publishers sought to conduct their magazines on a commercial basis even after the foundation of the National Amateur Press Association in 1876. Few youth publishers were ever as successful as the entrepreneurial Condie, who from time to time employed another youth to canvass Philadelphia households for subscriptions. Exchanges gradually came to outnumber subscribers. It was really not until the twentieth century that Paul Cook's “money cannot buy it” maxim became a defining quality of amateur magazines.

I was fortunate earlier this year to acquire a set of *The Juvenile Port-Folio* bound in two volumes. Like many other sets, my set begins with number 12, dated January 2, 1813. Both volumes bear the signature of Philadelphia bookseller and printer John Bioren (dated November 13, 1826), who was the printer for *The Juvenile Port-Folio*. John Bioren (1773-1835) was a printer in Philadelphia from 1794 until his death.<sup>3</sup> One volume also bears on the rear inside cover the signature of John's elder brother Benjamin Bioren, a sea-captain who appeared on the subscriber lists of *The Juvenile Port-Folio*. The same volume bears the signature of “Mme. Anne Irving” on the front fly-leaf. Benjamin (b. 1770) and John (b. 1773) were the sons of Benjamin Björn, christened in Frederick, Virginia in 1739. They and their sister Mary (b. 1779) (who married Benjamin Tanner) all became Philadelphians and changed the spelling of their surname to Bioren.

## FOSSIL REVIEWS

Alfred Emile Cornebise, *The CCC Chronicles: Camp Newspapers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942* (Jefferson NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2004, ISBN 0-7864-1831-1, trade paperback, x+286pp., \$45.00 plus \$4.00 s&h).

Dr. Cornebise, professor emeritus of history at the University of Northern Colorado, has written a fascinating book on a little-known aspect of amateur publishing history. Barely a month after he took office in the depths of the Depression on March 4, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 5, 1933 implemented by executive order no. 6101 the Emergency Conservation Work Act passed by Congress on March 31, 1933. March 31 is still celebrated as the birthday of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) both by its surviving alumni and the public. Labor leader Robert Fechner of Boston was sworn in as the first CCC director on April 5, 1933 and served until his death

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<sup>3</sup> For John Bioren, see Marian S. Carson and Marshall W. S. Swan, “John Bioren: Printer to Philadelphia Publishers,” *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, vol. 43, third quarter, 1949) and Rosalind Remer, *Printers and Men of Capital: Philadelphia Book Publishers in the New Republic* (Philadelphia PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996). When *The Juvenile Port-Folio* commenced publication in 1813 at no. 22, Carter's Alley, Bioren was located at no. 88, Chestnut-street. By 1825, Bioren conducted his retail business at 99 South Second Street, opposite the Merchants' Coffee House. His printing office was then in Lodge Alley opposite the Bank of Pennsylvania.

on December 31, 1939, being succeeded by his deputy, James J. McEntee. By 1935, the CCC reached a high-water mark of 505,000 men in 2,856 camps. Much of the CCC leadership was originally provided by the regular U.S. armed forces and its reserves; the men enrolled for terms of six months and were engaged not only in conservation work (e.g., planting of trees, development of park lands) but also in emergency response (e.g., firefighting and flood relief). Many formerly jobless, the men lived in camps, worked a 40-hour week, and benefitted from an ample diet, good health care and optional educational programs. Most enrollees sent their wages home to help their families. The enrollees included both single and married men. Special units accommodated World War I veterans, Negroes, and American Indians. (However, there were also non-segregated units.) The ranks of the CCC began to diminish as the economic situation improved and World War II loomed and the organization was finally dissolved as of June 30, 1942.

*Happy Days*, a professionally-published national weekly for CCC enrollees, was launched on May 20, 1933 and ended with a final issue dated August 8, 1942. Its publishers became the publishers of *Army Times*. However, the focus of Dr. Cornebise's books is not the national weekly, but the nearly 5,000 camp papers published by individual camp journalism programs during the existence of the CCC. A few of these camp papers were printed, but most were reproduced in editions of a few hundred using mimeograph machines. By September 1934, University of Illinois library director P. L. Windsor launched a program to collect "New Deal" publications and by August 1940, the UofI collection included 3,504 papers from 2,385 different camps. Today, the CCC papers collected by the University of Illinois (and other institutions including the Library of Congress) are administered by the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois. The papers have been preserved on microfilm and microfiche.

As with amateur journalism at large, the camp papers of the CCC reflect the concerns of the "ordinary man" in the ranks. Issues of importance included conduct and grooming and relationships with camp management and local civilians. Educational and social activities (including dances) received much attention in camp papers. Camp papers also published poetry and other literary work although "camp news" always received the most attention. Dr. Cornebise relates that ghost stories were a favorite on the fiction side, and notes (p. 56) that H. P. Lovecraft's correspondent Bernard Austin Dwyer (1897-1943), a CCC enrollee, published "The Old Dark House," a story of this kind, in *The Blue Mountain Survey*, the camp paper of his company 256 stationed at Peekskill, New York. While desertion and disputes with local civilians remained a problem for the life of the CCC, most of the opinion expressed in the camp papers was patriotic and strongly supportive of the opportunities afforded by the CCC. Many men did go on to much better jobs using skills they learned while in the CCC.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Dr. Cornebise's book is the many camp paper covers which he reproduces. Some were very crudely drawn indeed, but others demonstrate significant design skills. The veterans' papers were probably the most free-wheeling in their expression of opinion, and a cover depicting topless "Little Egypt" dancers in *The Veterans' Voice* for August 20, 1938 (depicted on p. 151) drew censure from the national weekly *Happy Days*. But the CCC was not a military organization and the practice was usually "live and let live" regarding differences of opinion. Dr. Cornebise's reproductions of camp paper covers and illustrations and selections of writing from the camp papers help us understand how the enrollees related to the program and their neighbors—just as amateur journals at large allow us to reflect upon the views of the ordinary man

and woman. Some camps had their own mimeograph machines (or presses) while others borrowed equipment from local schools and businesses. There must surely have been enrollees who had had exposure to the amateur journalism hobby outside of the CCC, but the only comment regarding outside amateur publishing in Dr. Cornebise's book are the remarks of Bryant A. Long, editor of *A-I News* (Company 2301, Beltsville, Maryland) cited on page 54: "Here's where you're in a different boat than your brother amateurs in civilian life. Your paper is usually subsidized, or at least supervised, by the Administration; and you must avoid all criticism of camp officials and of the regulations they have established, as much as you conscientiously can."

Even today, few lives are untouched by the hundreds of thousands of men who served in the CCC. A National Association of CCC Alumni was formed in St. Louis in 1977 and continues to publish a monthly magazine, *NACCCA Journal*. The list of amateur journalists who served at one time or another in the CCC would probably be large, if we could compile it. Several notes in Dr. Cornebise's book touched my own life. My late father-in-law Alfred Gaber (1922-2002) served in the CCC in Nevada, and Dr. Cornebise's relation of the battles against the "Mormon crickets" by the enrollees in the Nevada camps (p. 238) matched my father-in-law's recollections. Dr. Cornebise also mentions the large CCC camp in my own town (Glenview IL). It was ten times the size of a normal camp and located in the Forest Preserve at Harms Road and Lake Avenue. The mission of the men was the dig the Skokie Lagoons and drain the surrounding swampy land. Photographs of this camp appear on pp. 73-75 of Beverly Roberts Dawson's *Glenview* (Arcadia Images of America Series, 2008).

Altogether, the hard work of Dr. Cornebise with the CCC resources at the Center for Research Libraries and elsewhere has produced an admirable "inside" portrait of an organization which changed the American landscape for the better. Perhaps another twenty-five years will elapse before the last surviving alumnus of the CCC answers the final roll call. But it is well that Dr. Cornebise has recorded this story now. The CCC camp papers constitute a fascinating and little-known sub-segment of amateur publishing, which like the Lone Scout papers recalled in our July 2008 issue, deserve to be well-remembered—KWF.

Kent Clair Chamberlain, *Song for Remembered Earth: The Oregon Observer* (Hermansville MI: North Star Publishing, 2008, 26pp. + covers.)

This slim collection of poems by Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain has been handsomely produced for the author by North Star Publishing. I assume that the photographs which appear on the cover and title page depict scenes from the author's beloved home state. There is also a photograph of the author and a brief biographical sketch on pp. 25-26. Kent was born in Abilene, Kansas in January 1943, but his family moved to Oregon when he was less than six months old, and he has resided in his present home of Ashland since 1946. Kent penned his first poem in 1949, but didn't return to the medium until 1961, when he wrote the Psalm-inspired "Prayer for the Modern Age," including the lines: "Forgive us, the assassins,/For we lack THY MERCY." Kent was active in both factions of the United Amateur Press Association and served as President of U.A.P.A.A. in 1980-81. He has been a member of The Fossils since the 1970s.

Kent has the true spirit of the independent, amateur author and publisher, as those who receive his periodic broadsides know well. The congeries of images which constitute his poems

sometimes work, sometimes don't. Reading a poem like "Rued Awakening," you can't avoid imagining the scene in the poet's mind:

"Slam!"  
Intrudes the rainy afternoon, as the  
Bent black-suited renter  
Retrieves his  
Groceries from the  
Yellow  
Taxi.

Sometimes, however, there is more than just the image, there's real thought and feeling, as in "Loco-Motive":

Caress each passing hour.  
Mother Time  
Drives her fleeting train  
Whistling down long  
Years.  
Hold each moment dear,  
Over trestles of  
Receding past!

Or in "In Our Time of Mourning":

Long, lonely river,  
Wind your way to sea.  
Long, lonely river,  
Seethe, on your sunken stones.  
Flow into bright sun's  
Rise, restore lasting Hope to these  
Underlands of strife!

Like fellow Fossil poet Martha Shivvers, Chamberlain frequently expresses religious feeling in his poems, as in "December 2007":

Street lamps  
Brighten cold streets  
Of low-cloud night.  
Warm houses  
Rainbow seasonal  
Cheer, in  
Manger Hope!

To this reviewer, a booklet like *Song for Remembered Earth: The Oregon Observer* comes close to being the epitome of independent, amateur publishing. Of course, a lot of this kind of thing can now be found on Internet blogs: but the physical reality of the paper-and-ink incarnation of the amateur impulse is distinctive. Long may this wide and beautiful country harbor writers like our own Kent Clair Chamberlain. The desire for self-expression is the ultimate origin of all artistic endeavor.

It is probably possible to obtain copies of this booklet from North Star Publishing at P.O. Box 220, Hermansville, MI 49847, but I would suggest writing directly to Fossil Chamberlain at his

address as shown in the Membership Roster if you would like a copy—KWF.

## **MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**

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## **THE KALEIDOSCOPE**

### **Martha E. Shivvers**

Green tresses changing to gold,  
Red and amber brown,  
Flit through air briskly cold  
And tumble like a clown.

Songbirds leave for winter clime;  
Wild geese cross the town,  
Meadows, fields and streams  
Before they settle down.

Fields are gleaned of harvest,  
Lawns shed their floral gowns,  
Days become sharply crisp,  
And autumn claims a crown!

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## **THE FOSSILS**

**<http://www.thefossils.org/>**

This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, 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, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.