THE FOSSIL

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SOME MIXED NEWS FOR YOU
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Guy Miller

First some really good news. Membership Chair Martha Shivvers has assured us that, even though a stroke just two weeks after her 95th birthday threatened to limit drastically her activities, she has recovered sufficiently to be able to continue her unmatched service to The Fossils. We rejoice, not only because she would have been most difficult to replace, but more importantly, because she has made such marvelous recovery. I am certain that all of you are elated to receive this news.

Another happy event was mine this February when at the behest of former student and long-time friend, Ken Metzgar, I ventured a visit to his home in Tempe, Arizona. Ken made certain that I was in Tucson on February 12 to celebrate with Louise Lincoln her 98th birthday. You will want to know that Louise is comfortable and happy with the care she receives in a beautiful assisted living residence. As a matter of fact her care givers invited Ken and me to share the occasion with a generous slice of Louise's red-ribbon birthday cake. At present Louise is working on another issue of her *Kitchen Stove* which she produces for members of NAPA.

Also Ken arranged for me to visit with AAPA President Mike O'Connor in Fountain Hills where I was Mike's luncheon guest and later had the opportunity of examining his print shop and conversing face-to-face with Dean Rea by way of the internet. Also Mike gave me an effective pep talk to bolster Ken's urging that I consider acquiring internet service. So, now I am learning a whole new skill!

One sad note is the passing of Fossil Robert Weigel, a member of our group since 1980. Bob was especially active in the AAPA, published the journal *Occam's Razor*, and served as AAPA's president in the 1980's. Bob taught biology and related subjects at various locations, completing his career at Illinois State University. Besides his ajay publishing ventures and book binding activities in his well-equipped Scarlet Ibis Press, Bob was known for his professional quality photography as well as for his musical accomplishments on the piano, flute, and organ.

Well, the business of the Fossils goes on, and, as we mentioned in our January issue of *The Fossil*, election time is upon us. Fossils by-laws (adopted in 2006) designate that our election shall

consist of two of the three members, operating within the structure of a three-member Board of Trustees. The incumbent president is a "carry-over" member, which leaves two members to be elected by the membership. All other officers shall be appointed by the Board. So, think about offering yourself as a candidate and look for the nomination notice which will be enclosed in this April issue of *The Fossil*. Instructions and deadline for filing will accompany the notice.

I also urge you to start making your plans for the concurrent AAPA/NAPA conventions in Chicago this July 22-24. Actually, the convention headquarters will be located at the Sheraton Suites in Elk Grove Village IL, which we assume is a suburb of Chicago. For you who will be flying in, O'Hare Airport is but 20 miles from the Hotel. The room rate is set at the unbelievable price of $79 if you specify when making your reservations that you are attending the AAPA or NAPA Convention. We can't imagine that you could ever hope to make a visit to Chicago and stay in a first-class hotel at such a cheap rate as that! Make reservations by calling 1-800-325-3535 by June 30. We understand that you must telephone to get this special rate. As a special feature, we will soon be making final plans with co-host Fossil Barry Schrader for a Fossil Luncheon on one of the convention days. As many of you are aware for some years now, Fossil Luncheons have been planned as an occasion for all ajays (not just Fossils) to gather for a social hour, meaning that no official Fossils business is conducted. Our last get together was held at Lexington KY in 2004 to celebrate our 100th anniversary. At that time we had the opportunity to present the Gold Composing Stick Award to our late esteemed friend Fossil Victor A. Moitoret. Significantly, this honor was enhanced by the fact that the Award was bestowed upon Vic by his long-time companion Harold Segal ("Mr. NAPA"), himself a Gold Composing Stick recipient.

So, Fossil friends, full speed ahead to election time—and Elk Grove Village!

ANNA HELEN CROFTS—THE REST OF THE STORY

Readers of the July 2009 number of *The Fossil* may recall the story of H. P. Lovecraft's collaboration "Poetry and the Gods" (*United Amateur*, September 1920) with fellow amateur journalist Anna Helen Crofts of North Adams, Massachusetts. The Editor was only able to trace Miss Crofts through the North Adams city directories through 1946, after which she disappeared.

Now, through the diligent efforts of Gene Carlson of the North Adams, Massachusetts Historical Society and Donovan K. Loucks, proprietor of the outstanding website www.hplovecaft.com, *The Fossil* is able to reproduce the following obituary from the North Adams, Massachusetts newspaper press of Monday April 14, 1975:

"Anna H. (Crofts) McCuen of Clover Hill Terrace, Williamstown, a former North Adams school teacher and widow of Joseph B. McCuen, died yesterday morning [Sunday April 13, 1975] at North Adams Regional Hospital, where she had been a patient since April 2.

"Mrs. McCuen was born in North Adams, a daughter of the late Dr. Nicholas M. and Julia (Sweeney) Crofts. She attended local schools and was graduated from Drury High School in 1909 and from the old North Adams Normal School, now State College, in 1919. Later she took numerous courses at the former Hyannis State College.

"She joined the local school system in 1920 as a special class teacher and from 1922 to 1924 was a special class teacher at Brayton School. In 1924 she was transferred to Haskins School, where she taught first grade until her retirement in 1942.

"She and her late husband moved to Williamstown over 20 years ago. Mr. McCuen was the proprietor of the Taconic Park and Restaurant in Williamstown until he sold the business in 1946. He also owned the J. B. McCuen Package Store in the old Richmond Hotel building, North Adams. Mr. McCuen died in 1963.

"Mrs. McCuen was a direct descendant of Thomas Francis Meagher, an Irish patriot who designed the Irish flag. She was the last of her immediate family. Her only brother, Edmund Crofts, died in 1925.

"She was a member of St. Patrick's Church, Williamstown; St. Patrick's Guild; Court Margaret, Catholic Daughters of America, North Adams, and the Massachusetts and National Retired Teachers Assns.

"Her only survivors are cousins.

"Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow [Tuesday, April 15, 1975] with a Liturgy of Christian Burial in St. Patrick's Church. Burial will be in the family lot in Southview Cemetery.

"There are no calling hours at the John H. Quinn Funeral Home, Williamstown, which is in charge of arrangements."

Mr. Carlson also verified that Mrs. McCuen is buried along with her parents, her brother (listed as Edward Crofts on the cemetery record[1]), and her husband in the Crofts family plot (section B lot number 368) in Southview Cemetery in North Adams. Mr. Carlson also recovered some additional vital record information regarding the Crofts family. Anastasia C. Crofts was born on December 22, 1889 in North Adams; her younger brother Edmund N. Crofts was born on October 15, 1891 in North Adams. Their parents, Nicholas and Julia (Sweeney) Crofts were married in Hoosac Falls, New York on January 23, 1888. The 24-year-old groom (son of Thomas and Ellen (Savage) Crofts) was then a resident of North Adams; the 22-year-old bride (daughter of Edward and Hellen (Murphy) Sweeney) was a resident of Hoosac Falls. Nicholas was born in Carlton, Canada; Julia in Petersburg or Hoosac Falls, New York.

Mrs. McCuen's survivors in the North Adams area were second cousins, descendants of Nicholas Crofts' brother James P. Crofts, who married Rose Doyle (daughter of Thomas and Mary (McGines) Doyle) on January 8, 1888. The 30-year-old groom was born in Churches Mills, New York; the 26-year-old bride in North Adams. The couple had at least four children born in North Adams: Thomas Crofts (born July 25, 1891); James Crofts (born February 25, 1893); Leo Crofts (born June 2, 1894); and Roseland [Rosalind] Marie Crofts (born September 3, 1898). The editor followed some of Thomas Crofts' progeny in his article in *The Fossil* for July 2009.

Perhaps most miraculously, Mr. Carlson has recovered for *The Fossil* and its readers the photograph of Miss Crofts published in the North Adams Normal School yearbook for 1919. This photograph and its accompanying caption were scanned for Mr. Carlson by the reference staff at the Freel Library of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. The caption reads:

ANNA. H. CROFTS, North Adams. Mass.

"She hath a natural, wise sincerity,
A simple truthfulness, and these have lent her

[1] The cemetery records give Mr. Crofts' date of death as April 19, 1933, in disagreement with 1925 as stated in his sister's obituary.

A dignity as moveless as the centre."

"One whom we can never forget is Anna. She must have some magnetic power, for all who come in contact with her, love her. She is ever ready to help the poor and weak with their lessons. She seems to know everything about every subject. Lesson plans? Why, they do not bother her! She could write a dozen while one of the rest of us could not write one. But this is not all, for outside of school, Anna is a fine sport and is always willing to take part in our pranks."

With the help of Messrs. Carlson and Loucks, *The Fossil* and its readers now enjoy a fuller picture of Lovecraft's 1920 collaboratrix than has previously been available. That young Miss Crofts made a mistake in judgement in using Elizabeth Jane Coatsworth's poem "Sky Lotus" without credit in "Poetry and the Gods," must doubtless be admitted. *The Fossil*, however, does not wish to subtract one iota from the fond remembrance of Miss Crofts/Mrs. McCuen painted in her 1975 obituary and in her 1919 yearbook sketch. The generous smile depicted in her 1919 portrait doubtless helped a generation of North Adams first-graders feel at ease in the classroom. Her 1919 portrait impresses one as that of woman who would retain her beauty in her more mature years, and we can hope that she found a rich reward of love in her marriage at age fifty-six to Joseph B. McCuen.

The editor's reflection is that the Hoffman-Daas "branch" of the United Amateur Press Association (1912-1926) in which Lovecraft and Miss Crofts participated is but one relatively small limb on the glorious old tree of the amateur journalism hobby. But because it was the focus of Lovecraft's participation in the hobby between 1914 and 1926, this branch of our tree will doubtless continue in the future to be investigated with diligence. This branch antedated the custom of association bundles (which arose in the 1930s) but the editor has no doubt that all of its surviving publications will eventually be digitized and made available to scholars. (Miss Crofts had a further contribution, "Life," in the *United Amateur* for June 1921.) If we regard individual amateur journalists as leaves on the Hoffman-Daas UAPA branch, it will doubtless ultimately be true that each individual leaf on this branch, 1912-1926, will eventually be investigated as Messrs. Carlson and Loucks have investigated Miss Crofts. We know that some amateur journalists who knew Lovecraft personally, like Ira A. Cole and Charles W. Heins, were eventually interviewed by R. Alain Everts (aka Randal Alan Kirsch) in the late 1960s. Hopefully some of this living record—which goes beyond bare vital statistics—will also eventually be published.

As a fan and student of Lovecraft, the editor has striven to avoid making *The Fossil* a journal of Lovecraft studies—for the big tree of the amateur journalism hobby is a far richer domain than the realm of any single participant—however famous. We must sadly regret that some Lovecraft "fan" forever diminished the study of his idol by stealing virtually all of the Lovecraft appearances from the Library of Amateur Journalism sometime during the years 1967 to 1980. This nameless person diminished not only the study of Lovecraft but also the study of the amateur journalism hobby at large. Nevertheless, a rich trove nevertheless remains in the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection now being prepared for use in the Special Collections of the University of Wisconsin Library at Madison. *The Fossil* will never forget that it is the memory of the many who have participated in our hobby which must remain our principal focus. Theirs is the story told in the Library of Amateur Journalism and other collections of our amateur magazines. The Hoffman-Daas United recruited extensively among teachers, and Anna Helen Crofts was doubtless one of these recruits. She did not remain long in our hobby and therefore reflects in some ways an "average"

amateur journalist. Many more stories of individual amateur journalists remain to be told. The editor hopes some of these stories will grace our pages in future years.

THE FOSSILS AND NEW YORK CITY
A TWENTIETH-CENTURY LOVE AFFAIR

Ken Faig, Jr.

The Fossils have had a long and honorable association with New York City. First and foremost, we were founded there in the Arena Hotel at 41 West 31st Street near midnight on May 28, 1904, at a meeting of veterans of the amateur journalism hobby organized by Edwin Hadley Smith. Until 1927, The Fossils were an unincorporated institution, but the tradition of an annual springtime meeting and banquet began early. In between, there were frequent gatherings of the New York City Fossils at Pontin's restaurant (46 Franklin Street), often held to welcome visiting amateur guests. With the acquisition of Edwin Hadley Smith's Library of Amateur Journalism 1916, The Fossils leased room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street in lower Manhattan to house the collection. The office was shared with Fossil Joseph Dana Miller's *Single Tax Review*. After the Fossils became a New York corporation in 1927, it was necessary to hold an annual business meeting in New York state, and this was duly merged with the pre-existing annual gathering and banquet. It became the tradition for Fossils attending the annual meeting to foregather in Fossil "headquarters" in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street, before proceeding to the place of the annual meeting and banquet—usually held in the meeting and banqueting rooms of a New York City hotel or private club. In 1935, the Library of Amateur Journalism left 150 Nassau Street to commence its thirty-year career at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, but nevertheless the Fossil annual meetings continued to be held in New York City. By the late forties and fifties, the Fossils had evolved into an "honor society" of experienced amateur journalists, and the New York City Fossils led by "Vondy" (Edna Hyde McDonald) delighted in planning every element of the annual meeting and banquet, including the banquet menu. (An extensive review of Fossil banquet menus appeared in our April 2005 number.) During the period 1967-80, the Library of Amateur Journalism was back in New York City—in the Fales Library of the Special Collections Department at New York University. The Fossil annual meetings and banquets continued to be held in New York City without interruption, although the meetings became more contentious as debate over the future of LAJ intensified in the late seventies. After an abortive microfilming effort, LAJ was transferred to Fossil Librarian Mike Horvat in Stayton, Oregon over the period 1980-82. The Fossils, Inc. was reincorporated as an Oregon not-for-profit corporation in 1985, relieving the increasing difficulty of holding a business meeting in New York state. Thereafter, The Fossils customarily held a business meeting and luncheon in conjunction with one of the year's amateur press conventions. After The Fossils surrendered their Oregon corporate charter in 2007, the necessity of holding an annual business meeting lapsed, although The Fossils have continued to hold social luncheons at amateur press conventions as circumstances have permitted.

So, as the site for social meetings 1904-26 and annual business meetings 1927-85 and the oft-home of LAJ, New York City has had a long association with The Fossils. Looking at the first

century of Edwin Hadley Smith's bound LAJ collection[2], it appears that the collection spent about forty percent of its time in the New York City area:

1908-1913(*), Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, 5 years
1913-1916(*), Pulitzer School of Journalism, New York City, 3 years
1916-1935(*), 150 Nassau St. (room 1302), New York City, 19 years
1935-1964, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, 29 years
1964-1967, Stan Oliner, Grand Junction, Colorado, 3 years
1967-1980(*), New York University Library, New York City, 13 years
1980-2004, Mike Horvat, Stayton, Oregon, 24 years
2004-2008, University of Wisconsin Library, Madison, Wisconsin, 4 years

In the foregoing listing, the New York City area stays, totalling 40 years, are marked with an asterisk. LAJ arrived at the University of Wisconsin Library on December 30, 2004, and although the collection is not yet open for general use, the author hopes UW-Madison will provide the permanent home for LAJ that twentieth-century amateur journalists dreamed of. The back covers of the paper edition of this issue of *The Fossil* depict LAJ's new home in UW-Madison's Memorial Library on the shores of Lake Mendota.

But before LAJ reached Madison, a solid minority of the years of its first century were spent in the New York City area. The paper edition of our October 2007 number featured a center section depicting LAJ during various points of its 29-year stay at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. But it is the New York City homes of LAJ that we celebrate in this issue. Our center section of this issue of *The Fossil* celebrates the forty years LAJ spent in the New York City area during its first century. My history of LAJ (through 2003) appeared in The Fossils' centennial volume in 2004 and may also be found on our website at www.thefossils.org. In this article, however, I will focus on LAJ's New York City homes.

The collection was formally opened to the public on November 5, 1908, at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where Isobel Ely Lord was the librarian. The Pratt Institute and the New York Public Library's Berg Collection had contended for the honor of housing Smith's collection, but the Pratt Institute won the laurels because it was willing to accept the collection as a deposit, while the New York Public Library would accept the collection only as an outright gift.[3] A photograph of LAJ as housed at the Pratt Institute appeared in John W. Smith's article on LAJ on *The Boys' Herald* for December 1908, and was reprinted in the paper edition of *The Fossil* for January 2005. The reference work *Special Collections in Libraries in the United States* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1912) by Columbia University librarians W. Dawson Johnston and Isadore G. Mudge proudly listed the Edwin Hadley Smith collection of amateur journals at the Pratt Institute (page 9).

Pratt Institute's Library (still in use today) was constructed at a cost of $160,000 in 1896 according to the design of architect William Tubby. The library features a spacious entrance hall and

[2] The custom of binding the year's amateur journals lapsed after 1942.

[3] The New York Public Library later (1939) acquired the amateur journalism collection of Charles W. “Tryout” Smith (1852-1948) of Haverhill, Massachusetts and still houses that collection today.

corridors with marble columns and pilasters. Much of the interior design was executed by the Tiffany Glass & Design company. The Pratt Institute had been founded and endowed by Charles Pratt (1830-1891), founder of the Astral Works, which he sold to John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil in 1874. Thomas Paul served as president in 1887-91 and was followed by three Pratt family members: Charles Millard Pratt (1855-1935), 1891-1893; Federic B. Pratt (1865-1945), 1893-1937; and Charles Pratt (1892-?), 1937-1953. The Pratt Institute continues in its educational mission today. Unbeknownst to Institute officials, the Library which had at one time (1908-1913) housed LAJ was used as one of the settings for the notorious pornographic movie "Debbie Does Dallas."

By 1913, however, Pratt Institute officials had determined that LAJ must be removed from their Library. Smith searched for a new home for LAJ. Talcott Williams (1849-1928) had been appointed the first director of Columbia University's Pulitzer School of Journalism in March 1912. When classes began on September 30, 1912, the new building for the School of Journalism endowed by Joseph Pulitzer was still under construction. By the fall of 1913, the new building was ready for new and returning students. James Boylan recorded in his history *Pulitzer's School* (p. 38):

> The new building, with five working floors measuring 208 by 55 feet, had no difficulty accommodating the 129 students who registered in the fall of 1913. On the entrance floor were offices for the director and associate director, an auditorium, and a large typewriter room. Between the directors' offices was stored the morgue—the collection of clippings that Talcott Williams had started in the 1870s, numbering by 1913 more than 400,000 items. Continuously augmented for the next forty years, it came to contain possibly four million pieces, the older portions becoming increasingly fragile. In 1954, Richard T. Baker asserted that "this morgue will be written down as one of the most enduring contributions Columbia ever made to the communications profession." In the 1970s, after microfilming of the collection was found to be cumbersome, expensive, and inconvenient, the morgue was consigned to scrap-paper dealers.
>
> On the next floor, there was an ambitious library and reading room, designed along the lines that Charles Beard had recommended, stocked with government and organizational documents, reference indexes, and current files of a hundred newspapers. The mezzanine above the library contained a city room for fourth-year students, equipped with desks, typewriters, a telephone, and a semicircular copy desk. A time-locking box was set up to enforce deadlines.

Smith found in School of Journalism director Talcott Williams a fellow collector who could see the value in Smith's own collection of amateur journals.[4] (Perhaps the familiarity of Columbia Library

[4] Williams was a graduate of Amherst College, where the major collection of his surviving papers is kept to day. The Special Collections Department of the Amherst College Library checked Williams's 1913-1914 correspondence files for me, but did not find any correspondence to or from Edwin Hadley Smith. Affectionately known as "Talk-A-Lot" Williams by his students for his tendency to cut into speakers' time with lengthy introductions, Williams retired as the first director of the Pulitzer School of Journalism in 1919, but remained associated with Columbia until his death in 1928.

librarians Johnston and Mudge with LAJ also helped to enable the placement.) On December 1, 1913, LAJ was relocated from the Pratt Institute to the Pulitzer School of Journalism at Columbia University. *The Library Journal* for January 1914, in somewhat acidic text perhaps supplied by officials at the Pratt Institute, reported on the removal (p. 62):

> NEW YORK CITY. The Edwin Hadley Smith Collection of amateur journalism, consisting of 30,000 pieces, comprising extensive bound files of American and foreign amateur journalistic literature, mounted clippings, portraits and so on, has been cared for by the library of Pratt Institute since 1908. In justice to Mr. Smith, and to serious journalism, these papers, regarded as rudimentary forms, are about to be transferred to Columbia University, where they will be used in connection with the University School of Journalism.

Thus, LAJ came to Columbia's Morningside Heights campus in New York City. Smith retained ownership of his collection, and access at Columbia was solely by Smith's permission. Some reports said that LAJ was consigned to attic-type space at Columbia. Whether any of Williams's journalism students ever made significant use of the collection, the record sayeth not.[5] As always, institutions are jealous of building space. Boylan recorded of the new $500,000 journalism building, which opened September 13, 1913 (pp. 38-39):

> The university was quick to occupy the building's excess space. The university bookstore moved into the basement, and an Institute of Arts and Sciences and the department of music and anthropology occupied upper floors, Accounting got space for a while. Later, anthropology and Arts and Sciences moved out, and the Columbia University Press moved in. The music department was still there nearly fifty years later.

By 1915, Columbia (perhaps like Pratt Institute concerned about continuing growth of the collection) was insisting that LAJ would need to find a new home. Two appeals, one with and another without Smith's specific endorsement, unsuccessfully sought amateur donations to endow the collection. Then in the spring of 1916, Charles C. Heuman (1857-1940) purchased the collection outright from Smith for the sum of $250–the same price Smith had paid to the Salvation Army to bind the collection in 1907-08. Transfer of the collection from Heuman's personal ownership to The Fossils seems somewhat murky (there was a successful Fossil appeal to reimburse Heuman for the purchase price), but by July 1916, The Fossils had signed a first one-year lease for premises in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street in lower Manhattan, immediately adjacent to City Hall Park and "Newspaper Row." For most if not all the period 1916-35, Fossil Joseph Dana Miller's *Single Tax Review* shared office space (and presumably rent) with The Fossils in room 1302. In 1917, the leadership of The Fossils mailed keys to room 1302 to all members of record; the 1917 annual

[5] In the same year (1935) that LAJ departed New York City for the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the journalism school at Columbia University converted from an undergraduate program to a two-year graduate program. An undergraduate degree was subsequently required for admission. The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism continues to flourish today.

meeting and banquet marked the first at which Fossils foregathered in Fossil "headquarters" in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street. Many verbal bouquets concerning the keys were printed in a later issue of *The Fossil*.[6]

In moving to quarters at 150 Nassau Street, The Fossils located themselves at the very center of the New York City journalism business during the period 1830-1920. In fact, the New York *Sun* occupied the first five stories of 150 Nassau Street during the period 1914-19, and the building was therefore commonly called "The Sun Building" during this period. A statue of Benjamin Franklin stands in the immediate proximity of the building and the former New York *Times* building immediately across Nassau Street. A statue of newspaperman Horace Greeley (1811-1872) is in close proximity in nearby City Hall Park. The twenty-three story building, which survives today (and was converted to luxury condominiums in 2002) is more properly known as the American Tract Society Building. The June 15, 1999 Landmarks Preservation Commission Report on the site describes the building as follows:

> The American Tract Society Building, at the southeast corner of Nassau and Spruce Streets, was constructed in 1894-95 to the design of architect R. H. Robertson, who was known for his churches and institutional and office buildings in New York. It is one of the earliest, as well as one of the earliest extant, steel skeletal-frame skyscrapers in New York, partially of curtain-wall construction. This was also one of the city's tallest and largest skyscrapers upon its completion. Twenty full stories high (plus cellar, basement, and three-story tower) and clad in rusticated gray Westerly granite, gray Haverstraw Roman brick, and buff-colored terra cotta, the building was constructed with the U-shaped plan, having an exterior light court. Combining elements of the Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles, the design, with two similar principal facades, has an overall tripartite vertical scheme, but is also arranged in six horizontal sections. A three-story arcade, open at the top story and with winged caryatids at the upper corners, surmounts the western half of the building; a three-story hipped roof tower rises through the arcade, creating a picturesque feature in the skyline of lower Manhattan. The building's visibility is heightened by its corner location near City Hall Park and adjacent to Printing House Square.

The American Tract Society (ATS), a non-denominational Protestant religious organization that published an distributed religious literature, was founded in 1825 through the merger of predecessor societies. It determined that New York City should be its headquarters and in May 1825 purchased for $15,000 the site at the southeast corner of Nassau and Spruce Street. The American Bible Society House (1820) at 115-117 Nassau Street was a near neighbor. ATS erected its first four-story Tract House at the site in 1826 under the architectural direction of John McComb. A new five-story Tract House replaced the original building in 1846-47; the fifth floor housed the printing department. The printmaking firm of Currier & Ives was one of the tenants. An additional story with mansard roof and arched dormers was added in 1871-72. In 1894, ATS decided to demolish its existing building

[6] Many of the keys were doubtless preserved as mementos by their owners; whether any still survive today may be doubted.

and to build a large skyscraper for investment purposes–the property in the immediate vicinity of "Newspaper Row" had simply become too valuable to support the existing structure. Work under the direction of architect Robert Henderson Robertson (1849-1919) was completed at a cost of $1.1 million in September 1895. But by 1896 and 1897 ATS was already suffering under the debt burden created by the construction of the new building. Free-fall elevator accidents in 1896 and 1897, the second causing two fatalities, caused concern for existing and prospective building tenants. Nevertheless, ATS relocated from its temporary quarters to the new building in 1898. Financial difficulties continued, and ATS defaulted on its mortgage in 1913. New York Life was the mortgagor and took formal possession of the building in 1917, after ATS had moved out in 1914. The major new tenant under the New York Life administration was the New York *Sun*, which leased the first five floors of the building in 1914-19. Between 1919 and 1936, the building was owned by 150 Nassau Street Corporation, but it reverted again to New York Life in 1936 after 150 Nassau Street Corporation defaulted on the mortgage. The building continued under various ownerships (including Pace College from 1967 to 1982) until its was converted to luxury condominiums in 2002. Landmark designation in 1999 assured its permanent preservation barring some form of catastrophic damage.

Over the years, the ATS building, currently 150 Nassau Street, bore addresses 144-152 Nassau Street and 2-6 Spruce Street. Nicholas Currier was located the predecessor building at 148 Nassau Street in 1836-37 and 152 Nassau Street and 2 Spruce Street in 1838-65; Currier & Ives continued at 152 Nassau Street in 1866-72 (with an additional office at 33 Spruce Street). The locality had many connections not only with New York City newspaperdom but also with New York City politics. The Tammany Society, founded in 1789, moved its headquarters to the tavern owned by member Abraham "Brom" Martling at the corner of Nassau and Spruce Streets in 1798. Author Peter L. Bernstein remarked that "the building was so rundown many people referred to it as the Pig Pen." New York City Hall was constructed just a stone's throw away in 1803-12. The Tammany Society maintained its headquarters at Martling's Tavern until 1812. The earlier history of the City Hall Park neighborhood included commons land in 1653-89, an alms house in 1736-97, and a debtors' prison (1757) subsequently converted (1830) to a Hall of Records. The Jacob Wray Mould Fountain which stood in City Hall Park in 1871-1920 was restored in 1999. After the newspapers began moving out in the 1920s, stamp dealers made Nassau Street their New York City headquarters. Today's renovated condominium building at 150 Nassau Street contains 45 apartments on 23 floors and includes as amenities doorman, garage, concierge, and sundeck. Apartments range from 332 square-foot studios to a 6937 square-foot four bedroom apartment. Real estate agent Garret Lepaw of Corcoran Group Real Estate lists one 2,353 square foot unit in the building (5 rooms, 3 beds, 3.5 baths) at $2,149,000. Maintenance fees are $2,259 per month and tax escrow $335 per month. Ten percent down is required for purchase. Lepaw describes the unit as follows:

> Benefit from everything Tribeca has to offer WITHOUT having to pay the same price per square foot! Expansive 2,353 SF stunning 3BR/3.5 Bath condo loft home located steps from City Hall with easy access to all that Tribeca has to offer. Graced with 9 foot 4 inch ceilings, wide planked Oak wood floors, gas burning fireplace, charming beams, brilliant sunlight and expansive open city views from over-sized windows. Open kitchen features 12-foot Calcutta Marble counter tops, Boffi cabinets, professional Viking range (with grill and exterior

> venting), Meile, Subzero appliances. Master Bedroom suite offers large walk-in closets, bathroom replete with double sinks, deep soaking tub, separate stall shower. Additional details include individually controlled heating and air conditioning units and Bosch washer/dryer. Located in a wonderfully detailed 1895 Beaux Arts landmark building, amenities include: 24-hour doorman, concierge, gym, roof deck with incredible views, full-time super, and on-site garage. The apartment is an excellent value as it has low monthlies and 13 years left on the tax abatement. Just steps from all major transportation, Tribeca, Wall Street, South Street Seaport and several green parks. Why pay Tribeca prices when you can have so much more for so much less? Call for an appointment today!

The erstwhile Fossil headquarters in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street are today doubtless part of someone's luxury living quarters.

The final home of LAJ in New York City was the Special Collections Department of the New York University Library. LAJ arrived there in 1967. In 1973, Special Collections moved in the third story of NYU's new Bobst Library at 70 Washington Square South. LAJ remained here until 1980, when after an abortive microfilming effort, it began its migration to Mike Horvat in Stayton, Oregon, a move essentially complete by 1982.

LAJ history is still being written (on the shores of Lake Mendota at UW-Madison) as I write. But oh how well The Fossils loved New York City during their many years there. How many wonderful memories were shared in the gatherings in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street, followed by the annual meetings and banquets! What passions flared during the decision process (1931-35) resulting in the removal of LAJ from 150 Nassau Street to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia! What wonderful meetings and dinners The Fossils had in New York City during their “glory” years in the 1940s and the 1950s, while LAJ evidently rested secure at the Franklin Institute and the American Antiquarian Society collection (vastly increased by the bequest of Truman J. Spencer in 1944) continued to grow. During the next New York stay of LAJ at NYU (1967-80), the University could not provide space for Fossil social gatherings, but The Fossils continued to meet in New York City for their annual meetings and banquets. Then in 1976-80 the annual meetings once again witnessed struggle over the future of LAJ as the future at NYU grew dimmer. Since 1985, the requirements for New York business meetings lapsed, and with the surrender of the Oregon corporate charter in 2007, the requirements for any business meetings at all. (Such Fossil “business” as there is, is conducted by mail under the surviving by-laws.) The New York days of The Fossils and of LAJ are now past—but oh how we loved New York during our first century! New York is still arguably the greatest of American cities (although Mexico City far outranks it in population), and many Fossil memories still linger there. In the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn (1908-13), the Columbia University Journalism Building (1913-16) in Morningside Heights, the American Tract Society Building [150 Nassau Street] (1916-35) in Lower Manhattan, and the NYU Bobst Library (1973-80) on South Washington Square, many Fossil memories continue to linger. It is wonderful that the 1896 Pratt Institute Library, the 1912-13 Columbia University Journalism Building, the 1894-95 American Tract Society Building, and the 1973 New York University Bobst Library remain for Fossils to see when visiting the New York City area. Probably the 1894-95 American Tract Society (aka New York Sun) Building, with its many lingering memories of New York religion, politics, and newspaperdom holds the most memories for Fossils but we can be grateful for all these New York

institutions which provided homes for LAJ during its first century.

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FOUR POEMS OF CELEBRATION

Martha E. Shivers

The Unpredictables

Little minds are ever busy,
Little hands are never still,
Little feet forever wandering,
Often against your will.

Soapy bubbles while washing dishes
Spew upon clean, waxed floors;
Sugar scattered from sandwiches,
No thought to take out of doors.

Precious moments quickly gather,
Sewn together day by day,
Moments of despair forgotten,
Holding a dandelion bouquet.

Tiller of the Land

He is a farmer, so they say
As he labors raking hay.
They comment on the grain he has sown,

Food for folks once it has grown,
Not realizing the toil it owns.

They see the cap and overalls,
But not the tiredness when night falls;
Nor weariness when things go wrong:
Clouds, sorrow, no evening song.

He is a farmer, so they say.
It is his life, it is his way.
But God sees a tiller of the soil
As a master with endless toil;
A builder with his mind and hand
Adding to the Master's plan.

Our Challenge

Wide is the chasm we sometimes face
be it with family, friend or foe.
Though mountains be steep and rocky
a peaceful valley beckons bellow
inviting us to discover it.

Through brambles we often grope
for wisdom, but with perseverance
we walk over that bridge called *HOPE*.

You Are So Near

I saw you, today, God
in the sunrise,
the budding of a rose,
cardinals at the feeder,
a baby standing on tip-toes.

I saw you today, God
in fleecy clouds,
a sky of blue,
lambs in the meadow,
bleating for the ewes.

I heard you today, God
in the song of the lark,

from the meadow clear;
rumblings of thunder, promises of rain,
for thirsty plants, far and near.

I felt your closeness today, God
in your outdoor temple,
the grasp of a tiny hand
displaying humble trust,
a challenge to understand.

THE NATIONAL AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION COLLECTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARY

The editor is grateful to Trustee Stan Oliner for information relating to the collection of NAPA bundles (1980 to date) maintained in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas in Lawrence KS. The collection at present consists of six linear feet of material occupying six boxes. The collection is cataloged under call number RH MS 259; amateur journalists wishing to consult it will probably be prudent to make a reservation with the Spencer Research Library at (785) 864-4334.

We hope to read of more such placements of collections of long runs of ajay bundles in the future. The bundle envelope provides a perfect organizing mechanism for the papers included therein; in fact, it is a rare amateur journal which assumes its full personality in isolation away from its bundle companions. Doubtless, of course, electronic cataloging and digitizing will provide the organizing and access mechanism for many types of publications (including ours) in the future, but long runs of ajay bundles make an easy to organize and catalog collection for the present. It would be wonderful to read of similar placements for long runs of NAPA, AAPA, UAPA, UAPAA and other association bundles in the future. Of course, an "open" collection willing to receive current bundles is best, but even a "closed" collection can form a valuable resource.

EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

I am grateful to Guy Miller, Stan Oliner, Martha Shivvers, Donovan Loucks and Gene Carlson for their contributions to this issue of *The Fossil*.

I invite Fossils and non-Fossils to contribute something for our pages. I cannot promise any payment other than our gratitude and a complimentary copy of the issue containing your contribution if you are not a member. The main reward is helping to sustain this venerable journal dedicated to the history of the amateur journalism hobby.

The future of our journal is really in the hands of its readers since the editor alone cannot synthesize all the many memory threads which ought to find a place in our pages. Relatively speaking, we have had too little of AAPA, UAPA, UAPAA and recent ajay history in our pages over the tenure of my editorship. Future projects I have in mind include publishing some of Bill

Groveman's photographs of early AAPA members, an article on Fossil August Derleth's relationship with Carroll Coleman's Prairie Press, and an article on Charles A. A. Parker (1880-1965) of the famous "Parker Principles." *The Fossil*, however, will be richer for articles which it may receive from other hands.

History is being made as we watch. Co-hosts Barry Schrader of AAPA and Bill Boys of NAPA will be bringing their associations together for an historic common meeting in Elk Grove Village on July 22-24, 2010. Coming together when our common interests so dictate is a good survival strategy for a hobby faced with multiple challenges. Our love for our associations, for their bundles, and for our common traditions can all shine forth most brightly when we come together. I hope to see many fellow Fossils and other ajay friends in Elk Grove Village this coming July 22-24.

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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.