

*THE*



*FOSSIL*



Stan Oliner receives the Gold Composing Stick Award  
presented by last recipient of the award, Dave Tribby  
at the Fossil Luncheon on July 23, 2010  
at Elk Village, IL



Guy Miller Receives “The Fosssil of the Century Award”  
from Mike O’Connor and Jack Visser  
at Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

# THE



# FOSSIL

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: BUSY, BUSY**

**Guy Miller**

Our election returns showed a handsome response—well over half of our membership cast ballots—and we do thank you all for your continued interest in the work of your officers. Both veterans Stan Oliner and Jack Swenson have again been chosen to serve on the Board of Trustees, joining the incumbent president for the term 2010-2012. In accordance with our by-laws, the officers then proceeded to select the new president for the two-year term, and I am gratified to report that I have been chosen once more to fill that post. If I am permitted the privilege to complete this term, I will be marking 12 consecutive years, plus one (1994-95) in this office. They have been busy, though sometimes turbulent, years; but I feel that we have made more good decisions than poor ones over that time. I do not intend to review those events here: I refer you to past issues of *The Fossil*.

But every president who has served *The Fossils* has known full well that his or her successes have rested on the expertise of their staffs. In that respect, I have been well-blessed. And I know that this term will be a successful one, not only because of the support of Jack and Stan, but also because of the continuing activity of our appointed officers: Official Editor Ken Faig, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson, Historian Sean Donnelly, Librarian Mike Horvat, Webmaster Dave Tribby, and Membership Chair Martha Shivvers. We hope that Fossil Lee Hawes will agree to continue as the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award chairman, and that Stan Oliner will oversee the *Fossil's* Gold Composing Stick Award.

Our main activity this past year involved the negotiation and acquisition of what we have named the Daniel Graham collection. Early in the year *Fossil* Gary Bossler and then NAPA president *Fossil* Jack Visser were contacted by a Connecticut bookseller concerning a collection of loose journals and a number of bound volumes which the seller had obtained from a storage site. He forthwith offered their sale to Gary and Jack. Immediately I wrote to the bookseller; and, after an assurance that he was, indeed, legally qualified to sell the materials—and with the approval of the Board of Trustees—I authorized the resources of our *Fossil* treasury for the purchase and transfer of the material which the newly-formed committee (Gary Bossler, Jack Visser, Ken Faig and Stan Oliner) agreed should be placed in the care of Stan Oliner. Stan, in turn, gave such a complete report to the delegates attending the Elk Grove IL concurrent conventions of AAPA and NAPA, that the

committee had little, if any, trouble in soliciting support from the two groups. The result is that the NAPA has authorized the expenditure of \$2,500 and the AAPA \$1,500 (amounts suggested by the committee) toward the success of the venture. Needless to say that your Fossils president is most appreciative of this support, inasmuch as our treasury boasted a little under \$6,000. So, we would have suffered quite a dent there. But after all, as Trustee Jack Swenson said in his approval, "Preservation is what we do." Indeed, we are the Historians of Amateur Journalism.

The concurrent conventions program under the supervision of Fossil Barry Schrader and NAPA Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boys was well-planned, and the delegates voiced overwhelmingly their enthusiasm for another. One of the highlights for Fossils was the Fossils' Appreciation Luncheon, proposed and arranged for by Barry. Fossils underwrote a portion of the cost along with a convention advance; so, the result was a \$10 box lunch for 29 delegates. Considering a total conventions estimate of 47 attendees (some of them guests), the luncheon had a strong attendance, which was encouraging because The Fossils had two awards to give: the Russell L. Paxton Award for Service to Amateur Journalism and the Fossils Gold Composing Stick Award.

We feel it important to emphasize that the Paxton award is not a Fossils creation, although we have the honor of choosing and presenting it. Rather, it was initiated by J. Ed Newman and John Horn and intended for a one-time presentation to its namesake Russ Paxton. When J. Ed and John decided to expand the award to other amateur journalists, they entrusted the responsibility to The Fossils. John Horn continues to underwrite the cost of the award. Although there is no stipulation as to how often this award should be given, since 1986 there have been 21 recipients. This year Paxton chairman Lee Hawes honored Ivan Snyder with the award. We are all aware of Ivan's unflagging service to amateur journalism especially in AAPA where he has been president, convention host, ALERT coordinator, frequent publisher, and currently Secretary-Treasurer. The Fossils are in his debt for his industry in helping with the transfer of the Library of Amateur Journalism to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He and John Lawson, also of AAPA, stepped in to aid me upon the sudden passing of Ron Young who had agreed to serve as my eyes in the survey of our holdings. Incidentally, Ivan is a former Fossil who served briefly as a member of the Board of Trustees during the administration of the late Victor Moitoret.

The Gold Composing Stick Award is a hobby-wide award—not restricted to Fossils—and is Fossil-initiated. It is an actual composing stick, gold-plated and mounted on a suitably engraved plaque, and since 1953 has been presented but 13 times. The 2007 recipient, Dave Tribby, was afforded the honor of bestowing the award on Stan Oliner. Stan, by the way, is chairman of the Gold Composing Stick Committee. So, it was a little more than an every-day surprise to him to be its recipient. A research-oriented librarian, Stan is absolutely no stranger to anyone active in amateur journalism. Although he is not a member of any other group except The Fossils and NAPA, he has served all associations in arranging the placement of members' private collections. His latest activity in managing the acquisition of the Daniel Graham Collection might be his greatest triumph so far; although we will have to think about that, considering his success along with Mike Horvat in saving the Library of Amateur Journalism from certain destruction, and his Herculean efforts in finding a home for the massive Moitoret collection.

This year we are scheduled to consider a proposal from Ken Faig to disband the LAJ Committee and replace it with a Fossils Institutional Collections Committee. Also, with the help of Fossil Gary Bossler, *The Fossil* printer might venture into the yet (to this printer) bewildering world of the internet in setting up a system whereby he can transfer pages of the official journal to a printer who will print, fold, collate, and staple the journal all in one operation. It will be interesting to see how *that* works out!

## PHOTOS FROM MY SCRAPBOOK

Bill Groveman

One thing struck me, just how much those AAPA members of the late Thirties and early Forties were like the young boys in the formative years of the National in the 1870's. Young Blood! Alas, it has all drained away from the hobby, or at least from our kind of hobby.

Gabby Gabaree (more anon). A hard luck kid from Bridgeport CT who lived off of a kind of public welfare job with the National Youth Administration for a few years. He went into the Army where he was sent to India in WW2 and dropped out afterwards. His paper was The Nutmegger. He was an AAPA member.

Wise (Wes Wise) from Wichita, Kansas, a bright fellow who put out *The American Eagle*, a paper for the American with a decidedly liberal political slant. Wes was a most amiable man in his early twenties. He served as Sgt with the 5th Air Force in Italy. In 1946 I had a work-study job in Chicago with Montgomery Ward working on their mail-order catalogue and I saw a lot of Wes. By then he was editor of National Bowling News. Their office was in the Loop. His boss was a gambler who spent his days at the racetrack and Wes pretty much did what he wanted. I introduced him to Bleecker Green, a fellow student from Antioch College also working in Chitown and he gave Green the job and moved on to do what I no longer recall. Years later Lee Hawes told me Wes' wife had dumped him and he was an invalid in a wheelchair.

Though I can't remember why I received many of the photos, I was an active recruiter for the American and suspect they were the result of my letters in the *Open Road for Boys* (long defunct) to publicize the hobby in youth magazines that ran ads for the Kelsey Press Company.

That AAPA Milwaukee convention in 1940 most likely was the fruition of the work of Bruce W. Smith of Green Bay, Wisconsin. He and I were fast friends for a while with daily letters each way. Now I can't begin to imagine what there was to say! Smith ended up editor, I believe, of a technical publication and died a few years ago. A really nice chap I met only once when he came east for our 1939 NY AAPA meet.

Ralph Brandt is only a name to me, but he was an AAPA dynamo in those years. Erich Werner was the second president of the American. Helen Wesson told me a while back she had no luck tracking him at that time. I thought, and still think, that the American made a mistake in not providing some form of Life Membership. It might seem a burden to carry "dead wood," but we have found over the years in the National that the old boys and girls do rally round when the association gets into difficulties. I spoke of this once to Helen and to Lee; apparently it made little impression.

Geo. Henry Kay was a Minnesota printer, a man in his twenties, who tired of the UAPA political manipulations of "Judge" Roy Erford and decided not to fight him, but to start a new group. I think Kay was a sort of tramp printer. He would write to me from Minnesota, and the next letter was from Arkansas saying the mosquitoes had driven him south, and then later he would be back North. He turned out many a journal on cheap paper of varying sizes which I imagine was scrap that he salvaged. Personally he was almost a man of mystery. We knew nothing of his personal circumstances. So far as I know, he showed up around 1957 at a Chicago convention and that is the last I heard of him.

Looked up Susan Brown Robbins and I don't know why I have her picture and suspect it fell out of an old amateur paper and I thought in those days anything a.j. was too precious to toss. She isn't listed in Spencer's Cyclopedia. Know no more.

That picture of the Kentucky UAPA club is of a bunch of people recruited for their vote and

I don't know that any of them ever did anything much for the United. Maurice White was a local optometrist who was one of Erford's puppets. I once met him circa 1947 at a Chicago a.j. meeting. An amiable gent, but little more.

Robert L. Smith Jr. was a friend of mine from Hempstead NY High School. Helen W. adored him. Bob's brother Willard joined him in publishing *The Cough Drop* for the AAPA, the inevitable Smith Bros. title. They ran the 1942 Hempstead AAPA convention, but I was long gone off to college in Ohio and couldn't attend. Smitty had an engineering career with General Electric. Brother Bill took over their father's real estate agency and cashed in on the postwar Long Island real estate boom.

Gabaree again. The press is the original 3x5 I bought from Kelsey, and when I traded up to a 4x6 I sold it to Gabby on time. He would send me 50¢ whenever he could spare it from what they needed at home. I remember he came down to Hempstead and carried press and type and cases by hand all the way back to Bridgeport by bus and train.

Chas. Hoye resurfaced in the National a few years ago in the Southwest, even put out a paper, and I think he is still a member. That classy bike looks like it may be like the Schwinn I bought in those years with paper-boy earnings. That was how I financed my amateur journalistic efforts.

Shirley Turner was for a while Eastern Mailing Mgr. of the National, I think. (In those days they tried two mailing managers so the bundles sent 3rd class would only have to travel over the eastern or western sections of the U.S.A.) When in the Army I stopped off in D.C. to meet her. One thing I remember. She lived in a part of town wherein were located various embassies. By misdirection I ended up at the Soviet embassy. I knocked at the door and asked for Shirley; they were very suspicious when I explained what she and I had for a mutual interest. Maybe they thought I was a spy for some American (not AAPA) journal!

Hyman Bradofsky seemed rich beyond belief to kids who rarely had more than a few dollars. We heard that he spent \$500 one year publishing *The Californian*. Unbelievable wealth in the mid 1930's. Hyman was a little thin-skinned and took offense easily, and some of the smart alecks in NAPA like Ralph Babcock really knew how to needle him. In later years, when you knew him, it was apparent that he had learned how to ignore the flea bites.

I went through all the pix except Benny Bianchi (possibly the worst printer ever to be in NAPA bundles). Also Haggerty's and Hadley Smith's at the prefab Hadley and wife retired to along the Jersey shore. After he died, she stayed in a lone house where all the area was deserted in winter, and I think she was really frightened. One year Vondy took pity and brought her to Manhattan where she found her a job as a bookstore clerk and a comfortable room in a boarding house.

## **ROUND ROBINS**

**Dale Speirs**

*(Reprinted from Opuntia and Postal History Journal)*

A round robin is a circulating packet of letters or magazines, with each participant adding their contribution as it comes round and removing their previous one. The round robin editor or some participants may make copies as it comes by, but often not, thus making round robins almost impossible to collect. A round robin is essentially a magazine published in a print run of one.

The history of round robins, if it has been previously recorded, is so obscure as to be almost non-existent. Round robin magazines, as opposed to round robin letters, are definitely known from

the 1800s, and probably round robin letters predate them. Since round robins circulate only amongst a small group of friends and only come in one copy, it is not too surprising that bibliographers and librarians are generally silent on the subject. Round robins remain the cheapest method of circulating bulky letters and photographs. The major vulnerability of a round robin is that if it goes astray in the mails, or more commonly is detained or lost by one of its participants, then there will be difficulty restarting the round robin and recovering the data.

### *Round Robin Letters*

In 1916, there was a literary round robin, known as the Kleicomolo Club after the first syllables of the members' names. It had only four members, but it is remembered because one of its members was H. P. Lovecraft, the famous writer of weird fiction. When one of the founders got religion and dropped out to become a Holy Roller evangelist, he was replaced and the club renamed the Gallomo [11]. The club lasted two years.

During World War II, there was a report that military censors had, amongst other things such as diaries and chain letters, banned round robin letters [2].

Round robins for horticultural enthusiasts have been popular because they allow for sending of seed boxes for exchanges. One such group of robins, publicized in the World War II-era magazine *The Flower Grower*, was begun in 1942. By May 1944, there were dozens of robins circulating in the group, with a total membership of 600. One hazard was postmasters who thought the seed box robins constituted chain letters, but they allowed them through once an explanation was given [13]. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America has had a large number of letter round robins going since 1951. They deal with various genera of plants or horticultural themes such as raising from seed.

The poet Louis Dudek circulated a poetry round robin in 1950-51, which he referred to as a "mailbag" [6].

Somewhat similar, and in a form still used by mail artists today, was the 1899 Christmas card, commercially produced. The recipients signed the card in turn, and eventually circulated it back to the original sender [12].

### *The Rhymers*

An early letters round robin was formed in 1924 by disciples of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell for deaf people. The idea was to bring them out of their isolation and encourage socialization. Each round robin group was limited to ten members. The first such group was called Welikeit. In 1935, a splinter group formed The Rhymer Group, specializing in poetry, and not necessarily comprised of deaf people only, although some were [16].

Martha Shivvers wrote of The Rhymers: "The Rhymer Group is a writing organization started back in 1887 as a round robin 'letter ring' to bring hearing-impaired people into a circle of folks who were understanding and helpful. Included here is a short resume by Ina L. Millenchamp, who was the Captain of such a group when I was asked to join in 1976."

"It all began in 1887 when Dr. Alexander Graham Bell established the Volta Bureau, a centre of information about deafness. In 1889, he began publication of *The Volta Review*, a monthly magazine dealing with the educational and social problems of the deaf and hard of hearing. Wanting to lessen the terrible loneliness of the isolated deafened, the editor, Josephine B. Timberlake, in 1924, appointed Laura Stoval, a member of her staff, to establish correspondence circles and

encourages sociabilities among the Volta family. The groups were limited to ten members, and each group had a captain, or leader. Each circle conducted its own round robin.

“The first group, states Mrs. Millenchamp, was christened ‘Welikeit,’ and it most certainly was enjoyed as the friendly association continued. About 1935, several student-poets got together and decided to continue under the name of ‘Rhymers.’ A captain was appointed to pilot the barque, and others formed the crew. It was not necessarily connected with the deafness programme, but Ina was hearing impaired.

“The first captain was Miss Katherine Grace Wadleigh of Toronto, a retired teacher of lip reading, well known at Volta Bureau and in education circles.

“Rhymers assignments have ranged all the way from simple lyric to polyphonic prose, the sonnet, blank and free verse, even inventing our own forms. We’ve dug deeply into the history of poetry, sometimes writing prose articles of different phases. Many of the members have had their writings printed in little magazines. In more recent years, the members have had their literary children printed into little booklets at their own expense.

“Assignments are given for the year, and personal letters are included with the letter-ring. The critiques, while stern in past years, have mellowed and are more encouraging. Only six members are the nucleus, and the Good Ship makes port every two months. While the original purpose was to help the deaf alleviate their loneliness in times of lesser communications, the event evolved into learning experiences and a broadening of friendships.”

### *Round Robin Magazines*

Round robin magazines began at least as early as the 1800s and probably earlier, since they were handwritten and did not need to await the introduction of cheap, home-use printing presses.

What probably were round robins were the ‘evercirculating’ magazines of the Phonetic Society. Isaac Pitman, of shorthand fame, was Secretary of this society, whose members studied or taught Pitman shorthand (which they called phonography) and spelling reform. The weekly periodical of this organization was *The Phonetic Journal*. Volume 32, published in 1873, starts off with a request by Pitman on page 1 that: •gEvery conductor of an evercirculating magazines is respectfully solicited to send its title, number of contributors, time of circulation, and nature of its contents. •h The definition of an evercirculating magazine is assumed to be known, not given directly, and they evidently had been in use some years prior to 1873. One evercirculator, *Detector* (Cornwall), was mentioned in passing as having been established in September 1869.

Evercirculators appeared to be bundles of phonographic magazines interspersed with members’ letters, and passing to each member for three to six days, with an average round trip of a month. Evercirculators contained members’ shorthand translations for criticism by others, with blank pages supplied for commentary. Most were general, but some were specialized on topics such as law (for legal clerks), nature, or politics.

There are passing mentions in local shorthand club reports in *The Phonetic Journal* of 1873 of evercirculators such as *The Beautiful Snow* (Gloucester), *The Essex Phonographers’ Magazine*, *Monthly Miscellany* (Manchester), *Phonographic Train* (Manchester railway clerks), *Philomath* (Newtonwnards, Ireland), *Eastern Star* (Great Yarmouth), *Semaphore* (Great Western Railway employees), and *Love and Truth* (London), to name but a few.

*The Scots Thistle* began in 1885 at Kilmarnock and was still going a century later [5]. The originator got the idea from a friend in England, where they had been popular for some time previous. The Scots Thistle was originally circulated amongst 12 to 20 members. Each contributed a manuscript



or one-off magazine to the editor. The editor bound the material into a single volume, together with editorial pages, a blank comments page, the comments page from the previous issue, and a penalty page (where late or non-contributors pay the fines assessed in postage stamps). The round-robin was then circulated through the membership. Everyone used a pseudonym, ostensibly to soften the blows from the comments pages, although many knew who was behind a particular name. There were get-togethers, just as other hobby groups hold meetings. *The Scots Thistle* has two famous alumni, the poets Robert Garioch and William Soutar, who wrote under the names Grommet and Scriblerus respectively.

*The Transatlantic Circulator* was a literary round robin magazine circulated in the early 1920s [1]. Its main claim to posterity is that H. P. Lovecraft was a participant, and circulated some of his manuscripts in it. Lovecraft was apparently the organizer of this group, but dropped out in September 1921 because he was too sensitive about his fiction being criticized by others [11].

A group of women produced handwritten and illustrated round robin magazines in Italy, Germany and France, respectively titled *Lucciola*, *Parva Favilla* and *Mouche Volante*. These were avant-garde arts magazines. *Lucciola* was published monthly from 1908 to 1926 and edited by Lina Ciaco. It was "...entirely handwritten and illustrated with drawings, paintings and photographs" [9].

A British group called the Invalid and Lone Collectors Society was formed in 1921, and as its name suggests, it is for stamp collectors not able to participate in a regular stamp club due to disabilities but who can still correspond [3]. Since it began it has published a round robin magazine called *The Philatelic Circulator*, of which only one issue circulates amongst members in the same manner as an exchange packet. Eleven issues are "published" each year, save for some war-time interruptions. Members contribute articles and often illustrate them with the original stamps, postmarks or covers. At the end of each article are blank pages to which other members add their comments. By early 1997, this round robin had reached issue #724 and was being circulated as a leather binder. At that time there were about sixty members [15].

During World War II, science fiction fans used round robins, one of which was collated into a fanzine. Sam Moskowitz writes [10]: "In England there had been at least three informational chain letters in recent circulation, notably Arthur Clarke's Fan Mail...[Arthur] Joquel now decided to introduce this idea in the United States. He designated eleven fans to write to each other in this chainwise fashion. All the letters were then given to Joquel, who added a prefatory letter of his own plus a column responding to the contributors, and reprinted everything late in 1941 as *Spectra* #1. This was mimeographed, had 34 letter-sized pages, and carried a cover illustration by Tom Wright that had been part of the latter's letter."

### *Round Robin Audio Tapes*

Tape recordings have circulated in the round robin style. Their long-term archival storage is hampered by the difficulty of using obsolete machines, unlike paper, which can always be read. Tape round robins are known circa the early 1950s. Harry Warner, Jr. relates some problems [4]: "Another problem was the bewildering number of configurations of tape recorders. Those marketed to consumers ranged from half-track to quarter-track, and even a few full-track tapers were in use after the recording method became generally available. Recording speeds started at 15/16ths of an inch to 7.5 inches per second. Someone on the chain might not be able to hear stuff recorded at the slower speeds, and a half-track recorder might inadvertently wipe out two segments instead of one when its owner recorded his portion over that of the next person in line. Then there was a cheap paper tape which couldn't be played in some machines without tearing."

### *Round Robins on the Internet*

On the Internet, round robins are used by hobbyists such as quilters, who, although they use e-mail and newsgroups, use snail mail to circulate round robin boxes of quilt squares to trade: take one out, put one in. Their newsgroup `rec.crafts.textiles` tracks the boxes and carries on general chitchat. In like manner, `rec.crafts.rubberstamps` circulates boxes of used stamps for mail art. As far as correspondence goes, however, blogs seem to have successfully taken over.

### *Round Robin Stories*

Another kind of round robin is story writing, where each participant adds a section to a story as it circulates through the group. This has long been done through the mails, and is well adapted to the Internet. One example, organized in 1935 by Julius Schwartz (later editor of the Superman comics), illustrates why this type of round robin has never been very successful. It involved five well-known writers who were to write a section in sequence. One took offense at how a previous writer strayed too far from the agreed plot, another resigned when his writing was edited because he was the person who caused the first writer the offence, and a third was indignant at the politics involved. The story was eventually published in a science fiction magazine but was no more than a literary curiosity [11].

### *Why Is It Called A Round Robin?*

Starting in the 1800s, dictionary citations are most commonly for round robins as a petition where the signatures were written in a circle or on a ribbon looped through a hole punched in the paper in order to prevent the ringleader from being identified. Another use of the phrase is in sports competitions where each contestant plays each other. This usage is traced back to 1895 (for lawn tennis) by the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement*, Volume 3, which also adds a definition for a specialized type of horse race bet.

Not until the 1960s do many dictionaries give the literary meaning. This is surprising, since round robin letters and magazines date back to the 1800s, and being used by literary folk, should have drawn the attention of lexicographers. A chart of dictionary citations is shown as Appendix A.

And why “round robin”? Most dictionaries repeat the same origin, that of derivation from “*ruban ronde*,” the round ribbon on which French sailors of the 1600s signed their names when protesting against an officer.

This was disputed in the 1800s in the pages of *Notes and Queries*. In 1851, a correspondent signing himself R.W.E. queried this phrase, saying he had found a quote: “That the sacrament of the Altar is nothing else but a piece of bread, or a little *predie round robin*.” In 1896, F. Adams blasted the French origin as improbable, and suggested that either the little round pancakes of the same name were the origin, or that the term is corrupted from “rope bands.” In a follow-up a year later, F. Chance agreed that the term could not have derived from French, traces it to at least 1643, and suggests that all known meanings are alliteration or assonance from “round ro-n” or possibly “round robert.” Mr. Chance listed all the known definitions of the phrase, none of which included anything literary. Yet there is no doubt the literary round robins were common on both sides of the Atlantic during his life.

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the term round robin had become applied to in Britain as the phrase for Christmas letters, the annual family letter sent out with Christmas cards describing

# GREETINGS, AJAYS

*from----*



E. H. (Gabby) Gabaree, Jr., Candidate for AAPA Director  
Editor: Political Pot, AJ-JR., NUTMEGGER.  
Address: 17 W. Porter St., Watersbury, Conn.



Above 2 photos of  
Warren Rinchar  
AAPA member and  
publisher of  
*American Journal*



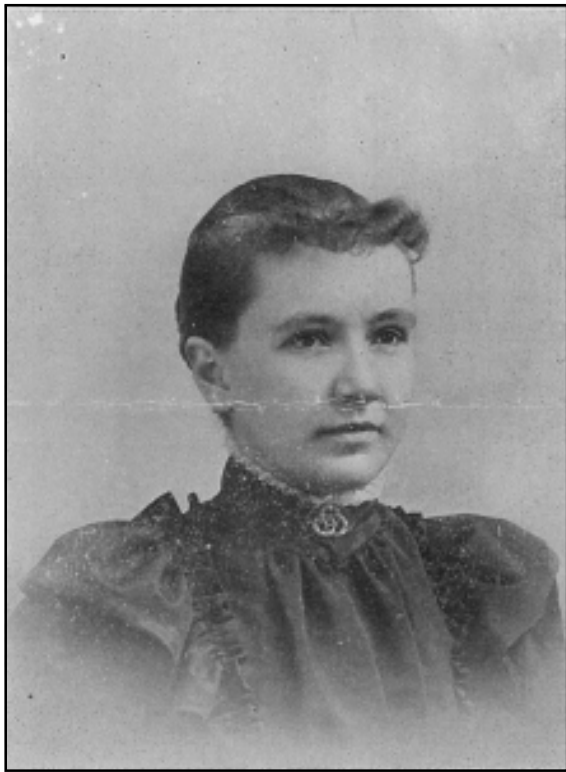
Roy Ward and Wes Wise  
snapped in 1940  
Wise was 1940 AAPA  
Official Editor



Wayne Williams  
in 1937  
Was 1940 AAPA  
Mailing Manager



Some photos of Charles J. Hoyer taken May, 1939  
Hoyer was publisher of *The Bay Stater*  
unsuccessful candidate for AAPA Director - Dec 1946



Susan Brown Robbins  
1889 - 1910

Self-portrait of  
John T. Coolidge  
Vice President of  
NAPA about 1936



Robert L. Smith, Jr.



Jack Garske      Dave Moore  
AAPA members and editors of  
Sports Chronicle  
1938 - 1940



Kentucky Amateur Press Group at Richmond, Ky  
afiliated with United APA



E. George Lindstrom

Cleveland  
NAPA  
Member

Active  
before  
1941  
Cleveland  
Convention



Joseph Shawhan - 1939  
publisher of *American Pressman*



Francis Weber  
Syracuse, NY  
taken 1940  
published  
*AAPA Progressive*



Ralph Brandt

Brandt edited the  
*Pencorastist*  
for the AAPA  
in 1940



Emil Tenyak  
of Barberton, Ohio  
194-0 AAPA  
Director

publisher of  
*Literary  
Medley*



Robert E. Kunde  
Stevensville, Michigan  
first active in AAPA in 1937  
held several offices



Harriet Miller in July 1940  
sister of Francis W. Miller



Arthur V. Diggle co-editor  
with Bill Groveman on early  
issues of the *Printers Devil*



Elmer H. "Gabby" Gabaree, Jr.  
1941 AAPA Director



Mark Treptow  
1937 AAPA writer



Marvin Doane  
1942 AAPA member  
Dayton, Ohio





Shirley Turner  
of Washington D.C. member of  
AAPA & NAPA published  
*Turner Inquirer*



Hyman Bradofsky  
NAPA President 1935-36  
publisher of *The Californian*



Benny F. Bianchi of Daytona Beach, FL  
Gentleman of Leisure and publisher of  
*The Mocking Bird*



Sallie Ann Fisher & Dick Davis  
1940 Editors from  
Green Bay, Wisconsin



Photo by Edwin Hadley Smith taken in front of  
his prefabricated house under construction at  
Point Pleasant, NJ - March 23, 1941.  
left to rt.-Bernice McCarthy, Vincent Haggerty,  
Jane McCarthy, Nita Gerner Smith, and  
Felicitas Haggerty





AAPA Convention - Milwaukee - 1940  
 (front l to r) Bruce Smith, Ken Kulzick, Ralph Brandt,  
 Allyn Beaudin, Hester Channon, Sally Fisher  
 (back l to r) James Muckian, Gary Hantke, Richard Davis,  
 Erich Werner, Geneveive Krause, Catherine Hinnickle.  
 (missing) Robert Tesch, Robert Kunde, John Dockry,  
 John Ahlhauser, W.T. Ahlhauser, Walter Zahn.  
 Convention under the sponsorship of the MAJORS and the  
 WisconSINNERS. Most successful in history with five  
 officers present. Much in the way of serious ajay discussion  
 took place . . . . .



George Henry Kay  
 of Little Falls, MN 1939  
 Kay was president of AAPA  
 head of "Crusader" movement in  
 UAPA and founder of AAPA in  
 1936. piublished numerous  
 journals



Walter P. Crews -1940 AAPA Dir.



Robert Reide Estabrook  
 Stone, Mass. - 1939  
 publisher of  
*The Nutshell.*



1942 NAPA Convention

left to right Front -Albert Lee, Barbara Harn, Eleanor Thomas

Back - William Haywood, Sylvia Crane, Stanley Coffin, Robert L. Smith Jr., Holman Eisenlohr



New York City - July 1942

Left to Right- Front kneeling-Burton Crane, William Tobios Butler, Charles Heins, Michael White.

Back standing-Helm Spink, Nita Gerner Smith, Beecher Ogden, Felicitas Haggerty, Della Knap, Ray Adams, Edwin Hadley Smith, William Haywood Eleanor Thomas, Alma L. Weixelbaum.

the events of the past year [7]. This was definitely an abuse of the term, since in no way did the letters circulate; they went out from one to many and never came back. One person did object to his misuse of the term [8]. However, he seemed unaware of the circulator meaning, and wrote as follows: “The only thing I really object to about Christmas circulars is calling them ‘round robins’: A round-robin is a petition or protest, signed by several people in a circle to prevent anyone being singled out as the ringleaders. Thus a circular goes from one person (or family) to many: a round robin from many to one.”

What is it about this meaning that it stays so well hidden from notice?

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## Appendix A: Dictionary Citations.

Definitions of “round robin”:

- 1) signed in alphabetical order to share responsibility
- 2) sports tournament
- 3) type of horse race bet
- 4) petition signed in circle
- 5) letter sent among members of a group, with comments added in
- 6) extended sequence
- 7) neck ruff
- 8) pancake
- 9) cigar fish

- 10) angler fish
- 11) dirt-board on a wagon wheel
- 12) petition, but no mention of circular or alphabetical grouping
- 13) multi-party telephone conferencing

Dictionary (Year of Edition): Definitions Given

*Dictionarium Britannicum* (1730): no definition  
 Nathan Bailey, *General Dictionary of the English Language* (1780): no definition  
 Thomas Sheridan, *Dictionary of the English Language* (1876): 4  
 R. G. Latham, *Nuttall's Standard Dictionary of the English Language* (1901): 4  
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 Webster's 3rd New International Unabridged (1961): 4,12,5,2,6,13  
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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (1978): 12  
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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

I am grateful to Bill Groveman, Dale Speirs, Chris Perridas and Thomas Lera for their contributions to this issue and join President Guy Miller in congratulating Ivan Snyder on his Paxton Award and Stan Oliner on his Gold Composing Stick Award.

I also join President Miller in complimenting convention co-hosts Barry Schrader and Bill Boys on the very successful concurrent NAPA-AAPA convention held this past summer in Elk Grove Village, IL. Hopefully, this experiment shows how the associations can achieve the attendance necessary for a successful convention while preserving their own separate identities. Perhaps NAPA and AAPA will not meet concurrently in every future year, but I for one hope they will choose often to repeat the very successful first concurrent convention. The AAPA website, by the way, has an excellent, well-illustrated report of the convention.

I welcome to our ranks Alice and Marc Brosey, third-generation members of NAPA's Warner family, who worked very hard to make the Elk Grove Village convention a success. Alice's father David Warner is the new NAPA president for 2010-11 and on behalf of the Fossils I wish for him a very productive new term of office as head of this most venerable of North American amateur journalism associations.

For future issues, we have an interesting history of AAPA's Metchap club by Arnold Pierce discovered by Stan Oliner which Bill Groveman has taken the time to edit for us, and I continue to work on a feature on notable amateur Charles A. A. Parker. If there is something that you can add to our journal, I hope you will consider sending it in for use in *The Fossil*.



**LEONARD E. TILDEN:  
ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM POSTCARDS**

**Chris Perridas<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Lera<sup>2</sup>**

Leonard E. Tilden (1861-1937) was President of The Fossils in 1926-27. It is not the intent to rehearse the discussion of Tilden by Truman Spencer [1], but to add a few historical comments about Tilden's career, and then discuss an interesting discovery by a collector, Ivan Dehaes.

The record [2], as these writers have been able to determine, first speaks of Leonard E. Tilden as he was elected Sergeant-at-Arms in the June 1883 session of the New Hampshire Legislature. As he was only about 22 years old at the time, this could be considered an especially notable appointment. In 1889, at Marlborough, NH, we read that he was married to Harriet Maria of Marblehead (b. 14 April 1861) [3].

Early in his career, Tilden was involved in the amateur journalism movement. *The Granite Echo*, a monthly amateur paper of 4 pages was commenced by Herbert D. Smart, editor and proprietor, about May 1879. George I. Putnam of Charlestown, NH, appeared as associate editor in the August 1879 issue, and Arthur H. Chase in November 1879. The number of pages was increased to 8 in January 1880 and at that time, Herbert D. Smart and Leonard E. Tilden (then about 19) appeared as editors and publishers. The paper was discontinued in 1883 [4]. It was during this time, through some contentious elections, Tilden became associated as an executive of the amateur journalism movement.

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Perridas has a long running blog on H. P. Lovecraft.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Lera has the position of Winton M. Blount Chair in Research at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

A signed letter of Tilden's recently appeared on Ebay. A fragment was visible during that auction, and the seller stated: Unsigned autograph envelope from Department of Labor stationery. Postmarked Washington, D.C., Jan. 16, 1894 and Keene, New Hampshire, Jan. 17, 1894. Addressed to Caron Calony, Esq., Keene, New Hampshire. The letter fragment read: "Department of Labor, Washington. January 16, 1894, Friend Calony: Some weeks ago, I got the gentleman who's card I enclose to get me the autograph of President Cleveland and Mrs. Cleveland for Fanny. I shared them to a friend of mine who was on {trip?} from Boston and he wanted to take them home with him and publish them in his magazine *Donahue's Magazine of Boston*. I told him I wanted to show them first to some friends of mine and then..." [5]. From this, we can already tell the thirty-three year-old Tilden had some clout in the Democratic second term of Cleveland's administration.

On 1 July 1903 he was listed under the Department of Commerce at Marlborough as having passed the civil service exam [6]. One supposes his career as a bureaucrat had begun at this point.

By 1906, we hear that Tilden "of Marlborough" was considered a worthy dignitary and honored guest, as he spoke at an Old Home gathering in Troy, New Hampshire [7]. This was a quaint gathering, the town businesses were closed, "decorated with streamers flags and banners" and "about six hundred persons gathered in Kimball Grove where a basket picnic was held" [7].

Around 1913, Tilden created his first notable bureaucratic masterpiece, often quoted in the records, "The field work in connection with the report on cotton goods manufacturing and finishing and on woolen and worsted goods manufacturing" and cited as done under the immediate charge of Leonard E. Tilden [8].

Recently, a collector, Ivan Dehaes allowed the publication of two postcards of Tilden's by Perridas on his Lovecraft blog.

The first postcard relating to amateur journalism [9] addressed to Leonard E. Tilden, Esq., Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. was mailed at Brattleboro, Vermont on 21 August 1927. Tilden had moved as noted by the purple 4-line hand-stamp "U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Addressed Changed by Official Order." It was rerouted to General Delivery in Denver, Colorado, and cancelled with a slogan hand-stamp on 23 August 1927, 3:30 PM, Washington, D.C. The slogan reads: "Register or Insure Valuable Mail." From 1925 to 1928, it cost two cents to mail a postcard. The final mark shows receipt September 5, 1927. Tilden would have been about 66 at the time.

As was the nature of postal cards then, this was a divided back and to save ink, publishers left a border around the view, thus these post cards are referred to as "White Border" cards. The address information was on the left of the card, and the addresser wrote in the space on the right. The card reads:

*Memorable amateur meeting. This is the Vermont Laureate's first sight  
of an amateur in person since Cook blazed the trail. Also my first sight of  
Vermont—exquisite country! Am stopping with Cook in Athol.*

*Regards,*

*H. P. Lovecraft*

*{co-signed by}*

*Arthur H. Goodenough*

*W. P. Cook*

Much has been written of Mr. Lovecraft and Mr. Cook has recently had a full book-length biography published, long overdue. Goodenough was a citizen of Brattleboro, Vermont, and a poet and member of the amateur journalism movement. The postal card commemorates the first meeting of Lovecraft and Goodenough, resulting in a later exchange of mutually affectionate poems dedicated to one another [10].

With this historic card was another mailed from South Postal Station in Boston, Massachusetts, dated 9 October 1918. It is on a postal card from the era in which the address was exclusively limited to the reverse, and the obverse had an image and a space whereby the addresser could write a brief note. From 1917 to 1919 as a wartime measure, the cost to mail a postcard was raised a penny to two cents. Thus the additional one cent stamp was added to the penny postal card.

*Oct 9 1918*

*Dear T*

*Sent Mss today in two envelopes 1/2 in each (34 sheets in all). Let me know  
if it arrives safely*

*Yours, C.H.L.*

No other knowledge or provenance of this card or of the writer “C.H.L.” is known.

Tilden’s political career was initially meteoric, and subsequently enduring. His heart, however, was in the amateur journalism movement as can be traced by these newly discovered items. The authors thank Ivan Dehaes for his permission to publish these postcards.

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- [9] The provenance on this item: It was seen on Ebay just prior to 11 June 2010 and purchased by Dehaes. It had been discovered in a box of Vermont postcards, according to the seller’s description.
- [10] “Lovecraft—An Appreciation” in *Vagrant*, Spring 1927, by Goodenough; “To Arthur Goodenough, Esq.” in *Tryout* {misdated} 1918, by Lovecraft.

### **TO MY LOVE Martha Shivers**

One night when the moon was waning  
and the stars twinkled above  
I heard you softly murmur.  
Was it about our love?

I reached to touch your soft black hair  
and caressed you as you slept;  
sweet thoughts of past came to me  
and in happiness I slowly crept.

I promised I'd never leave you,  
to that you did not demur:  
you yawned, stretched, touched my hand—  
and then I heard you purr.

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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. (The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection is not yet open for use at University of Wisconsin at Madison.) 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. The text portions only of issues of *The Fossil* since our centennial number dated October 2004 have been posted to our website as shown above shortly after publication of the paper editions.



Sean Donnelly and Lee Hawes



Newly elected NAPA President, David Warner with his daughter, Fossil Alice Brosey



Familiar faces at the AAPA - NAPA Banquet in Elk Grove Village, Illinois





Lee Hawes presents Ivan Snyder  
The Russell Paxton Award  
after the Fossil Luncheon