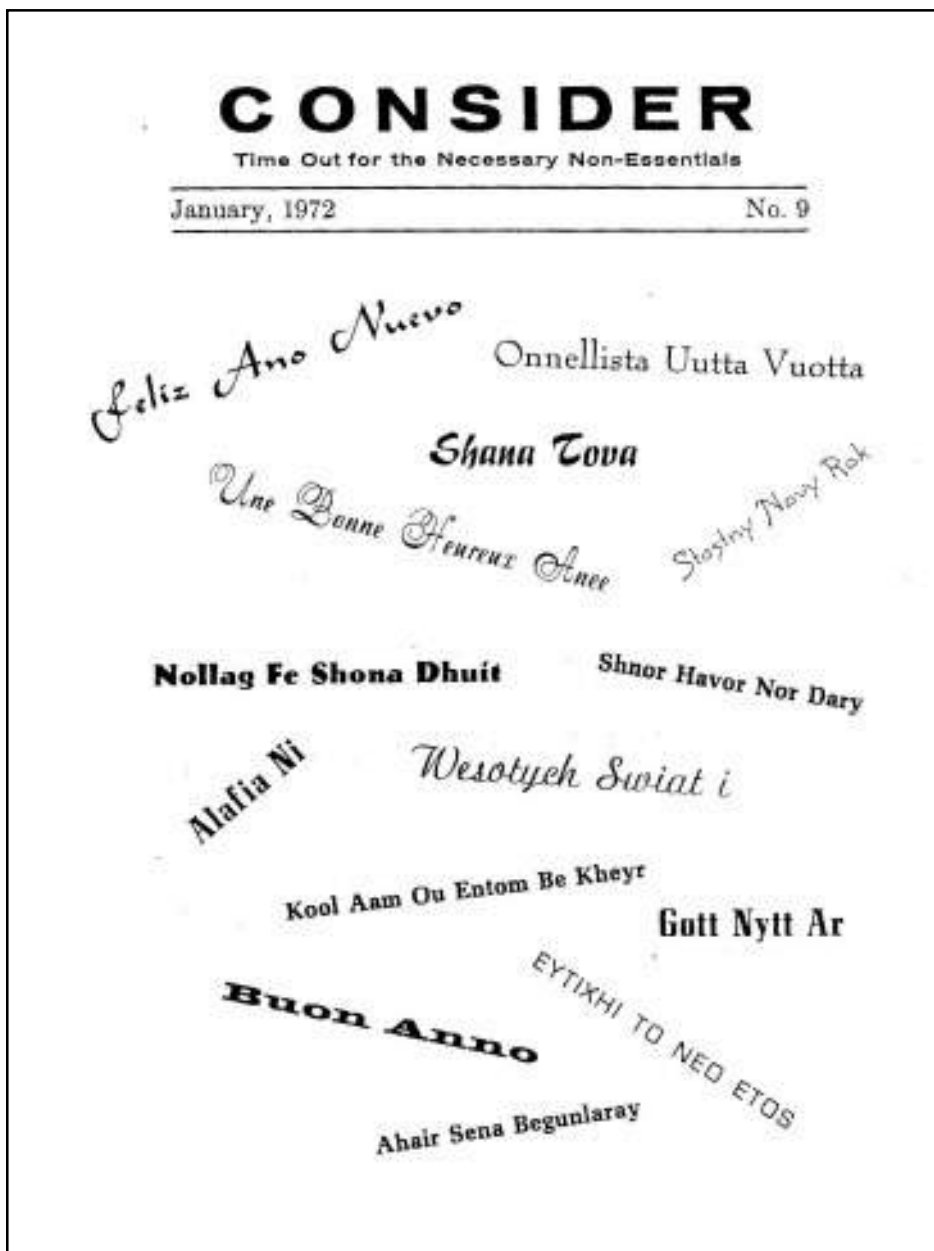


The



Fossil

Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism
Volume 108, Number 2, Whole Number 351, Glenview, Illinois, January 2012



New Year's Wishes In Many Languages
From Harold Smolin's *Consider*, January 1972



Louise Lincoln
The Feather Duster, February 1950
Charles R. King, M.D., editor & Publisher

RESOLVED...

Whereas,
God destines only a few for one hundred years of life,
They (the chosen) must surely be hearty,
For the way along all those years is not easy,
They must surely also be forward-looking in spirit,
For they have had to leave so many loved ones behind,
Yet, they must still face the joys and difficulties of each day,
Just like an infant not yet weaned from its mother.

Now, therefore,
Having had such a one in our ranks
For the better part of those one hundred years of life,
We congratulate ourselves on being beneficiaries of:
Her knowledge of this Hobby we treasure so much,
And of the wider world around us,
Her wit,
Which illumines us in all our foibles,
Her care and her love,
Which all can see in the twinkle of her eyes.

Surely, there will come a day
When even *The Kitchen Stove* will have a final heating;
But we pray that day be long deferred:
We would fain read more of what
LOUISE
and her amanuensis A. Walrus have to say,
And see pictures of her and her printer Guy,
At 100, 1, 2, 3, 4, even 5.

February 12 a noted day
For LINCOLN shall always be.
In 1809 was born in Kentucky
ABRAHAM of that name,
remembered of all humanity;
Then, in 1912, in sister state Ohio,
our LOUISE.
They say that man of the people
loved simple food,
and common folk;
for us in ajay
The Kitchen Stove has been nourishment enough.
And the memory of LOUISE at conventions past,
composing resolutions better by far than this,
A treasure for ajay eternity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO
LOUISE LINCOLN

100 years old February 12, 2012

SALUTES TO MARTHA AND TO OUR FUTURE

Guy Miller

When Fossils President Jack Swenson asked Martha Shivers to serve as our first-time-ever Membership Chairman in 1997, no one, including the president was quite clear as to what her exact task would be. So, it was up to her and then-Fossils secretary-treasurer Joe Diachenko to work out a defining role that proved to be most helpful to Joe and succeeding secretary-treasurers, and an invaluable comfort over these years to me as president. But now, after her 14 years of labor, Martha feels that she must relinquish the post; and I have accepted her resignation effective on January 1, 2012.

Of course, we shall be hearing from Martha through the pages of *The Fossil*, for our Official Editor Ken Faig always saves room for one or more of her lovely poems. Also, those of us who belong to NAPA will expect to see contributions in one or another of its journals. Yet, her activities and especially her letters while serving as Chairman will be missed.

In her introduction as a new Fossil member, Martha writes in the April 1994 issue of *The Fossil* "It seems that ever since I could hold a pencil I liked to write, and have been trying to put words together all these years.... The satisfaction has been great, the friends even greater! I hope I will have the privilege to write until the end of my life." Our hope is joined with yours, Martha.

And if plans work out, in the April issue of this journal we will bring you word from another of our noted wordsmiths, Louise Lincoln, who will be observing her 100th birthday on February 12, 2012. Once again I have been invited by my good friend Ken Metzgar to spend another February vacation in his home in Tempe, Arizona. Our plans will be, as they have been in these past two years, to visit Louise in Tucson on her birthday date. In the meantime, members of NAPA were again favored with another of her editions of *The Kitchen Stove*. The 110th Heating was in the December Bundle. Any Fossils member who does not belong to NAPA may obtain a copy by contacting me at my home address or e-mailing me at <archer2951@gmail.com>.

Back here at the home base, I report a helter skelter sort of existence as I try to absorb the trappings of my hobby shop into my bachelor home here at 2951. Recently, I closed activities at my little downtown office, where I had held forth for all of 20 years, and moved all I could accommodate to my garage and spare bedroom where ample space is still set aside for visitors. Recent occupant Gary Bossler assured me that everything is fine.

Gary spent an overnight here so that the two of us could meet in Dayton with Convention Committee members Michelle Klosterman and Lisa Brandstetter Holt and tourist officials as we plan the 2012 dual AAPA-NAPA convention. Gary refers to our meeting in his *Ohio Views* No. 31, which appeared in both AAPA and NAPA Bundles. Later e-mails among interested parties indicate that plans are progressing nicely.

Also progressing, it seems, are discussions about the future of electronic journalism. Although I side with Jim Hedges and others who are more comfortable with the paper product we can hold in our hands, we must recognize the inevitable influence of the internet as well as production costs and impending mailing problems attendant to the paper product. Indeed, I see that discussions are taking place between Editor Ken Faig and production manager Gary Bossler about a PDF format of *The Fossil*. As a newcomer to this electronic world, I must admit that in the midst of this heady discussion, I sometimes feel that I am hanging onto the tail of that proverbial tiger. Well, let's see where it takes us. All aboard!

NOTABLE FOSSIL EDITORS
RUSSELL L. PAXTON
1975-1983

When Russell L. Paxton of Salem, Virginia took over editorship of *The Fossil* from Marvin E. Reed of Bainbridge, Georgia with the July 1975 number (whole no. 211), our journal was still being published in the large size (approx. 11.75 inches tall by 8.75 inches wide) established at its outset in 1904. (Editor Matilda S. Haywood had ventured one number (whole no. 189) in a smaller size in Spring 1969.) There were probably not too many amateurs with equipment adequate to print such a large-sized journal, and I suspect that *The Fossil* was professionally printed for most of its first seventy years 1904-75. I suspect, however, that newly-appointed editor Paxton wanted to print *The Fossil* on his own equipment. So, entering his second year of editorship in July 1976 with whole no. 215, Paxton adopted a new more convenient, smaller size (approx. 9.875 inches tall by 6.5 inches wide) for our journal. Paxton concluded his run with no. 243 dated July 1983, and was succeeded by Ralph Babcock. *The Fossil* subsequently (in the 1990s) adopted an even smaller size, and then adopted standard letter size (11 inches tall by 8.5 inches wide) at the behest of the current editor in October 2004.

The key fact to keep in mind about Paxton was that he was a veteran of the hobby. He put down his first roots in the Lone Scout movement and then became a stalwart of the American Amateur Press Association. So, he could draw on the resources of many friends and acquaintances made across the hobby over the years to glean content for *The Fossil*. This article can of course only represent my own impressions of Paxton's glorious eight years of issues. I am able to review them as a result of owning two bound volumes (1957-76, 1976-86) from the late Gale Sheldon's collection of *The Fossil* that I was able to bid for successfully at a hobby auction. Gale's widow Ruth had generously donated them to NAPA for auction. At my first ever NAPA convention, in Canton, Ohio in 1996, I can remember sitting next to Gale himself at the banquet.

Paxton began his first issue with a strong suit, Fred Liddle's and Lee Hawes' article on Sheldon and Helen Wesson's printing studio and library, "The Sandalwood Studio," then not too-long removed from New Jersey to Florida. Illustrations showed the fabulous collection of bound amateur journals which the Wessons assembled (partly from donations from Edward H. Cole) with Sheldon with Al Fick in the studio. The Wessons made former Fossil Librarian Daniel Graham the custodian for most of their bound journal collection. Graham's collection, stored in a Staten Island NY garage, was disposed of by sheriff's sale following his death, and about half of the bound journals of the Wesson collection were among the material rescued in 2010 by Stan Oliner with financial assistance from The Fossils, AAPA and NAPA. But Paxton's main coup for his first year of *The Fossil* was a series entitled: "True Confessions: Memoirs of Amateur Journalism: being fourteen years of my experience in your midst, with no apologies," by none other than the late Edna Hyde McDonald ("Vondy"). But including memoirs by living amateurs was a hallmark of Paxton's volumes of *The Fossil* from the start. The headliner for the January 1976 issue was 83-year-old Charles Colvin's account of his printing activities, begun on Charles's seventh birthday on March 4, 1900, when his father gave him a 3x5 press with three fonts of type. At the time his article appeared, Charles, with his co-author and spouse Marjorie, had since 1970 been publishing *The Pursuit of Happiness*, of which eighteen had been published at press time. Then in the April 1976 issue, Paxton ran Lee Hawes' "A Case History," which described his beginnings as editor of a typed, then mimeographed paper *The Flint Lake Diver*. A headline story from 1941 described how the theft of chicks from Hawes' father, at first believed to be the work of human thieves, turned out to be the work of an ornery weasel. The accompanying photograph of eleven-year-old editor Hawes made a nice contrast with 83-year-old Charles Colvin in the former issue. It's amazing to think that Lee himself is now in his eighties and still enriching AAPA and the hobby at large with continuing issues of his *The Fossil*, published since 1942.

Obituaries, of course, have always formed a part of the contents of *The Fossil*, although Historian Evan Reed Riale had started a happier tradition of biographical sketches of living members in the 1920s. In his later issues, Paxton ran obituaries under the printer's moniker "30." But from the start his obituaries were well-informed and crafted with care. The October 1975 issue noted the passing in November 1974 of George Henry Kay, one of the early stalwarts of AAPA. The passing of others less well-known in the hobby was also noted. The April 1976 issue noted the passing of Walter A. R. Pertuch in his eighty-seventh year in January 1976. Pertuch had worked at the Franklin Institute from 1904 until his retirement in 1960 and was an important friend of the Library of Amateur Journalism (Edwin Hadley Smith) Collection which resided there from 1935 to 1964. I suspect Oliver Optic scholar Peter Walther might like to take a time machine back to interview Pertuch about the fate of the now-missing Oliver Optic tablet cast at the order of The Fossils in 1917.

Controversy concerning the Library of Amateur Journalism raged during most of Paxton's term as editor. After a period of evaluation by Stan Oliner (1964-67) following removal from the Franklin Institute, LAJ went to the Special Collections of the New York University Library in New York City in 1967. (Charles C. Heuman, who purchased the collection from Smith for The Fossils in 1916, and had much to do with its private housing at 150 Nassau Street in 1916-35, was probably looking down from heaven with a smile when LAJ returned to New York City.) But NYU had no funding for the upkeep of LAJ and volunteers under then-Librarian Jeffrey H. Jennings could do only part of the necessary work. Controversy over LAJ raged at the annual meetings of The Fossils during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The University of South Florida made a bid for the collection, but incoming Fossil President E. Sherman Cole (son of Edward H. Cole) was determined that LAJ should return to private hands, and his board gave the nod to Martin M. ("Mike") Horvat when he made a bid to function as private custodian of the collection in 1980. A microfilming project advocated by Jennings and Wesson seems to have failed largely on account of the contractor's financial problems. (Unpaid subcontractors were involved, and it took Mike Horvat several years to recover all the bound volumes of the Edwin Hadley Smith Collection from them.) While the annual meeting minutes were spirited during this period and President Cole was capable of spilling some vitriol in his messages, Paxton largely kept the pages of *The Fossil* distanced from all the controversy and concentrated on The Fossils' legacy of writing and preserving the history of the amateur journalism hobby. In this regard, he was similar to his predecessor editor Truman J. Spencer (1934-44), who took office while controversy raged over the proposed transfer of LAJ from private quarters at 150 Nassau Street in New York City to the Franklin Institute. Spencer also kept *The Fossil* largely free from controversy and concentrated on preserving the memory of the amateur journalism hobby. In this regard, Paxton (whatever his own opinions were) emulated the policy of his great predecessor editor Spencer.

Once *The Fossil* converted to a smaller size in July 1976, Paxton could really blossom as editor, designer and printer. He proudly ran The Fossils' owl logo at the head of each issue, and his parting message in July 1983 encouraged other Fossils to use the beloved emblem for the work of their own private presses. Unfortunately, The Fossil owl has never established a private press presence comparable to the AAPA and NAPA emblems. The Potpourri Press of "Mr. Fossil," Guy Miller, has been a happy exception, and Miller also circulated a "Fossilbed" bundle in the late nineties to heighten the presence of the organization. One historical figure who cast a long shadow over the Paxton volumes of *The Fossil* was none other than H. P. Lovecraft. Fossils Dirk Mosig (a Lovecraft devotee who joined in 1975) and Hyman Bradofsky (who had printed Lovecraft's work in *The Californian* in the 1930s) kept The Fossils well-informed about Lovecraft happenings. (Both L. Sprague de Camp and Frank Belknap Long published books about H.P.L. in 1975.) The July 1976 issue noted that Long himself had submitted a membership application for The Fossils; regrettably, his stay in our ranks does not appear to have been long. Mosig's sizzling review of de Camp's book, entitled "Lovecraft: A Parody," ran in the same issue. Fossil Horace L. Lawson (1900-1981), who

had published some of Lovecraft's early fiction in his mimeographed journal *The Wolverine*, contributed "Lovecraft Was My Mentor" in the April 1978 issue. Nor was Lovecraft's fellow writer Robert E. Howard wholly neglected by The Fossils during this period; Don Herron became a member and contributed information regarding the Hyborian Legion to LAJ. Howard himself had briefly been a member of the Lone Scouts and contributed material to a pass-around amateur journal, *The Junto*.

It was Paxton's ability to coax history out of his fellow amateur journalists that truly enriched his volumes of *The Fossil*. The aged Anthony F. Moitoret (father of the well-loved Vic) provided his version of UAPA's contentious 1912 convention in the April 1977 issue. That convention gave birth to the association split (1912-26) which saw H. P. Lovecraft as president of one UAPA faction and Elsa Gidlow of another in 1917-18. Paxton himself held forth on "The Impact of Lone Scout Journalists" in the July 1977 issue. Harold D. Ellis had an important article on "L. Frank Baum, Amateur Journalist and Royal Historian of the Land of Oz" in the January 1978 issue. It even included a partial reproduction of an issue of Baum's extremely rare amateur journal *The Roselawn Home Journal*. In the same issue, Willametta Keffer began a checklist of *The United Amateur* while Gale Sheldon described a not-very-well-known amateur journalism collection at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. The April 1978 issue witnessed the beginning of a series of his father's journal *The Olympian* by Edward Sherman Cole, while Robert H. Woodward investigated the connection between amateur journalist Charles R. Sherlock and novelist Harold Frederic.

F. Earle Bonnell's "Reflections on ...50 years pursuing a Hobby" was the lead article for the July 1978 issue while Robert H. Woodward highlighted the contributions of Nathaniel Hawthorne's sister Maria to Hawthorne's amateur journal *The Spectator* (1820) in the October 1978 issue. Ray H. Zorn contributed a unique memoir of early travelling ajob and later bookseller Willard D. Thompson (1911-1975) to the January 1979 issue. The April 1979 issue provided an update on the publishing activities of Charles and Marjorie Colvin. Charles had celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday on March 4, 1979. The same issue also carried an update from Hyman Bradofsky on centenarian ajob James Larkin Pearson (1879-1981) and an obituary for Anthony F. Moitoret (1892-1979). Pearson's own essay "My Beginning in Amateur Journalism" was featured in the July 1979 issue. Some "Ajob Curiosa" by Leon Stone were featured in the October 1979 issue, including World War II curiosities like John Miller's journal published in New Guinea and Groveman's and Wesson's journals printed in ex-Nazi printshops in Germany. Tragically, Stone's own Australian Librarian of Amateur Journalism was destroyed in a house fire about 1960. J. Ed Newman recalled famed Cleveland amateur Warren J. Brodie in the same issue, while the late George W. Macauley recalled printing an issue of his journal *The Hay Field* with Arthur Harris's press in Wales and an obituary appeared for George's widow Emma Macauley. The Macauleys' sons Charles and Robie both participated in the hobby; Robie became a respected novelist and senior editor at *Playboy* while Charles continued on the rolls of The Fossils for many years. George had planted trees forming the acronym "NAPA" in honor of that organization's presidents in the President's Field at his farm in Pine Springs, Michigan. The same issue printed the sad story of the loss of the amateur journalism collection of Fossil Vice President Charles A. Bow, who died April 7, 1954, aged 83:

Eugene, Ore., Nov. 2 (1955)—The collection of amateur papers of the late Charles A. Bow of Portland was discarded as trash following his death. Mrs. Bow revealed to *The Sun* today. She explained that she had not know that they would be of interest or value to anyone. The collection included four large boxes of amateur publications, many of them rare papers issued on the Pacific Coast before 1900. —Anthony F. Moitoret's *Seattle Sun*.

Vincent Golden of American Antiquarian Society and NAPA Librarian Stan Oliner would probably both pay good money for a time travel voyage back to Portland, Oregon, April 1954.

Present-day Fossil David M. Tribby marked “The 250th Issue of AAJ” in *The Fossil* for January 1980, while the late Reinhart Kleiner (1892-1949) wrote on “How I Became an Amateur Journalist” in the same number. In the next number (April 1980), William A. Downes wrote on “The Origins of the British Amateur Press Association.” Willard D. Thompson was not the only “wandering” amateur journalist, and Raymond S. Lawless recalled “Drifting Via the Freight Trains” in the same number. (Mr. Lawless’s obituary ran in the next number.) J. Ed Newman began a series on lesser-known amateur journalists, “The Ninety Percent,” in the October 1980 issue. Willametta Keffer devoted some notes to the Irish Amateur Press Association, “After Many an Irish Moon,” in the January 1981 issue, which also witnessed the beginning of Harold E. Flint’s “Those Enduring Years,” with his memories of friends in the United. In the meantime, editor Paxton was not ignoring the opportunity for reprints. Howard P. Lovecraft’s “What Amateurism and I Have Done for Each Other” was reprinted in April 1981, and Charles W. Heins’ lengthy account of LAJ began a reprint in July 1981. Albert S. Keshen covered “E. R. Mill, Printer of Amateur Journals,” in the April 1982 number, while Harold D. Ellis provided an update on Thomas Alva Edison’s amateur activities in the July 1982 number. Ralph Babcock held forth on James Guinane and “The Enigma of Churinga” in the October 1982 number. He called *Churinga* a “Classic of Mimeographing in A.J.” —and everyone who has ever had the privilege of seeing a number of Guinane’s journal knows what a beautiful product he achieved using seemingly humble equipment. Some ajays closely tied to letterpress considered anything produced using a mimeograph mere “mimeoslop” —for example, W. Paul Cook was infuriated when young Robert H. Barlow used one of Edith Minter’s best stories in a mimeographed journal in 1937. On the other hand, some prominent ajays like Edna Hyde McDonald (“Vondy”) were not too proud to make use of the mimeograph.

For January 1983, Jack Coolidge provided “Youthful Recollections of the New England Amateur Press Club.” Michelle Miller wrote of Earl F. Bonnell and his press in “Hopping Along on Bunny’s Trail of Print” in the July 1983 number. The article was accompanied by an amazing photograph of the elderly Mr. Bonnell at work in his kitchen printshop. In the same issue, Paxton’s last, William A. Downes provided an extended portrait of Wheeler Dryden. And then it was time to say good-bye. “The Editor’s Last Word” occupies just a little less than a column of type on the final page of Paxton’s final issue. His final sentence amply summarizes his thoughts: “To those of you who publish, why not advertise to the world that you are a Fossil by displaying the emblem?” He chose to close with thoughts from Will Ransom and George Meredith:

Ransom—“The Private Press gives the typographical expression of a personal ideal conceived in freedom and maintained in independence.”

Meredith—“Things printed can never be stopped; they are like babies baptized, they have a soul from that moment, and go on forever.”

On December 13, 1986, Paxton became the first recipient of the Russell L. Paxton Award for Achievement in Amateur Journalism, presented at his home in Salem VA. It is not easy to close the book on his volumes of *The Fossil*. There are so many old and new friends to meet. October 1978, page 10: “We Welcome...David M. Tribby,” with a fine sketch of an outstanding amateur journalist still very active in the hobby and serving The Fossils as webmaster. Back only a few pages, page 7, we have current Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain, already resident in his beloved Ashland, Oregon, intoning, in his “The Fossils’ Creed”:

In our Diversity,
We are One!

Russell L. Paxton was an outstanding amateur journalist. His heyday in The Fossils came after Vondy’s and Cole’s “honor society” of the 1940s and 1950s. But he provided outstanding service to The Fossils as Official Editor in 1975-83, late in his own amateur career. He occupied the editorial chair during difficult times for the organization, but managed to keep *The Fossil* solidly focused on our hobby and its people, rather than on the controversies inevitable in any organization. Like Truman J. Spencer, he was one of the great editors of *The Fossil*. Many hours of good reading await the hobbyist fortunate to encounter Russell L. Paxton’s *Fossil*, 1975-83.

CONTRIBUTIONS REFLECTING ON RUSSELL L. PAXTON

Russell L. Paxton's notable eight years as editor of *The Fossil* (1975-1983) represent only a small fraction of his seven-decade career in the amateur journalism hobby, ranging from the 1920s to the 1980s. His "New Members" sketch in *The Fossil* for October 1945 touches lightly on some of his past achievements at the time of his admission to The Fossils:

RUSSELL LOUIS PAXTON is rounding out his twenty-fifth year in amateur journalism. Entering through the Lone Scouts of America and the United Amateur Press Association, he later joined the National, was a founding member of the American, and is also affiliated with the United Alumni. He is noted for the simplicity and excellence of his printing, evidenced not only in his own paper, *The P-K Scribbler*, but in the *National Amateur* since Burton Crane's hegira to China. He has been in the printing trade for over twenty years. Recently he has turned his extensive hobby print shop, with over four thousand dollars worth of equipment, into a full-time business. Besides his interest in amateur journalism, he has devoted a great deal of time and attention to the Elbeetian Legion, of which he is one of the early members; in 1936, when the Legion held its meeting in Roanoke, he was chairman of the convention committee. He married in 1932, and has two daughters, Norma, 6, and Barbara, 4. Unassuming and friendly and soft-spoken, with a characteristically charming southern accent, "Pack" is delightful to meet. He promises to attend the 1946 Reunion.

Born on the Fourth of July in 1907, Russ Paxton was enumerated with his parents Charles E. and Bessie F. Paxton in Newcastle, Craig County Virginia in the 1910 U.S. census, South River, Acusta County Virginia in the 1920 U.S. census, and in Big Lick, Roanoke County Virginia in the 1930 U.S. census. His father, Charles Edward Paxton, born January 3, 1879 in Newcastle, Craig County Virginia, was the son of William B. Paxton (b. ca. 1812) and his wife Eliza J. Paxton. Like his father, Charles Edward Paxton made his living as a farmer. In the 1930 U.S. census, Russ, enumerated in the parental home with his older sister Myrtle and his younger brother Charles, was already making his living as a printer.

While Russ's amateur activity apparently began as early as 1920, in association with the Lone Scouts of America, I first find him as editor of a printed journal with *American Leader: A Magazine for Young Americans* in 1927. *American Leader* was official organ for Region Three of the Lone Scouts, held A.L.S.A.P. identification number 7, and apparently began its monthly run in March 1927. Paxton later revived the title beginning in January 1947. The Lone Scouts eventually became part of the Boy Scouts of America, and by July-August 1928, Paxton was editing *The American Scout* magazine, published by The American Leader Publishing Co. of Waynesboro, Virginia, "For all Scouts." I have a short run of Paxton's own *The Americana Monthly* for the period 1933-35; it was apparently completing its fifth year of publication in March 1933 and so apparently commenced while its editor was still involved with *The American Scout*. *The Americana Monthly* was affiliated with both N.A.P.A. and U.A.P.A. and was published "in the interests of Journalism, Writing and Authorship; Vocational Training; Love of Country and Home and American Ideals." Paxton revived this title as *Americana*, published on an occasional basis, in 1942, and I have a small file of issues dated 1942, 1943, 1945 and 1946.

One of Paxton's longest-running magazines was his *P-K Scribbler*, which had reached its seventeenth number as early as Winter-Spring, 1957. Paxton proudly displayed The Fossils' owl logo in the masthead for his *Scribbler*. Another long-running Paxton magazine was *The American Evangelist and Ajayer*, which had already reached its seventh volume by Winter 1973-74. In addition, Paxton shouldered associational duties. Paxton took over as N.A.P.A. official editor for President Viola Payne (1954-55) after Ralph Babcock resigned the office. He continued as N.A.P.A. official editor under President Alma Weixelbaum (1955-56) and then was elected to his own N.A.P.A. presidential term (1956-57) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with Emerson Duerr as his official editor. During the presidency of Ann Vrooman in 1974-75,

he once again relieved Ralph Babcock as N.A.P.A. official editor. His publications won numerous awards in the American Amateur Press Association: *Americana* taking the printing award in 1944-45; *The American Leader* the journal of highest distinction award in 1946-47; "Are We Losing Our Friends?" in the spring *American Evangelist* the editorial award in 1951-52; "A Desert Night" in the fall *American Scribe* the poetry award in 1956-57; *The American Evangelist*, the journal of overall distinction award in 1967-68; *The P-K Scribbler*, letterpress honorable mention in 1968-69; *The P-K Scribbler*, journal of overall excellence and letterpress honorable mentions in 1969-70; *The American Scribe* and *The American Evangelist*, journal of overall excellence and letterpress honorable mentions in 1970-71; *The American Evangelist*, letterpress, in 1972-73 and 1973-74; "Estimating Text Composition" in *American Amateur Journalist* (May 1979), prose non-fiction in 1978-79; *The American Evangelist*, journal of overall excellence, 1980-81; "The Shot That Won a Championship," prose fiction, honorable mention, 1981-82; *American Scribe* (no. 81), journal of overall excellence, 1981-82; *The P-K Scribbler*, journal of overall excellence, honorable mention, 1982-83; special printing award, *The American Amateur Journalist*, 1982-83. I do not have a list of the offices Paxton held in A.A.P.A., but he was doubtless of considerable service just as he was to N.A.P.A.

After a career of seven decades of service to amateur journalism the Lone Scouts, the Boy Scouts, U.A.P.A., N.A.P.A., A.A.P.A., The Fossils Russell Louis Paxton, age 81, died in Salem, Virginia, on November 9, 1988. The portfolio of his publications reproduced in this issue of *The Fossil* tries to provide some idea of the range and quality of his service to the hobby.

AMATEUR JOURNALS EDITED OR PRINTED BY RUSSELL PAXTON

Stan Oliner

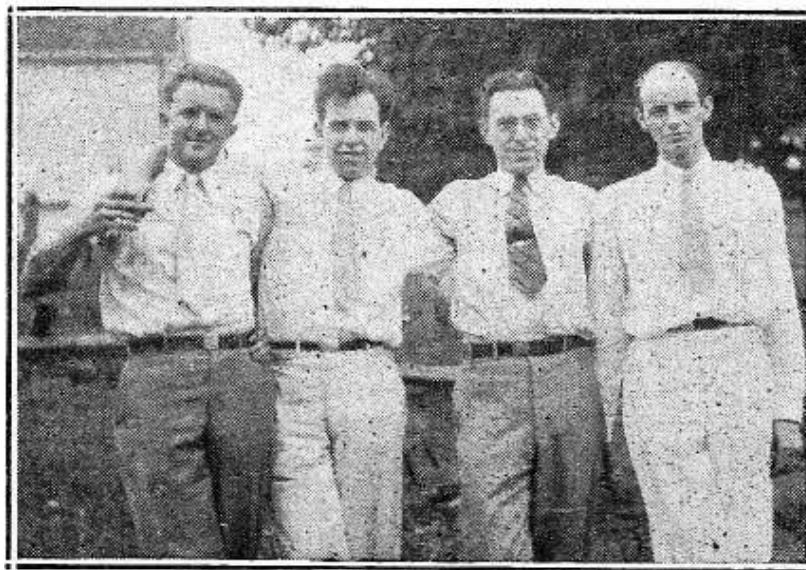
(from the Moitoret Family Index of Amateur Journals, 1870-2004)

American Amateur Journalist, 9 issues, 1945-1946
AAPA Yearbook, 1 issue, 1944-1945
The Americana (monthly), 24 issues, 1932-1935 and 1942-1946
Americana Verse, 1 issue, 1971
American Evangelist, 7 issues, 1950-1957
American Evangelist and Ajayer, 20 issues, 1968-1987
American Leader, 12 issues, 1927-1948
The American Scout, 1 issue, 1933
The American Scribe, 25 issues, 1949-1985
American Scribe, Jr., 4 issues, 1979-1984
A Chronological History of the American Amateur Press Association, 1937-1948, undated, ca. 1948
The Fossil, 34 issues, 1975-1983
Groveman Albert Paxton (with William H. Groveman and Ray Albert), 1 issue
Membership Roster, NAPA, 1956 and 1957
The National Amateur, 11 issues, 1954-1956 and 1974-1975
National News-Leader, 6 issues, 1956-1957
National Scribe, 1 issue, 1982
P-K Scribbler (previously *The Scribbler*), 20 issues, 1945-1983
The Raconteur: The Story Teller (with J. Hugh Taylor)
Rusty's Comet Vol. "30" Final Edition, 1975
The Scribbler (see also *P-K Scribbler*), 2 issues, 1944
The United Scribe, 3 issues, 1982-1983
Wagtale News, total number of issues unknown, 1946
Why An Alumni Association?, 1942-1943



Photo by Eloise Paxton, 1972

Russell L Paxton, Printer
1907-1988



Ray Albert, Russ Paxton, Martin Keffer and Marvin Neel
"The Virginia Block," 1934
from Paxton's *The American Scribe*, Summer 1978

Subscription Rates One Year \$1.00 Six Months50 Four Months30 Single Copy 10c	AMERICAN LEADER A. L. S. A. P. No. 7 RUSSELL L. PAXTON, GC, Editor Waynesboro - Virginia	The American Leader is published monthly in the interests of the LSA Younger Boys Scouts; Scout Troops, Patrols, Patrol Groups, and Tribes
Advertising Rates Full Page \$1.00 Half Page50 Quarter Page25 Column Inch 10c	"The word of a Lone Scout is as true as steel and as good as gold"	Entire Contents Copy- righted 1927.
VOL. 1 JULY, 1927 NO. 5		

The American Leader, 1927

EDITORIAL

A SAFE FOURTH!

Were it not for the fact that our beloved United States had been made free from England's hand, the fourth of July would pass over us a very self-same day as is. But it just had to happen that on that day several men got together and signed our Independence.

For little Andy or Jose it is just a day for shooting crackers; and they wait upon it with anxiety to fire off the works, and often they are the ones that get fired. But they are not to be molested, for they do not know the danger of the larger crackers and do not play with them. The ones really to blame for the yearly death toll of the Fourth are the grown-ups; for in spite of knowing that fire-works are dangerous to life and limb they want to make a large boom!

What is better than to have a quiet Fourth, one that is a 100 per cent American and a 100 per cent safe; one where only banners are displayed and befitting parades are staged and speeches broadcast? Or what is better than a hike into the

ALSAP SUBSCRIPTION CREDITS

ALSAP booster credits will be awarded for securing one year subscriptions for a chartered amateur publication on the basis of one credit for each twenty-five cent subscription secured, as announced in the April issue of The Lone Scout.

Hop to it fellows! A.L. is glad to say she is going to award each one that secures at least twenty subs a special engraved American Leader Booster certificate. Other A.L. awards will be announced later.

Protect the Wild Life.

HAVE YOU . . .

. . . read John A. Tacchino's latest achievement? Scouts, if you have not you have passed up a great one in Scout Achievement. For John has made a fine success of The 1926 PENNSYLVANIA YEARBOOK. Rush John a dime for a copy. You can reach him at Cuddy, Penna.

woods, you Lone Scouts, on the 4th instead of endangering life you are doing good to both yourself and others?

—John A. Tacchino, SS, (10)

Ed. Note: For a good Fourth read ad on page 15

OFFICIAL ORGAN REGION THREE



Volume 1 EXTRA AUGUST, 1927 EDITION Number 6

Why Should I Join The Lone Indian Fraternity?

By Supreme Scout Ernest T. Grube, L.S.Q.

If the above question has ever been put to you by some prospective member who is a bit critical or in doubt about the organization, perhaps the following will help you to induce him to join:

"Lone Scouts who have really taken seriously to Lone Scouting are proud of the degrees, honors and titles they have won and they do not wish to give them up. They have formed strong friendships—a deep seated respect for one another—much of which has been developed by mail, by printed page and even radio and by common bonds, and they are dear to them and hard to break. The representative government has been such a strong factor in the Lone Scout organization and which has given the members much experience in law-making has caused them to love the organization and made them want to part from it. The journal-

istic training which they have received seems to be a very real reason for them to wish to continue with the scout program, but in a different way. They still enjoy reading of each other and each other's products of literature. Lone Scouts know that to keep up with the scout ideal will at all times avoid side-tracking from high ideals to the alley or "rang" path; pass by all detour pathways leading to indolence, vulgarity, dishonesty, ingratitude and other enemies of boys and men. They know that a continuation of their Lone Scout efforts will keep them ever "Prepared" and ready to do a "Good Turn." Lone Scouts know that to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent leads to good citizenship, the basis of all success; that it helps you discover

(Continued on Page 10.)

November

The Americana

Monthly



The Dying Pine

BY M. SCHAEFFER CONNELLY

It stands upon a mountain peak
This stately monarch, all alone—
And not one tiny leaf is left
To still its grief or hear it moan.

"What is your mission now?" we ask
Who know so little what He planned;
"Are you a pattern for the trees;
Your time to go, not quite at hand?"

"Or, are you like an old, old friend
Who waits until God says, well done,
And, leaving us, points to the way
Of brighter life beyond the sun?"

To JOHN A. TACCHINO, a great magazine collector,
editor and publisher we sincerely dedicate this issue.

In This Issue: Connelly Rucker Tacchino
Martin Mooney Behm

The Americana

Monthly

"For the Higher Things in Life"

Member of U.A.P.A. & N.A.P.A.

Russell L. Paxton, Editor

Alfred L. Mooney, Poetry Editor

Eloise Paxton, Circulation Mgr.

John W. Cassell, Advertising Mgr.

Lloyd Renow, Jr., Publicity Director

VOL. VI

No. 8



NOVEMBER

1933

Published monthly by AMERICAN PUBLISH-
ING CO., Roanoke, Va., in the interests of
Journalism, Writing and Authorship; Vocational
Training, Love of Country and Home and Amer-
ican Ideals.

This is strictly an amateur magazine, and no
remuneration is made for material published.
Return postage should accompany manuscripts.
Native contents copyrighted. Entered as second
class matter July 2, 1932 at the Post Office,
Roanoke, Va., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Annual Subscription: U. S. and Possessions
25c; Canada 35c; Foreign 50c.
Advertising rates furnished upon request.



Friendly Talks With The Editor



It is much easier to be critical than correct.—DISRAELI.

It is Criticism . . . that creates the intellectual atmosphere of the age.

It is Criticism . . . that makes the mind a fine instrument.—WILDE.



One of the Steps to Knowledge

CRITICISM can be of
detrimental and silent.
silent criticism because it is
passed in the person's own
What he thinks he retains
passed judgement that is



three kinds—constructive,
One never thinks of that
never uttered, but opinion
mind, and does no good,
it unto himself, but he has
certain.

Detrimental criticism can not only be injurious, but destructive—and
should never be given. Cynics sometimes employ this sort in a sneering
attitude toward the one criticised, attempting an outlet for their beastly
feelings and destruction for those criticised.

Constructive criticism gives truth, knowledge and power! If an error
is committed point it out in a manner easily grasped, indicating the good
points as well as the bad ones and, by comparison, improvement can be
made.

We should seek criticism rather than to evade it, because it is this one
great factor that elevates our standards, creating a temper that loves the
truth—and is not afraid of it!



1945

Americana

A Magazine in Miniature



"Wake up! . . . Where'd ya put my Fossil?"

RUSSELL L. PAXTON, *Editor*



Americana

Magazine

THE CROWDS GO BY

All day long the crowds go by
Bequeathing me a wistful sigh.
I wonder, wonder where they go—
Think you I shall ever know?

Some day maybe I shall fly
Towards morning in a lifted sky,
Or sail where evening meets the sea
And starlight stops to wait for me.

—Margaret Dills Gawthrop

RUSSELL LOUIS PAXTON, *Editor*

1946



Conducted by RUSS PAXTON

B. FRANKLIN MOSS PASSES

In a recent letter AAPAian WILLARD T. NORTHROP advises of the passing of B. Franklin Moss, United Alumni President. He says: "We had quite a pow-wow last week at our tepee. Rev. Ted Schrim, Pauke (Paul L. Keil), Paul Dial, Edw. Feltas and wife, Jim Daniels with his pal. We chatted old-time dope, and had a grand evening. Haig (Anlian) was in a few nights before. Some of us were at 994 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, others were at the temple to the funeral of Benjamin F. Moss who passed on to the Great Beyond February 11th."

ROBERT E. KUNDE, Michigan types: "Your paper (*Americana*) has fired me with an ambition to do bigger things in ajoy. I am on the lookout for a larger press, preferably power operated but a foot power press will do. I am anxious to buy from an amateur because I will then better know what type and shape of press I am obtaining. I would like to get hold of a mimeograph also and put out a real AAPA news sheet which we sorely need. But we shall see how things turn out!"

Anyone being able to help Bob out, we would advise getting in touch with him. We hope he gets both!

DEAN AUBRY post cards from Chicago, asking for application blanks. A supply has been sent him. I have just printed 2,000 AAPA application blanks and anyone may have a quantity by writing me.

The current edition of *Americana* is being mailed as fast as possible, so if you have not received your copy of

this 1946 32-page magazine, an inquiry on a postcard will bring you one. It will not be mailed through any bundle.

FRED BEYER, New York, drops us a note and sends along an "advance" of *Press Time*, his initial entry into the publishing field. And, if first appearances are any criterion, Fred has a rosy future in AJ printing and publishing with such a friendly paper. Thanks Fred.

WES WISE, one of our good friends up in the Windy City has a lot of good things to say and: "The *American's* January bundle really outdone itself, and among the best was *American Leader*. Well-edited because you had just the right amount of article, Ramblings, reviews and mail bag. You seem to be right up there giving us the low-down on official affairs, and, believe me, it is greatly appreciated."

"Of course there are things one does not agree with . . . for instance Alf (Cat) Babcock's remarks that 98% of ajoy fiction stinks. Of course it isn't professional but that remark is certainly not true. On any standard set up by one individual everything can "stink" and I don't believe that ajoy efforts in this respect deserve that distinction. Do print some fiction if you can. Take *The Literary Herald*, that cooperative paper printed by Chmelicek . . . there's some fiction in that paper that is worthy of any professional magazine. There are many potential writers in the A.A.P.A. and the journals which can use their material, whether fair or good, should do it in my opinion."

"As for my own activity I have just received a 6x9 hand press and hope to

PRINTING is a good business. It is clean, honorable, respectable. It is celebrated as a trainer of men for higher stations in life. It has many inspiring traditions and legends. It combines the need for knowledge of everything under the sun: mathematics, mechanics, language, spelling, grammar, color, composition, salesmanship; there is indeed no limit to the accomplishments that are required of the printer. The printer is brought into contact with all other vocations and professions. No vocation or profession can really exist without the printing-press. From text-books to novels, from pamphlets to newspapers, from tickets to tax-bills, no man can evade the printed word.—Henry P. Porter.



On back cover of
Americana Magazine, 1946

"Our Monthly Pow Wow" Column
American Leader, March 1947

The P-K Scribbler

RUSSELL L. PAXTON, Editor
6 Sunset Village, Roanoke, Virginia

Published in the
interest of ama-
teur journalism.
Member AAPA,
NAPA, and The
Fossils, Inc.



Vol. IV, No. 3-4 Winter-Spring '57

It Seems to Me . . .

As far back as I can remember now, which is a pretty far piece at that, I have been fascinated by type and presses and the things one can do with them. Although some in our associations class me as a pro—because I now earn my living by printing, except when I am doing it “for dear old ajay” (the quotes are Vundy’s)—I still consider myself an amateur, there is still so much to learn.

~~~~~

with the curious and interesting icicle-like stalactites and stalagmites composed of calcite precipitated by the evaporation of “drip” from the ceiling and floor of the caverns. In course of time the roofs of the caverns collapse, leaving only their portions spanning an open, former chasm. Thus is Natural Bridge.

Lying within a radius of seventy miles, the Valley’s six caverns open up to the traveler an array of natural handiwork unsurpassed by that of any other similar formations. The stalactite and stalagmite shapes are grotesquely different in each cave, and offer a thrilling experience. Beginning at Strasburg, are the Crystal Caverns. A few miles farther south, at Mount Jackson, are the Shenandoah Caverns in which the formations are most unusual, offering new thrills to the sightseer by the lighting effects. Near New Market lie the Endless Caverns, entrance is from U. S. Route 11. Just off the Lee Highway at Luray are found the Luray Caverns—well worth seeing. One of the scenes of beauty in these underground passageways is “Dream Lake.” It is a natural lake on a rock-bed formation. Guides tell of the large number of couples that have been married inside this cavern.

At Harrisonburg are Massanutten Caverns, and at Grottoes are the Grand Caverns—here is to be found gorgeous lighting effects, vast cor-

8

The P-K Scribbler

Howsomever, it seems to me, (as my good friend Marvin Neel is wont to say) “it’s amazing, come to think of it now, how we used to manage to get the things done we wanted to do.” We still have so many things we want to do, but time has a way of eluding us. This is one of the things I have been wanting to do—issue another P-K Scribbler, after five short years. But after this, who knows, for on July 4, 1957 we’ll be at the half-century mark! and still enjoying type and presses.

We’d like to be as Milt Grady, in a manner of speaking, and be able to issue a deluxe publication at regular intervals! There’s a lot more to it than just wanting to do something worthwhile. No doubt others of you ajays have found this to be all too true.

But—to each his lot must fall; we shall be content with ours, and continue to publish whenever we can with the best material at hand.

Winter-Spring, 1957—Whole No. 17

hopes to find  
shment in a pool  
a wearied mind  
ound the writer’s tool  
le, endlessly—  
as by a miner’s light  
cold, of beauty free,  
of a mummy’s bite!

Keats and all the rest  
y a brimming cup  
— when depressed  
y looking up;  
e more to me  
anthropology!

Charlotte Carr Taylor

The P-K Scribbler



# The Fossil



Official Publication of  
THE FOSSILS, Inc.  
*"The Historians of Amateur Journalism"*

Volume 76, Number 1

SALEM, VIRGINIA, JULY 1978

Whole Number 223

## REFLECTIONS ON ... 50 years pursuing a Hobby

by Fossil F. EARL BONNELL

"IT'S DOUBTFUL I'LL EVER RANK AS A PRINTER, but I'm certain of one thing: this unique pastime has added an enrichment to one life that outsiders will never fathom!" So said Frederick H. Gage in Haywood's "National Amateur Presses Assembled" distributed at the 1976 National Amateur Press Association convention in Philadelphia.

Reading the above quotation recently prompted me to pause and reflect upon my 50 years of pursuing the hobby of amateur journalism and printing; what it has meant to me.

Even as a youngster I was interested in printing, but dollars were very scarce in those days. Many years would pass before I could progress from a little rubber stamp outfit to a real press and metal type. For several years after obtaining my first press and small outfit I did printing for others. With a limited amount of sparetime, I decided that commercial printing was not for me. I felt the time and effort could be put to better use. I had never heard of organized amateur journalism and printing as a hobby, although I often wondered what the small NAPA emblem in the Kelsey Press catalog represented.

Sometime in 1929 I purchased a copy of Will Ransom's book "Private Presses and Their Books." Reading this book gave me the idea of launching The Bunny Press, and

the printing and binding of my first book. Then, in the autumn of 1930, I received a mailing from the special recruiting committee of Vincent Haggerty and Edwin Hadley Smith, which introduced me to organized amateur journalism and the National Amateur Press Association.

The above incidents did not seem particularly important at the time, but they affected my scheme of living and entire viewpoint of life. They started me on a journey down the friendly road of amateur journalism and private press activity; a very pleasant journey that has provided an interesting hobby for many years. A hobby that has paid many dividends.

My life has been greatly enriched through contacts with kindred folks and the resulting friendships formed in person and by mail.

What makes this unique pastime tick? Many have endeavored to define it. But no one definition will do; it means different things to each individual. Here is what this hobby means to me:

☆ It's the many pleasurable hours spent designing, hand-setting the type, printing and binding small books and papers, and the sharing of them with others.

☆ It's an increased appreciation of the printing; and a greater knowledge of the craft being of much assistance when my daily

## HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR THE FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION

Robert Lichtman

(originally published in *King Biscuit Time*, FAPA 295, February 2011)

In *Fandom Forever* #2, Knud Larn inquires: “Has anyone ever listed the contents of all the FAPA mailings? Maybe someone has written an account of the FAPA history? If not, should we write a FAPA history?”

Taking Knud’s questions one at a time:

There isn’t an ongoing list of the contents of all FAPA mailings, but there have been some efforts along the way.

In December 1944 Larry Shaw (yes, the same one who went on to sell short SF stories, edit *If* and *Infinity*, Lancer Books, etc., and who was married for a time to Lee Hoffman) produced *The FAPA Index*, an 11-page compilation of the fanzines included in the first 28 mailings.

More ambitiously, in the ’70s the late Bob Pavlat produced a series of six issues of *FAPA Book: The Mailings*, which cover the first 96 mailings (through August 1961). In addition to the contents listings, he notes changes in officers, controversies and unusual situations, comings and goings of some of the members, and other addenda. But for whatever reason he never continued the project, even though at the time of the first issue in 1972 there were already over forty additional mailings that had occurred.

Shaw’s index and the first volume of Pavlat’s list only the titles of the fanzines in each mailing. It was not the custom early on for the contents of a given mailing to be published in the *Fantasy Amateur*. The first time that was done was in the September 1943 (25th) mailing, but before (and after) that one could approximate what was in each bundle from the “critics’ reports” that were published in the *FA* (a feature borrowed from the non-fannish apas).

Significantly, the Official Editor who began including these listings was R. D. Swisher, whose pioneering index of *all* fanzines was later updated through 1952 by Bob Pavlat and Bill Evans. In case you’re not familiar with it, it’s available on-line at:

<http://efanzines.com/FanzineIndex.pdf>

(Swisher didn’t have knowledge of all fanzines, though; I have some in my collection not listed there.)

Also, from 1944-1947 there were annual reports from a “Laureate Committee” (invented by L. Russell Chauvenet). The critics and the Laureate Committee were replaced in 1948 when then Vice-President F. Towner Laney inaugurated the first-ever FAPA Egoboo Poll, which was contained on a postcard with these categories (and the number of positions available for voting in parentheses after each): best FAPAzine (5), best article-writer (5), best mailing comments (3), best humorist (3), best fiction writer (1), best poet (1), best artist (1) and worst FAPA member (3). From the beginning the egoboo poll has evolved to its present, longer form, as you can see in the results of the latest one in this mailing’s *Fantasy Amateur*.

A continuation of the work done by Shaw and Pavlat could be accomplished, though it would involve typing up the contents listings of (at this point) just short of 200 mailings.

There *is* a list of everyone who’s ever been a member of FAPA through the 280th mailing. The late Ron Ellik did the pioneering work on it back in 1962 when he published in the 101st mailing a compilation of everyone who’d been a member for the first 100 mailings. Using Ron’s as a base (and with help from others), Milt Stevens updated the list through the 260th mailing and then five years later through the 280th. Two volumes were produced on each occasion: one listing alphabetically by member, the other numerically by membership number.

There has never been a FAPA history all in one place, but pieces of that history have been written and are generally available. In *The Immortal Storm*, Sam Moskowitz devotes a short chapter to the founding of FAPA (at pages 113-115), and follows up with a chapter, “The FAPA Elections of 1938” (pages 153-157)

in which the intrigues of fannish politics of the day are thoroughly explored. (Of course, nearly all of Sam's history reads like an overheated potboiler thriller.)

A much calmer account of FAPA's beginnings would be "The Founding of the FAPA," which starts on page 14 of Jack Speer's pioneering '30s fanhistory, *Up To Now*, first published in 1939, which is available on-line at:

<http://efanzines.com/UpToNow/index.htm>

In Harry Warner Jr.'s fanhistory, *All Our Yesterdays*, the FAPA story continues in a long section in which he reprises its founding and reports on its activity during the '40s on pages 191-201, and in his *A Wealth of Fable* at pages 186-189 he covers FAPA activity during the '50s. Harry's account of FAPA's founding and early years is more objective than Sam's the latter's is skewed because of Sam's animosity towards FAPA founder Donald Wollheim, and much of the chapter on the '38 FAPA elections is devoted to building a case against Wollheim. (And between the two chapters is "The Wollheim-Moskowitz Feud," which lays it all out.)

There are other bits about FAPA in all of these books, as well, and referring to the index in each will provide a map of which pages to turn to.

All three of these books are available in new hardcover editions from NESFA Press (<http://www.nesfa.org/press/>) for a total of \$80 plus shipping. Significantly less expensive copies of the Warner books can be found in a search using Bookfinder.com, but the NESFA Press offering of *The Immortal Storm* is its best price. (Of course, you may prefer to pay more for copies inscribed by Sam to the likes of Walter J. Daugherty or Lester del Rey.) If you don't have these books, I highly recommend reading them. Besides the information in them on FAPA, they provide an opportunity to expand your knowledge of SF fandom, especially the American part of it, beyond what you may already know.

"Should we write a FAPA history?" It would be a large undertaking and, in the end, I wonder if there would be sufficient interest in a truly detailed history to warrant the effort.

"Does anyone have a complete set of all the mailings?" The only one I know of would be that of the late Jack Speer, who was a founding member and the only fan who maintained a continuous membership until his death (although with a glitch in January 1947 when a delay in his dues payment because of a misunderstanding caused him to be removed from and then placed back on the membership roster in the same issue of *Fantasy Amateur*). According to my information, his fanzine collection is (or will be) relocated to the Jack Williamson Science Fiction Library at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, where it could remain in boxes for years for lack of staffing to deal with it. So it can't be considered accessible at this time.

It's generous of you to volunteer to do "the tedious registration work" involved in a compilation of the contents of all mailings and a list of all members. "Supposing there has been some kind of contents page in all mailings, and a membership list, it could be a question of photocopying these two pages and mailing them to me." As I wrote above, some of this work has been done: complete membership list for the first seventy years and complete contents list for the first two dozen years. It would be a quick job to update the membership list (perhaps Milt plans to for the 301st mailing), but as I wrote above much more work to update nearly 200 mailings of contents listings. As it happens, I have a complete set of the *Fantasy Amateur* and could possibly succumb to sufficient arm-twisting to make copies of the contents listings. But I'd prefer to share this task with others, perhaps restricting my copying to some of the older mailings (where Pavlat's *FAPA Book* leaves off).

This is an interesting topic, and I thank you for raising it!

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

I am grateful to Guy Miller, Stan Oliner and Robert Lichtman for their contributions to this issue of *The Fossil*. All unsigned material is by yours truly the editor. I also thank Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain for gifts of stamps and bills to help the mission of *The Fossil*. Kent's own poems have appeared several times in *The Fossil*, but this time he contributes a poem written by his father, Clarence Edward Chamberlain, Jr., at the age of eight.

Our front cover providing New Year's greetings to our members reproduces the cover of Fossil Ex-President Harold Smolin's *Consider* for January 1972. I wish we could reproduce Smolin's delightful red printing on a yellow background. He explained his international New Year's greetings on his back cover: The front cover was suggested obliquely by a government purchasing office query demanding a count of minority group employees in my place of business. My partner finally answered the request after the second notice, while I surveyed for these new year greetings in Gaelic, Czech, Greek, Swedish, Italian, Armenian, Polish, Turkish, Finnish, Arabic, Hebrew and Swahili, native tongues of the people with whom I earn a living. A founding member of A.A.P.A., Harold kindly hosted the editor and his wife in his retirement home and shared some of his hobby memories with us in *The Fossil* for July 2008. Harold has been a real entrepreneur in the printing and photographic reproduction businesses and provided good livings to many employees over a long business career. Today he shares his retirement years with his daughters and his grandchildren. Harold lost his beloved wife of many years, Shirley, in 2007.

In addition to taking note of Louise Lincoln's upcoming one hundredth birthday celebration on February 12, 2012, we also note in this issue of *The Fossil* the one hundredth birthdays of A.A.P.A. members John R. Blalock (November 3, 2011) and Parker W. Snapp (December 27, 2011). Blalock served earlier in his life as a missionary and was a Japanese prisoner during World War II. Patriots like Russell Paxton would surely be proud of his presence in our ranks. Like Harold Smolin, Parker W. Snapp is one of the founding members of A.A.P.A. Further details concerning Blalock and Snapp can be found in an article by Lee Hawes in *American Amateur Journalist* for November 2011. I hope to be able to provide further coverage of Louise Lincoln's one hundredth birthday celebration in our April 2012 issue. Fossils wishing to send individual birthday greetings to Louise can reach her at 5453 East Fourth Street, Tucson, AZ 85711-2305. A poem by Louise's amanuensis A. Walrus (dating back nearly fifty years ago to April 1962) can be found in this issue of *The Fossil*.

*The Fossil* also notes the passing on November 6, 2011, at the age of ninety-nine, of Betty-Jane Kendall Heitz, the daughter of N.A.P.A. Presidents Frank Austin Kendall (died in office 1913) and Jennie Irene (Maloney) Kendall (1913-14). Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Mrs. Heitz attended the St. Clara Academy in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her mother Jennie Kendall took Mr. John Plaisier, a teacher, as her second husband in Chicago on January 7, 1920, and continued to be active in amateur affairs for many years (she was N.A.P.A. executive judge with Vincent Haggerty and Howard Lovecraft during the turbulent 1935-36 year). Mrs. Heitz spent most of her working career in the Chicago area as a copywriter and a travel agent. She was a frequent contributor of poems to the *Chicago Tribune's* "A Line O'Type or Two" column, under her initials BJK. One of her best loved humorous poems, "Pam Says Damn," memorialized the first time her daughter (Pam Heitz Lowry) uttered a curse word. Mrs. Heitz passed away in a nursing home in Braddock Heights, Maryland. Her *Chicago Tribune* obituary by Joan Giangrassie Kates, published November 16, 2011, proudly noted of Mrs. Heitz that "her father and mother each served as president of the National Amateur Press Association." A gallery depicting Betty-Jane Kendall Heitz and her parents adorns our back cover this issue.

The one-hundredth birthdays of amateur journalists Louise Lincoln, James Blalock and Parker W. Snapp, the one-hundred fifth birthday of Marion Fields Wyllie as noted in our last issue, and the passing of Betty-Jane Kendall Heitz at age ninety-nine certainly remind us that we are living longer lives than prior

generations. (James Larkin Pearson (1879-1981) was an earlier ajay who lived to celebrate one hundred birthdays and more.) With our president Guy Miller, I would also like to recognize Martha Shivvers' devoted service as our Membership Chair. In addition to her duties as Membership Chair, Martha has supported your Fossil editor with a steady stream both of contributions and comment, for which I am very grateful. God willing, Martha will be celebrating her ninety-seventh birthday on February 13, 2012, one day after fellow Fossil Louise Lincoln will celebrate her one hundredth birthday. Our Fossil ranks are full of other members in their eighties and nineties. We all wish Martha every blessing as she lays down her duties as Membership Chair after a long and dedicated term of service. Hopefully, in three years she will be joining her friends Marion Fields Wyllie and Louise Lincoln in our Fossils Centenarians' Club. Words of thanks or birthday greetings can reach Martha at her home 1526 165th Avenue, Knoxville, IA 50138. I've appended a poem by Martha which got crowded out of the October 2011 number of *The Fossil*. Hopefully its winterly "sodden skies" will still resonate with January readers. After all, we've just enjoyed in our holiday feasts the fruits of the harvest season which Martha celebrates. Martha is a wonderful poet of the seasons, both of life and of nature's year, and, like her friend and fellow poet Marion Fields Wyllie, provides for us in verse wisdom to confront the twists and turns that life presents to us.

### **PRELUDE TO WINTER**

*Martha E. Shivvers*

November's harvest time is here,  
Pumpkin's golden, corn in ear,  
Winter creeps in with sodden skies,  
Foods are stored by squirrels and man,  
Abiding by one of Nature's plans,  
Winter creeps in with sodden skies,  
Pumpkin's golden, corn in ear,  
November's harvest time is here.

### **STUDIES IN FRUSTRATION**

*A. Walrus*

(from Louise Lincoln's *The Kitchen Stove*, 27th Heating, April 1962)

I never really cared for clocks  
Whose shrill alarms are heard,  
But even less I like that pest,  
The loud-mouthed early bird.

The reason why I deeply hate him,  
Is lack of power to regulate him.

My clock I set for six ayem.  
The bird goes off at dawn.  
I hush the raucous voice of clock:  
The bird rings on and on,

And mocks the atom splitting race  
That cannot put him in his place.

**THE YELLOW ROSE**  
**Clarence Edward Chamberlain, Jr. (1911-2000)**  
**(composed at age 8, Riley, Kansas)**

I:

In Kansas grows a yellow rose,  
And when the day draws to a close,  
The rose has earned a night's repose.

II:

And when the hired man named Mose,  
Came out to cover the tomatoes,  
He discovered the yellow rose.

III:

He said, as he looked at the yellow rose,  
It has earned a night's repose,  
And so have the tomatoes!

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION FOR MARTHA**

There was not an issue of *The Fossil*  
That did not draw from faithful Martha  
A letter of comment,  
With wise observations, kind words  
And encouragement always!

Two times she assembled for our pages  
Tributes to her fellow Rhymer, Marion Wyllie;  
Once she shared with us biographical notes,  
And many times poems of the seasons  
both of human lives and of nature's year.

Of departed UAP she was a font of knowledge,  
And shared that wealth with us;  
The office of membership chair she invented for us,  
And pursued her duties with diligence,  
Until eyes and hands would allow her to do it no more.

Another more jealous of office  
Would gladly have accepted a lifetime title and honor,  
But faithful Martha has handed over her duties,  
For the good of Fossildom.

So now we wish her well-deserved rest;  
We hope her eyes will allow her  
To peruse our pages still;  
Her hands, still to send us a poem or two.

May God grant her plenitude of life,  
With beloved family at her side.  
But I doubt Martha has any qualms  
if a well-lived life is its own reward.  
Martha, for your writing and your help,  
The Fossils say THANK YOU!



The Collected Works of  
Martha Elizabeth Sherwood Shivvers

## **FOSSIL BOARD: 2010-2012**

Guy Miller (President), 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield, OH 45503-1209

Stan Oliner, 44 South Adams Street, Apt. 328, Denver, CO 80209

Jack Swenson, 24353 Hines Road, N.E., Hines, MN 55647

## **FOSSIL APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Secretary-treasurer, Tom Parson, 157 South Logan, Denver, CO 80209

Librarian, Martin M. (Mike) Horvat, P.O. Box 741, Stayton, OR 97383-0741

Historian, Sean Donnelly, Univ. of Tampa Press, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606

Webmaster, David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Official Editor, Ken Faig, Jr., 2311 Swainwood Dr., Glenview, IL 60025-2741

Designer & Publisher: Gary T. Bossler, 145 Genoa Ave., S.W., Massillon OH 44646

Editorial E-Mail: carolfaig -at- comcast -dot- net

## **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.



Frank A. Kendall, Jennie M. Kendall (later Mrs. John Plaisier),  
and their daughter Betty-Jane Kendall Heitz