

The Fossil

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A Brief History of the LAJ

by Ken Faig, Jr.

THE LIBRARY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM (LAJ) owes its existence to the collecting passion of Edwin Hadley Smith (1869-1944), which he pursued throughout his lifetime. Smith entered the National Amateur Press Association in 1889. His first paper was *Critique*, but he was better known for *The Rising Age*, published with Walter C. Chiles beginning in 1891, and *The Boys' Herald*, a famous title which he took over in 1904 and continued to publish through 1916, with a revival in the thirties. In 1917 Smith married Nita Gerner (1881-1969), the daughter of amateur journalist Richard Gerner (1856-1885), one of the 1876 founders of the National. He made his principal mark in amateur journalism as a politician in the National; for many years he and Charles Robert Burger (1865-1939) were famous (or infamous, depending upon your point of view) for their behind-the-scenes influence on National politics.

By 1896, Smith was living in Salt Lake City and in need of an outlet for his collecting passion. Then David W. Jagger of Newburgh, New York, an old-timer active in the 1870s, published a notice in William R. Moscow's *The East* for March 1896 offering his indexed collection of 2,000 amateur journals from that period to any amateur journalist who would reimburse him for the \$10 cataloging cost of the collection. Smith did not have the immediate financial resources to purchase Jagger's collection but he obtained an option on its purchase. He was finally able to complete the transaction in 1898 and in one blow he had his first papers antedating 1880. Fascinated by its contents, Smith spent at least one full vacation cataloging the Jagger collection. A true collector's instinct motivated him to try to fill its gaps, and by 1899 he was in correspondence with old-timers across the country in the earnest attempt to acquire more old papers.

When Smith removed from Salt Lake City to New York City in 1899, he had to pay \$11.00 freight for his 290-pound packing case of amateur journals. Between 1899 and 1902,

Smith stored the collection at a warehouse near his own apartment. Then in June 1902, he rented an unfurnished three-room apartment in Brooklyn, near the New York ferry, and removed the entirety of the collection to that location. A photograph of one room's massive, unorganized accumulation of material adorns "Smith's Collection: Its Inception, Development and Culmination," by Charles W. Heins in *The Boys' Herald* for September 1908 (reprinted in *THE FOSSIL* issues 235-238). Slowly but steadily, Smith began the work of sorting and cataloging the collection. Having saved some money, Smith in February 1903 resigned the clerkship with the Fidelity and Casualty Insurance Company which he had held since October 1899, in order to devote full-time to organizing, cataloging, and developing his collection. He determined to organize his amateur journals by year of publication and by publication title within year. A card catalog was commenced to provide ready reference to the collection.

By the time Heins wrote in 1908, Smith's collection had increased to 25,700 papers, 1600 of which were published outside North America. The collection also



This photo taken by Edwin H. Smith in August 1907 shows papers, clippings, books, photos, and printed relics in his collection. The pile is estimated ten to twelve feet high. (Photo reprinted from *Library News* No. 12, July 1976, by Stan Oliner.)



Edwin Hadley Smith
July 5, 1906

included 590 amateur books, 3300 printed "relics," 1150 newspaper cuttings, and 1350 photographs (850 of individuals and 500 of groups). Smith was assiduous in identifying the persons depicted in amateur groups and *The Boys' Herald* contains numerous articles and correspondence relating to such identifications. Smith's determination to preserve his collection for more than just personal use was a distinguishing mark of his collecting passion.

By 1907-08 Smith reached the decision to bind the amateur journal portion of his collection, following his basic organization by year of publication and by publication title within year. There were to be two basic series of bound volumes: one for American journals and one for foreign journals. The only title to be bound separately was *The National Amateur*. Smith eschewed classifying papers by size for binding, but bound all his papers in volumes of uniform size, cutting the largest papers to fit and using guards to mount small papers in order to prevent warping of the assembled volumes. The thickness of each volume is about two inches, varying only as necessary to prevent splitting of initial letters within publication year. In the end, Smith obtained a quotation from the Reliance Trading Company (a subsidiary of the Salvation Army) to perform the entire binding and stamping work for a flat fee of \$250—about \$1 per volume.

By mid-1908, the binding and stamping work was nearing completion. As recorded by John W. Smith in his article "The Edwin Hadley Smith Collection" in *The Boys' Herald* for December 1908, the collection went to the Pratt Institute Free Library in Brooklyn, where it was formally opened to the public on November 5, 1908. A photograph accompanying Heins's article depicts the 267 bound volumes

of 27,500 amateur papers and their 10,500-card catalog in 16 drawers as installed on 43 feet of shelves at the Pratt Institute.

From the first, it was Smith's intention to keep the collection up to date with the current products of the amateur journalism hobby. The inevitable year-to-year growth in collection size has in retrospect been one of the most difficult aspects of institutional deposit. By 1913, Pratt, which had welcomed the collection only five years before, was insisting that it be removed. Fortunately for Smith, Dr. Talcott Williams, director of Columbia University's Pulitzer School of Journalism, stepped forward to offer a new home for the collection. Smith consented to the removal of the collection to Columbia, which was accomplished on December 1, 1913. Smith continued to update the collection through publication year 1915, but eventually the authorities at Columbia University, like those at the Pratt Institute before them, became concerned about large additions of contemporary material to the collection. Smith unsuccessfully appealed to the active amateur journalism associations to establish a foundation to provide a home for the collection. On March 15, 1916, Charles C. Heuman (1857-1940) purchased the entire collection, updated through December 31, 1915, from Smith for \$250, the same sum which Smith had originally expended to bind the collection. At the time of sale, the collection consisted of 29,384 amateur journals, 1775 professional clippings, 728 amateur books, 2178 photographs and 4468 printed "relics." Mr. Heuman received a proper deed of sale from Smith, and thereby became sole owner of the famous collection.

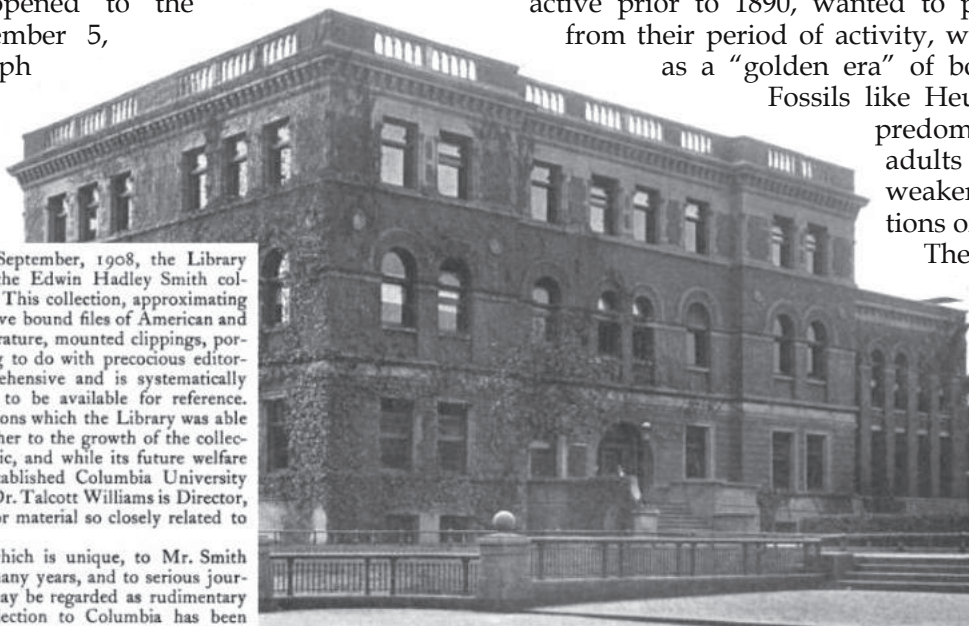
Heuman's intention was to deed the collection to The Fossils as soon as proper arrangements could be made for its care. The viewpoint of The Fossil leaders was different from that of Smith himself. The Fossils, whose membership was then restricted to amateurs active prior to 1890, wanted to preserve the papers from their period of activity, which they perceived as a "golden era" of boy and girl editors.

Fossils like Heuman saw the later predominance of mature adults in the hobby as a weakening of the foundations of the hobby.

The committee chaired by Heuman approached a number of libraries and the New York Press Club, but received no encouragement in their efforts to find a new home for the collection. Therefore they determined to sign a year's lease for

Amateur Journalism.—In September, 1908, the Library assumed the custodianship of the Edwin Hadley Smith collection of amateur journalism. This collection, approximating 30,000 pieces, comprised extensive bound files of American and foreign amateur journalistic literature, mounted clippings, portraits, and other material having to do with precocious editorship. The collection is comprehensive and is systematically maintained and indexed so as to be available for reference. Unfortunately, the accommodations which the Library was able to grant were advantageous neither to the growth of the collection nor to its use by the public, and while its future welfare was under debate the newly-established Columbia University School of Journalism, of which Dr. Talcott Williams is Director, appeared as a proper claimant for material so closely related to their interests.

In justice to the collection which is unique, to Mr. Smith who has made it his study for many years, and to serious journalism of which these papers may be regarded as rudimentary forms, the transfer of the collection to Columbia has been agreed upon. In the autumn of 1913, upon the completion of the new building at the University for the School of Journalism, the collection will be transferred to its new and appropriate home.



Report of Pratt Institute Free Library for the Year Ending June 30, 1913 described the transfer of the Edwin Hadley Smith collection.

room 1302 in the *New York Sun* Building, 150 Nassau Street (corner, Nassau & Spruce Streets) in lower Manhattan, to house the collection and incidentally to provide office space for the then official editor J. Austin Fynes. The initial lease was from August 1, 1916; and while for the first annual term it was less, the rent during most of the nearly twenty years that the collection occupied this space was \$300.00 per year. The collection was formally opened to the membership on Tuesday, October 10, 1916, followed by a banquet.

President Huss and Treasurer Kempner were not finished with their promotional efforts on behalf of the collection. In the spring of 1917 they mailed to each individual Fossil member across the nation a personal key for Room 1302. Nearly three pages of verbal "bouquets" received from Fossils upon receipt of the personal keys were published in *THE FOSSIL* for April 1917. The annual Fossil banquet and business meeting was customarily held in New York City every April, and beginning in 1917 it became the custom for the Fossils to gather at Room 1302 before adjourning to their banquet.

The financial burden of maintaining the collection at 150 Nassau Street continued to be a subject of discussion among The Fossils. A new landlord increased the rent for room 1302 from \$25 per month to \$27.50 per month in 1919, but agreement was reached with the printer of *THE FOSSIL* and *The Single Tax Review* (edited by Joseph Dana Miller, who used room 1302 for office space), to share the rental costs. Rental for 1922-23 returned to the original \$300 and remained at this figure for many years. Just how the cost-sharing with the printer of *THE FOSSIL* and *The Single Tax Review* was effected is never made completely clear.

A new census of the library holdings printed in *THE FOSSIL* for November 1922 listed 27,353 American and 2,031 foreign amateur papers dating from October 1812 through December 1915; the census of other, associational items (books, clippings, photographs, relics) appears unchanged from the count at the time of the collection's acquisition in 1916.

On June 18, 1930, his eightieth birthday, Fossil Cyrus H. K. Curtis (1850-1932), broke ground for the \$5,000,000 Benjamin Franklin Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Curtis was the publisher of *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and numerous other periodicals.) President Evan Reed Riale appointed a Library Committee consisting of Fossils Tilden, Curtis, Beck, and McCain, and this committee was continued in office by President Edwin B. Swift. As reported in *The Fossil* for July 1931, Howard McClenahan, Director of the Franklin Institute, met with Messrs. Curtis, Miller, Lee, and Heuman in room 1302 at 150 Nassau Street in New York City on June 9, 1931. Mr. McClenahan was duly impressed by the value of the collection and accepted the tender of the collection by The Fossils.

The New York amateurs remained reluctant to transfer the riches of the library to another city. The

factions fought bitterly over moving the collection. Even though members of The Fossils voted to move the collection in late 1933, it wasn't installed at the Franklin Institute until April 6, 1935.

Harold Segal's *The First Hundred Years...* reports details of the transfer:

The collection then consisted of both the Fossil Library (items to 1915) and the National Amateur Press Association Library (items from 1931). These two were combined to form the Library of Amateur Journalism. The years 1916-1930 were not represented in either collection, so Smith set out to fill in the missing journals for those neglected years.

After an eighteen-year exile from management responsibilities relating to the library, Smith was back in the saddle. The idea of a library whose mission was limited to the preservation of amateur journals of the "golden age" had fallen by the wayside. Smith, then also serving as librarian for the National, was determined to bring the collection destined for the Franklin Institute back up to date from the point he had left off on December 31, 1915.

Edwin Hadley Smith continued as Fossil Librarian until his death in 1944, when the office was assumed by his widow Nita Gerner Smith, who held it until she retired in favor of Bernice (McCarthy) Spink in 1955.

The fact that Fossil Cyrus Curtis gave multiple millions to the Franklin Institute to build its new building probably helped the collection get into the Institute. But the Institute eventually (in 1964) gave the collection notice to quit. After a period of examination and evaluation by Fossil Stan Oliner, the collection ended up (1967) at New York University in Manhattan. The shades of old Fossils like Charles C. Heuman, Joseph Dana Miller (librarian, 1916-23), and Louis Kempner (librarian, 1923-30), who had opposed the removal of the collection to Philadelphia in 1935, probably rejoiced over its return to New York City. But the Collection was not to reside there for long—New York University had no money to spend on the collection, and handling new additions to the collection was a problem.

Eventually, in 1980, E. Sherman Cole and his Fossils board decided to transfer the collection to Fossil Martin M. "Mike" Horvat of Stayton, Oregon. (Some Fossils, including Lee Hawes, had advocated a transfer to the University of South Florida.) An unsuccessful microfilming effort in 1980-82 intervened. The microfilming



Nita Gerner Smith &
Edwin Hadley Smith
July 1936



Martin "Mike" Horvat
May 1986

contractor went bankrupt, and Horvat had a herculean effort to rescue the collection from his subcontractors. The microfilming contractor claimed that the card file index of the collection was stolen from his automobile. As part of the transfer, the Theodore G. Meyer puzzle paper collection was given to the National Puzzlers' League. But by 1982 the collection was with Horvat in Stayton, housed in two rooms of his

home.

Horvat's preference—like Edwin Hadley Smith's—was to find money to endow the collection as a private institution, the American Private Press Association. But the money was not to be found.

Mike Horvat and Stan Oliner did take a week from their lives to rescue the collection of the late Martin and Willametta (Turnepseed) Keffer from their erstwhile home in Roanoke, Virginia in 1991. In a week's time, they packed 137 boxes and shipped over six thousand pounds of material.

In May 2002 Horvat reported on the physical relocation of the library, to two rooms in the Paris Woolen Mill (of Stayton), the home of several non-profits. Then in 2003 the owners of the Mill gave notice that the collection would be losing its home.

Horvat asked The Fossils to assist with the relocation of the collection, and our committee (consisting of Mike Horvat, Stan Oliner, Lee Hawes, Jerry Killie and me) eventually decided on University of Wisconsin at Madison. Robin Rider of UW-Madison Special Collections flew out to Stayton to see the collection. She expressed amazement that a private group of individuals had succeeded in preserving such a large collection for so long. The local football team helped transfer the collection from Paris Mill to a Yellow Truck trailer. The trailer with its precious cargo arrived in Madison on a frigid December 30, 2004.

Stored for a time in its original cartons and bankers' boxes, once room was carved out, the collection was shifted to the Department of Special Collections.

Work proceeded on processing the collection: unpacking hundreds of cartons, cleaning and sorting the contents, rehousing materials in archival folders and cartons as appropriate, and

shelving them. The LAJ is one of many collections held by the library that compete for limited budget resources, so work progressed at a deliberate pace.

After the death of Leland Hawes in 2013, AAPA officers sought a way to honor his memory by making a donation to preserve amateur journalism history. Before AAPA completed its investigation, The Fossils decided to make a donation of \$1,000 through the University of Wisconsin Foundation to support the ongoing work of LAJ sorting and cataloging. In September, AAPA President Peter Schaub reported a \$3,000 donation from the treasury: \$1,000 was directed toward the ongoing work, but \$2,000 went toward establishing a permanent endowment (named the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism) to ensure long-term LAJ maintenance. Under Foundation rules, an endowment such as this must have a balance of \$10,000 before it can receive annual payments of about 4.5%. The Fossils matched the AAPA's donation to the endowment, and both the endowment and the fund for ongoing work attracted a number of private contributions.

Further information about LAJ history can be found on The Fossils' website, www.thefossils.org:

- Ken Faig's 55-page "Passion, Controversy and Vision: A History of the Library of Amateur Journalism," written in 2003, is the basis for pre-1964 portions of this article.
- Ken's account of the deliberations leading up to the transfer to UW-Madison, "Finding a New Home for the Library of Amateur Journalism," can be found in THE FOSSIL number 323 for January 2005.
- Robin Rider, Curator of Special Collections at University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, wrote "The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection: Processing Update" in THE FOSSIL number 363 for April 2015. ♦



Today, the original Edwin Hadley Smith bound volumes (above) and archival cartons of AJ bundles (right) are housed in climate-controlled vaults. Photos are courtesy of Department of Special Collections, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Charles C. Heuman Purchases the Smith Collection.

Acquires for Cash All the Rights, Title and Interest; and the Fossils as a Body Will
Eventually Share in the Ownership.

IT IS WITH peculiar pleasure that THE FOSSIL announces the purchase, on March 15 last, by Charles C. Heuman, of the famous Edwin Hadley Smith collection of amateur newspapers, books, photographs, menus, and miscellaneous reliquae of amateurdom in general. Mr. Smith and Mr. Heuman alike are to be congratulated; the former for his wise sense of the fitness of the deal, and the latter for his prompt and generous action in securing for the Fossils this uniquely interesting history of Amateurdom.

Readers of THE FOSSIL are familiar with the story of Mr. Smith's first endeavor to dispose of his collection by popular subscription.

This movement was unsuccessful, as was a second attempt made along similar lines. This latter project, by the way, was unauthorized either by Mr. Smith or by the Editor of THE FOSSIL [J. Austin Fynes], whose name was unwarrantably used as Treasurer by George Houtain, who fathered the last fiasco.

Early in March, Edwin Hadley Smith consulted with the Editor of THE FOSSIL, and negotiations were then opened which at once resulted in Mr.

Heuman's purchase of the entire collection. This purchase was made without the slightest hesitation on Mr. Heuman's part, and on his own financial responsibility. A proper deed of sale has been turned over to him, and he is now the sole and legal owner of the famous collection, which will remain on exhibition at the Columbia College School of Journalism until such time as its permanent habitat shall be decided upon.

While Brother Heuman is perfectly willing to assume the entire financial responsibility, it is not likely that he will long be permitted to do so. So many of his fellow Fossils want to share in the ownership of the collection that plans are now underway for the formation of a limited corporate body, to be capitalized for the amount of the purchase price paid by Mr. Heuman. Fossils James M. Beck and Charles H. Young will look after the legal details of this holding company, which

will be confined in its participants to members of the Fossils. At our coming reunion, at the Hotel McAlpin, the details of this plan will be revealed, and a general discussion will be invited.

In any event, the future of the famous Smith Collection need no longer be a source of speculation. The Fossils are now its custodians. But there will be no further additions to the collection, which ceased as of record on Jan. 1, 1916, when Mr. Smith finally abandoned his labors of so many years.

As turned over to Mr. Heuman, the collection comprises the following:

Summary.	American.	Foreign.	Total.
Amateur Papers.....	27,353	2,031	29,384
Professional Clippings.....	1,742	33	1,775
Amateur Books.....	689	39	728
Photos of Amateurs.....	2,039	138	2,178
Printed Relics.....	4,155	313	4,468
Total	35,978	2,555	38,533

Of these thousands of amateur newspapers, eleven bear date of 1812, forty-nine of 1813, forty-six of 1814, forty-eight of 1815, forty-nine of 1816, one of 1841, nine of 1845, twenty-seven of 1846, and so on through the years until we find the Civil War period (1861-1865) represented by only one or two papers—a fact of mournful significance.

It was in the glorious decade of 1870-1880 that amateur journalism reached its greatest height of activity and prosperity. Study these figures for the proof:

Year.	No. of papers.	Year.	No. of papers.
1867.....	4	1877.....	1359
1868.....	27	1878.....	1252
1869.....	36	1879.....	983
1870.....	316	1880.....	398
1871.....	256	1881.....	498
1872.....	584	1882.....	711
1873.....	699	1883.....	820
1874.....	421	1884.....	715
1875.....	702	1885.....	554
1876.....	1247	1886.....	757

In only one year since 1886 have there been published more than eight hundred issues of amateur newspapers. In 1902, 887 papers were collected by the industrious Smith. As few as 204 papers make up the sum total of amateurdom's "activity" for 1914! In the next issue of THE FOSSIL a complete and comprehensive description of the Smith Collection will be published,



lack of space preventing such publication at this time.

It is an oddly interesting circumstance, in connection with Fossil Heuman's purchase of this collection, that less than a week previously he had written an article for *THE FOSSIL*, in which he thus touched upon the merits and certain shortcomings of Mr. Smith's work:

The E. H. Smith Collection.

By Charles C. Heuman.

To be made to realize, after devoting the best years of one's life to a task, that its accomplishment is not thought worth while, surely has something tragic in it. Years of patient and persistent plodding, years of uncomplaining self-denial, and then to be forced to feel that they were wasted! One's cynicism would be abnormal if one felt no admiration for Edwin Hadley Smith, or sought to belittle his boundless industry and his almost fanatical devotion to an ideal.

We now ask ourselves (as I have asked myself many times during the past fifteen years): Why should such a complete and colossal collection of everything bearing on amateur journalism prove to be a failure?

A short history of amateur journalism, and the scope of the Smith collection, seem to me to tell the whole story.

Amateur journalism, except for sporadic examples scattered over a period of more than a hundred years, may be said to have had its beginning in the late '60s. It did not, like other arts (if I may call it such), develop slowly and gradually from crude beginnings, but sprang into life full-panoplied. Bright boys and girls began, the country over, to publish and edit journals and magazines, which were in effect professional journals and magazines in a minor key. These were filled with poems and stories, often of good literary quality, and sometimes of real distinction, written by boys and girls.

This continued for twenty-five or thirty years, with a constant shifting of the participants. Two or three years, possibly five or six, comprised the average activity of the amateur author or editor. Then he "retired," to be remembered and revered, in accordance with his deserts, by succeeding generations. There was a continued influx of new blood.

A few—and such is the perversity of human nature and the consequent irony of fate—whose talents and achievements were negligible, but whose passion for seeing their names in print had become insatiable, were the exception to the rule. They did not retire; some have not retired yet. Gradually, but insidiously, amateur journalism took on another aspect. Instead of for the most part large, well-printed, ably edited journals, filled with good and often brilliant essays in literature, the handiwork of boys and girls, there came into existence a class of little, trumpery papers, mainly devoted to the immature and inconsequential personal opinions of their editors; and these editors were not boys or girls, but full grown men or women—the unworthy

residuum of the old order and its accretions.

Thus, *Our Free Lance*, *The Brilliant*, *The Cornucopia*, *Idle Hours*, *Our American Youth*, *The Elmira Enterprise*, edited and published by boys and girls, gave way to *The Dope Sheet*, *The Tramp*, and *Swift's Weekly*, edited and published by men in middle life. Farley, Barler, Miller, Legler, Buckley, Clossey, "Libbie Adams," and "Alice Harper," brilliant and inspired boys and girls, gave way to—but why cause needless pain?

Thus we see that amateur journalism, which, as I have pointed out, had no successive stages of development, and was, in fact, by reason of its maturity at birth, incapable of any particular or higher development, maintained an even level of excellence for about a quarter of a century, and then degenerated into what we, who shared in its glorious past, refuse to recognize. I need not analyze further the causes which have led to this deplorable degeneracy. Possibly I have said and written more on this subject during the past ten years than it deserves.

Edwin Hadley Smith has taken no account of this profound change in amateur journalism in amassing his collection. A collection can have no educational value unless it teaches something. It must illustrate progressive development, and it must stop when progressive degeneration sets in unless its purpose is pathological. Files of most of the papers published during the golden period of amateur journalism are an inspiration to youth, if youth can be attracted thereto, and if such a collection could be displayed within a reasonable compass.

But here is a collection swollen with the product of the past fifteen years without regard to quality, and to which was to be added the worthless output of the present, and the presumably worthless output of the il-limitable future; and which embraces every conceivable trifle connected in the remotest degree with amateur journalism, such as visiting cards, menus, invitations, etc.—a collection, in short, absolutely without proportion, and without a definite purpose; an enormous conglomeration in which a hundred gems are buried under tons of rubbish. Need we wonder that the Pratt Library insisted upon being relieved of it, or that the authorities of Columbia University were recently said to be viewing its steady and needless distention with dismay?

If Mr. Smith can bear to have his collection emasculated; if he will permit a competent commission to sift out the grain and discard the chaff, I am confident that a suitable shrine for its display and perpetuation can and will be provided. In that way, and only in that way, can his patience, perseverance, energy, self-denial, and loyalty be fittingly recognized, and he will then know that his labors have not been in vain.

Editor's note: Today's amateurs are glad Heuman's opinion did not prevail, and twentieth century papers were preserved. The "golden era" publishers were certainly prolific; the largest yearly output of AAPA publishers between 1937 and 1991 was 413 papers, in 1984-85. ♦

Hawes Endowment Ensures Long-Term Status of Library of Amateur Journalism

by David M. Tribby

KEN FAIG's history of the Library of Amateur Journalism describes how, over 108 years, the collection has moved among New York City; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Stayton, Oregon; and Madison, Wisconsin. In 2004 The Fossils donated the LAJ to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where it is housed at Memorial Library. This has been the best fit of all: it is part of an established institution that sees this collection as furthering its core mission. Of course, UW has many competing priorities and can only assign resources as their budget allows.

When amateur journalism groups began making donations to fund the ongoing work of processing the LAJ in 2014, UW staff suggested establishing a permanent endowment fund within the UW Foundation. Such a fund would generate cash in perpetuity (at an annual rate of about 4.5%) for LAJ support, and it would legally bind UW to use the income only for the LAJ. The American Amateur Press Association was first to make a donation (\$2,000 in September 2014) and chose to name the fund in honor of Leland Hawes, Jr. (1929-2013). Lee, a past president of both AAPA and The Fossils and a long-time member of NAPA, was renown as an AJ historian, and had supported the LAJ over many years, both financially and by serving on committees. (See sidebar.)

As of December 31, 2015, the fund had received \$6,351 from AAPA, The Fossils, and individual contributors. The Foundation requires a minimum of \$10,000 to establish an endowed fund. Once the fund reaches endowment level, additional donations will increase the yearly income.

Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible, and can be made in a variety of ways. (Additional information and links to online resources can be found at www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html.)

Check: Print the Foundation's "Gift Form," and on the "designate my/our gift" line enter "Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism." Send your check and form to UW Foundation, U.S. Bank Lockbox, Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807.

Online: Visit the Web page created by the Foundation for the Hawes fund and donate using a credit card number.

Stock: There could be significant tax advantages to making a donation with appreciated stock. Contact the Foundation for further instructions.

Bequest: You may consider directing a percentage of your estate to support the LAJ in your will. The UW Foundation suggests the following language: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the University

of Wisconsin Foundation, a non-profit, non-stock Wisconsin corporation with its principal offices in Madison, Wisconsin, the sum of X dollars (\$X) to be used to add to the principal of the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison, Wisconsin. It is understood and agreed that should the purpose for which this bequest is instituted cease to exist, then the Foundation may devote said bequest for such other uses and purposes as it determines to be in accordance with my original intent in making this gift." You could also consider creating your own named, personalized fund to support the LAJ. The UW Foundation can assist in crafting language that you direct through a Memorandum of Agreement.

For answers to questions about financial support for the LAJ, contact Ben Strand, the Director of Development for UW-Libraries, at telephone 606-308-5405, e-mail ben.strand@supportuw.org, or postal address 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726-4090 ♦

Lee Hawes

THE LIBRARY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM endowment fund is named after Leland M. Hawes, Jr. (1929-2013), one of the most accomplished amateur journalists. He grew up on a citrus farm east of Tampa, Florida, where he published a neighborhood newspaper even before he joined the American Amateur Press Association in 1942. Mimeographed issues of his *Gator Growl* soon appeared in the AAPA bundle. Eventually it was printed professionally, growing in size to allow room for a variety of amateur writers.

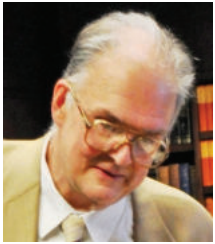


He became a professional journalist, working for Tampa's newspapers from 1950 to 2004. His weekly history columns became an institution, and local leaders sought his council when they needed background information on anything in Tampa's history.

When Lee joined The Fossils in 1957, he noted, "...we get considerable inspiration from the efforts of those who've preceded us. Strengthening the fraternal bond with craftsmen of the past is a privilege we value greatly." The LAJ was an important part of that heritage, and he made significant donations of time and money to ensure its preservation. ♦

Vision and Passion

by Ken Faig, Jr.



AS I WRITE IN MID-MAY, the Amateur Journalism Conference planned for Madison Wisconsin on July 21–23, 2016, is still several months away. A planning committee consisting of Arie Koelewyn (NAPA), Peter Schaub and Barry Schrader (AAPA), David Tribby and myself (Fossils), and Ben Strand and Erica Perrin (UW Foundation) has worked hard to make the plans for the conference come together. I am sure there will still be a few rough edges – there always are – but with flexibility I hope we will have a conference which everyone can enjoy. NAPA will be holding its 141st annual convention in conjunction with the conference; AAPA will be holding a regional meeting. Even The Fossils are planning to have their traditional luncheon. I hope we've left enough money in the budget for complimentary sandwiches for all the registrants.

The conference will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Charles C. Heuman's acquisition of the LAJ Collection from Edwin Hadley Smith on behalf of The Fossils. The LAJ Collection has had a long history which is summarized in the lead article in this issue of *THE FOSSIL*. Guy Miller's centenary volume *One Hundred Years of The Fossils: 1904–2004* (Springfield OH: Potpourri Private Press, 2005) includes my essay "Passion, Controversy and Vision: A History of the Library of Amateur Journalism." I think all those emotions were amply displayed over the more than 110 years that this collection, first assembled by Edwin Hadley Smith, has endured.

As for controversy, some Fossils wanted to purge the collection of everything published after 1890 when the collection was acquired in 1916. The Fossils fought hard over moving the collection from The Fossils' headquarters in the American Tract Society (*New York Sun*) building to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia in 1935. After that transfer, Smith himself (1934–44) and his widow Nita (Gerner) Smith (1944–55) were the main advocates of the collection as Fossils librarians. Other Fossils, such as Edward H. Cole and Edna H. ("Vondy") McDonald, thought that the collection at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts (grounded on the donation of the collection of Truman J. Spencer in 1944) would become the premier institutional collection.

So much for controversy. I like to say that there are as many opinions concerning the LAJ collection as there are amateur journalists. Hopefully, the exhibit of sample LAJ materials and the opportunity to ask questions at the Madison conference will enable today's amateur journalists to refine their own opinions. My

opinion is that the LAJ collection has found its long hoped-for permanent home.

But for the purposes of this discussion I'd like to move beyond controversy to vision and passion. A vision for the future of the collection has informed many of the opinions of amateur journalists concerning the collection. Certainly, Edwin Hadley Smith wanted to see his material preserved. An entire succession of curators and subsequent owners have pursued this vision according to their own lights. Not every vision or strategy succeeded. Jeff Jennings (librarian, 1975–80) and his volunteer catalogers who worked to try to keep the collection up-to-date during its years at New York University did not succeed. The microfilming effort of 1980–82 was a failure. But Mike Horvat and Stan Oliner did demonstrate the grit necessary to save the Keffer collection in 1991.

Visions may differ, but few visionaries succeed unless they are driven by passion. Human beings collect all kinds of things – you need only watch a few episodes of *American Pickers* or *Pawn Stars* on the History Channel to be convinced of this – but from the start of the hobby some amateur journalists have collected amateur journals, some far more seriously than others. I like to divide the collectors into: (1) "high spotters" (who keep a few of their favorites perhaps including their own); (2) "bundle keepers" (who file away their bundles in their envelopes in orderly fashion); and (3) "omnivores" (who want to own every amateur journal ever published). Of course, there are also the "enjoy and pitch" or "enjoy and recirculate" folks, but I do not count them as collectors.

Surely only passion could drive the omnivores. Warren J. Brodie made one of the first institutional placements of amateur journalism collections in the U.S. when he donated a collection of some 18,000 items to the Western Reserve Historical Society in 1918. Charles W. "Tryout" Smith followed by donating his collection to the New York Public Library in 1938. The estate of Truman J. Spencer donated his collection to the American Antiquarian Society in 1944.

And so it has gone over the years. The estate of Robert G. Barr donated his collection to the National Library of New Zealand in 1975. In recent years, The Fossils donated the LAJ collection to UW-Madison in 2004. The estate of Victor Moitoret donated his family collection to the American Antiquarian Society (1900 & prior) and the University of Iowa (1901 & later). I donated the William H. Groveman collection to the University of Iowa in 2014.

Booksellers have also assisted in these efforts. Booksellers sold the collection of Hyman J. Bradofsky to the University of California–Berkeley (Bancroft Library)

and the collection of Ralph A. L. Breed to UW-Madison.

Institutional homes have generally proven more secure than individual curators. Some notable private collections have vanished into the great unknown. Harry Marlowe of Warren, Ohio had a fabulous collection kept in trunks. (Hyman Bradofsky used the same storage mechanism.) My friend, bookseller David McClintock of Warren, Ohio, knew of the Marlowe collection and has kept watch for it over the years. So far, no sign. The great collection of Leon Stone of NSW Australia perished in a home fire about 1960. The great Arthur Harris collection, if it still survives, is apparently still in private hands. Percy Leng Day was another English contemporary of Edwin Hadley Smith whose collection appears to have vanished. Sheldon and Helen Wesson bound most of their collection of amateur journals (many originally deriving from Edward H. Cole) into some five hundred volumes while in Japan, but the whereabouts of most of these five hundred volumes is unknown today. Most of them were once the property of Fossils historian Daniel Graham. Amazingly enough, the loose journals comprising the Cole-Wesson-Graham collection did survive and are being organized by Tom Parson for The Fossils.

Without the collector's passion, none of these collections would have come into existence. Passion for the amateur journalism hobby is what will bring us to Madison for the amateur journalism conference on July 21-23, 2016. Perhaps some new visions for the future of the LAJ collection will emerge from our gathering. There are conservation challenges regarding Edwin Hadley Smith's bound volumes 1850-1942. There are organizational challenges regarding the rest of the collection, especially the Keffer component. Institutional placement has hopefully provided the LAJ collection a secure home at UW-Madison, but financial challenges have not gone away. Some of us hope that the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund may help secure the future of the LAJ collection at UW-Madison. In addition, individual gifts may help cataloging work on the collection continue. A completely digitized LAJ collection by 2050 to celebrate the two hundredth birthday of the hobby in North America? There is no limit to our dreams.

Controversy we will undoubtedly still have. But vision and passion will stake out the future of the LAJ collection as we mark the centenary of The Fossils' acquisition of the collection in 1916. We must be practical, but we must have passion and vision as well. Our 2016 conference will doubtless have its rough edges—aspects we ought to have planned more carefully. But I hope that the conference will persist in fond memory for those who attend. I hope that users of the LAJ collection in future years will be grateful for the passion and vision of Edwin Hadley Smith and all those who have succeeded him in the care and development of the collection. The names could go on and on, but we certainly cannot forget the critical roles of Charles C. Heu-

man, in acquiring the collection for The Fossils, and of Mike Horvat and Stan Oliner in helping to preserve it through critical times.

Smith did not wash his hands of the collection after selling it to Heuman in 1916, but returned in 1934 as Fossils librarian to fill in gaps from the 1916-35 period and to assure that the collection continued to preserve the record of the amateur journalism hobby. We need custodians like Smith who can recover from reversals and adopt alternative strategies. I like to think that the passion and the vision of the future curators of the collection will assure its preservation and development so that it can assume its proper place in the record of the printed word in our world. A mechanism that allowed ordinary men and women to express their thoughts in print is pretty special. It can exist only in free societies. Regimes like those of Hitler and Stalin could not tolerate any expression of private opinion and tightly controlled all presses, even down to mimeograph and spirit duplicating machines. Sophie Scholl and her compatriots of the White Rose Society paid with their lives for distributing mimeographed flyers critical of Hitler's war effort in 1942-43. Today, of course, many aspire to be bloggers and the preservation of their efforts is yet another challenge confronting librarians. But the printed word of amateur journals retains its place, and I am convinced that the LAJ collection at UW-Madison will continue to be one of its major archives as we proceed toward the bicentenary of the amateur journalism hobby in North America in 2050. Maybe another conference will meet in Madison in 2050 to assess how well we succeeded with the LAJ collection.

I hope to renew many old amateur journalism friendships as we meet in Madison to celebrate the amazing past and the hoped-for future of the LAJ collection in July 2016. Vision and passion—always constrained by practicality—have seen the LAJ collection through more than 110 years of existence. I think we have good reason to believe that the LAJ collection will see another century and more of continued progress in the Special Collections Department of the UW-Madison Libraries. If you share my belief, please consider benefitting the LAJ collection through gifts to the UW Foundation for the Hawes Memorial Endowment Fund or current operating expenses. You can thereby help join the celebration even if you can't be in Madison for the conference. All contributions to the LAJ collection made through the UW Foundation website are acknowledged electronically and are fully deductible as charitable donations for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Longtime Fossils membership chair Martha E. Shivvers celebrated her 101st birthday with family members this past February in Knoxville, Iowa. In honor of her long service, The Fossils have extended an honorary lifetime membership to Martha. Cards and letters can reach Martha at West Ridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 1904 W. Howard St., Knoxville, IA 50138. ♦

Bill Boys, NAPA Stalwart

by David M. Tribby

WILLIAM EARL BOYS was a theology student, U. S. Naval Reserve chaplain, and the owner of a 9x13 Kelsey hand press when he learned about amateur journalism after reading J. Ben Lieberman's book *Printing as a Hobby*. He joined the National Amateur Press Association in late 1964, and the first issue of his *Boys's Berries* (printed in three colors) appeared in the February 1965 bundle.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Bill was the oldest of three brothers. The family moved among Bristol, Tennessee; Kingsport, Tennessee; Ludlow, Kentucky; Bromley, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Williamsburg, Ohio while he was growing up. In 1952 he enrolled at Concordia College, a combination high school and junior college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He served as a Naval Reserve chaplain beginning in 1961. (He would retire as a Captain in 1993.) He married Ruth Benck August 31, 1963.

After ordination in the Lutheran Church and a year of special training in African culture and linguistics, Bill and Ruth traveled to Nigeria, arriving in August 1966 for a three year assignment. He was able to pro-

duce several amateur journals from Nigeria, hand-setting the type himself and paying a local commercial printer to print them. Due to civil war, Bill and Ruth had to evacuate and return to the U. S. within a year.

He earned a Linguistics Ph.D in 1979 from Ohio State University and taught Anthropological Linguistics in the Evening School at the University of Tennessee. "The main reason for pursuing linguistics was frustrated when Nigeria declined to grant me a visa to return and resume analysis of the Ekret language or dialect after the end of the Biafran civil war."

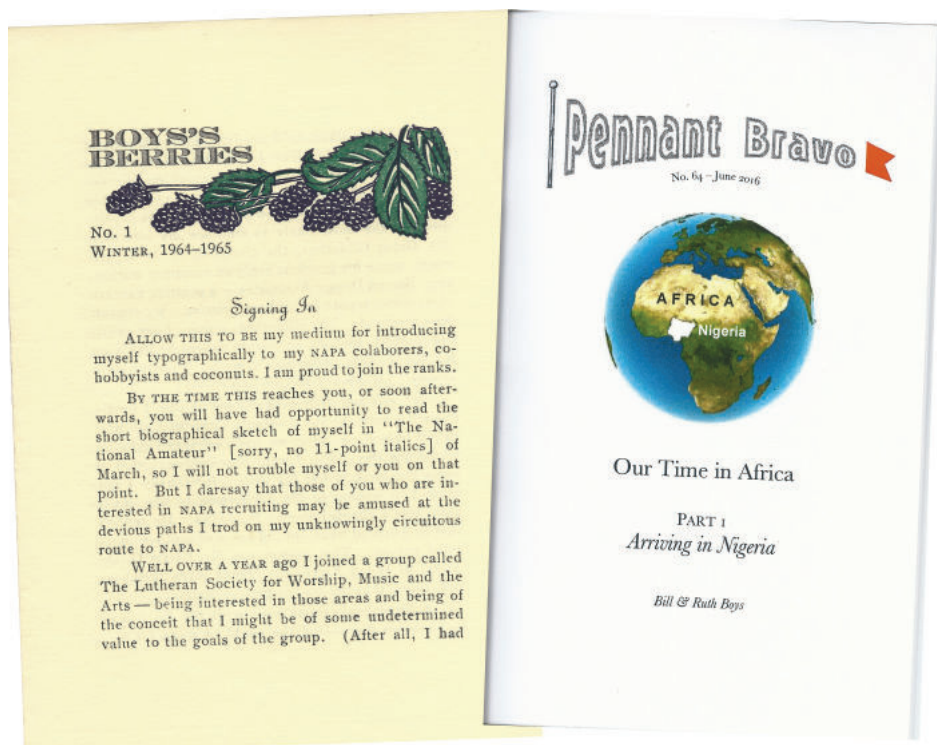
Bill has served NAPA in a variety of offices. He was elected secretary-treasurer in 1968, president in 1971 and 1972, and official editor in 1975 and 1976. He was also convention chairman in 1983, 1990, and 2015. He has served as NAPA secretary-treasurer continuously since 2003 and also edited and distributed *NAPA Email News* since July 2001.

Bill published a number of short-run titles for NAPA over the years, including *Argyled Gargoyles*, *Curvatus in Se*, *Ingrown Toenail*, *Ohio Sorts*, *Small Cap Recap*, and *Watoga Whatnot*. "In the mid-1970s I published and mailed *Limculadle* (a portmanteau for 'Limited Circulation Bundle') that I ran for two or three years. At that time NAPA's membership of around 400 made for burdensome press runs. Since the voting activity requirement in effect could be met by distributing one's journal to at least 100 members privately, I organized such a service that went to the 100+ most active members bi-monthly."

After getting his first computer and dot matrix printer in 1980, he gradually moved from letterpress printing to computer-generated journals. He hasn't abandoned the black art, printing an overrun of his family newsletter, *The Ship's Log*, for the November 2012 letterpress-only bundle. He is currently in the process of domiciling his equipment (8x12 C&P Old Style and 5x8 Kelsey presses, plus about 30 fonts) at Igloo Letterpress in Worthington, a northern suburb of Columbus. He will continue to have access to it, but it can also be used by other printers in the co-op activities at Igloo.



Bill and Ruth Boys, December 2015



Bill's first NAPA publication (left) was four pages; his most recent (right) ran 16 pages plus cover.

His most prolific amateur journal is the award-winning *Pennant Bravo*, begun in 2003; the 64th issue appeared in June. In the January 2012 issue, the piece "2011, The Year of the Kidney" reflected on his experience dealing with kidney disease and receiving a transplant.

Bill served as pastor at a number of congregations before retiring in 2008. He and Ruth have lived in Clayton, Missouri*; Norman, Oklahoma*; Los Angeles,

California*; Obot Idim, Eastern Region, Nigeria; Ikot Usekong, Eastern Region; Nigeria; Mansfield, Ohio; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Columbus, Ohio, their current residence. (*Places asterisked were for schooling.)

The March 2015 *National Amateur* celebrated Bill's fifty years as an NAPA member, noting his vital role as a stalwart and tireless worker who saw the organization through difficult times. ♦

New Member Profile

How It Began and What Happened Afterward

by George W. Hamilton

MY FIRST AWARENESS of printing probably occurred around 1936. Father took me in Wellesley, MA, my birthplace, to the barber located downstairs in the building at 1 Crest Road. That too was the address of the *Wellesley Townsman* weekly newspaper and the Wellesley Press, job printers as well as responsible for printing the paper. It was all in the family: grandfather Adams was the founder/editor of the *Townsman* and partner in the printing operation, grandmother read proof, mother was correspondent for the Wellesley Falls area where we lived, and uncle Richard sold advertising. For a time during the depression, Father worked in the plant. The treat for me, following a haircut, was a look behind the door upstairs which separated the newspaper offices from the machinery and the distinct aromas of hot metal, printer's ink, and type wash. I was fascinated by the rank of Linotypes (or Intertypes?) whirring away, tossing out their silver slugs. Without ceremony, I was introduced to the world of letterpress printing as though Gutenberg himself had been the host. The type louse bit.

My hands-on introduction to "printing" came with the gift of a Swiftset Cub "press" in 1941. The second slightly larger model was soon acquired. When I bothered my other grandfather for the necessary finances (about \$12, in 1943 a respectable sum for me) to purchase the largest Swiftset model, a wise father intervened, recognizing the basic interest in real printing as opposed to rubber type. He nosed around his associates at Seth Thomas and discovered a used Kelsey 6x10 with some type and accessories for all of \$25. I still have the press, which has traveled from Connecticut to Ithaca, NY to Illinois and now, along with its owner, resides comfortably in Vienna, Austria.

As as a young teenager I hung out in the back room of the Thomaston (CT) Press and kept eyes and ears open to learn everything. From comp and pressman Gus I learned the

rudiments of lockup and the Miehle Vertical; from Jack the Linotyper I learned that curses don't help much when you change magazines and forget to put the closure rod in the magazine.

In earlier school years I earned whatever was possible as a printer during summers at the Wellesley Press and later imprinting checks for Young & Selden in Newark, NJ. In my post-graduate year at Syracuse I assisted Dave Norton in hands-on graphic arts instruction in the university's Goudy type lab. And some twenty years later I bought a complete letterpress shop in Quincy, IL from the printer-owner who had retired. BA degree majors are in journalism and political science, MBA in advertising. I have credentials as well as experience, plus and minus!

Amateur journalism came early. As a Kelsey customer I was "discovered" by Edwin Hadley Smith,



1944 NAPA Convention: Seated on floor, left to right: Thomas Whitbread, George "Bill" Hamilton; first row, seated: Helm Spink, Alfred Babcock, Willameta Turnepseed, Burton Crane, Alma Wexelbaum, Guy Miller; second row, seated: Matilda Haywood, William Haywood, Edna Hyde McDonald, Ruth Babcock, Michael White, Mabel Forrer, George Fitz; third row: Anied Malkasian, Nellie Malkasian, Helen Heins, Grace Moss, Franklin Moss, Earl Bonnell; fourth row: Albert Raphael, Stanley Coffin, Felicitas Haggerty; back row: Walter Vaughn, Clifford Laube, Jeffrey Jennings, Charles Heins, Tim Thrift, Paul Cook, George Thomson.

**Ajay Eagle-Eyes Alerted:
Antique BB&S Type Sought;
Backside Reveals Strangers**

Here's a challenge to the typophiles of the amateur world: do you know (anything of) the type Authors Roman, illustrated reverse? The castings are from the BB&S foundry in Chicago. We have become inordinately fond of this attractive, noble face and thus are seeking — against cash payment, if it comes to that — additions to the existing stock as well as to add new sizes.

The 24 pt italic has an unusual body form: the offset "base" is not to point measure, being a hair over 16 pts in depth and rendering makeup tricky at the very least.

**KC's Crown Center
Now Ready; Reports
Floor Reinforced**

Presses may now roll in Kansas City with earlier fears of possible legal liability diminished. Convention headquarters' Crown Center has indemnified NAPA against suits, union or otherwise.

**Flash!
NAPA KC Bash Boozeless;
Judges Cite AAPA Pressures**

Conceding to the temperance elements within the association and at the specific request of certain officials of the AAPA, it has been agreed to eliminate alcoholic beverages totally from the NAPA 77 Kansas City program. John Winslow Snider was of course a notorious prohibitionist (as was pointed out by the AAPA), and it seems only right that this move be made at a convention honoring his memory and work.

"No booze is good news," allegedly quipped NAPA Presy Dave Warner upon learning of the decision.



*If you want
a pleasant evening...*

*mix yourself a drink of choice, take the
last 12 AAPA bundles and settle
into a comfortable chair. You will be
handsomely rewarded!*



George published Slipsheet (left) in the 1970s. More recently he has contributed to Ink Cahoots, the AAPA's cooperative annual; above is his 2014 page.

who recruited me into NAPA in either 1943 or 1944. Under the watchful eye of grandmother Adams I attended the 1944 Boston convention. Along with Tom Whitbread and Guy Miller, also at their first ajay affair, I met such ajay greats as Edward Cole, Tim Thrift, Wilametta Turnepseed, Vondy, and a host of others. My *The Skyline* was published for NAPA; later papers included *Slipsheet* and a few other one-off titles. In 1948 I gave in and joined AAPA. Both memberships have been erratic over the decades as I have lived in places such as Amman, Jordan where keeping up with ajay affairs in pre-internet days was not so simple.

Over the course of 60 years following university, I have worked in advertising, radio broadcasting, business development, hi-fi equipment distribution and retailing, television (I designed and got underway the first color TV station in the Arabian Gulf), hotel management, international broadcast equipment sales, and ultimately in Vienna, traditional journalism.

Sometime in early life the same mysterious attraction as for printing got to me regarding Vienna. Music surely had a lot to do with it. After my first visit in 1960, I vowed there'd never be a year in which I would not visit the city with which I had fallen in love. The promise was kept, and in 1963 after language courses in Germany I came to Vienna intent to stay, and started one of the early hi-fi businesses modeled on those I had known in Baltimore and Rochester, NY. Miraculously my partner became the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and we got space in the Konzerthaus for our demo room.

Later, following three years in the U. S. (I kept my apartment in Vienna and returned regularly), I accepted a position which soon evolved into managing editorship of a bimonthly newsletter and series of publications on economics and business with Eastern Europe, ultimately retiring from the position to work as

a free-lance journalist. On the side I researched and wrote travel guides for Austria and East Germany. It was even then clear that traditional publications and delivery methods were changing and reporting had to change as well. I still follow and file on Austrian energy to Platts/McGrawHill news services.

Given my age (now in the mid-80s), I ought to be retired in proper style, but there's still too much to do and too much pleasure from an active life. New communications technologies take time but aid ongoing interests such as a still-growing book collection focusing on printing and type design and casting, particularly in Germany and Austria. I still love to print, as evidenced by the original Kelsey plus a side-lever 6x10 Kelsey, a 5x8 Kelsey, and four(!) 8x5 Adanas which crowd a small city apartment. Plenty of type and whatever. I took Sky Shipley's course on the Thompson caster and would have one were there space, which perhaps luckily there isn't. And I long for a Ludlow, but...

Meanwhile I'm a sponsor of the Vienna Konzerthaus, where I spend on average three evenings a week at concerts during the season. Then there's film, theater and opera. I'm on the board of two contemporary music groups. I'm involved with a new Strauss (Johann) Dynasty museum, also active in working to save a collection of ancient and historical musical instruments and another project to avoid a misplaced high-rise being built in Vienna and otherwise one way or another, keep more than busy. In the fall I make "Hamilton's Famous" pickle relishes from my own recipes. As a residue from more active journalism jobs, I still get invitations to all manner of lectures, press affairs, and what not, so along with reading five newspapers a day, manage to keep up with affairs rather well. As friends, acquaintances and colleagues in Austria from my earlier years climb various ladders, I share their successes; one recently took over as Austrian prime minister, a move I had long predicted.

Would the day had more hours or the week more days, there'd be more evidence of earlier amateur journalistic inspirations. But I'm reconciled to make do with what there is and enjoy the wondrous friendships the hobby over the years continues to offer. ♦



Tom Whitbread, Guy Miller, and George Hamilton at the 2010 AAPA/NAPA concurrent conventions.

Looking Forward

by David M. Tribby

I'M LOOKING FORWARD to Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 – just a few weeks away as I write this in late June. Not only is it a chance to catch up with long-time friends, and meet some new ones, but also to visit the Library of Amateur Journalism. I have a research project in mind, and will arrive a day early to see what I can uncover. If all goes well, I will have something to report in a future issue of THE FOSSIL.

The representatives of NAPA, AAPA, The Fossils, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison have been working hard to create an interesting program on a schedule that meets each organization's needs. I count nearly 800 e-mail messages in my Conference folder received over the past year.

UW's Ben Strand has been working to forge connections outside of amateur journalism. For example, he alerted the August Derleth Society of David Goudswaard's article, "August Derleth in Amateur Journalism," which appeared in the April issue of THE FOSSIL. The Society's editor, Tracy Heron, was impressed with the article and requested permission to reprint it in their *Newsletter*. We agreed, and it appeared in Volume 37, Issue 2, which was delivered near the end of June.

This issue of THE FOSSIL is being published early in July so it will be available for distribution at the conference. We hope the LAJ articles provide enough background that readers understand how lucky we are that the collection survived and is in good hands.

The images of Edwin Hadley Smith that accompany the LAJ history came from Mike Horvat. When Mike had charge of the LAJ, a number of pictures were borrowed by Gale Sheldon in hopes they could be published. Apparently that project languished, and after the pictures were returned to Mike they were not reintegrated into the larger LAJ photo repository. There also were a number of photos that Vic Moitoret sent to Mike. I'll share a couple of examples at the end of this article. I hope to use some of the pictures to illustrate future articles in THE FOSSIL.

Two new member profiles

helped push this issue to sixteen pages. Bill Boys answered several questions posed to him, and also included the beautiful selfie he took last Christmas. George Hamilton accepted the invitation to write his own profile. Since George mentioned the 1944 NAPA convention, I wrote to Gary Bossler and asked if he might have a picture of it. He found the group photo in an old *National Amateur*, and provided a scan. I appreciate that Gary is always willing to help out, not only with research but also working with his local printer and mailing the finished issues to members. He also has his granddaughter, Kate, proofread, and she does an excellent job of catching errors. (Don't misplace a comma around Kate!)

Issues that are 12 pages or smaller can be folded and mailed in a standard sized envelope, but once they reach 16 pages they must be mailed in an oversize envelope that requires additional postage. It's a bit of a splurge, but one the organization can afford once in a while.

This issue completes volume 112, which totaled 52 pages. As always, I hope readers (even if they aren't members of The Fossils) will let me know which features are the most interesting. I am also interested in hearing your ideas for future articles, and your opinion on amateur journalism issues. ♦

Two examples of photos sent by Mike Horat



Left: Edward L. Daas, Dora M. Hepner, and John D. Christiansen (active in UAPA) in 1915. Above: Bill Boys and Victor Moitoret at the 1969 NAPA convention.

Whitbread Reports

by David M. Tribby

I RECENTLY WROTE to Fossil Tom Whitbread to check in with him on his illness, let him know there would be a picture of him with George Hamilton's new member profile, and tell him about attending a Gilbert & Sullivan play. His reply:

I sang Wilfred Shadbolt, Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor of London Tower, in concert form when at Harvard GSAS in the 1950s. Same form for Duke of Plaza Toro. Sang and acted Pooh-Bah four nights running. *Harvard Crimson* called me "perfectly pompous." Woof!

Those were also years of publishing AJ journals and driving to conventions. It saddens me to the core that I can now drive no farther than doctors' offices in Austin. Oncologist, urologist, nephrologist, and fine GP who makes house calls to view right leg. In Spring I took Zytiga and prednisone for seven weeks. This greatly worsened the edema I already had. Cellulitis developed. For six weeks, antibiotics and Lasix and potassium. Swelling much reduced but infection still present in lower right leg, which had hemiarthroscopy 14 months ago. Nephrostomy tubes, which were recently changed, bypass bladder into leg bags. A pain, but it is working.

I hope you, George, and everyone enjoy Madison! Would I could join you! ♦

Should You Become a Fossil?

THE FOSSILS was organized in 1904 as a way for amateur journalists who had been active years before to stay in touch. The original requirement to have been active prior to 1890 eventually gave way to activity at least 30 years prior (1935), then 15 (1944) and 3 (1970). When the prior activity requirement was eliminated in 1995, the organization competed its transition from a group of former actives to those who have an active interest in preserving A. J. history.

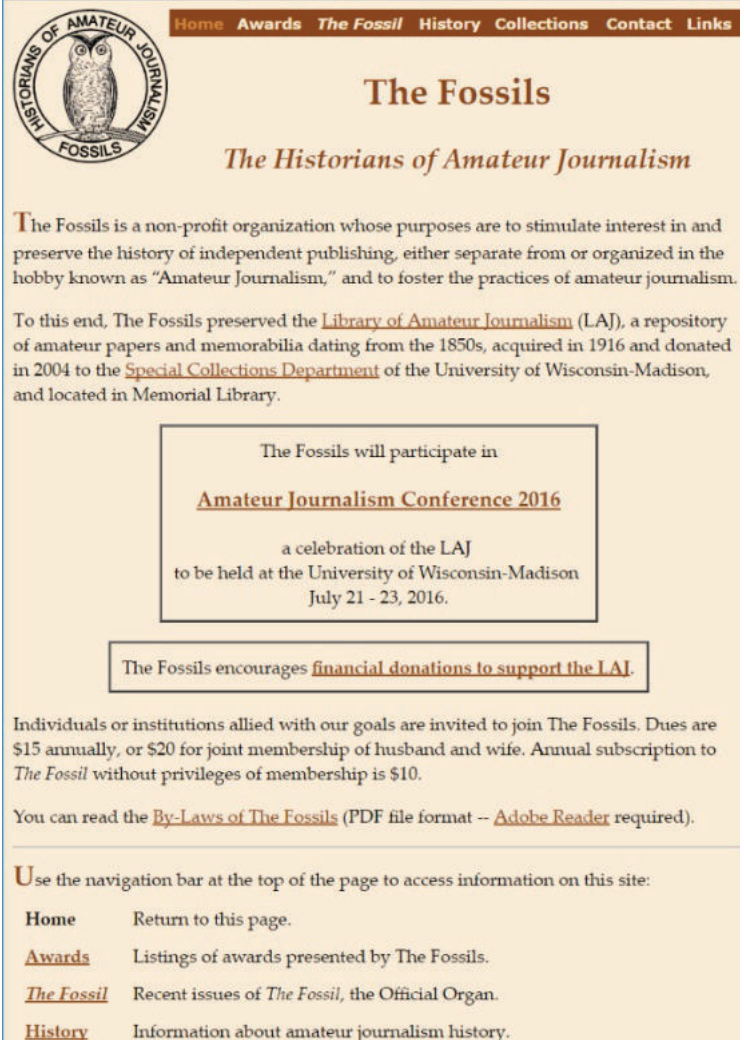
Those who have participated in the hobby continue to be the main source of Fossil recruits, but anyone who has an interest in amateur journalism is welcome to join. The main "product" of the group, THE FOSSIL, can be read for free on-line – an excellent way to determine if our goals align with yours. By paying the rock-bottom dues of only \$15/year, you support the continuation of our official organ and website. ♦

Webmaster Report

by David M. Tribby

THE FOSSILS' WEBSITE has averaged 37 visitors per day during the first half of 2016, with a high of 100 visitors on February 12. Each visitor, on average, looked at three different pages.

The most popular page, as expected, is the home page. Pages listing amateur journal collections, providing contact information, and describing A. J. Conference 2016 nearly tied for second place.



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Fossils' website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Awards, The Fossil, History, Collections, Contact, and Links. Below the navigation bar is a circular logo featuring an owl and the text 'THE HISTORIANS OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM' and 'FOSSILS'. The main heading is 'The Fossils' in a large, serif font, followed by the subtitle 'The Historians of Amateur Journalism' in a smaller, italicized serif font. A paragraph of text describes the organization's purpose: 'The Fossils is 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.' Below this is another paragraph: 'To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ), 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-Madison, and located in Memorial Library.' A central box contains the text: 'The Fossils will participate in Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 a celebration of the LAJ to be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison July 21 - 23, 2016.' Below this box is another box that says: 'The Fossils encourages financial donations to support the LAJ.' At the bottom, there is a paragraph: 'Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually, or \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to The Fossil without privileges of membership is \$10.' Below that is a line: 'You can read the By-Laws of The Fossils (PDF file format -- Adobe Reader required).' At the very bottom, there is a section titled 'Use the navigation bar at the top of the page to access information on this site:' followed by a list of links and descriptions: 'Home Return to this page.', 'Awards Listings of awards presented by The Fossils.', 'The Fossil Recent issues of The Fossil, the Official Organ.', and 'History Information about amateur journalism history.'

The site currently uses about 60% of its available disk space, the majority of that for issues of THE FOSSIL (stored as PDF files) going back to October 2004. Issues vary in size, mainly based on the number and size of pictures included. (Members receive printed copies of THE FOSSIL, but may want to view the online version to see some of the pictures in color.) Having the issues available increases circulation beyond our membership, and allows researchers indexed access via search engines. During the first six months of 2016, the January issue was viewed 49 times and the April issue 59 times. The most popular issue, April 2011, was viewed 229 times. ♦

Richard S. George

November 13, 1932 – March 8, 2016

by David M. Tribby

RICHARD SCHUYLER GEORGE learned about amateur journalism from ace American Amateur Press Association recruiter Lee Hawes. When Dick joined AAPA in June 1949, he was a sixteen-year-old hobby printer and high school newspaper writer living in rural Georgia. He had learned printing on a table-top 3x5 Kelsey press. When he attended Northwestern University, he used a much larger motorized press in his dormitory basement to help finance his education, printing tickets and programs for school events. Dick let his membership lapse in the mid-1950s, about the time he graduated with a degree in communication.



Dick's working career included executive positions in the Air Force Reserve Command Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, where he retired in 1989. He was also an Air Force Reservist, retiring as a colonel in 1985.

Dick married Mary Eugenia Russell, and they had twin sons, Richard Philip Schuyler George and Josiah Everett Flournoy George.

Dick rejoined AAPA in August 1968, and attended several Florida conventions held in the following years. He reinstated in NAPA in 1972, and attended the 1973 NAPA convention in St. Petersburg. He joined The Fossils around the same time. The first issue of his *Gorp*, named for the backpacker snack, was circulated to both AAPA and NAPA in February 1976.

Dick was elected NAPA official editor in 1985 and produced two years of *The National Amateur*. Elected president in 1987, he served during a time of relative calm. His report to the 1988 Macon convention (which he hosted) thanked "the dedicated few who make their regular contributions to the bundle and also take on the frequently mundane, but necessary functions of keeping the NAPA operating." His message also noted his family's involvement in hosting foreign exchange students, something they did for eleven consecutive years.

After retirement, the Georges rented their house and traveled for more than three years. During his life, he traveled to more than fifty countries. Backpacking was another passion, and he covered over two-thirds of the Appalachian Trail. In 2014 he donated 13 acres of the George family estate to the Ocmulgee Land Trust. He was Bibb County's first Lifetime Master Gardener Emeritus and was past president of the Master Gardeners of Central Georgia.

In 2014, Dick was among the first to make a donation toward helping the Library of Amateur Journalism finance the ongoing work of cataloging the collection. Earlier in the year, he had sent the LAJ several dozen vintage amateur journals published from the 1890s through the 1930s. ♦

Secretary-Treasurer Report

by Tom Parson

BANK BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2016:	\$3,884.66
Account service charge for April statement	-2.00
Expenses paid to:	
Dave Tribby March 27 for website ISP	-24.95
Gary Bossler May 1 for FOSSIL 367	-45.49
Jessica Isaac May 1 for Conference	-240.00
Deposit May 1, member renewals	<u>+160.00</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT MAY 1, 2016	\$3,732.22

No Fossil Election Needed

AS EXPECTED, no candidates other than the two incumbents, Gary Bossler and John Horn, filed for the open seats on The Fossil's board of trustees. President Ken Faig has declared the two elected to two-year terms, without need for mailing ballots. The same procedure was followed in 2012 and 2014. ♦

Change In Bank Account

LAST DECEMBER, SECRETARY-TREASURER Tom Parson expressed concerns about The Fossils' account with PNC Bank (originally set up in Ohio by former Fossils president Guy Miller):

- 1) We can save the \$2/month fee if we set up an on-line account and not have statements mailed.
- 2) I tried to add other officers to the account, for access to the info online, to be able to sign checks, or to close the account so it can be opened in a more convenient bank. Changes like that must be done in person at a PNC branch, and there are no branches west of the Mississippi.
- 3) When I talked with PNC last year, I found they require a copy of our minutes on letterhead showing passage of a resolution to change who can manage our account. They prefer whomever we want to add to the account to bring this resolution and a photo ID to a PNC branch.

In January President Ken Faig drafted a resolution, and it was approved by the board of trustees. He suggested delaying its implementation until after all checks related to Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 had cleared, just in case the bank's procedure causes a disruption in service. He will visit a local PNC branch after the Conference, but before September 30. ♦

The Fossils Membership List

July 1, 2016

Members:

William E. Boys, 184 Reinhard Avenue, Columbus, OH
43206-2635

Gary T. Bossler, 145 Genoa Avenue SW, Massillon, OH
44646-3711

Alan Brignull, 33 Heath Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester,
Essex C07 9PU, UK

Kent Clair Chamberlain, 321 Clay St, Space #11, Ashland,
OR 97520-1340

George Chapman, 405 N Broadway St., Mount Pleasant,
IA 52641-1609

Ken Davis, 4352 Woodview Lane, Racine, WI 53404-1220

James N. Dawson, P.O. Box 950, Spokane, WA 99210-0950

Linda K. Donaldson, 709 Fourth Street, Portsmouth, OH
45662-4005

Kenneth W. & Carol Faig, 2020 Chestnut Ave., Apt. 405,
Glenview, IL 60025-1651

David Goudswaard, 5141 Second Road, Lake Worth, FL
33467-5615

George W. Hamilton, Obere Donaust 47/5, A-1020,
Vienna, Austria

John C. Horn, 24300 Chenal Parkway, #71, Little Rock, AR
72223-9168

Martin M. (Mike) Horvat*, 22275 SW 102nd Pl., Tualatin,
OR 97062-7199

Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA
94611-1948

Frederick Moe, 36 West Main St., Warner, NH 03278-4213

Tom Parson, 157 South Logan St., Denver, CO 80209-1821

Donald W. Peyer, 338 East Desford Street, Carson, CA
90745-2111

Barry Schrader, 511 Roberts Lane, DeKalb, IL 60115-4940

Peter E. Schaub, 212 Ladybank, Williamsburg, VA 23188-
8945

Jack E. Scott, 15 Mallard Pointe, Mount Vernon, OH
43050-8911

W. Hal Shepherd, #1 Hidden Hills, Shoal Creek, AL 35242

Martha E. Shivvers*, West Ridge Nursing & Rehab Center,
1904 W. Howard Street, Knoxville, IA 50138-3180

Jack G. Swenson, 521 East Calgary Avenue, Bismarck, ND
58503-0528

David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA
94087-4712

Jack H. Visser, 620 Circle Drive, London, OH 43140-8931

Thomas B. Whitbread, 1014 East 38th Street, Austin, TX
78705-1835

Subscribers:

American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street,
Worcester, MA 1609-1634

Special Collections, Mem Library Rm 976, 728 State St.,
Univ of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706-1494

Melvin & Linda Shivvers, 645 46th Street, Des Moines, IA
50312-2309

Dale Speirs, Box 6830 Stn D, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7
Canada

**Note: The Fossils Board of Trustees has granted life membership to Martin M. Horvat and Martha E. Shivvers. ♦*

The Fossil

THIS IS THE Official Publication of The Fossils, a non-profit organization of those interested in the history of amateur journalism. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join. Dues are \$15 annually, or \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to THE FOSSIL without privileges of membership is \$10. For further information, visit our website:

www.thefossils.org

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Fossil Board: 2014 - 2016

Ken Faig, Jr., PRESIDENT, 2020 Chestnut Ave. Apt. 405,
Glenview, IL 60025; president@thefossils.org

Gary Bossler, 145 Genoa Avenue S.W., Massillon, OH
44646; gbossler@thefossils.org

John Horn, 24300 Chenal Parkway, #71, Little Rock, AR
72223; jhorn@thefossils.org

Appointed Officers

Official Editor: Dave Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087; editor@thefossils.org

Secretary-Treasurer: Tom Parson, 157 South Logan Street, Denver, CO 80209; s-t@thefossils.org

Librarian: Mike Horvat, 22275 SW 102nd Place, Tualatin, OR 97062; librarian@thefossils.org

Webmaster: Dave Tribby (contact information above)