

# The Fossil

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## Boys Awarded 2018 Gold Composing Stick

by Ken Faig, Jr.

ON BEHALF OF The Fossils Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce to our membership that William E. Boys is the 2018 recipient of The Fossils' coveted Gold Composing Stick award. The award was presented to Bill at NAPA's July convention.

Including Bill, there have been only thirteen recipients of the Gold Composing Stick award since it was first awarded to Edward H. Cole in 1953. Stan Oliner was the last recipient before Bill, in 2010. Bill is a dual Paxton/Gold Composing Stick winner, having won the Paxton award in 2008. To date, only seven amateur journalists have won both awards, including Harold Segal, Victor Moitoret, Stan Oliner, Lee Hawes, Ralph Babcock, and Dave Tribby in addition to Bill.

Bill joined The Fossils in 2016 and you can find Dave Tribby's admirable new member's profile "Bill Boys, NAPA Stalwart" in THE FOSSIL for July 2016 (available on our website). Bill is a fifty-plus-year veteran of NAPA, having joined in 1964. The first number of his *Boys's Berries* appeared in the February 1965 NAPA bundle. Bill published many titles for NAPA over the years, his most recent being *Pennant Bravo*, which he began in 2003. Bill has served in just about every office NAPA has to offer: secretary-treasurer in 1968, president in 1971 and 1972, and official editor in 1975 and 1976. In addition, he was convention chairman in 1983, 1990, and 2015. Since 2003 he has served continuously as NAPA secretary-treasurer and in addition has been responsible for the *NAPA Email News*. Bill was a strong supporter of the 2016 Amateur Journalism Conference at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and has been one of the largest individual donors to the Hawes Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection at the university.

Bill has also led a busy life outside the amateur journalism hobby. Bill was born into a family of three



*Fossil Trustee Gary Bossler presents the 2018 Gold Composing Stick award to Bill Boys.*

brothers in Columbus, Ohio, where he presently resides. Following graduation from Concordia College, he served as a Naval Reserve chaplain beginning in 1961, retiring as a captain in 1993. He married Ruth Benck in 1963 and was ordained a minister in the Lutheran Church. He and his wife served as missionaries in Nigeria in 1966-67. He earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Ohio State University in 1979, but was unable to return to Nigeria to pursue his study of the Ekret language. Bill served in various pastorates until his retirement in 2008. In recent years, he has continued to maintain a vigorous hobby presence while battling a serious kidney condition which required transplant surgery.

The Gold Composing Stick Award provides appropriate recognition of Bill's lifetime of devotion to the amateur journalism hobby. His *Pennant Bravo* provides a fine example of everything to which an amateur magazine should aspire, including beautiful layout and

design and quality content. I personally remember Bill's and Ruth's kindness toward a novice when I attended my first amateur journalists' conventions in the mid-1990s. I had the good fortune to renew my acquaintance with Bill and Ruth at Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 in Madison. I hope that we will continue to benefit from their many contributions to the amateur journalism hobby for years to come.

Please join me and my fellow Fossils Board members in congratulating Bill Boys on winning the 2018 Gold Composing Stick Award. Bill, your amazing amateur journalism career has been everything that the amateur journalists attending the first NAPA convention in Philadelphia in 1876 might have hoped for. ♦



From *THE FOSSIL* for July 1953

## The First Gold Composing Stick Award

(From Minutes of the Fiftieth Reunion of The Fossils)

by Edna Hyde McDonald

PRESIDENT PORTER CALLED upon Mrs. McDonald, as Chairman of the Award Committee, to tell about the Fossil Award, initiated this year, and to make the presentation. Mrs. McDonald explained that the award was a gold-plated composing-stick, suitably engraved which The Fossils would award from time to time to a Fossil, or to a member of amateur journalism, for outstanding merit—not a single feat of accomplishment, nor particularly an amateur activity, however. The award will not be made annually or at any stated intervals. It will be presented only for outstanding accomplishment in the furtherance of The Fossils as an organization, or for unusual endeavor on behalf of amateur journalism, or it may be that some Fossil or amateur journalist in a capacity outside the hobby achieves significance which redounds to his credit as a Fossil or an amateur journalist and thus puts him in position for this award. There will be no contest for the award. The Award committee (Edna McDonald, Chm.; Edward H. Cole, Harry T. Cook, Hyman Bradofsky, Anthony F. Moitoret, and Fred F. Thomas, Jr.) will be the arbiters, selectors, and judges of those eligible for the award from time to time and will make the award as situations indicate it is deserved. In this way true virtue will be repaid, years of earnest striving will be noticed, and those who endeavor to achieve only for the love of their art will be made to feel that such striving is not all selfish and in vain.

### Gold Composing Stick Awards

- 1953: Edward H. Cole
- 1955: Sheldon & Helen Wesson
- 1957: Harry L. Lindquist
- 1958: Edna Hyde McDonald
- 1966: William F. & Matilda S. Haywood
- 1981: Leland M. Hawes, Jr.
- 1989: Ralph W. Babcock
- 1994: Harold Segal
- 2000: Elaine J. Peck
- 2004: Victor A. Moitoret
- 2007: David M. Tribby
- 2010: Stanley Oliner
- 2018: William E. Boys

Mrs. McDonald reported further that several persons were designated by the committee as deserving consideration for the first award but as accomplishments were analyzed, the list dwindled to three persons upon which the committee took ballots. The award went almost unanimously to *Edward H. Cole*. Almost unanimously because, it must be recorded, Mr. Cole was given no opportunity to consider himself eligible or to cast a ballot in his own favor. The award, ornamental perhaps rather than useful in a busy hobby-shop, was then presented to Mr. Cole. And was he surprised! Words actually failed him for a space; he showed considerable emotion. But the applause following the presentation left no doubt that the decision of the committee was fair, and that Mr. Cole deserved this signal honor. "Cole Stuck With Fancy Stick," says the *A. P. C. News*, but so long as Cole sticks with the Fossils that body will never be stuck for want of an advocate, a proselyte, and a devotee. ♦



# Tryout Smith Honored

by David Goudsward

BY MAYORAL PROCLAMATION, September 22, 2018, was “Tryout Smith Day” in the City of Haverhill, Massachusetts. It was the culmination of months of planning that finished on September 22 – the day Tryout Smith finally got a headstone to mark his grave.

Beginning at the age of sixty-two in 1914, C. W. Smith handset and published 255 issues of the *Tryout* until aged ninety-two, in 1944. This is not counting his youthful involvement in Amateur Journalism – Tryout Smith was involved with the hobby beginning in 1872 with *The Boys’ Companion*, which Smith and his brother Herbert C. Smith published in Haverhill. In 1888, he began *The Monthly Visitor* to allow his ailing brother Frank the opportunity to contribute to the family finances by selling ads. That newspaper format publication ran until 1894 when Frank became bedridden. Smith switched to an amateur journalism operation, sent primarily to members of the New England Amateur Press Association. It continued until 1897 when work mandated shutting down the press. In total *The Monthly Visitor* had been produced for nearly a decade, 114 issues in all. It was an early indication of Smith’s dedication.

The stone itself is a simple affair, appropriate for a plain man, and also lists his parents and youngest daughter. A rendering of a C&P Pilot, the press Smith used to produce over 300 issues of the *Tryout*, decorates the stone. The reverse side is deliberately blank – Hilldale Cemetery was badly neglected for decades, and it is being brought back to respectability through a community-wide effort of the new cemetery trustees and a team of tireless volunteers. These volunteers spent two weeks clearing the area around the Smith plot to make it more accessible for the event. Unfortunately, the records are in equally poor condition, and although Tryout’s aunt Emma Sanderson and her family are also in the plot, records are spotty as to who else is interred there. It is hoped that once the records are organized, the remaining family members can be added.

The day began with an open house at the Buttonwoods, home of the Haverhill Historical Society, which Lovecraft toured in 1921 with UAPA Historian Myrta Little. At Buttonwoods, a small exhibit of *Tryout* issues was complemented by quotes from Smith and Lovecraft, as well as photographs of lost locations such as the Smith residence where Lovecraft came to call. A commemorative booklet was released, featuring reprints of articles about and by Tryout Smith, Fossil President Ken Faig’s keen observations on the role of Tryout Smith in Amateur Journalism, and a self-guided driving tour of the landmarks in Haverhill mentioned by Lovecraft during his visits.

Historical Society volunteers also led a tour of Pentucket Cemetery, including the stone that Lovecraft, Little, and Smith specifically went to see, the obelisk of Nathaniel Saltonstall, a judge at the Salem Witch Trials. In front of the obelisk is a stone with a name more familiar to Lovecraftian fans – Nathaniel Peaslee, whose name would become that of the protagonist of “The Shadow Out of Time.” Peaslee, as the tale begins, was raised in the family house on Boardman Street on Golden Hill, a location mere steps from Smith’s former home on Groveland Street.

A rare opportunity was also offered to tour the John Ward House on Buttonwoods property. In 1923, Lovecraft, having just visited the Paul Revere House in Boston with Edith Miniter, wrote to Alfred Galpin that he felt that the odor of such old houses alone was “sufficient to awake dark speculation.” And the most pronounced location of this sinister olfactory allurements to Lovecraft was the “antient Ward house in Haverhill, the oldest part of which was

built in 1640.”

There were special guests who traveled some distance to participate. Author and former *Providence Journal* news editor Paul Eno, the host of the Rhode Island radio program *Behind the Paranormal*, a distant cousin of Lovecraft through his Phillips lines, came from Rhode Island, bringing original editions of early Arkham House titles. Also attending was Amylynne Murphy, a great-grandniece of Tryout Smith living in New Hampshire. But the star of the program was Hippocampus Press publisher Derrick Hussey, who made arrangements through The Aeroflex Foundation to award a grant to underwrite the stone’s creation.

At 6:30 PM, the crowd reconvened at Hilldale Cemetery. City Council Vice President Thomas J. Sullivan and Amylynne Murphy each planted flowers around the new marker. After speeches by Hilldale Cemetery Trustee Thomas Spitalere and Paul Enos, Derrick Hussey presented Hilldale with a small stipend toward future maintenance of the stone. Reverend Frank Jewett blessed the stone and the crowd then returned to the front of the cemetery to join a ghost walk through the cemetery, courtesy of the Essex County Ghost Project. All in all, a delightful, if chilly event, that brought Amateur Journalism to the forefront of local media once again, with coverage by the *Lawrence Eagle Tribune*, *The Haverhill Gazette*, and local radio station WHAV-FM. ♦



Smith Family headstone in Hilldale Cemetery

# Warren Gale Mueller

July 3, 1927 - August 27, 2018

by Dave Tribby

W. GALE MUELLER spent nearly all of his life in and around Spokane, Washington. "In fact, both of my parents were native Spokanites. Dad was born here one year before Washington became a state. Mom several years later." Gale's grandfather, Rupert E. A. Mueller, had immigrated to the United States from Prussia in 1879. By 1886 he had made his way to Washington Territory, where he was the brewer-proprietor of Silver Springs Brewery.

Gale's parents, Otto F. Mueller and Lovernia A. Dilworth, raised their family of three sons and a daughter on an alfalfa farm. "We grew up on a five acre plot about five miles from Spokane city center. Dad grew up at this same place when it was an 80 acre family 'homestead.'"

When Gale opened the mailbox on his eighteenth birthday, he found an official U.S. Dept. of Defense envelope. "I was ordered to report next day, July 4, to the local recruiting office." He was then told to drive to Seattle (280 miles west) on the 5th. "I have no idea from where all the gas coupons came in that time of gas rationing to underwrite that escapade. Friends taking care of friends." By the end of the day, Gale was in the U.S. Navy. After boot camp in San Diego, California, he was assigned to the USS *Hancock*, an aircraft carrier. It had been refitted for operation Magic Carpet, which brought thousands of sailors home. "Hundreds of steel bunks, five deep, had been welded to the hanger deck. All the fighter planes, torpedo bombers, and flight crews had been removed to make room for these odd sleeping arrangements." After a tour of "some 22,000 miles across the Pacific," he was discharged August 9, 1946. Soon afterward he was at Washington State University; he graduated from there in 1951.

On July 7, 1953, Gale married Bonnie Keithahn, whom he had met in the Arts program at WSU. (They would have two sons, Greg and Chris.) "We lived in apartments the first two years

of our marriage, but soon yearned for the privacy of our own home. ... We prepared a floor plan, then fabricated a scale model of our dream domicile and went looking for a lot that would accommodate those dreams. Only later did we learn that you first need to find a property and fit the house to that environment. We were just dumb-lucky." In 1956 they moved into their "dream palace" and lived there over sixty years.

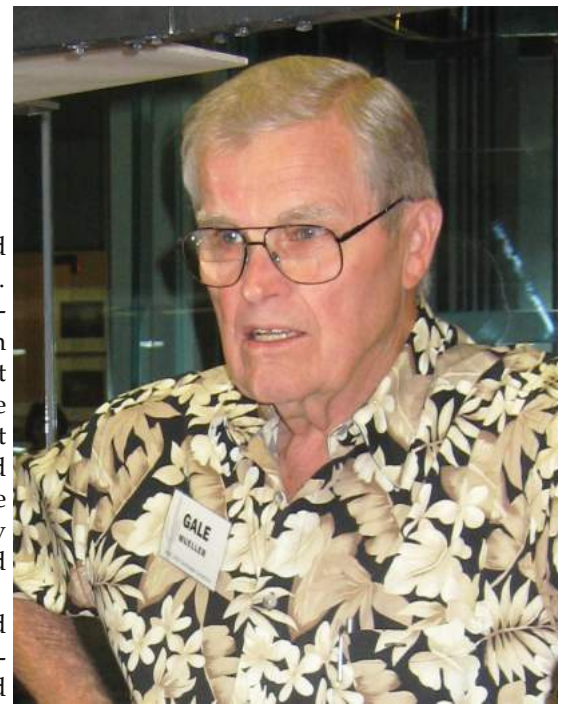
For several years he operated "Furniture by Gale," custom designing a number of pieces. He mastered the welding and woodworking skills necessary to turn designs into functional, beautiful furniture. He did all the work: soliciting the orders, procuring supplies, manufacturing the furniture, and delivering the product.

In 1966 he began teaching business and management at Spokane Community College. What started as evening or weekend work turned into a full-time career. (Gale earned a Master's degree at Eastern Washington University.) He would retire at the end of 1989.

Gale was always interested in art. He enjoyed "scribbling" as a boy and was illustrator for the school newspaper. He was introduced to The Black Art in steps. "My lust for printing nearly emerged in 1948 when I took a graphic arts course at WSU. However, my involvement with printing remained dormant for some time to come." He and Bonnie began producing Christmas cards their first year together. Over the years they used "silkscreen, rubbings, or whatever medium inspired us at the moment. The early linoleum cuts were reproduced on a huge book or 'nipping' press."

"The next brush with printing arts developed between 1962 & 1966. As sales representative for Ross Printing, I picked up numerous pointers on composition and make-ready."

"In 1967 I purchased a small selection of type along with a 5x8 Kelsey." By the 1980s he had acquired "a 6x10



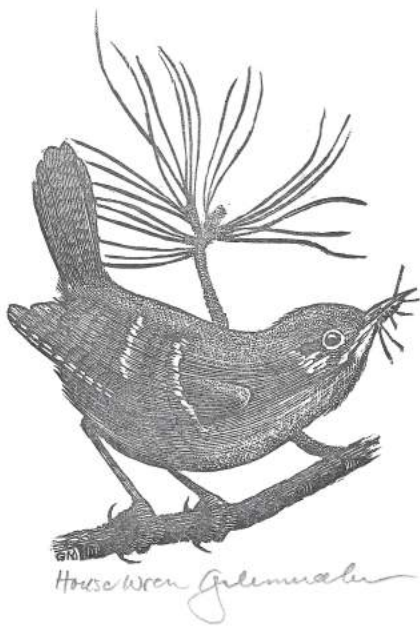
W. Gale Mueller at the 2005 AAPA convention

C&P Pilot, a 1903 Challenge cutter, and some 110 fonts of type." Printing projects included stationery, invitations, business cards, and the annual Christmas card. "Since about 1972 our greetings have included a two or three color local songbird, carved and printed from lino blocks." (His fascination with birds led him to join the Audubon Society in 1995.) He named his operation the Millstone Press because "Mueller is derived from the flour miller and early millers required a millstone."

In 1984, Bonnie was invited to a Weaver's Guild lunch. "Searching common ground for conversation with her just-introduced seat mate the topic: 'Does your husband have a hobby?' That 'luck of the draw' happened to be Sally McKelvey!" Gale soon met Greg, who "opened a totally new world for me in AAPA." He quickly joined. Gale would later become member 575 of the Amalgamated Printers' Association.

His first venture into the American Amateur Press Association bundle, in June 1984, expressed "fear and reservation," particularly in coming up with "the name - the masthead - the nom de plume!" He chose *The M Press*, but in number four noted that future issues would be titled *The Silver Springs Journal*. It won the Letterpress-Printed Journal laureate honorable mention in 1992. The final issue was probably number 38 for January 2001.





### The Sting

ROBERT REDFORD & PAUL NEWMAN had no part in this operation; no walk-ons, no cameos, nothing. It was, however, orchestrated with the same precision, selectivity and stunning surprise as the renowned STING of Hollywood fame. This dire plot struck closer to home. Right in our own back yard on August third.

We had the distinct pleasure of hosting Sky and Johanna Shipley for an overnight visit on their well publicized loop through the Northwest on the above date. In deference to their all day drive from Montana, we suggested a stroll through our yard.

All went well until a few squadrons of yellow-jackets were sighted in tight formation around the railroad-tie steps. Prudence suggested a wide berth which we attempted. Apparently, either their berth was a lot wider than ours or creosote makes those little suckers meaner than mad hornets... but, er, I guess you get the idea. They attacked! Like a horde of mutant striped automatons they were on us. Frantically we evacuated the heinous area, but our flight was pathetic compared to theirs.

Left: Gale's wood engraving of a house wren won the 2008-09 AAPA Art laureate award. Right: Silver Springs Journal number 37 for October 1998.

Gale also printed pages for *Ink Cahoots*, AAPA's cooperative annual publication. He contributed twenty pages between 1989 and 2015, the tenth-highest total among all-time participants.

In January 1987 his *Journal* noted, "The bird on the cover is my first attempt at a wood engraving. Greg McKelvey gave me a piece of maple flooring which I smoothed, glued into an end-grain block, then cut and sanded type-high. A most humbling experience. End-grain maple responds quite differently than linoleum - or did you already know that?"

He attended workshops and became active in the Wood Engravers Network to hone his engraving skills. He won eight AAPA Art laureate awards between 1987 and 2011.

Gale and Greg made frequent excursions to acquire letterpress equipment. In early 1986 Gale announced he was "the proud owner of a 1908 8x12 C&P plus a 10x15 Craftsman with a Rice feeder."

His most significant acquisition came in October 1990: a Model 8 Linotype. "The print shop was out, no room. Although my wife's studio is very spacious, it didn't seem astute to broach the subject with her. Therefore, the slug was cast, so to speak; I would have to build an addition onto the back of my woodworking shop. Never mind

the 14" pine, the 8' lilac, or the irrefutable solid rock lurking and leering somewhere below; mere adversities to overcome in achieving this magnificent obsession." Remarkably, he completed the work of clearing the area and pouring the retaining walls and 8x10 slab in just over a week. However, once the Linotype was in place, "it was immediately obvious there was *no* room to get around. ... The next three days were spent building new forms, pouring concrete, and extending the addition another four feet. But, finally, time to frame, sheet, roof, hang doors, wire, insulate, and sheetrock."

The following February, fellow amateur Sky Shipley flew in to get it working. "During the next two days I learned how to dismantle, repair, replace, inspect, correct, and operate more things than I ever imagined could exist on that oh so marvelous Mergenthaler machine. Oh, yes, I broke a couple things in the process and Sky pointed out some badly worn parts, but it ran! And possibly most amazing, it worked for me! (Or I worked for it.)"

Gale was AAPA official editor in 1991-92 (*American Amateur Journalist* volume 57) and also served as laureate judge, first vice president, and director.

He enjoyed attending ajay gatherings, both local and national. He helped host AAPA conventions in 1987 (Spokane) and 1990 (Tacoma).

Gale assembled proofs of several of his printing-related engravings for auction at the 2005 AAPA convention. When the vigorous bidding was completed, Sean Donnelly, Assistant to the Director of the University of Tampa Press, was the winner. Thus began a relationship with UT Press, and its Director, Dr. Richard Mathews. Gale engraved an image of their Hoe iron hand press, which later became the Press logo. When Sean's book *W. Paul Cook - The Wandering Life of a Yankee Printer* was published, Gale did a likeness of Mr. Cook for the cover.

"The next request really took my breath away: Dr. Mathews wanted to print a book featuring my prints and engravings! Would I gather as many prints or photos of my work that I could find? ... Ego won and I started gathering prints saved since 1953. Some of them are silk screens, many are linoleum cuts, a few wood cuts found their way into the collection, and engravings took over in 1986." The 196 page book, *Sixty Years of Prints & Wood Engravings*, was published in December 2015.

The UT Press blog quotes the Foreword, by Welford D. Taylor: "There is a distinctly personal dimension ... at times humorous, occasionally whimsical but never inappropriate or gratuitous. It is his manner to observe the telling qualities of a subject, respect its uniqueness as he expresses it and then, often but not always, embellish it with a touch of his own unique essence ... His work indicates that a human hand, guided by a human heart, has carved the design." ♦



Gale's book, published in 2015, is available from the University of Tampa Press.

# Library of Amateur Journalism Update

by Robin E. Rider

Curator of Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-Madison

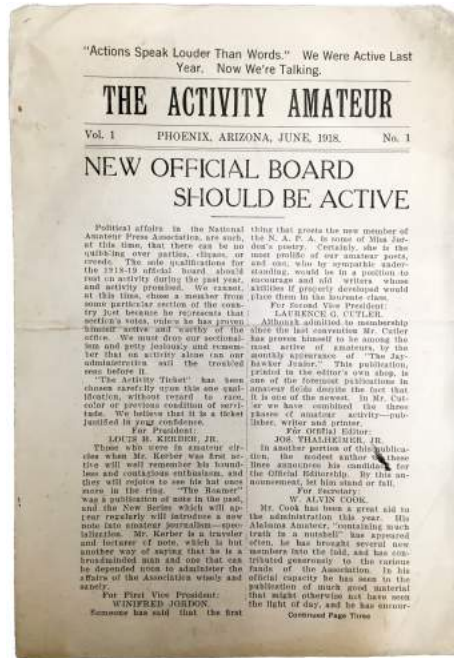
THANKS TO THE generosity of donors to the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Fund in support of the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we can report substantial progress in the sorting of thousands of individual AJ issues that came to Madison largely unsorted and un-bundled.

The Hawes Fund has thus far supported two semesters' worth of work in Special Collections (approximately ten hours per week) by two graduate students in the UW-Madison iSchool. They have been busy sorting individual issues by title and rehousing them in acid-free folders labeled by title. Once this sorting work is complete, we can then record reams of valuable title information in a master spreadsheet.

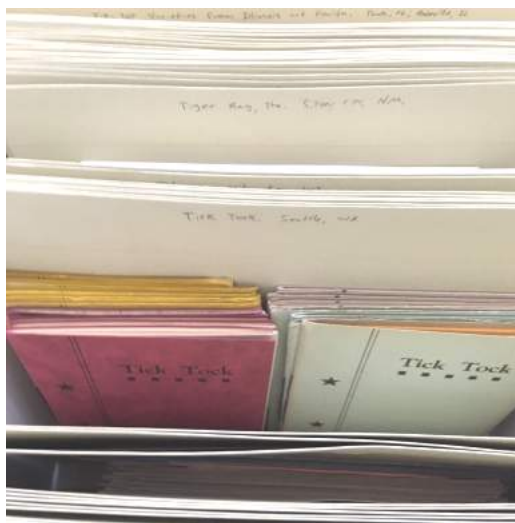
One of the two students working on this project started at the beginning of the alphabet; the other worked backward from the end of the alphabet; and these sorting efforts will eventually meet in the middle. The students have thus far sorted through some three dozen archival cartons full of individual issues. Some of the titles they've encountered are represented by just one issue (for example, *The Alamo Amateur: "A Lone Star Lollipop"* by Ernest R. Temple, October 1922; or *Zita's Hobbies*, a modest mimeographed one-pager by Zita LeCompt, Des Moines, Iowa, August 1956); others, by quite a run (as with some sixty issues of *Yours Truly: The Rockford Writer's Guild* edited by Howard W. White in the 1950s).

In vol. 1, no. 1 (June 1918 – but a century ago!) of *The Activity Amateur* from Phoenix, Ari-

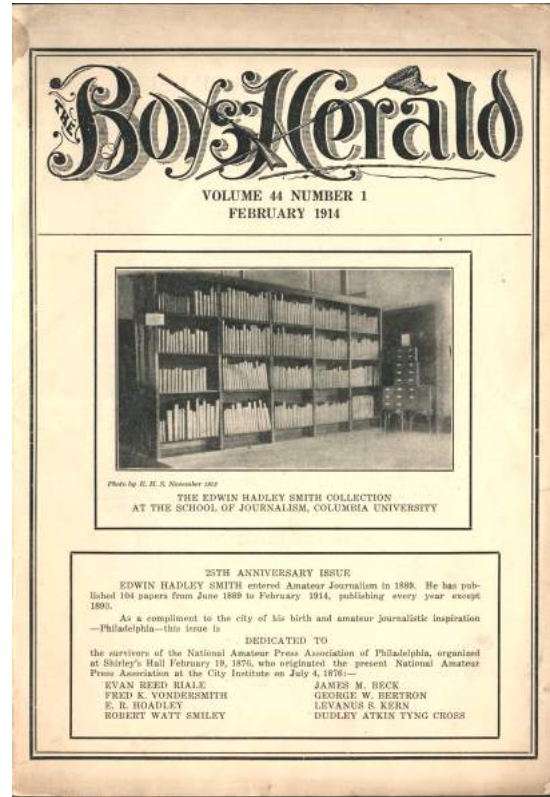
zona, Jos. Thalheimer, Jr. proclaimed “Actions Speak Louder Than Words. We Were Active Last Year. Now We’re Talking.” The A’s also include titles like *After*



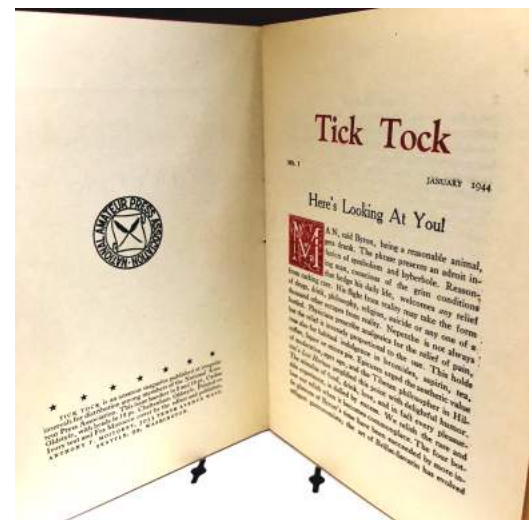
From A... : “Actions Speak Louder Than Words.” We Were Active Last Year. Now We’re Talking. *The Activity Amateur*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Phoenix, June 1918).



A glimpse into one of the T cartons.



Boys Herald, 25th anniversary issue (February 1914). On the front: the Edwin Hadley Smith collection installed in the Columbia University School of Journalism. The back lists the publish-



Tick Tock, no. 1 (Seattle, January 1944). Editor and publisher: Anthony F. Moitoret.



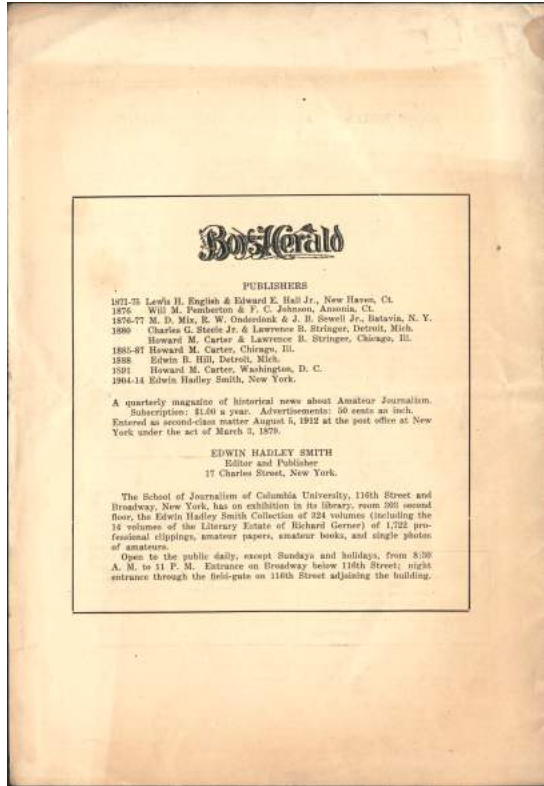
Hours, Afterglow, Aftermath, The Afterthought, and Afterthoughts; the B's, Brief, Brieflette, and Briefly — we sense a trend.

At the other end of the alphabet the collection contains multiple AJs entitled *The Zenith*, separated in both time and space. George Julian Houtain both edited and published the earlier in Brooklyn, and in the issue dated July-August 1901 proclaimed “Nixon Elected

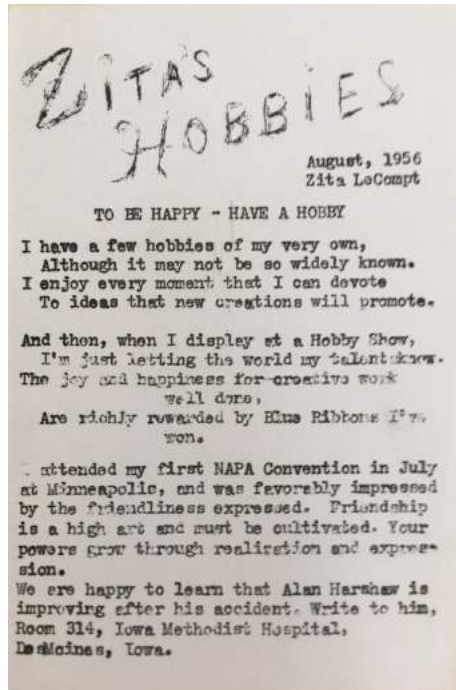
President!” — of NAPA, that is. (Issues of *The Zenith* for 1901 also figure in one of the Edwin Hadley Smith bound volumes; and Houtain later edited *Home Brew*, which in 1923 published H. P. Lovecraft’s short story “The Lurking Fear.”) A diminutive AJ entitled *The Zenith* was published in Seattle in 1934 with no editor’s name in evidence; another by the same title, associated with U.A.P.A.A., was published after World War II in Seattle, this time bearing the name of a Dr. Noel as editor.

We are also happy to report that other portions of the LAJ Collection, especially the Edwin Hadley Smith bound volumes, have enjoyed research use at Madison. For example, Prof. Brian Rouleau of the History department at Texas A&M University spent time with the Collection as part of his research for a book tentatively entitled *Empire’s Children: Youth Culture and the Long Nineteenth Century’s Expansionist Impulse*. In particular, Prof. Rouleau was looking for late 19th-century expressions of opinion by young people on such issues as immigration, military intervention, and imperial ambitions. After research in the LAJ Collection, Prof. Rouleau had much praise for its contents, “so extensive and so ripe for potential exploration on the part of historians, literary scholars, and others”; and he encouraged continued investment of “time and resources into organizing and preserving this collection for future generations of scholars, educators, and the public writ large.”

In the effort of organizing and preserving the LAJ Collection with today’s and tomorrow’s researchers in mind, we at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are pleased to work in partnership with the Fossils and grateful for the ongoing generosity of many friends of the history of amateur journalism. ♦



ers of the Boys Herald from 1871 through 1914 and advertises the open hours for viewing the Edwin Hadley Smith Collection.



... to Z: Zita's Hobbies (August 1956), in which Zita LeCompt recorded her impressions from her first N.A.P.A. convention (in Minneapolis).



(Above) Early issues of *The Zenith* (Brooklyn, 1900-1901).

(Right) Another AJ entitled *The Zenith* (Seattle, spring 1934 and spring 1946).

# What is the Place of the Blogger in Our Hobby?

by Ken Faig, Jr.

THE FOSSIL HAS CARRIED some interesting information concerning amateur journalists who have taken to blogging: Dean Rea, Don Peyer, and Barry Schrader among them. When I was web-surfing in search of ajay-related topics to write about, I came upon Larry E. Ribstein's paper "From Bricks to Pajamas: The Law and Economics of Amateur Journalism" from a 2006 number of the *William and Mary Law Review*:



<https://tinyurl.com/yacjsgwu>

What Ribstein calls "amateur journalism" is today more commonly called "citizen journalism." However, many of his comments are probably still quite apt in today's blogging environment.

For myself, I'm not sure that I'm ready to be a blogger. Sure, I have my own opinions on the perennial hot buttons of politics, religion, and sex, but much as I might think my own opinions make as much sense as those of the pundits whom I listen to on television, I'm not sure I'm ready to be labeled a purveyor of "fake news" or to be threatened with various forms of violent annihilation. L. Sprague de Camp, whom I met when he was writing his 1975 biography of H. P. Lovecraft, always cautioned me that any writer needs to have a thick skin.

What is the essence of the "amateur journalist" blogger or the "citizen journalist"? I suppose that most people would maintain the primary characteristic of these individuals is that they are not paid for their endeavors—at least directly. Of course, the blogger may have books or other publications to sell. He may in fact have paid advertising on his website. But generally no one is directly paying him a salary in return for his endeavors. If he is using a social media base for his blog, he will probably measure his success by the number of his on-line friends; or if he is meting out his wisdom in 140- or 280-word capsules on Twitter (like our own chief executive blogger), by the number of his "followers." The number of links to his website is likely another measure of his success or failure as a blogger.

If he allows comments on his blog, he (or his agent) will probably need to moderate the comments to avoid the proliferation of "hate mail." Many blogs today do not allow anonymous posting of comments, even subject to such moderating or editing. I suppose the bloggers or their agents simply don't want to read the "hate

mail" or otherwise obtuse or ill-informed comments. Without any social medium presence, I am the ultimate anonymous entity in cyberspace, although there are blogs that I follow fairly regularly. One of these bloggers, horror writer Caitlin Kiernan, recently posted a beautiful photograph of her beautiful blue-eyed cat sitting snugly in a paper box. I recalled how my daughter's cat loved to position herself similarly in a paper box in our home when we were boarding her (the cat, not my daughter). I suppose this behavior is indicative of the innate territoriality of the feline species. I wanted to comment on Kiernan's box-occupying cat, but found I could not do so without a social medium identity to distinguish me from the legions of anonymous and potentially malicious internet explorers.

In fact, I suspect social media are the launch point for many of today's bloggers. Whether it's Facebook or Twitter or some other platform, social media provide an entry point into the world of cyberspace opinion for many potential bloggers. For me, the downside of social media is dealing with the entire process of friending and unfriending (aka liking and disliking). I have a sister-in-law who spends at least an hour a day tending to her Facebook presence. At best, social media are probably a way of keeping in communication with an extended circle of friends and relatives. At worst, they can be a time-consuming compulsion from which one derives little pleasure. I did belong to LinkedIn while I was still working, but I found the entire environment of its proprietary communications somewhat burdensome. I decided to give it up once I retired and no longer had any reason to keep a presence.

Today, the news is full of reports of foreign entities making use of social media in the effort to swing American opinion or even American elections. Of course, these concerns conflict with the intentions of the creators of these media, most of whom wished to build an international community of subscribers. The question in the cyberspace environment, of course, is always the identity of any counterparty. In the traditional amateur journalism community, we come to know our members. We know what to expect from them and from their journals. Of course, feuds and dislikes were not uncommon, but there was always the buffer of the mailings and the mailer to keep things civil, or at least disconnected. Some associations, like AAPA, even assigned the mailer as a censor for the bundle contents. Of course, any association admitting juvenile members may have a legitimate interest in the



mailer's performing such a function.

Of course, amateur journalists, both current and former, can become bloggers, probably to much good effect. A set of links for the blogs or websites of current and former ajays would be a useful resource. But in the anonymity of cyberspace, meaningful feedback can be difficult to obtain. Traditional ajay courtesies concerning mailing comments don't apply, and wading through an entire forest of hurtful comment may be the cost of garnering only a few gratifying or even useful comments. The question arises: is there the possibility of a "protected" environment in cyberspace for the amateur journalist?

For myself, I think the idea of a cyber-apa represents a meaningful possibility for the future of our hobby in an environment where publication and mailing of amateur journals on paper has become increasingly difficult and expensive. (Have you tried to mail a book abroad from the U.S. recently? A typical \$25 hardcover book usually costs at least that much to mail to a foreign address.) What if the Future Amateur Press Association—and I do not mean to steal an acronym from FAPA—maintained a posting space for its members' PDFs, with comment facility for each posting by members only? What would be the cost of maintaining such a presence on the web? I for one would probably leap at the opportunity to post my PDF-format electronic journals if the membership fee could be as little as \$5-\$10 per year. I don't see why such a site could not maintain various ajay traditions: e.g., annual "laureate" awards in various categories, even periodic in-person social gatherings of members.

I can envision at least two problems. Who would invest the initial capital sum for the establishment of such a web environment, if association elections raised the specter of ouster within a short period? And what to do with undesirable material—e.g., explicitly pornographic contributions. One answer to the first question is that an existing amateur press association with sufficient resources might try to establish such a web environment. Perhaps governance could be left to the founding association's existing mechanisms for some initial period. A founding statement of common purposes and interests might go a long way to reduce the likelihood of confrontations over content in a cyber-space apa. Perhaps an offensive posting could be subject to removal if tagged by a simple or super majority of members. Repeated offense could even result in expulsion by a similar vote.

Of course, some of our traditional associations have already made overtures in this direction. Both NAPA and AAPA have had on-line spaces for the posting of so-called "e-journals." Eligibility of e-journals for association awards has been a subject for controversy. But if after an initial launch period, the cyber-apa was

self-governing and self-contained, these kinds of eligibility questions would be irrelevant—the exclusive content of the cyber-apa would be "e-journals." Access by the general public would be an important issue to be addressed. Of course, any association needs publicity to grow and to prosper. My own vote would be to allow public viewing, but not public comment. A more restrictive position would be to make only the annual laureate winners available for public viewing. An even more restrictive position would be to make the cyber-apa completely private. A completely private cyber-apa would have to rely on word-of-mouth publicity, as did the Fantasy Amateur Press Association in days of yore when its 75-member limit meant multiple year stays on the waitlist.

Want my two cents' worth? My advice: create such a cyber-apa. I am still unlikely to venture into the forbidden triad of politics, religion and sex. I hardly envision my becoming a cyber Walter Cronkite, or David Brinkley, or Amy Walter. But I might enjoy having a thing or two to say in my PDFs. I particularly miss being able to comment on my current reading since I dropped my membership in the EOD apa. I do try to do an occasional Barnes & Noble or Amazon review for a book that particularly impresses me. Who knows what I would write about for a cyber-apa? It might depend largely on the topics the other members were writing about. Of course, I might be better-advised to re-up the \$20-\$30 I used to pay for NAPA and AAPA membership. When I belonged, the traditional amateur press associations still did provide a lot of reading for the money. They were also a friendly environment for the non-publishing member. However, after making all due allowance for reader and collector members like me, self-expression remains one of the core values of amateur journalism. I think there may be new opportunities for our hobby if we successfully migrate our kind of self-expression into cyber-space. As respects The Fossils, I think our webmaster and editor Dave Tribby has made substantial contributions to the presence of the amateur journalism hobby in cyberspace with our website [www.thefossils.org](http://www.thefossils.org). I don't doubt that fellow Paxton award winner Russ Paxton would applaud Dave's efforts. ♦

### Several Blogs by Amateur Journalists

Dean Rea:

<https://deanrea.wordpress.com/>

Bill Venrick:

<http://www.greenapple.com/-bvenrick/>

Tina Howard:

<http://pecancorner.blogspot.com/>

Richard Minutillo:

<http://www.fabandpp.org/>

Lawrence Peterson:

<http://nine-18-thousandths.blogspot.com/>

## Around Amateuria

by Dave Tribby

IT WAS AN eventful summer for Fossil **Barry Schrader** and wife **Kay**. Kay's progress recovering from her April 2017 stroke allowed them to fly to California for a visit on June 21. Shortly after arriving, while eating in Oakland, "our rental car back side window was smashed and one valuable suitcase stolen. We lost all of our meds for the trip, my MacBook Air laptop, new video cam, files of our medical records, and my master book of computer passwords." Barry scrambled to get replacement medications, notify banks and credit card companies, and deal with other aspects of the theft...but they were ready for an open house at their former Livermore church, then made a planned trip to Yosemite on June 25-27. Barry noted, "we are finally getting back to a peaceful trip." They caught up with **Dave & Liz Tribby** for lunch on the 29th. The Schraders flew home to Illinois on July 1.

On September 18, Barry entered the hospital for gall bladder surgery. He transitioned into his residence's health center on the 23rd. Barry and Kay had a low-key celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary on the 27th. "It was back in 1963 when we eloped and a lifetime of wonderful memories since then." Barry completed his rehab and returned home October 4.

Another visitor to the Bay Area: Fossil **Peter Schaub**, who attended the American Typecasting Fellowship August 24-26. He flew to San Francisco several days early in order to visit his daughter and son-in-law. On the 20th, **Dave Tribby** took the train up from Sunnyvale and met Peter for lunch, followed by a tour of Letterform Archive.

In August, Fossil **Pamela Wesson** joined fellow members of the British Printing Society for a tour of the William Morris Gallery in London. "There's a room dedicated to Morris's Klemmott Press publications, but



Pam Wesson (far right) joins other BPS members at the William Morris Gallery.

I was disappointed none of his equipment was there. The other exhibits of his Arts & Crafts wallpaper and textile designs were fabulously engrossing." Afterward the group toured the nearby Paekakariki Press, a working shop. "Been a long time since I've toured other ajays' printshops. This one

was a creative mess, but well-loved. I enjoyed the rush of nostalgia and, of course, the smell!"

**Bette June Carrick**, wife of active AAPA publisher **Leonard Carrick** (1923 - 2013), passed away on May 7 at the age of 94. Len joined AAPA in 1986, but Bette did not become an AAPA family member until 2007. Even before then she attended many AAPA conventions and regional gatherings. She also wrote poems for Len's *Shasta Ramblings* and won laureate recognition in 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2014.



Len & Bette at the 2011 AAPA convention.

Bette was born March 25, 1924, in Sacramento, California, to Henry and Bess Liberty. Her family moved to San Francisco and began attending St. John's Presbyterian Church; the pastor there was Lloyd Carrick, Len's father. Len and Bette married in November 1942, a union that lasted 70 years. They had three children, David, Jan, and Melissa.

After Len graduated from dental school, he and Bette lived in the Northern California town of Burney, where she assisted him in running his dental practice. In 1968, they moved 50 miles southwest to Redding, and lived there the rest of their married life. After Len's death, Bette moved to Roseville, east of Sacramento, to be closer to Melissa.

In mid-September, Fossil subscriber **Ivan Snyder** reported **L. W. "Jiyani" Lawson** continues to have health issues: "He fell and broke an ankle. Once in the hospital they found additional concerns, including anemia and low iron. When I visited him he seemed in good spirits, his same old cheerful self." On October 9th Ivan sent a followup message: "I visited Jiyani Lawson in his home this afternoon, and am happy to report he is in good spirits and is recovering nicely from his broken ankle and related problems that had him in hospital last month, plus a few weeks in a recovery facility. In fact, he seemed to me even better than he was before he broke his ankle—and both he and **Twyla** said that is true." Ivan and Jiyani provided vital assistance to The Fossils when the Library of Amateur Journalism was relocated from Oregon to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2004.

Past AAPA President **Susan Petrone** released her third novel, *The Super Ladies*, in August. It's available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, and other bookstores.

The word from Houston is that **Elaine Boyer's** new home would be ready for occupancy October 24. (Last October's issue of THE FOSSIL described her evacuation in the aftermath of hurricane Harvey.)



# Anatomy of an Obituary

by Dave Tribby

WHEN IVAN SNYDER RELAYED news of Gale Mueller's death in late August, I knew I would write an obituary for him. Even though he had never been a Fossil, he made important contributions to amateur journalism.

Editing THE FOSSIL requires writing obituaries; my 22 issues include eighteen. My process is to research what has been written about the person in the various official organs, and also use the deceased's own words by quoting from their articles and journals. An online memorial from the family and a search of records on Ancestry.com can fill in non-ajay aspects of lives.

This procedure involves finding issues of a person's publication(s). In my collection, journals later than 1978 are stored in the original bundle envelope. Finding an individual title by searching the listings of bundle contents in the official organ can be time consuming. Fortunately for me, Ivan had recorded the contents of AAPA bundles over many years (with some gaps), and he sent me a list containing most of Gale's titles and their dates. With this, plus some searching of the AAPA historian's reports to fill in gaps, I had a reasonably complete list. Next, I searched my closet for thirty bundles from 1984 to 2015, then found the paper inside the bundle. I enjoyed reading Gale's words as he described his interests and adventures. I recorded passages that provided the outline of his life and his involvement in the hobby. Eventually, the pieces came together into the article on pages 4 and 5.

My focus on the words of the deceased may omit how other people were affected by them. In Gale's case, I should add that he was among the most joyful people I have met, someone with an enthusiastic zest for life. Former Fossil Sean Donnelly left a thoughtful post on AAPA's Facebook page:

My friend Gale Mueller (1927-2018) passed away on Monday. Gale was a woodcut artist, wood carver, and furniture designer whose talents were matched only by his modesty. I met him in 2004 at the AAPA convention in Phoenix. We were seated together by chance on the bus for a trip to the library and we struck up a lively conversation. I liked him instantly, and grew to admire him as an artist as I became more acquainted with his work. After he hand-printed a collection of his own bird prints, I suggested that UT Press publish a comprehensive book covering the entire range of his work as a wood engraver. We worked closely with Gale for six months, scanning and cataloging his original prints, and the book was published in 2014. It's a favorite among the many books I've worked on. You can learn a little about Gale and his work thanks to a television profile produced last year by KSPS in Spokane:

<https://video.ksps.org/video/northwest-profiles-cut-print/>

## An Online List of Amateur Journals?

After Ivan provided the list of Gale's publications, he sent along the spreadsheet he created to help organize his former collection (now donated to the University of Iowa). It contains entries for over 8,000 items, covering many AAPA, NAPA, and UAP bundles from the early 1980s up to 2017.

Wouldn't it be great to add missing bundles to his list and make it available online! A complete list of amateur journals going back 50 years or longer would be valuable to researchers. Ivan obviously spent many hours creating the entries, and the thought of devoting that much time is daunting. But perhaps a group of volunteers could divide the work. Entering the contents of bundles for one year might be accomplished in several evenings. The data entry could be accomplished by going through actual bundles, or by using listings in *American Amateur Journalist* or *National Amateur*.

If you have any interest in the project - designing what data is recorded, exploring the best way to share, performing the data entry, or any other aspect - please contact me.

## Followup from Last Issue

Here are updates on several topics mentioned in the July issue of THE FOSSIL:

- Fossil Gary Bossler sold several hobby-related items at the NAPA convention, and I put in a successful remote bid on bound volumes of *The National Amateur* covering vol. 1 to 79. (I have loose copies of later issues.) He has raised \$244 for NAPA so far, and has more to sell. "I still have eight bound volumes of *National Amateur* plus my own loose collection from Sep 1952 to present (missing several issues). A nearly complete run of *Campanes* (two missing) from 1941 to the last issue, along with the tribute printed by Rich Hopkins. Also Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* and the index. There is quite a collection of *American Amateur Journalist*, but nowhere near complete. In addition, a large number of papers from both NAPA and AAPA." If you want more details, contact Gary at [gbossler@thefossils.org](mailto:gbossler@thefossils.org)



Nine bound volumes of *National Amateur* covering 1878 - 1957.

- That July issue of THE FOSSIL printed in California cost quite a bit more than the now-retired previous Ohio printer charged: \$48.56 vs. \$26.63. Do any readers know of a good—and inexpensive—alternative? For this issue I'll find out if we can get a deeper black color.
- John Rogers reports the Museum of Printing in Haverhill, Massachusetts, has received items for its library of printed materials. "By next month people will be able to go online and see a list of what we have and need; it is about 24 pages long. We thank all who have given and look forward to more to

come." John was in attendance at the Tryout Smith memorial event described on page 3.

I always enjoy hearing from readers, both Fossils and those who read the free issues online. Are you aware of any online amateur press associations similar to the model in President Faig's message? Do you know of additional blogs run by amateur journalists? Would you like to help with the online index of *ajay* bundles? Do you have a news item about a current or past amateur journalist to share? Any comments about the content or appearance of THE FOSSIL? Any suggestions for articles? I would like to hear from you! ♦

## NAPA's 143rd Convention

THE 2018 CONVENTION of the National Amateur Press Association, held July 16-18 (Monday to Wednesday), drew ten members plus three spouses: Gary Bossler, Bill & Ruth Boys, Jim Hedges, Lisa Brandstetter Holt, Austin & Jean Jones, Michelle Klosterman, Arie Koelewyn & Kate Corby, Jon & Bridget McGrew, and Harold Shive. Headquarters was The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake near Ashtabula, Ohio.



The Secretary's report showed a decline of 6 members over the year, with 84 on the rolls as of June 30: 50 regular, 18 life, 11 family, and 5 trial. (In 2003 the total was 175.) Three members died during the year: Gussie Segal, Jake Warner, and James L. Meyers. Income for the year was \$53.54 more than expenses.

Elections returned President Michelle Klosterman, Vice President James Hedges, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boys, and Executive Judge George Hamilton to office. Jack Oliver was elected Official Editor but he later declined, leaving the office vacant for the second consecutive year. Bill Boys has been producing *The National Amateur* on a *pro tem* basis, and will continue to do so. East Lansing, Michigan, was chosen to host the 2019 convention.

One amendment, to make absentee ballots secret, was approved for next year's ballot. The by-laws were modified to require only one issue of a journal (rather than two) for the Letterpress Laureate. A resolution passed to mail the September, December, March, and June bundles in larger envelopes so *NA* can be included.

NAPA reached out to the communities of Ashtabula (Monday night) and Geneva (Tuesday afternoon) to present demonstrations of letterpress printing, typesetting, watercolor colorizing, and desktop publishing in the towns' libraries. Twenty or more locals attended each demonstration.

Although NAPA's constitution requires three days of convention sessions, in recent years nearly all of the association's work has been completed in two. This year the officers planned for only two days, with a brief session on Wednesday morning simply to adjourn *sine die* before leaving. ♦

## The Fossil

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of The Fossils, a non-profit organization for anyone 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, contact the secretary-treasurer or visit our website:

[www.thefossils.org](http://www.thefossils.org)

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