

# The Fossil

Volume 116, No. 2, Whole No. 382 ♦ Sunnyvale, California ♦ January 2020

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## In Search of Presidents Field

by Dave Tribby

GEORGE W. MACAULEY (1886-1969), joined the National Amateur Press Association in 1910 and soon became a mainstay for the local club in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to publishing his own *Hay Field*, he co-edited various titles with other amateurs and served as official editor of the club's paper, *Grand Rapids Amateur*. His enthusiasm for the hobby also drew in his brothers Harold and Glenn.

As younger members went into service during World War I, activity in the club declined. And after the war George's focus on business and a new marriage drew him away from amateur activity — yet NAPA remained important to him.

In 1932 his older son, Robie, became active in Boy Scouts, and the troop wanted to publish a Scout paper. This reignited George's interest in NAPA, and in 1933 he bought Robie a membership. At the same time there was a revival of Michigan NAPA activity, with the Macauleys in the thick of it. Robie began publishing *Pine Needles* for NAPA in 1935. George continued *Hay Stack*, but in 1936 added a more substantial journal, *O-Wash-Ta-Nong*, and his wife Emma published *Distaff* beginning in 1938. George served as NAPA president in 1937-38. His activity did not end with his term: he continued producing *O-Wash-Ta-Nong* until 1951 and *Hay Stack* until 1963.

George joined *The Fossils* in 1944, served as president in 1953-54, and remained a member until about 1966.

George is best remembered for a remarkable gesture he made to NAPA. I'll let Robert F. Kunde explain, with excerpts from his "Tribute to a Friend" found in *The National Amateur* for March 1970:

Unquestionably George Macauley will be remembered for his gracious tribute to the National Amateur Press Association, Presidents Field — a formation of pine trees each for a

president of the association forming the letter N-A-P-A. Plans for such a field were announced at the Chicago 1934 convention and George set aside six acres of his Pine Springs ranch for the purpose. During October, he planted several hundred trees [156, according to George's own account] and the following summer "was one of the driest on record." George and Emma, helped by their two young sons, carried many buckets of water to keep the young seedlings alive. Many died and were replaced the following autumn. Later a marker of fieldstone was built and a bronze tablet attached bearing the raised letters telling of the field and its dedication:

*"A pine tree is here planted in honor of each President of the National Amateur Press Association. Founded Philadelphia, July 4, 1876. Dedicated July 3, 1936."*

Two years of rather painstaking nursing, watering, and replacing weaklings that had died finally paid off when the Macauley family hosted the 1936 NAPA convention and some 50 amateurs from all over the United States joined in dedicating this field of the presidents. The seedlings then were 8 to 24 inches high, many of them barely discernible amid the grass and brush, but those who were present will long remember Willard O. Wylie, the oldest living ex-president, as he made the



*An aerial view of Presidents Field on February 16, 1970, with snow covering the ground.*

dedication speech. He drew tears to the eyes of many oldtimers as a result of his sincere memorial tribute to the departed leaders of the past.

Two subsequent NAPA conventions were held at the Field. The 1953 Jackson convention formed a motorcade and the final session was spent in a rededication of the memorial. In 17 years the white pines had grown to lofty, majestic beauty and those who returned were amazed at the change of scenery. ...

The banquet session was held in the Pine Springs lodge at the Grand Rapids 1960 convention and was the last official group visit that many members made to the Field. The greater share of the day was spent by the ex-presidents locating their trees and being photographed in front of them with members of their families.

Robert mentions in the article that the 90 acre Pine Springs ranch was located near Hudsonville, Michigan. He made arrangements for an aerial photo to be taken (see page 1).

While researching the Macauley family, I came across an Ancestry.com family tree created by Robie's son Cameron Macauley. I sent him a message asking if he knew of his family's amateur journalism connection, and whether Presidents Field still exists. His reply:

Yes, I am aware of my grandfather's and my father's involvement in NAPA—they both talked to me about it and left behind many photos and letters, including many printed documents, that referred to NAPA. I have a copy of that aerial photo of the pine trees. I have no idea where Pine Springs Ranch was located, and don't know if has been preserved, sadly. I wish I could offer more information.

Curiosity led me to the Hudsonville Library website. Their online resources include plat maps of townships in Ottawa County. The 1960 plat map of Georgetown Township includes a notation that seemed to say "GEO MACCAUL-EY 90" near the middle of section 19.

The resolution of the posted scan was not quite good enough to be certain, so I requested a better image. The next morning Leah Hamstra, the local history



The 1955 Georgetown Twp. plat map shows the Macauley property was near the center of section 19.



"NAPA" can be seen in this 1947 aerial photo of Georgetown Twp.

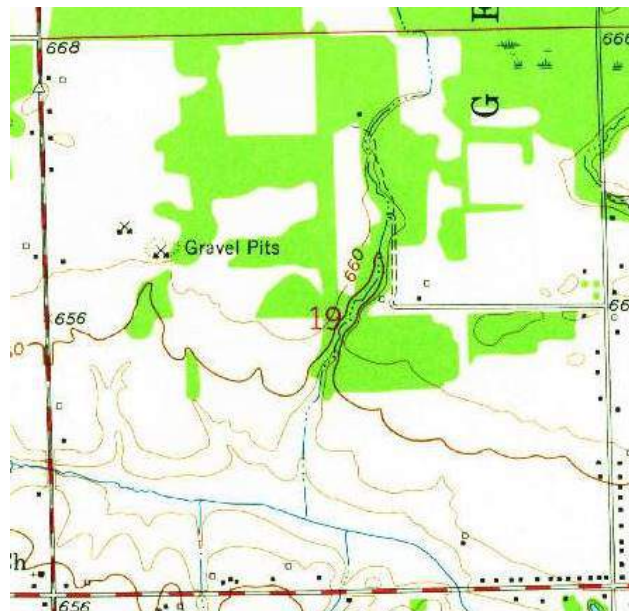
contact, wrote to say she was working on the request, and wondered if I needed any additional information. I provided a brief account of Pine Springs and Presidents Field. An hour later she sent me much clearer images of section 19 from the 1955 and 1960 plat books. The name was definitely "Geo MacCauley... but was this NAPA's Macauley? If so, on what part of the 90 acres were the trees planted? "I'll continue digging around and see what else I can pull up."

About ninety minutes after that message, another arrived: "I found an aerial map of Hudsonville and it happened to extend to Georgetown Township. I cropped it to show the area you're looking at." The 1947 picture covered a lot of acreage, without much detail. As I started to examine the picture, Leah sent another message: "It just jumped out at me!" This time the aerial photo had a red arrow pointing to a grove of trees spelling NAPA from south to north. She had found Presidents Field!



George Macauley in Presidents Field, 1954

The U. S. Geological Service website has a 1958 topological map that includes section 19. The wooded areas are shaded, so it is



A 1958 topological map of section 19 shows wooded areas (shaded), roads, and structures (black squares).

easy to compare to the aerial view and pick out where the Field is located. The map shows a road leading to the bottom middle of the Field, and a structure just north of it — no doubt George's Green Brier Lodge.

From this map I determined latitude and longitude where the road ends: 42.8947, -85.8895. Plugging those coordinates into Google Maps yields a contemporary

view, a housing development. According to Zillow.com the closest house, 6913 Pinebrook Dr., was built in 1975.

When I reported the results to Cameron he replied, "Thanks for looking into this. Too bad it's gone, but no surprise I guess. I'm glad to know where the ranch was, I've always wondered. My father had fond memories of it." ♦

# Kelsey Recruiting Transformed NAPA, AAPA

by Dave Tribby

FIFTY YEARS AGO, recruiting campaigns assisted by The Kelsey Company transformed both the National and American Amateur Press Associations. Kelsey had been manufacturing small table-top printing presses since 1872, and its Excelsior model was the first press of many boy printers who eventually became amateur journalists. Glover Snow, company president from 1923 to 1965, had been a member of NAPA and The Fossils. Beginning in 1929 Kelsey mailed a newsletter containing printing tips and ads for their printing supplies, *The Printer's Helper*, to customers several times per year.

NAPA's Elaine Peck and Karl Edd contacted Kelsey in April 1968 to determine the feasibility of sending information to its Colorado customers. After the company suggested distribution to the entire mailing list, Recruiting Chairman Joseph F. Bradburn had printed 5,000 copies of a recruiting broadside created by Bill and Jeanne Murtland a few years earlier. Bill's contact information was provided for those interested in receiving sample journals. The piece was mailed with the *Helper* in April 1969.

By mid-June there were 192 responses and 57 new members. Bill and Joe continued to receive requests

and send samples throughout the year. A membership total of 275 in March 1969 had grown to 402 a year later. Among the recruits who became active publishers were Keith Gray, James Hallock, Jack Oliver, Howard Radcliffe, and Jacob and

*Did you ever try to make beautiful designs with a cereal-box rubber stamp set? Have you ever had a manuscript rejected? Have you wanted lately to write a letter to the editor, but didn't, because you knew it wouldn't get printed?*

*Do you get tired of reading the same old magazines? Do they seem... predictable? Do you have a pet subject or two that no one seems to want to hear about anymore? Air pollution or music education or the trip you took to the Cape?*

If you nod your head yes to any of these questions, Amateur Journalism is waiting for you. 'AJ' has something for every literate or literary person.

For the reader, some of the titles in a recent issue—*POWER*, *Richard*, *The Unicorn*, *The Cemetery Rabbit*, *Nutshell*, *De Vez en Cuando*, and *The Scarlet Cocker*.

Looking through it you'd find: a satire called "The Great Corn Crisis", about what happened when the Bourbon County corn was used for corn oil; a paper composed of assorted news paragraphs, each in a different type face—the publishers were packing up to move to Monaco; the continuation of a diary of a common soldier in the Civil War; a passionate article about American aid; one about a passionate personal news item; pointed criticism of previous papers; a lot of poetry; no advertising; and many other things. Good reading!

For the writer: NAPA runs a manuscript bureau, which receives manuscripts of any sort and forwards them to interested printers and editors. Good writers are in great demand. Printers frequently ask them specifically for material.

Then too, these amateurs are a communicative bunch. If the published material has value, negative or positive, the writer is sure to know it quickly by means of correspondence and outspoken comments printed by fellow members.

NAPA is also a publishing ground for things that maybe aren't marketable right now. If you write sonnets or haiku, critiques or movie reviews, there is a place for them. And a readership waiting for them every month.

For the editor: there is the opportunity to put together the kind of journal you'd like to read. If you don't want to write or print, you can gather material wherever you like and hire someone to do the printing for you. You can choose the type faces, the design layout, decide on the paper and the initial letters, the ink colors and cuts and cover. The only limit is your pocketbook.

At least one library collects the journals—New York University. A lot of the members live in a sea of them, keeping the good ones, which amount to quite a stack pretty soon. They don't dare throw your efforts away! So, for the editor, a little better chance at immortality.

For the printer: there is no other place. And many people who never had a thought to the art of printing become fascinated by it when they join the NAPA. They think it's the most rewarding aspect of all. The printer can print what he wants

with no one else blue-penciling or rejecting it. He does all the things the editor does and a good deal more. He cuts linoleum blocks for illustrations and fools around with close-register work. He haunts supply houses in search of more type and a bigger press. He can, actually, start out very small with \$10 and then build up from there as much and as fast as he wants to.

When he travels he can map out a route of other printers he'd like to meet. These visits always begin and end in the print shop, and often result in some impromptu publication he does it rare now, and professionals are invariably amazed that anyone can do this single-handedly put out what amateurs sometimes do. He has to be a Jack-of-all-trades, and furthermore, his wife is a good house, masher of them. Unless his wife is a good reader, he is his own writer, editor, stylist, proofreader, purchasing agent, quality control, pressman, and maintenance mechanic—this list could go on and on. The printer is keeping alive some extremely respectable American traditions too, but that is not his goal. He just likes it, that's all.

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It's hard to condense all Amateur Journalism to just a few words. The only way to find out what's really in it for you is to join. When you see what's in print, or lift your first ink paper off the press, you'll wonder why we didn't tell you how really great it is.

If you want to join, or to get some sample journals, send us this coupon or leave it with us at the exhibit—and see for yourself.

—JYM

Bill Murtland  
99 Clinton Ave., Akron, Ohio 44301

Please send me some sample journals. I'm still curious.

Please send my name to the NAPA recruiting Chairman. I'd like to find out how to join.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The National Amateur Press Association  
Established 1876. Copy for this page set at The Happy Hollow Press, Akron, Ohio

Article reprint by courtesy of the Fineone Non-Solid



## Two Sided Lockup

Your shape tightens up from two sides, or will, if you take care how you turn up the screws. The same applies if you look with

Let's assume that you have your type form in the shape, with fasteners around it. Obviously, if you at first completely tighten up one side, when you try to tighten the other, you'll get a squeeze because the form is held rigidly by the first screws or bolts. If you try to pick up the shape, the fasteners at one end will probably fall out, and even if some of your type is loose, it will not be long

and true. If, then, important to tighten each side a little at a time, so as



to drive the form together, and make it square, tight and ship-shape. That's the first point.

The second is to avoid or minimize another kind of interference. This may come from the fasteners, register or wood blocking which you are squeezing up on the long side bumping into that on the short side. You can prevent this by using the right blocking sizes and placing them as shown in illustration, with a small amount of space at the ends where turning up the screws or bolts is likely to cause a dent in the corner.

There are other ways of arranging your fasteners so that such jams can be prevented, but as long as you know what to avoid you can make your own lockup, in your own way.

Printed on Kelsey Enamelled-60 paper, with Kelsey Many Purpose Green Ink.

## How to Handle Large Sheets in Small Presses

One of our readers writes us of a device he has fitted to his press to make the printing of large sheets easier on his 2 1/2 press. The same idea can be used to advantage on other machines when the sheet to be printed is considerably larger than the platen.

He has made an all-shaped flat piece of metal which he attaches perpendicularly to the platen back with two screws, the metal strip being slotted so that it can be pulled out or in, according to the size of the sheet to be printed. The book, or roll, on the end makes a convenient gauge. The strip holds the paper up in place, and prevents it from slipping. Two strips are used, one on each side of the platen, in which case only one is pulled out exactly for a gauge.

This and similar ideas have often worked out to great advantage. One printer, who was also somewhat of a machinist, made an extension of the platen, which fitted down on grooved runs, so as to fit on three sides of the platen. In that way he made his platen about twice as big as when the press was purchased. The slotted device off when the regular platen was large enough for the job.

## Notched or Drilled Grippers For Use of String or Elastic

Occasionally a form is so large it takes up so much of the area of the card that there is no room to hold it with grippers, or elastics stretched from one side to the other (if themselves being set outside form) are often needed to assist from the type.

The movement and the of the press sometimes or string to shift a bit. This

For an insight on direct selling of printing by mail, look up the classified advertising section of a magazine like Popular Mechanics. It may be assumed that the prices quoted in such advertising are rock-bottom, perhaps specially, to attract new customers. You will find similar offers in other magazines. Using such advertising is one of the best ways to establish contact directly with the user of printing.

In the same magazine, and others, you will find classified advertisements for a a a a and salesman. Reading over these will give you a good idea of the kind of advertising copy used to get representatives of that kind. In addition to general suggestions, there are a number of periodicals devoted to agents, such as the Specialty Salesman's Magazine. If you are interested in selling your printing on commission, you will find it worth while to pick up a copy of one of these magazines on a newswatch.

Selling your stationery stores can best be done by personal contact first, after which business may be done by mail. For selling through stores, samples mounted on cardboard which may be displayed are well worth making up and using. You can make your own display cards, either entirely, or by using small lock cards which the storekeeper may have a discarded, on your own way.

(Continued on page two)

## About Amateur Journalism...

THE GATOR

THE WISE OWL

IMPRESSIONS

JK Journal

STANDPIPE

PRINTED ON KELSEY ENAMELLED-60 PAPER, WITH KELSEY MANY PURPOSE GREEN INK.

Printed on Kelsey Enamelled-60 paper, with Kelsey Many Purpose Green Ink.

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David Warner.

When he saw NAPA's recruiting circular included with his copy of the April *Printer's Helper*, AAPA's Leslie Boyer wrote to Kelsey requesting equal time. After he received approval, he created an 8-page pamphlet by combining *About Amateur Journalism*, a recruiting essay written several years earlier, with "What Amateur Journalism Has Meant to Me" testimonials by Lee Hawes, Paul Hill, and Violet Marr Simpson. There was also a separate card to send for a sample bundle. Mike O'Connor printed 5,000 copies for the Kelsey mailing. They were sent with the April 1970 *Helper*.

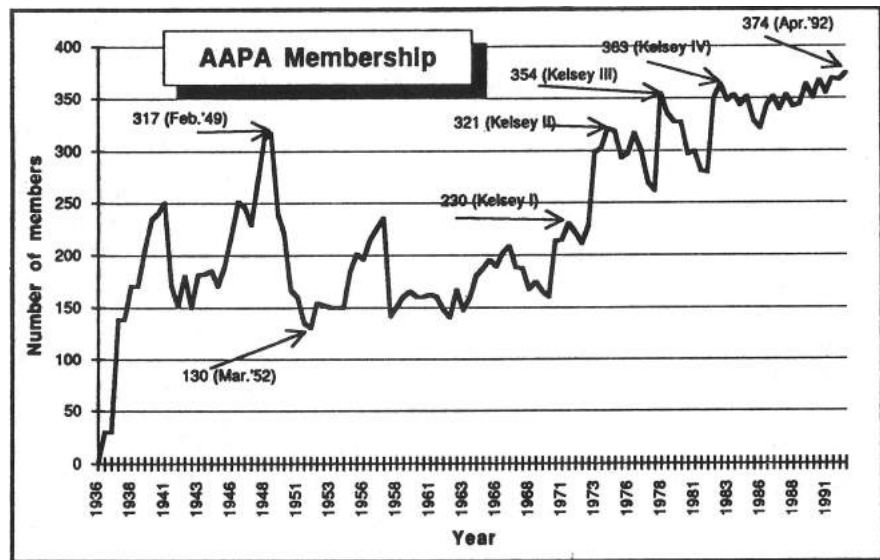
Les soon received hundreds of reply cards; 21 Kelsey recruits joined in June, plus another 11 in July. From May 1970 to May 1971, AAPA membership grew from 161 to 223. Les continued following-up with those who had sent cards, sometimes having AAPA members who lived in the same state send a letter encouraging membership. Over three years these efforts attracted 61 new members and one reinstatement. Among the recruits: Guy Botterill, Phil Cade, Bob Clausen, Dwight Cross, Arthur Hallock, Mark McComas, Charles Pasternack, Arthur Pelletier, Howard Radcliffe, Vince Rogers, Leonard Schira, Guy Storer, and Dave Tribby.

NAPA and AAPA both saw a surge in bundle content, not only from the newcomers but also from established members encouraged by the new energy.

In 1973, Les again approached Kelsey and they approved a second AAPA mailing. Kelsey II attracted 92 new members and 2 reinstatements between September 1973 and May 1976, bringing the total AAPA membership to 304. The list of new members included Charles Bush, Lewis Hildreth, Ned Kemp, Stan Kroeger, L. W. Lawson, and Robert Rugh. Kelsey III brought another batch of new members beginning in April 1978. A year later, 99 had been added to the rolls, including Harold Clark, Todd Cowles, Earl L'Abbe, Harold Leyes Jr., Richard Minutilllo, Jeffrey Schroff, Harry Spence, Clarence Wolfshohl, and Gary Woodie. An analysis of the membership list in March 1979 showed that of 333 total members, 148 (44%) had been recruited via Kelsey. The final campaign, Kelsey IV, began in the spring of 1982 and had similar results. Among the recruits were Wilbur Doctor, Jim Hedges, Yvonne Huntress, Ivan Snyder, Jack Scott, and Jack Swenson.

Les wrote about AAPA membership trends in the September 1992 *American Amateur Journalist*, illustrated with charts:

Many of the Kelsey press-bangers quickly returned their check and credential, and the membership graph since then looks much like that of the stock market: some peaks and valleys, but with a generally upward



AAPA membership graph prepared by Les Boyer for the Sept 1992 AAJ

trend. The four Kelsey drives are quite noticeable on the chart, but note, also, that each was followed by a decline a year (or two or three) later, as a number of the new recruits and others decided the AAPA was not for them.

The AAPA has had its most sustained and steady period of growth during the last decade, since Kelsey IV. But as we can see from past history, it often doesn't take very much of a problem to have a year or so of a precipitous decline, with losses of 100 members or more. Fresh blood is always necessary to keep up with attrition and the like. On the other hand, periods of growth are more than just numbers of new members; growth also requires keeping members once we get them. That means the right chemistry of personalities, writing, and journals in the bundles.

Although NAPA did not have another Kelsey recruiting campaign, they found members elsewhere. Here is Guy Miller's description of its next big initiative, recorded in the book *NAPA 1977-2007*:

In 1977 Recruiter Joe Bradburn (*Experiment*), Harold Segal (*Campagne*), and Al Fick (*Shambler*) arranged with the editor of *Graphic Arts Monthly* for an illustrated (including cover) four-page article authored by Fick. NAPA received at least 150 inquiries netting us over 90 members including James W. Beaudry (*Ripples*), Henry Jolly (*Reader's Buffet*, and later Vice President), and Robert Halbert (*The Herald Democrat* and also a Vice President).

These recruiting campaigns required a tremendous effort by dedicated volunteers. In addition to making arrangements with Kelsey and preparing recruiting materials, extra journals were solicited. When requests starting arriving, sample bundles had to be ready for prompt mailing. The officers who processed and welcomed new members had a much heavier workload.

All of these efforts paid off with much healthier groups, and an energy boost that lasted for decades. ♦

# The Young Writer and The Young Amateur Journalist

by Ken Faig, Jr.

THE YEAR 2018 saw the advent of the *Journal of Juvenilia Studies* online:

<https://journalofjuveniliastudies.com/index.php/jjs>

The journal is edited for the International Society for Literary Juvenilia by Lesley Peterson. The inaugural number contains articles by Christine Alexander on the juvenilia of Branwell Brontë and by Sylvia Hunt on the juvenilia of C. S. Lewis, among other delights. The journal is meticulously produced, with lavish illustrations (many in color), and contains book reviews as well as articles. The online edition is available for free reading; there is apparently also a print edition, but I did not discover subscription information.



The journal's sponsor also has its own website at <https://juveniliastudies.ca/>. Between 2013 and 2018, the Society sponsored international conferences in Durham, U.K. (2013), Barcelona, Spain (2015), Florence, Alabama (2017) and Durham, U.K. (2018). It has scheduled its 2020 conference for May 20–23, 2020, at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia:

[https://juveniliastudies.ca/conferences/2020\\_sydney/](https://juveniliastudies.ca/conferences/2020_sydney/)

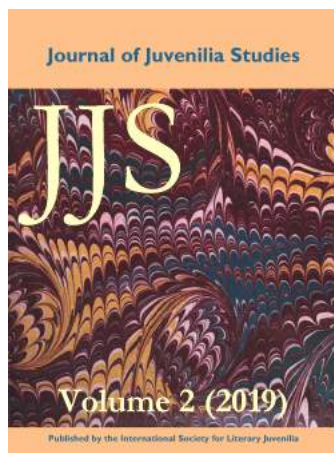
I hope some of my fellow amateur journalists will find the time to examine the Society's beautiful inaugural issue of the *Journal of Juvenilia Studies*.

As Jessica Isaac determined in her research (see "Amateur Journalism Rooted in Adolescence," *THE FOSSIL*, January 2016), the organized amateur journalism hobby which began to emerge in the middle of the nineteenth century was dominated by youths. Children are gifted imitators of the adult world that they observe and many juvenile writings are cast in the form of "publications" like Branwell Brontë's juvenilia. Of course, juvenile writers are not mere imitators but also write about the world as they observe it from their own perspective.

The demographic composition of the amateur journalism hobby gradually changed in the twentieth cen-

ture. By 1920, adolescent participants were a relative rarity. One association which did retain a healthy adolescent component was the Hoffman-Daas United, some of whose members were teachers and encouraged the formation of amateur press clubs at their respective institutions (e.g., Maurice Moe at Appleton, Wisconsin High School and Ann Tillery Renshaw at Penn State). There were even links with school newspapers and high school printing departments. (The late Harold Smolin was encouraged to participate in the hobby by his high school printing instructor.) Links with youth in educational institutions have grown more attenuated today: most school newspapers have migrated to digital format and access to educational institutions has been curtailed on account of security concerns. Of course, the hobby, although dominated today by mature adults, still welcomes the occasional juvenile recruit (e.g., young relatives of existing amateur journalists). Some associations have even censored the content of their mailings to protect juvenile readers.

Burton Crane wrote of the early decades of the twentieth century as a joyless, barren period in the amateur journalism hobby. The lively politics which were so piquant when the participants were adolescents in the nineteenth century became almost garish as when the juveniles were replaced by adults in the twentieth. The Fossils in particular supported calls for "new blood" infusions to end adult dominance of the hobby. Of course, today we would not wish to exclude any willing participants from our ranks, except for monomaniacs whose obsessions are totally inconsistent with our culture. I have a hard time imagining pro-ISIS amateur journals or amateur journals with pornographic content along the lines of "Tijuana bibles." While most extremist publishing has migrated to the internet, historically extremists have made ample use of mimeographs and other "short run" publishing technology. The good news, of course, is that the steady focus of the amateur journalism hobby on the joys of everyday living (e.g., humor) provides extremists of all sorts with little motivation to join. When I served for a few years as NAPA critic, one of my favorites in the monthly bundle was Harold Shive's publications—Harold always made me laugh. Jacob Warner always made me smile with his accounts of his bicycling hobby—including his precise reckoning of the modest associated



expenses. I was sorry when Jake's increasing years resulted in his giving up bicycling.

Of course, most children love humor and bicycling just as much as Hal and Jake. Which is why I think a child's perspective of the joys of living is a useful tonic for our writing even when the writer is a senior citizen. Sure, the world can be a grim place. Some children are early confronted with the horrors of warfare and other violence. In 2019, our Chicago press was full of accounts of a sadistic couple who brutally tortured and eventually killed one of their sons—the murder occurring while the mother was seven months pregnant. But despite all the horrors with which we are confronted—we can try to keep the world a nurturing place, for ourselves and especially for our children. Today, the historical link between juvenilia and the amateur journalism hobby has become attenuated—but I think both juvenile and amateur writing shine light into the world.

Hearty best wishes to the International Society of Literary Juvenilia for the success of the *Journal of Juvenilia Studies*. If one of their conferences should ever come to an academic sponsor within easy traveling distance of your home, I urge you to consider taking a look. You

will need to be prepared to encounter academic vocabulary (I learned the meaning of the word "prolepsis" from looking at the first issue of the *Journal of Juvenilia Studies*) but I think the unique perspective of childhood will continue to shine light on the world we (and our children and grandchildren) live in. ♦

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## Schaub Responds to Paxton Award

OCTOBER'S ISSUE OF THE FOSSIL announced Peter E. Schaub as the recipient of the 2019 Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award For Service to Amateur Journalism. In response, Peter wrote the following letter to the Fossil board of trustees. It is reprinted here with his permission.

Fellow Fossils,

I have just re-read Dave's article in THE FOSSIL commenting on my receiving the Paxton Award. It still seems fantastic to me that my AJ activities should have been so recognized. I appreciate the honor so much it is hard to explain.

Looking at the list of honorees I can hardly believe that you saw fit to include me! Willametta, Harold Segal, and Vic Moitoret were boyhood heroes for me. They encouraged me and made me feel welcome and special, even with my sophomoric early work. So much has happened in my life and things are so different now from the 1960s, but I remember them distinctly. I feel that maybe I have repaid somewhat their encouragement.

Years later when I came back to AJ, Mike O'Connor, Lee Hawes, and Dean Rea all took a personal interest in my writing and printing, becoming models for me to emulate. Ivan Snyder and Dave Tribby have supported my efforts all along. Ivan kept the AAPA going for years with his selfless commitment to administrative essentials and Dave has put in endless effort to give the organization a superior web presence. Ken Davis and Bill Boys have been important correspondents and contributors that I greatly admire. Now you too have given me great encouragement.

So, belatedly, I am writing to say "Thank You." I want you to know just how meaningful the award is for me.

Best wishes,  
Peter ♦

**LITERARY JUVENILIA**  
Material Imagination and 'Things'

20-23 May, 2020  
School of the Arts & Media, Robert Webster Building, UNSW Sydney

# Library Transfers AJ Collection

by Dave Tribby

PREPARING FOR A trip to the Tampa Bay Area in October, I made plans to examine the amateur journalism holdings at the University of South Florida.

The library's Descriptive Summary for their "Amateur Printing Association collection" listed the National Amateur Press Association as the creator, and listed its size as 93 boxes, available in the Special and Digital Collections Reading Room. "The collection contains printing ephemera for a variety of amateur printing association items ... The material has a rough arrangement that lists publications and ephemera by title, though some individual authors are highlighted. This collection is currently unprocessed." This sounded like the extensive collection of amateur papers donated to USF by now-deceased Fossil William F. Haywood in the 1990s.

An e-mail message to the USF Library Front Desk went unanswered for several days, so I placed a call to Special Collections. A helpful representative confirmed their Amateur Printing Associations Collection was available. He noted I would need an account before being allowed access, and could create it in person or online. I could not access the entire collection at once, as they only retrieve five boxes at a time. I set up my account and tried to decipher their process for creating an access request.

About half an hour after my phone call, I received a call back from the librarian. He had looked further into the collection and found that it had been deaccessioned several years ago. (The "last modified" date on the website description was November 3, 2015, so it likely happened after that.) When I asked if he knew what became of it, he suggested contacting the University of Tampa. He confirmed that two other amateur journalism related items in their catalog, copies of *The Boxwooder* and *National Amateur*, were still available in Special Collections.

I wrote to former Fossil Sean Donnelly, Assistant to the Director of the University of Tampa Press, to find out what he knew. His reply:

Yes, the collection is here now at UT. We were in touch with USF Special Collections several years ago about another matter when they offered to give us the collection. Because of our friendship with Lee Hawes and my work on several books related to *ajay* they thought it would fit well with our holdings. When we got the collection it was kind of a mess, as no one at USF had done anything with the papers in years, so we spent quite a lot of time putting it in order. Part of that

process was sorting Lee Hawes's collection, which his sister had given us, and filtering it into the USF/Haywood collection. Just as we were finishing that early this year the rug was pulled out from under us at our Book Arts Studio, where the amateur papers were kept, and we had to pack all the printing equipment into a smaller space and bring the amateur collection up here to our publishing office and make room for it in a closet!

As things are now, the collection is accessible but just barely. The collection is a hodge-podge and not very comprehensive but there are scatterings of journals from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century up through the 1980s.

I updated the "Public Collections of Amateur Journals" page found on The Fossils' website [www.thefossils.org/collections.html](http://www.thefossils.org/collections.html)

The USF entry was modified and moved from "Major Collections" to "Other Collections." A University of Tampa entry will be added once its collection is ready.

Bill Haywood made careful plans to pass on his extensive collection of amateur journals. He found an interested party, the USF Special Collections department, at a stable institution. What he didn't count on: priorities would change as new management arrived. Those who might use the collection in the future should be grateful that Sean was available – and known to USF.

I am reassured that the Library of Amateur Journalism is much more secure at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their Special Collections department has assigned students to work on it, and they have encouraged academics to use it for research. When amateur journalists in 2016 created the Hawes Endowment Fund under the UW Foundation to support the LAJ, its future was made even more secure, as the university now has a legal obligation to maintain the collection.

## A Helpful Library

As webmaster, I receive the occasional random question from someone who comes across The Fossils' website. In August I heard from Martin Andersson:

I am looking for the original appearance of H. P. Lovecraft's prose poem "Memory," on p. 8 of *United Cooperative*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (June 1919). I know it has been reprinted several times (indeed, I have several editions of it myself), but for research purposes I need a legible image of that original appearance.

I suggested he review the listings on our "Collections" page, find a library nearby, and contact them to see if they could help. I often wonder if anyone ever

takes my advice, and whether it was at all helpful. Martin did take time to write back two weeks later:

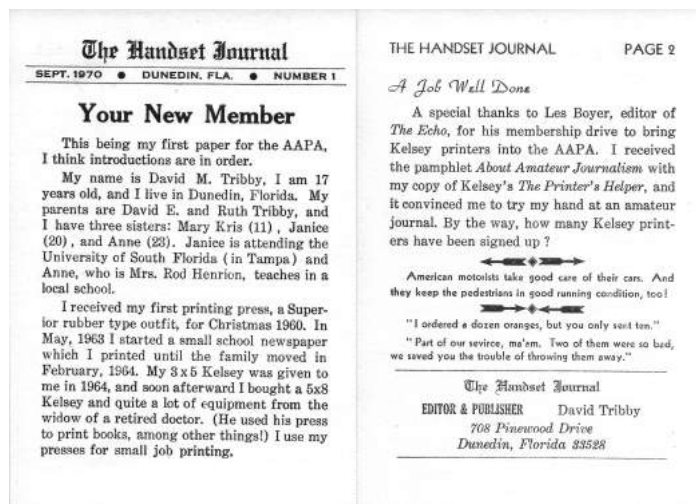
Thanks! It turned out that the NYPL was able to help me—a bit expensive, but excellent service.

### A Kelsey Recruit

My first Kelsey press, a 3x5 Excelsior model, was a 1964 Christmas gift from my parents when I was 11. A few months later I acquired a used 5x8 model.

The NAPA recruiting broadside that arrived with my April 1969 *Printer's Helper* intrigued me, but the word “amateur” hung me up. After all, I was president of Paragon Printing Company (“The Small Job Specialist”) and had cleared \$133.08 on sales of \$207.93 during 1968. Making big bucks like that, did I really qualify as an amateur? Plus, sending the request for sample papers required cutting up the nicely printed circular. This required a bit more thought.

When AAPA’s brochure arrived a year later I didn’t realize it was from a different group. But the second plea pushed me over the edge—and besides, there was a separate card to mail back, so I didn’t need to cut up anything. The packet of sample papers was intriguing, so I promptly submitted my \$4 dues. The first *Handset Journal* appeared in the September 1970 bundle.



### Amateur Journalism and Youth

President Faig uses his column in this issue to explore the connection between youth and amateur journalism. As he notes, when NAPA was formed in 1876, all of the leading publishers were adolescents—mostly between 15 and 20 years old. After that age, most members were considered “fossils” and left the hobby to get on with real life. Over the decades, more of the post-20 membership either maintained their activity or returned after an absence, and the organization became more mature. The young publisher continued to be welcomed, but there were expectations for higher quality work and conformance to standards.

Other groups also had an emphasis on youth at their birth. The founders of United APA did not know about NAPA when they created an organization in 1895 as a way to unite local clubs of teenage writers. The senior group could look down on the juvenile nature of the younger, and lure away those who seemed to have promise.

The 1920s were lean years for both the National and the Uniteds, with few recruits. The early 1930s saw successful recruiting campaigns for both, with many of the new members being fairly young. Both groups saw tensions between young blood and the establishment.

The younger United contingent felt so constrained that they formed the American APA in 1936, and recruited more young people who were new to the hobby. (Lee Hawes titled his 25th anniversary history of AAPA “The Stronghold of Youth” in *THE FOSSIL* no. 170, July 1961). When I joined AAPA as a teenager in 1970 there were quite a few active members younger than myself—including the president, Pam Wesson.

If we could find a way to reach teenagers with a recruiting message today, would any be interested in publishing on paper? The diminishing presence of print media in general might be making our methods anachronistic. On the other hand, the “do it yourself” aspect of self-publishing might attract a select few.

### E-Journal Followup

October’s issue of *THE FOSSIL* included “E-Journals: Salvation or Menace?” I did hear from a couple of those who were mentioned in the article.

From Bill Verrick:

The comments about e-journals were interesting but a “shaking of my head” for the long-time heckling by Fred Liddle and J. Hill Hamon. I had a part of such issues with Fred and I tried to bury the hatchet with him before he passed on—it was a no-win deal between us but I think I was successful in my efforts to end that. J. Hill obviously took him seriously in the later years when Fred “fired away.” I think that kind of thing has ALWAYS been around (for eons I am sure) but it proves that old adage “sticks and stones ... but words can never hurt me” but truthfully MORE HURT than what may have been supposed is TRUE and I hope such dies off one of these days (but I wouldn't bet on it).

From Mike O'Connor:

Enjoyed reading the issue—especially the e-journal article. Some items I had forgotten about and so it made the article that much more interesting.

It looks like around the time I left AAPA the e-journal trend had about seen its day. I am surprised it didn’t garner more participants. There were some limitations in the earlier days but as technology expanded it made it easier to produce and send e-journals.



It seemed like an easy way for the writer and/or poet to produce his or her own journal. No special equipment was needed, no special graphic design skills and virtually no cost. It sounded like a winner to me at the time.

I enjoyed working with Dean on *Author's Bazaar* as it let me use color photos and art, unlimited type fonts, etc. This is available with offset or duplicator printed journals but the cost factor has to be added to journals printed by these methods.

On January 7 the University of Wisconsin sent an update regarding their efforts to include AAPA e-journals in their Digital Collections: "I'm hoping we can set a target month soon, but not yet. We need to get through the first couple of projects in our queue where we're adding new content into already migrated collections, and that's happening now."

### Harold Shive (1929 - 2019)

In his message, President Faig mentions the humor of Hal Shive, one of NAPA's most consistent publishers with *Impressions by Hal*. Unfortunately, number 188 for

December 2019 will be the last. He passed away on November 12. The December *National Amateur* includes five pages of tributes from his friends. Editor Bill Boys notes that during Hal's 25 years of membership he attended nine conventions, missing only one between 2007 and 2017, and hosting one (2009). He was official editor in 2011-12 and mailing bureau manager for nine years between 2003 and 2017.



Harold Shive at Amateur Journalism Conference 2016

### More on Manuscript Magazines

In the July 2018 issue of *THE FOSSIL* (no. 376), President Ken Faig and I both wrote about Manuscript Magazines—publications produced manually via handwriting or typewriter. Ken recently forwarded a 1993 paper found on Academia.edu by Roy Alten Atwood of the University of Idaho titled "Handwritten Newspapers of the Canadian-American West, 1842-1910." While Ken and I focused on amateur and juvenile papers, Dr. Atwood includes commercial ventures.

As the Western frontier of both Canada and the United States were settled in the nineteenth century, handwritten newspapers appeared when there was a scarcity of printing equipment. Dr Atwood laments, "With attributes so unbecoming the 'real' newspapers even of their own day, they've been largely ignored, banished to the footnotes of our histories to join other marginalized publications and journalists." Seeking to

fill this gap in academic research, he began a multi-year project to identify and locate North American handwritten newspapers and study them in a context that goes beyond local history. His efforts contacting libraries identified 250 handwritten periodicals.

The paper focuses on 105 newspapers "published between 1819 and 1910 in the Canadian provinces and American states west of the 98th meridian." Some achieved circulation by being posted in a public place; others were passed from reader to reader. In some cases several copies were copied by hand. A few used a hectograph, which was developed in the 1870s. Mimeographs, which became available by the late 1880s, were used by others.

Dr. Atwood identifies 13 types of newspapers, based upon their intended audiences and circumstances of publication. Included is one that comes close to amateur journalism:

12. Youth and School Papers. School children still like to mimic newspapers. Should their papers be taken seriously? They've been included here as an example of perhaps the most marginalized group of journalists of all. Obviously, some children's papers are difficult to take too seriously. But in frontier and socially isolated settings, many children created "childish" papers for serious social and cultural purposes. The fact that "young" editors (as opposed to "old") produced them is simply irrelevant for considering their role or significance. The 18 papers included here were published between 1870 and 1906 in Saskatchewan and throughout the United States.

His conclusions about handwritten newspapers of that era and location: They were not rare. They were real newspapers. They are a complex genre, diverse in their types, timing, and locations. They deserve deeper academic study.

When I accessed the paper using my free account on Academia.edu, I was informed of two related papers: "Captive Audiences: Handwritten Prisoner-of-War Newspapers of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition and the War Between the States," also by Roy A. Atwood; and "Handwritten newspapers and John McLean Harrington" by Michel Ray Smith. There was also a reference to a 252 page book written by Dr. Smith and published in 2011 by Edenridge Press: *A Free Press in Freehand, The Spirit of American Blogging in the Handwritten Newspapers of John McLean Harrington, 1858-1869*.

### More Diversity

I haven't been a conscientious editor for the past couple of issues—relying on my own writing to fill too many pages rather than soliciting a wider range of voices. I'll try to do better for the next one. If you would like to write an article related to amateur journalism, please let me know. ♦

## The State of Amateur Journalism

by Edward H. Cole

DESPITE CONDITIONS OF WAR, amateur journalism is in a surprisingly healthy state. Comparative records reveal that more papers were published during 1943-4 than since 1905, according to the historian of the National.

Three nation-wide organizations of active amateur journalists exist. The National Amateur Press Association, organized in 1876, is of course, the oldest. At present it has a membership in excess of 300. Its 1944 convention at Boston elected Miss Willametta Turnepseed, Springfield, Ohio, president; Alfred P. Babcock, secretary-treasurer; Burton Crane, official editor. In 1945 it will hold its convention at Cleveland, Ohio.

The United Amateur Press Association, dating from 1895, has suspended annual meetings for the duration. It, too, has a membership in excess of 300. By a mail election in which 164 members participated last July it chose as president C. Benjamin Morgan, Norwich, Conn.; secretary-treasurer, Roy Erford, Seattle, Washington; official editor, Maurice E. White, Chicago, Ill. If a convention is held in 1945 it will occur at Chicago.

The American Amateur Press Association, organized in 1936, has constantly proclaimed itself "the most progressive of all amateur press associations." Of its membership approximating 255, over 50 are in the Armed Forces. Its recent mail election put into office as executive Ed Wall, Miami, Fla.; secretary, Floyd Ackerman; and official editor O/C Sheldon C. Wesson, Columbus, Ga.

There are also three organizations of alumni. The Alumni Association of Amateur Journalism, organized in 1930, has Louis Charles Wills as honorary president and Nita Gerner Smith as secretary. Originally devised to bring together alumni of later vintage than might be poured into Fossil bottles, it at one time attained a membership of nearly 300; but the later thirties saw a sharp falling off until in 1940 it had a

mere fifty on its roll. An organization to which the late Hadley Smith devoted much effort, it is still being kept alive by Mrs. Smith. The lowering of the requirement for membership in The Fossils to 30 years and now to 15 has narrowly restricted the field of the Alumni Association, for, in the words of Mr. Wills, it is not intended to compete with The Fossils, but to afford those who have passed beyond the active period but not yet attained eligibility in The Fossils opportunity to retain passive association with amateur journalism. Its members receive annual subscription to the *National Amateur*, but their names are not published on the rolls of any association.

Since the United Amateur Press Association of America had failed to bring together its alumni in any adequate fashion, several of its earliest members, headed by Charles W. Heins, established in 1941 the United Amateur Press Alumni Association. Its latest list records the acceptance of a total of 188 applicants for membership; it has been highly successful in recalling to amateur journalism many whose names were written brightly on the records twenty or thirty years ago but who later dropped out of sight. B. Franklin Moss is president; Russell L. Paxton, Roanoke, Virginia is secretary; and Charles W. Heins publishes the quarterly official organ, the *Phoenix*. As is the case with the Alumni Association, the United Alumni does not contemplate competing with The Fossils as the alumni body of amateur journalism as a whole. Several of its leaders are themselves Fossils and have urged eligibles among the United Alumni to associate with the more widely representative body. They have expressed it as the especial function of the United Alumni to bring together those whose period of activity is over, yet who wish to retain their contact with organized amateur journalism until eligible for The Fossils, or, again, to give similar service to those whose sole interest is in

retaining contact with their friends of other days in the parent organization.

The Fossils, of course, is pre-eminent fitted to bring together in fraternal association the alumni of all amateur press associations, and that is its avowed present purpose. Organized in 1904, it is entering into its fifth decade with broadened horizons. Now any person whose initial activity in printing, writing for, or editing an amateur journal occurred fifteen or more years prior to the time of application is eligible to membership. With a present membership of 150, whose early activity dates from the 1870s to 1930, it is the most representative body of alumni. Its officers are to be found on the editorial page. It invites all amateur journalists interested in retaining their affiliation with the hobby of their earlier days in purely fraternal, non-political fashion to become members.

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Fossil Burton Crane has received a Service appointment in the Pacific and is on leave from the *New York Times*. Edna Hyde McDonald will complete his editorship of the *National Amateur*. ♦

### WE WELCOME TO OUR RANKS:

ALFRED PENN BABCOCK, publisher for nearly twenty years of a variety of amateur papers, the best known of which is the *Quasi-Occasional Kitty Kat*. Two years ago established a record of approximately 225 pages of amateur papers in a single twelve-month. Brother of Lieutenant Ralph Babcock, whose *Scarlet Cockerel* ranks among the masterpieces of typography of all periods of amateur publishing. At present secretary-treasurer of N. A. P. A.

VICTOR E. BACON, publisher of *Bacon's Essays*, beginning in 1917. President of N. A. P. A., 1930-31. At present auditor with the United States Ordnance plant, St. Louis.

RHEINHART KLEINER, well known since his entrance into amateur journalism in 1913 as a poet of melodious verse, high in quality whether thoughtfully serious or dancingly light. Versatile and talented; an extensive contributor to the amateur press. Published the *Piper*. ♦

# FY'19 Ajay Finances

by Dave Tribby

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The calendar year may have just changed, but the new fiscal years of the major amateur press associations have been underway for a while: July 1 for NAPA, August 15 for The Fossils, and October 1 for AAPA. That's long enough to tally up income, expenses, and the number of members for Fiscal Year 2019.

For The Fossils, annual income of \$490.08 was \$125.14 more than \$364.94 in expenses. Thank you to those who donated a total of \$50.08. Our largest expense, printing and distributing Volume 115 of THE FOSSIL (four issues totaling 48 pages), came to \$303.83 or 83% of all expenses. This breaks down to \$199.24 for printing and \$104.59 for postage. The only other expenses were \$37.11 for the website (Internet Service Provider \$24.95 and domain registration \$12.16) and \$24 in bank fees (monthly \$2 service charge).

We gained one new member, John Shepherd, but lost Jack Swenson and Jack Visser to death.

## National Amateur Press Association

Of the three groups, NAPA ran the largest surplus, \$1,281.17—even though expenses included an extra *National Amateur* because costs for the June 2017 issue were not paid until after June 30. Although the total number of members declined by five, the number of fully paid regular members increased by one.

## American Amateur Press Association

AAPA has the most generous members, with over 25% of all income coming from gifts. That giving allowed the group to finish in the black. AAPA lost 14 (nearly 10%) of its members, bringing it near the all-time low in March 1952 (see chart on page 4). ♦

FINANCIAL	The Fossils	NAPA	AAPA
<b>Income</b>			
Dues	\$390.00	\$1,591.00	\$2,886.00
Subscriptions	\$60.00		
Donations	\$40.08	\$73.50	\$1,048.37
Convention		\$607.04	
Interest			\$3.14
Trust		\$2,400.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$490.08</b>	<b>\$4,671.54</b>	<b>\$3,937.51</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Official Organ	\$303.83	\$1,505.77	\$1,356.37
Website	\$37.11		\$171.17
Bank Charge	\$24.00		
Grants & Awards			\$50.00
Bundle		\$327.53	\$1,930.37
Sec-Treas		\$15.00	\$187.34
PayPal		\$21.14	\$20.26
Convention		\$1,069.00	
Recruiting		\$451.93	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$364.94</b>	<b>\$3,390.37</b>	<b>\$3,715.51</b>
<b>Net Income/Deficit</b>	<b>\$125.14</b>	<b>\$1,281.17</b>	<b>\$222.00</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$4,035.16</b>	<b>\$27,933.39</b>	<b>\$6,351.31</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>			
Regular	22	51	114
Same Household	1	7	17
Trial		5	
Ex-President		12	
Life	1	4	
Subscription	5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>131</b>
Change for year	-1	-5	-14

## Webmaster Report

by Dave Tribby

DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2019, The Fossils' website had 17,299 visitors, or an average of 47 visitors per day. (These statistics exclude "robots" or "spiders" that constantly visit the site to search its content.) There were a total of 28,776 page views, or about 1.66 pages viewed by each visitor per day. The home page is the most popular by far, with 6,030 visitors. Other pages with over 450 visitors include Contact (847), THE FOSSIL (735), Public Collections of Amateur Journals (631), Amateur Journalism History (561), and Amateur Journalism Awards (489).

The website continues to draw more readers to THE FOSSIL than the print edition. Here are the numbers for visitors who read the issues published in 2019:

January 2019	208
April 2019	138
July 2019	153
October 2019	102

Older issues with frequent downloads include: April 2012 (327), July 2009 (319), July 2006 (311), October 2017 (230), and January 2007 (225). Ken Faig's history of the Library of Amateur Journalism was viewed by 217 visitors.

There haven't been many significant changes to the site in the last year. There have been updates to repair links that moved or to reflect changes in library holdings of amateur journalism materials. I did add a biography of Peter Schaub to the Awards page, and the four issues of the official organ to THE FOSSIL page. ♦

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Gary T. Bossler, 145 Genoa Avenue SW, Massillon, OH  
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Kent Clair Chamberlain, 321 Clay St, Space #11, Ashland,  
OR 97520-1340

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

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 Goudsward, 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

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94611-1948

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

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8945

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

John Shepherd, 305 Belvedere Circle, Birmingham, AL  
35242-6630

W. Hal Shepherd, 1100 Danberry Lane, Birmingham, AL  
35242-8530

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

Pamela Y. Wesson, 3 Emery Street, Cambridge CB1 2AX,  
UNITED KINGDOM

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*If you are due soon, send a renewal to  
Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson.*

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## 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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Ken Faig, Jr., PRESIDENT, 2020 Chestnut Ave. Apt. 405,  
Glenview, IL 60025; [president@thefossils.org](mailto:president@thefossils.org)

Gary Bossler, 145 Genoa Avenue S.W., Massillon, OH  
44646; [gbossler@thefossils.org](mailto:gbossler@thefossils.org)

John Horn, 24300 Chenal Parkway, #71, Little Rock, AR  
72223; [jhorn@thefossils.org](mailto:jhorn@thefossils.org)

### Appointed Officers

**Official Editor:** Dave Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court,  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087; [editor@thefossils.org](mailto:editor@thefossils.org)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Tom Parson, 157 South Logan  
Street, Denver, CO 80209; [s-t@thefossils.org](mailto:s-t@thefossils.org)

**Librarian:** Mike Horvat, 22275 SW 102nd Place,  
Tualatin, OR 97062; [librarian@thefossils.org](mailto:librarian@thefossils.org)

**Webmaster:** Dave Tribby (contact information above)