

The Fossil

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New Fossil Trustee: David Goudsward

by Dave Tribby

AT THE START of the new fiscal year on August 15, *The Fossils* will see a change on the Board of Trustees for the first time in almost eight years.

In the April issue of *THE FOSSIL*, President Ken Faig announced he would continue for another two years on the board, and incumbent Trustee John Horn would file as candidate for a two-year term as trustee. The other trustee, Gary Bossler, had not responded as to whether he was interested in running again.

Fossil David Goudsward wrote to inquire about the position: "If Gary decides he does not want to continue on the board, I will volunteer to run for the position. I hope he decides to continue on, but this I can at least offer." Shortly thereafter Gary reported his intention to retire after the current term, so David became an official candidate for the position.

Because only David and John filed for the two open positions before the June 30 deadline, Ken declared the two candidates elected without the need to mail ballots.

David, 61, is a prolific author with many bylines in *THE FOSSIL* and a number of books available in print. Here is his biography on Amazon:

David Goudsward is the author of numerous articles on genealogy and New England megalithic sites as well as the books *America's Stonehenge: The Mystery Hill Story* (2003), *Ancient Stone Structures of New England* (2006), *H. P. Lovecraft in the Merrimack Valley* (2013), *Horror Guide to Massachusetts* (2014), *Horror Guide to Florida* (2015), and *Horror Guide to Northern New England* (2017). Recent books include *The Westford Knight and Henry Sinclair* (2020) and *Sun, Sand, and Sea Monsters* (2020).

Current projects include volumes 4 & 5 in the Horror Guide series (southern New England and Pennsylvania) and a study of HP Lovecraft's visits to Florida.

His interest in Lovecraft led him to correspondence with Ken Faig. After several years, Ken persuaded him to join *The Fossils* in 2012. A native of Haverhill, Massachusetts, he and his wife currently live in Lake Worth, Florida. You can read more about David in "From Social Outcast to Published Author" in the July 2018 issue of *THE FOSSIL* (no. 376), available online.

President Faig is pleased that David stepped forward: "I am very grateful for your *Fossils* membership, your outstanding contributions to our journal, and your willingness to serve on the board."

Gary Bossler, 85, leaves the board after serving on it continuously since October

2012, including eleven months as president in 2013-14. He previously was elected to a one-year term as *Fossils* president in 1995 and before that served as *Fossils* secretary-treasurer for five years.

He's been a member of the National Amateur Press Association since 1972 and held many offices in that organization, including mailer, official editor, and president.

The outgoing board of Ken Faig, Gary Bossler, and John Horn has been in position since September 30, 2014. At that time Gary stepped down as president, and Dave Tribby left the board to make room for Ken to join the Board and replace Gary as president. ♦



Incoming Trustee David Goudsward at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, New York, September 2019.

Charles Robert Burger (1864-1939): Amateur Politician

by Ken Faig, Jr.



President Ken Faig, Jr.

OVER MANY DECADES, beginning in the 1880s and extending into the 1930s, Charles Robert Burger was a prominent force in the politics of the National Amateur Press Association (NAPA). He was elected President of the organization for the 1894-95 term at NAPA's 1894 convention held in Boston, Massachusetts. The group photograph taken at the convention (reproduced in Spencer's *The History of Amateur Journalism*) shows Burger seated in the second row, directly behind Edith Miniter. He is handsomely dressed, with well-coiffed hair and a natty mustache—the image of a politician.

Otto A. Kamber, in the cartoon "Through the Eye of a Needle," drawn for the July 1894 number of his amateur magazine *Cycle*, depicted the head of Charles Burger, "the winning candidate," on the rising sun, with five amateur politicians struggling to lead a huge donkey through the eye of a needle labeled "Approval" (Spencer, p. 132).

Burger was heavily involved with the disputed NAPA presidential election in New York City in 1902, at which Anthony E. Wills defeated Boston's John Leary Peltret. Hal Bixby, in a cartoon published in the October 1902 number of his *Satellite*, depicted

a large central figure representing Charles R. Burger with a hand organ, while several amateur politicians danced to its music. From a lofty window an opposing politician shook his fist at the offending musician. The cartoon was drawn by Don C. Wilson, a Chicago amateur (Spencer, p. 132).

The interested reader can trace some of Burger's political maneuverings of the 1891-1902 era in Spencer (pp. 53-62). The 1880s were perhaps the heyday of the regional amateur press associations, and Burger played a role in organizing the Empire State Amateur Press Association in 1885, and was active in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey state associations in 1887. On July 2, 1888, he was elected to a six-month term as president of the Eastern Amateur Press Association in Philadelphia. But Burger's political interests did not end with his

own office-holding. He was probably happiest as a behind-the-scenes influencer. Some twentieth-century amateurs complained that he and Edwin Hadley Smith (another veteran politician) would meet at conventions to sort out the probable presidential officeholders for the next several years.

Burger's greatest loyalty certainly belonged to NAPA. He attended eighteen of its conventions: New York, 1883; Boston, 1885; Philadelphia, 1887; Chicago, 1888; Buffalo, 1889; Indianapolis, 1890; Philadelphia, 1891; Boston, 1892; Chicago, 1893; Boston, 1894; Chicago, 1895; Chicago, 1899; New York, 1902; Chicago, 1903; San Francisco, 1904; Philadelphia, 1906; Milwaukee, 1908; and Oakland, 1935. (He was third on an all-time list of convention attendants compiled by Edwin Hadley Smith in 1936. James F. Morton and Edwin B. Swift tied for first place with 22.) He also served as NAPA executive judge in 1892-93, 1895-96 (the traditional post-presidential term), and 1902-03.

Burger was born in New York City in August 1864, the son of James Burger and Elizabeth Ann (Nichol) Burger. The 1870 United States census recorded the family at 20 Exchange Place in New York City: James, age 40, a janitor, and Elizabeth, age 40, had both been born in Ireland. Their two sons Charles, age 6, and James, age 4, had been born in New York. Elizabeth's stated age in the 1870 census conflicts with later-stated ages (see below). The 1874-75 New York City directory listed James Burger, porter, with house at 20 Exchange Place. A May 1875 directory listed James Burger, clerk, at 42 Broad. James probably died about 1876. The 1877 New York City directory listed Elizabeth A. Burger, widow of James, janitor, with house at 42 Broad Street. The 1880 United States census recorded the household of James' widow on Jackson Avenue in Jersey City,



Charles Robert Burger at the NAPA conventions held in 1893 (left) and 1894 (right).

Hudson County, New Jersey (all members born New York of New York-born parents): Elizabeth Burger, age 50; Charles Burger, son, age 15; James Burger, son, age 14; William Burger, son, age 9; Robert Burger, son, age 5; and Lester Burger, son, age 3. The 1881 Jersey City directory listed Elizabeth Burger, widow of James, at 214 Jackson Avenue. The 1885 New Jersey state census enumerated Ann E. Burger in Jersey City ward 6.

James Cardwell Burger (born Nov. 21 or 24, 1866 New York, New York, died 1937 Denver, Colorado) removed ca. 1895 to Denver, Colorado with his brother Charles and became a fairly prominent businessman there, listed in *Who's Who on the Pacific Coast* in 1913, by which time he was president of the Union Deposit & Trust in Denver. He served two terms in the Colorado state senate, so he shared an affinity for politics with his brother Charles. He married Edith M. Brown (1867–1927) in New York City in September 1888. James and his wife are buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Denver. For what it is worth, James was a 33rd degree Mason and a Shriner. I suspect his brother Charles may also have had fraternal connections.



James C. Burger, Charles' brother, was a prominent banker and Mason.

William Bartholomew Burger (born April 8, 1871 New York, New York, died Jan. 3, 1934 Denver, Colorado) also removed to Colorado with his brother Charles. In 1902, he was associated with Charles in the Colorado Stock & Grain Company in Denver. He apparently remained single. He was an insurance company manager when he was enumerated in Denver in the 1930 United States census.

Of Charles' two other brothers, Robert Burger (born 1874–75 New York City) and Lester Burger (born 17 Jan 1876 New York City) I have not been able to find any record beyond their enumeration in Jersey City in the 1880 United States census and Lester's entry in a birth certificate index. James Burger's 1937 obituary noted that brother Charles was the only survivor.

Charles was already involved with the amateur journalism hobby in 1882, when he published *Bergen Post*, a three-column folio-sized journal printed on tinted paper, with Homer Maxwell Green (born Sept. 27, 1866 New York, died Mar. 6, 1948 Orange County, New York) in Jersey City. Green married Harriet Gurnee Boyd (1868–1953) in Campbell Hill, New York on Mar. 9, 1898. From 1920 onward, they lived in Hamptonburgh, New York, where they are buried. The run of *Bergen Post* at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) extends from 1882 to 1887.

After *Bergen Post*, Charles followed with *Invincible* (published in collaboration with Judson D. Russell and John Moody in New York City; AAS run 1884–85) and his best-known paper *Progress* (published in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1897; also possibly in Brooklyn, New York in 1884). Worldcat records that Charles collaborated with John L. Tomlinson on *Ink Drops* from Colorado Springs, Colorado beginning in 1897. His longtime friend and fellow Prohibitionist Willard O. Wylie first met Burger in 1883. Wylie wrote of his friend (Ahlhauser, p. 52):

Probably no man in amateur journalism has ever occupied the same relation to it as Mr. Burger. While many have disliked him, some have learned to love him.

As early as 1883, the Jersey City directory listed Elizabeth A. Burger, widow of James, at 37 Bostwick Avenue. Her sons Charles R. Burger and James C. Burger, both clerks, resided at the same address. The 1887 through 1891 Jersey City directories listed Elizabeth Burger, widow of James, at 154 Westside Avenue. Charles R. Burger was listed at 188 Virginia Avenue in the 1889 and 1890 directories. I have not found a marriage for Charles, but if he contracted one, this seems to be the likeliest period. The 1895 New Jersey state census enumerated Ann E. Burger, Charles R. Burger, and William B. Burger in ward 7 of Jersey City.

Truman J. Spencer on Burger

EXCERPTS from Truman J. Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* that mention Charles Burger:

Burger as NAPA president in 1894–95

President Burger devoted himself to Association affairs with an energy no preceding President, with the possible exception of Grant, had shown. He traveled thousands of miles, visiting different amateur centers, organizing local clubs, and securing new members. Thousands of circulars were widely circulated, many letters written, and several professional publications contained descriptive articles regarding amateur journalism. The membership roll was greatly increased, but more attention was paid to numbers than to quality. Several amateurs who became distinguished in after years were drawn in, however, at that time.

Burger's role in a 1902 political storm

At the heart of the tempest was the veteran expert in political craft, Charles R. Burger. A forceful speaker, quick as a flash to seize an advantage, adept in the use of political strategy and rules of parliamentary practice, he possessed a dogged persistency which allowed his opponents no opportunity for slumber. There was undoubtedly sharp practice on both sides, some of it probably motivated by the convenient doctrine that it is sometimes necessary to fight fire with fire. ♦

John T. Nixon on Burger

EXCERPTS from John T. Nixon's *History of the National Amateur Press Association* that mention Charles Burger:

Burger participates in an 1891 scheme

The campaign of Mr. Tomlinson for the presidency was something unique in amateur history. The Tomlinson campaign committee printed a large number of small papers, containing about fifty words each of original matter, and used as editors the names of five or six persons to each paper. These persons had filled out for them proxy votes, and Messrs. Tomlinson and Burger carried to Philadelphia with them the money to pay the dues of these "amateurs"—in fact, the purchase price of the National presidency.

Burger as NAPA president in 1894-95

The administration of Charles R. Burger as president of the National Association was one different from all preceding and following, because of the systematic method of recruiting adopted and carried on by Mr. Burger. The laureate recorder, James F. Morton, Jr., says:

President Burger set the example of working with an energy which no preceding president had shown, traveling thousands of miles to visit the different amateur centers, everywhere organizing local clubs, and adding new members to the roll of the National Association. In his arduous labors he was warmly seconded by the recruit committee, headed by Edwin H. Smith and John H. Stover, together with many individual members of the Association. Thousands of circulars were published and very widely distributed, and innumerable letters written. ... The result of this and other forms of recruit work was the swelling of our membership list to an unprecedented degree. ♦

The 1900 United States census captured Charles R. Burger (born August 1864 New York of New York-born parents) and his brother William B. Burger (born April 1871 New York of New York-born parents), both tailors, both single, as roomers in the household of J. Arthur and Mary A. Connell in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Massachusetts-born J. Arthur Connell was a mining broker.

Maybe J. Arthur Connell got Charles interested in the brokerage business. The 1901 Jersey City directory listed Charles R. Burger, broker, at 186 Claremont Avenue. His mother Elizabeth Burger, widow of James, resided at the same address. Their listings were the same in the 1903 Jersey City directory, except that their address had changed to 188a Claremont Avenue. However, the 1902 Colorado Springs directory listed both Charles R. Burger and his brother William B. Burger as boarders at 219 E. Kiowa. They were both asso-

ciated with the Colorado Stock & Grain Company, Charles as manager and William as secretary.

Burger's sketch in Ahlhauser's *Ex-Presidents of the National Amateur Press Association* (1919) says that he removed to Pasadena, California for his health in 1895, but this is probably an error for Colorado. By 1905, however, Charles had relocated to Pasadena, where he spent most of the rest of his life. The 1905 Pasadena directory listed him as a clerk for P. E. Sweeley, residing at 32 Orange Place. The 1906 Pasadena directory listed him as manager for Colorado Stock & Grain Company, residing at 268 W. Colorado Avenue. His mother Mrs. A. E. Burger had joined him at the same address. The 1907 Pasadena directory listed Charles R. Burger, stockbroker, with residence at 275 W. California. In 1908, both Charles R. Burger and his brother W. B. Burger were listed with this address. In 1909, Charles R. Burger and Mrs. Ann E. Burger were listed there. The Pasadena voter register for 1908 listed Charles R. Burger as a Democrat.

The 1910 United States census listed the following household at 275 California Street in Pasadena: Charles R. Burger (head), age 43, single, born New York of New York-born parents, broker; Lida Nichol (aunt), age 57, single, born New York of Scottish-born father and New York-born mother; Elizabeth Burger (mother), age 64, widow, 5 children borne, 4 children living, born New York of Scottish-born father and New York-born mother; Miles Elliot (servant), age 13, single, born Iowa (birthplace of parents unknown). The 1912 Pasadena directory listed Mrs. Ann E. Burger, Miles E. Burger and Miss Lyde F. Nichol as residents of 275 W. California. The 1913 Pasadena directory listed Ann E. Burger (widow of James), Charles R. Burger, and Miles E. Burger, student, at 275 W. California. Charles and Miles remained at 275 W. California in 1914. I have not had any luck trying to find either Elizabeth Ann Nichol or Lida Nichol in early censuses. I am skeptical that Elizabeth's age or place of birth were correct in the 1910 census. I suspect the information provided in the 1870 census (see above) was more accurate. If so, she would have been about 80 years old in 1910.

Miles Elliott Burger (born Aug. 20, 1896 Delmar, Idaho, died March 7, 1936 Riverside Co., California), the son of Albert Ellis Elliott (1848-1899) and Amanda W. Perkins (1860-1898), eventually became Charles R. Burger's adopted son. His natural parents were both born in Iowa. He served in the Coast Artillery from Dec. 14, 1917 to May 21, 1919. He married Aug. 12, 1927 (Los Angeles, California) Grace C. Keim (born 29 Sep 1903, Nebraska, died Jan. 19, 1963, Delano, California), the daughter of Will Seward Keim (1873-1959) and Fernande Rose Godfirnan (1875-1942). They had children Robert Miles Burger (1928-2004) and Martha Rose Burger (1929-1994). The 1922 Pasadena voter register

listed Miles E. Burger, farmer, at 190 S. Maringo Avenue. He declined to state his political affiliation. His father Charles R. Burger, retired, Prohibition Party, resided at the same address. The 1930 Pasadena and Santa Monica directories listed Miles E. Burger (wife Grace C.) as a rancher residing at 2733 Military Avenue in West Los Angeles. The 1934 Burbank (Los Angeles County) voter register listed Miles E. Burger, Prohibition Party, and his wife Mrs. Grace C. Burger, Republican Party, at 840 N. Providence. Miles died at age thirty-nine on March 7, 1936. I don't know if his adoptive father Charles remained close with Miles' widow or their two children.

By 1916, Charles had apparently become involved in state, as well as amateur, politics. The 1916 Los Angeles city directory listed him as state chairman of the Prohibition Party, with offices at 129 W. 2nd (room 215) and residence in Pasadena. The 1918 Los Angeles city directory listed him as a member of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission, with residence in Pasadena. The 1920 United States census enumerated the following household at 275 California Street in Pasadena: Charles R. Burger (head), age 55, widower, born New York of New York-born parents, civil service commissioner for Los Angeles County; Miles E. Burger (adopted son), age 23, single, born Idaho of U.S.-born parents, farm laborer; Harry M. Langford (boarder), age 37, single, born South Carolina of South Carolina-born parents, dairyman. I have not found a California death record for Charles' mother Elizabeth Ann (Nichol) Burger.

The 1922 Pasadena voter register listed Charles R. Burger, retired, Prohibition Party, at 190 S. Maringo Avenue, the same residence as his adoptive son Miles. The 1926, 1927, 1928, and 1932 Pasadena directories listed Charles R. Burger with residence at 275 W. California. The 1927 directory listed his occupation as stockbroker. The 1930 United States census enumerated the following household at 269 S. Delancey Avenue in Pasadena: Joseph H. Mayo (head), age 62, single, born New York of French Canadian-born parents; Charles R. Burger (lodger), age 65, single, born New York of New York-born parents. Neither man stated an occupation.

The 1935 and 1937 Pasadena directories listed Charles R. Burger at 133 W. Del Mar. According to *National Amateur*, Charles maintained his mailing address at a Post Office box in Pasadena through June 1938. In September it changed to 992 Collier Dr., San Leandro, California.

It appears there was another man named Charles R. Burger living in Southern California in the 1930s. The 1934 Lynwood City (Los Angeles County) voter register listed Charles R. Burger, Democrat, at 4152 Imperial Highway. The 1938 San Fernando City (Los Angeles County) voter register listed Charles R. Burger, attor-

ney, Democrat, at 623 N. Maclay Avenue.

Our Charles Burger, age 74, died in Tuolumne County, California on May 31, 1939. Tuolumne County is located east of the Bay Area and contains parts of Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park. I have not found a place of burial for Charles. Charles died about a month before NAPA's convention met in Berkeley, California in July 1939.

I hope that some better researcher than I will find more about Charles' career in the amateur journalism hobby. I would also like to discover more about Charles' marriage, if he contracted one. (Since only the 1920 United States census—when his adoptive son was in his household—stated Charles' marital condition as widower, perhaps in actual fact he was never married. But if never married, why would Charles have had a household separate from his mother's in Jersey City in 1889 and 1890?) The fact that he adopted Miles Elliott as his son tells me he probably had no natural children. I would love to know how Miles Elliott came to be a servant in Charles' household in Pasadena when the 1910 United States census was enumerated.

Later statements to the contrary notwithstanding, I see no reason to doubt the testimony of the 1870 census that his parents were born in Ireland. In his reminiscences as recorded in Ahlhauser, Charles' friend Willard O. Wylie mentioned a visit to Dublin, Ireland during which Charles fell seriously ill. Perhaps he had gone to Ireland to visit relatives.

The memory of Charles Robert Burger, whose political activity stirred so much controversy among NAPA members, has largely faded. Yet, the mysteries concerning the life of the handsome young man whose image adorned the 1894 NAPA convention group photograph endure—and perhaps always will. ♦

Fossil Obituary

FROM THE FOSSIL no. 94, April 1940, p.119:

Fossil Burger, perhaps the most active participant in the political affairs of amateur journalism during the past sixty years, died in Modesto, Cal., May 31. He was born in New York City in 1865, and entered amateur journalism in 1882, when with Fossil Homer Green he issued the *Bergen Post*. Later, for some years, he published *Progress*.

He early became interested in amateur journalistic associations, and has attended more conventions than any other amateur journalist. In all of them he took a part, usually in the field of politics. He was Recording Secretary of the National A.P.A. in 1887, Executive Judge in 1892 and 1895, and was elected President in 1894. His administration was one of great activity and enterprise.

Failing health compelled him to reside in California for the last forty years. For some time he was President of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission. ♦

Newspaper Archives Supplement Burger's Story

by Dave Tribby

PRESIDENT Ken Faig has put together a detailed look at the life and family of Charles R. Burger, mainly by using records found on the genealogy websites Ancestry and Family Search. I share Ken's interest in genealogy research and have also used those resources, but a few years ago discovered a wealth of information can sometimes be found in newspaper archives. Some resources are free, such as *Chronicling America* from the Library of Congress, found at

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

I supplement the free services with subscriptions to Genealogy Bank and Newspapers.com, each of which has its own collection of scanned newspapers.

Searching for Charles Burger presented a few challenges. It turns out to be a fairly common name, so I searched for "Charles R. Burger" and restricted the search to geographic areas where he lived. I may have missed some relevant references, but the alternative was to wade through thousands of useless entries.

His earliest mention is in a June 1883 report on the Garden State Amateur Press Association that lists him as an officer. Regional and national amateur journalism meetings were regularly covered in those days, and he was prominent on both levels. Other early references in his local newspapers briefly mention his travels or other activities (e.g., "Mr. Charles R. Burger and mother are sojourning now at the Catskills"). His trips were often in connection with amateur journalism or Y.M.C.A. gatherings.

In March 1889 he presided over a meeting of the Hudson County Temperance Alliance. A few days later he was the substitute speaker for a lecture on the effect of alcohol. "Through his urgent appeals many applications for membership were secured." Four months later he was the Prohibitionist representative on the Hudson County Ballot Reform Association. In January 1890 he is listed as an officer in the Madison Council No. 12, Royal Templars of Temperance, a Scottish Rite Masonic organization that promoted total abstinence temperance. He was a representative to the Prohibition State Convention at Trenton in April 1892.

The Jersey City, N. J. papers of the 1890s had several references, mainly related to his activities as president of the Greenville Y.M.C.A., or at the Linden Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church where he served as trustee and president of the Epworth League (a Methodist young adult association). In April 1891 he was mentioned in connection with the formation of the Greenville United Building and Loan Association and his election as an auditor.

The May 29, 1894 *Jersey City News* reported a Y.M.C.A. social session welcoming

... Charles R. Burger upon his return from a six months' stay at Phoenix, Dakota. [sic] The feature of the evening was an address by Mr. Burger in which he told of his experiences in the wild west and with the aid of a number of excellent photographs described the mode of living at the Indian reservations and the method of teaching pursued at the Government Indian schools.

Charles did a lot of traveling in 1894, as the *News* reported his departure for the July NAPA convention and then on August 29 noted he "will leave shortly on a pleasure trip through the mountainous regions of New York. He will be gone four weeks." In May 1895 the *Jersey Journal* noted he "will leave this month for a two month's tour of the Pacific states. Mr. Burger will go to Yellowstone and to the coast, returning about Aug. 1."

Ken's article questioned whether Charles married during his time in New Jersey. There is no mention of a wife in any of the newspaper articles, and at a February 1895 meeting of the Epworth League he spoke on "The Trials and Tribulations of a Bachelor's Life."

The August 28, 1895 *Jersey City News* reported on Charles' decision to move West:

CHARLES R. BURGER GOING WEST

Ill Health Compels a Popular Greenville Man to Move to Colorado.

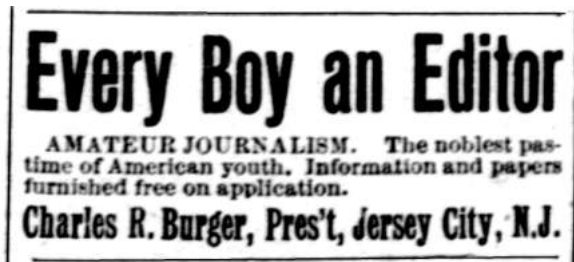
Mr. Charles R. Burger, well known in Greenville and West Bergen, has accepted the position of manager of the John G. Morgan Banking Company at Colorado Springs, and Mamton, Colorado. Mr. Burger was a resident of this city for over twenty-five years, and during his residence here was prominently identified with the Hudson County Prohibition Committee, Y. M. C. A. and Linden Avenue and West Side M. E. Church.

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Linden Avenue Church and Chapter 800 of the Epworth League, and other places of trust and honor, his success where others failed gave him a record for executive ability.

Poor health and an urgent necessity for a change of climate induced him to sever the many ties that bound him to Greenville. In a letter to a friend in this city Mr. Burger states that he is delighted with the mountainous region, and reports that he is rapidly regaining health. His many friends and acquaintances in this city wish him prosperity in his new position.

Even after his departure, the *News* would run an occasional news brief about Charles, such as this one from December 23, 1895:

Charles R. Berger, for twenty years a resident of this city, ... is becoming quite prominent in his new home



1895 advertisement for NAPA

at Colorado Springs. The *Evening Telegraph*, of that city, mentions his election as president of the board of brokers and the *Mining Era* of the same city, mentions his election as vice-president of the Aetna Gold Mining Company. He is also secretary of the J. G. Morgan Brokerage Company.

I did not find relevant news articles from Colorado during the period 1894–1905, perhaps because the Colorado Springs newspapers of that era have not been scanned or the optical character recognition algorithms did not catch his name.

The earliest reference after Charles moved to California was his letter in the May 19, 1905 *Los Angeles Evening Express* arguing for the closing of saloons. The July 18, 1907 *Los Angeles Times* included, "Charles R. Burger yesterday sold to Phillip E. Sweeley the ten-room residence and barn on Raymond avenue and Robert street for \$7000." This is the same Sweeley Ken found listed as Charles' employer in the 1905 city directory.

In July 1908, as a delegate to the Prohibition convention in Columbus, Ohio, Charles said, "There is no question" William Jennings Bryan would be elected president. After the convention he was headed to Washington, D. C., for the international Good Templar's convention. The next month the *Express* reported he was the Prohibitionist candidate for assemblyman from Pasadena. In November he came in third of five candidates, with 684 votes; the Republican winner had 3759 votes. The following October he was elected trustee in the Good Templars state grand lodge.

The number of search "hits" in California papers picked up in 1911 and 1912 as Charles became more prominent in the Prohibition party (as chairman of the Prohibition County Committee he was "one of the most prominent prohibitionists of Southern California") and Good Templars (he became grand chief templar of the California organization). He also was secretary of Citizens' Suffrage League of Pasadena and helped form a Municipal League in Pasadena, "to furnish information to the voters on all public questions and concerning candidates." After being elected state chairman of the Prohibition party in 1913 he was mentioned in news articles throughout the state as he visited local party gatherings. He also ran for Pasadena city commission in the April 1913 election and received 2,078 votes – 1,253 short of winning one of the five seats. Charles

was replaced as Prohibition state chairman in March 1916, but he continued to be active in the party and also in the Good Templars.

One of Ken's mysteries was solved by an April 23, 1913 article reporting the problems James C. Burger had visiting his ill mother, Ann Elizabeth Burger, who died hours after his arrival two weeks earlier. Searching that name returned a death record showing she died 17 Apr 1913 at age 73 (birth year 1840).

When a member left the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission at the end of 1915, the Board of Supervisors scrambled to name a replacement, with Socialist, Labor, and Prohibition factions all exerting pressure. Burger was listed among those in contention, but the job eventually went to a prominent Democrat. The *Times* noted

A lively scramble for the office is expected. Although the place pays less than \$50 a month, only a small stipend for each meeting attended, and is largely honorary, it carries the weight of dictation as to who shall or shall not continue in the employ of the county, and thereby gives great powers to the members.

On November 18, 1917 the *Times* reported a new opening on the commission:

The job of County Civil Services Commissioner is a fat one. There is not much to do and the members get \$10 every time they hold a session. It's a wonder there are not more candidates in the field. ... so far Charles R. Burger is the only aspirant who has come out in the open. Maybe it's because they feel that it would be useless to oppose Mr. Burger.

A December 12 story added, "Charles R. Burger, well-known reformer, is a candidate, and it is stated that he will have the support of three or four of the Supervisors." On January 1, 1918, the *Times* reported he had, indeed, been appointed for a six year term. The story noted, "Mr. Burger is not only well known in Prohibition circles, but he has been actively identified with the reclamation of young men who were under the ban. He has taken a number of first offenders and tried to make men of them." A *Times* political columnist opined several days later, "... the supervisors are to be congratulated. Mr. Burger is a square shooter, is opposed to the closed door stuff, and very popular, despite the fact that he is a registered Prohib."

Three months later the same column noted a change in Charles' priorities:

Charles R. Burger would rather be right than President: also he would rather hold his sure job as a member of the county Civil Service Commission at \$10 per day when it meets than take a chance as the Prohibition candidate for Governor. He has been tendered the nomination but turned it down.

In September 1919, acting as special deputy sheriff, Charles escorted three teenage boys via train to the reformatory at Ione, 375 miles north of Los Angeles. He

BURGER HEADS 'DRY' FORCES

C. A. Toby of Oakland Presides at Socialist Convention; War Condemned.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)
[Special Dispatch to "The Examiner."]
SACRAMENTO, September 15.—The Prohibitionists in convention here today selected Charles R. Burger of Los Angeles as chairman of their State Central Committee for the general election campaign.

The convention adopted a brief platform emphasizing its advocacy of the proposed State-wide prohibition amendment declaring the belief that "Only such parties as are openly pledged to support the amendment can be trusted with its enforcement when adopted."

The Prohibitionists declared in favor of the redlight abatement proposition, the anti-prize fight measure and aligned themselves against the so-called Royal Arch measure to prohibit elections on liquor questions to once in every eight years.

NEW COUNTY OFFICIAL.

Former Prohibition Leader Named to Civil Service Board by the Supervisors.

Charles R. Burger of Pasadena, former State and county chairman of the Prohibition party, was appointed by the Board of Supervisors yesterday to succeed former Mayor George Alexander as a member of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Alexander's terms expired December 1 last, and Mr. Burger will assume his duties at once. The appointment is for six years.

Mr. Burger is not only well known in Prohibition circles, but he has been actively identified with the reclamation of young men who were under the ban. He has taken a number of first offenders and tried to make men of them. He is a graduate of Trinity College, New York; a former member of the United States Civil Service Association of New York, and a former member of the New York Press Club. He was a reporter on the New York World under Col. George Harvey.

Left to right: San Francisco Examiner, Sept. 16, 1914; Los Angeles Times, Jan. 1, 1910 and July 27, 1920; and Pasadena Post, June 24, 1933.

BURGER IS FREE; CASE DISMISSED.

State Unable to Produce Witnesses; Court Says no Diligence Shown.

Charles R. Burger, County Civil Service Commissioner, indicted on charges of contributing to the delinquency of several youths, won at his retrial yesterday when Judge McCormick dismissed the case at the request of Dep. Dist.-Atty. Clark. The court first denied the motion of the State to continue the trial. Mr. Clark stated that the principal witness, William Russell, is in Oregon and has not been subpoenaed. The prosecution was not prepared to go to trial as it had no material witnesses to produce. A continuance was further asked on the ground that the District Attorney had no deputy to assign to the case in the event that Mr. Clark was called as a witness for the prosecution. The continuance was opposed by Attorneys Hanna and Richardson on the ground that the prosecution had not shown diligence. The court took this view of it.

Mr. Clark then moved that the case be dismissed in view of the fact that it would be a waste of time and money to go to trial. The court granted this motion. He stated the facts showed that the District Attorney's office had failed to subpoena any witnesses or produce any evidence in support of the counts in the indictment. No diligence whatever had been exercised in the matter, the judge said. On June 10 the case had been set for trial for yesterday, and since then nothing had been done to prepare for it.

At the recent trial, when the jury disagreed, Mr. Burger was acquitted as to two of the counts on a directed verdict by the court. The case went to trial on the other two counts.

In a statement Mr. Burger said: "There was never any justification for this trial; there was no evidence upon which a reasonable jury could have brought in a verdict other than not guilty."

Man Stricken By Paralysis Summons Aid

Charles R. Burger Lies Helpless 24 Hours

Charles R. Burger, who suffered a stroke of paralysis Thursday noon and lay alone in his home, 275 West California street, until 2 p. m. yesterday before being able to attract attention, was removed to the Physicians and Surgeons Hospital last night after Dr. E. M. Johnstone had visited him at the home of a friend.

Symptoms Favorable

The former member of the county civil service board rallied from the first shock under medical treatment and Dr. Johnstone stated last night that the symptoms generally are favorable though Mr. Burger is paralyzed on the left side of his face, involving the left side of his body and his left arm. However, his left leg is not so severely affected, and Dr. Johnstone said his patient may ultimately walk again.

Fortitude Revealed

Mr. Burger, with rare pluck after neighbors had found him dragging himself along the floor of his home and had called the police ambulance, insisted on being taken to the home of friends at 133 West Delmar street. There cousins residing in Los Angeles were notified and came to take charge of their relative. Mr. Berger's brother, past Imperial Potentate of the Shrine, was notified in Colorado of his brother's plight and may come here to visit him.

It was more than twenty-five hours after the stroke that the sufferer was able to attract attention. His home stands quite a way from the nearest house and since his voice was affected his feeble cries were not heard.

was outside their compartment when two of the boys escaped via the window as the train slowed down in Merced. The sheriff claimed Charles had not followed his orders to keep them in irons during the trip. A grand jury investigated how they got away. In November a news story indicated the scope had expanded, with accusations that another commissioner violated work rules. They also called as witnesses several of the teenagers Charles had worked with over the years.

The jury took four months to complete its investigation and on December 19 indicted Charles on three misdemeanor counts of "contributing to the dependency" of three youths: one of the juveniles who escaped and two others whom he had worked with earlier. Charles denied all charges. He pointed out that all three accusers had criminal records, and suggested the charges were due to politics. "His statement asserted that five members of the grand jury, known to be hostile to the civil service commission, tried to force his resignation by threatening him with prosecution." The Board of Supervisors held that Charles had a "clear and perfect defense" and did not ask for his resignation. His local church and the Good Templars both issued strong statements supporting him.

A December 20 *Times* article went into great detail, not only about the charges that he had improper relationships with the young men, but also about Charles's life. He had been state and county chairman of the Prohibition party for about five years, up until about four years previous. After completing a four-year term as

grand chief of the Good Templars, he had recently been chosen to fill the position for a second time. Several associates attested to his strong character and good principles. One noted, "he was engaged in the brokerage business in New York and Denver before coming to Los Angeles about fifteen years ago." Another recalled, "He took one boy out of the Good Templar's orphan home in Vallejo and adopted him under the name of Miles Burger. ... I know of one or two boys in Pasadena who have been given a fair start in life by Mr. Burger."

The trial began May 26, but two of the charges quickly unraveled. Two of the accusers retracted their previous testimony, asserting that Charles had treated them honorably and they only gave evidence against him because of threats from the District Attorney's office. The jury hung on the third count, and a second tri-

al was scheduled. (A June 20, 1920 article in the *Times* cited the case as part of the problem with allowing women on juries. The headline: "Expense of Retrying Big Cases Hits Taxpayers Hard; Women Line Up Against Male Defendants.")

When the second trial came to court July 26, the prosecution revealed the principal witness was in Oregon and had not been subpoenaed, and so they could not proceed. After failing to get a continuance, the prosecutor moved for dismissal, "in view of the fact that it would be a waste of time and money." The motion was granted and Charles' legal ordeal was over.

Charles's opinions about various candidates continued to be quoted in numerous political articles in the early 1920s. He also was cited in articles about the Good Templars and the Civil Service Commission. In December 1921 he was elected president of the commission. In 1922 he ran for state senator as both a Prohibitionist and Democrat, but lost.

After he resigned from the commission in January 1923 he did not appear in the news until 1925, when his brother James was in town to be installed as imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine. A May 29 article in the *Pasadena Evening Post* mentioned Charles had "arrived from his ranch at Imperial." A list of delinquent taxes in the July 31, 1931 issue of *Imperial Valley Press* (El Centro, California) includes a \$369 entry for 80 acres in the county owned by Charles R. Burger.

Charles made a rare appearance in a November 4, 1932 *Pasadena Post* political column:

Illustrative of the strange bedfellowship of politics, I find Charles R. Burger wearing a "Norman Thomas for President" button. ... He left his old party four years ago when it endorsed Mr. Hoover. He doesn't like political alliances, and carefully avoids voting for any candidate who might stand a chance of being elected. I am quite certain he doesn't believe in Socialism but is merely following out this year his old habit of placing his ballot where he thinks it will make the loudest protest.

Mr. Burger was formerly chairman of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission. It would be a good thing for the county if he were on that body now, for the commission needs stirring up and he is a notably efficient stirrer.

I found one last significant article about Charles in the press: "Man Stricken By Paralysis Summons Aid," in the *Pasadena Post* of June 24, 1933. He suffered a stroke at home at noon on June 22nd but could not attract attention for 26 hours. He suffered a mid-August relapse in the hospital, but recovered sufficiently to attend the 1935 NAPA convention in Oakland. According to the *National Amateur*, he chaired the resolutions committee and spoke at several sessions.

I had one more publication to check: THE FOSSIL. Looking at membership lists, I see Charles appears for

the first time in September 1935 (Box 345, Pasadena). In September 1938 his address changed to 992 Collier Dr., San Leandro, Cal., and in April 1939 to c/o Frank Sweeley, Sonora, Cal. Frank Sweeley was the son of the P. E. Sweeley that Charles worked for in 1905.

Charles R. Burger lived much of his life in the public eye, leaving a wider media trail than most people.



The opening paragraph of Ken's article mentions that Charles R. Burger looks sharp in the 1894 NAPA convention photo.

You can see that picture in the previous issue of THE FOSSIL (no. 391), available on our website. Charles also appears in the 1893 group photograph, also available online, in the October 2020 issue (no. 385).



This issue is completed and mailed a couple of weeks early in order to beat the U. S. Postal Service rate increase of about 8% that goes into effect on July 10.



The last issue was a test: I had the printer use color (which requires a higher grade of paper) rather than the usual black and white production. Those of you who read the online version know THE FOSSIL has used color heads and dividers since the start of volume 113 (October 2016). I chose a dark orange for this volume, but that became an unsatisfactory pale when printed in grayscale. Since the April issue was only eight pages, it was a good time to see what printed color looks like.

I saw a marked improvement – not just by adding the color elements, but the black and white photos seemed crisper and more vivid. One reader sent a message saying he "enjoyed the colorful issue."

Of course, the higher quality came at a price. Folding and printing cost \$2.66 per issue, compared to \$1.06 for black and white printing. The comparison for twelve pages is \$3.99 and \$1.59. Postage adds 78 cents (84 cents after July 10).

We charge \$15 for a subscription, which comes out to \$3.75 per issue. If we want to keep a stable balance in the treasury, a mixture of eight and twelve page issues allows some to be printed with color. Several members and subscribers include a donation with their dues, and those funds can defray the cost of color printing.

Since this issue included quite a few color photos it seemed worthwhile to try color printing again. In the next issue I'll include a financial analysis of the 2021–2022 fiscal year and we can see if income is matching expenses.

In the meantime, feel free to let me know whether you believe that color is worth the added expense. ♦

1986 AAPA Convention

by Dave Tribby

THE AMERICAN Amateur Press Association's 50th anniversary convention held at the Admiral Benbow Inn in Tampa, Florida, over August 15-17 was one of the group's largest, attracting 79 members and friends.

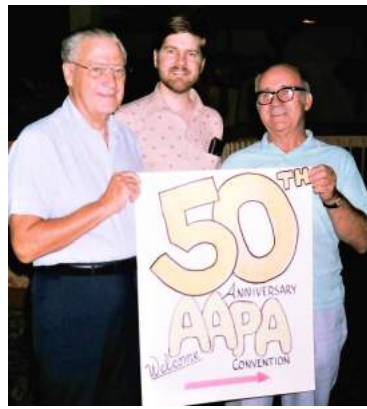
Panel discussions covered AAPA's past and future. Charlie Bush cajoled over \$750 from members at the auction. The Fossils hosted a luncheon and held its annual business meeting. Banquet speaker Sheldon Wesson's topic was "AAPA in Youthful Maturity." The Sunday picnic was hosted by J. Ed and June Newman.

When Ivan Snyder recently came across negatives of photos he took at the convention, he scanned them, documented who was included, and shared them with me. I reviewed my own snapshots and selected several to scan and add to the collection. I then uploaded 95 images to a Google Photos album, available at

tinyurl.com/aapa1986

and linked from the "conventions" section of AAPA's website.

Here are a selection of those pictures.



Charlie Bush, Dave Tribby, Regis Racke



Les & Elaine Boyer



In front rows: George Stallings, Harry & Marjorie Spence, Lucille Adams, John Carroll, Jack Scott, Carol Carroll



Ruby Quillman, Stephen Bayuzick, J. Ed Newman



Ivan Snyder, Roy Lindberg



Anna Beth & John Vaglianti



John & Robyn Horn



Marge Adams Petrone, Bill Groveman, Mike O'Connor



Fossil Officers Ruby Quillman, Dick Fleming, J. Ed Newman



Dick Fleming



Fred Liddle, Dave Tribby, Sheldon Wesson



Fred Liddle, Lee Hawes, Helen Wesson



Pam, Sheldon, & Helen Wesson



Jim Deane, Wilbur Doctor, Earl L'Abbe



Jack Bond



Ivan Snyder, Linda Donaldson, Joe D. & Joseph A. Diachenko



Gerry & Bill Groveman, Paul & Carolyn Jackson



J. Ed Newman, Nils Bull Young



Linda Donaldson



Tommy Randolph, Ed Wall



Joe Curran



John Hancock



Clarence & Millicent Prowell, Ruby Quillman

Hawes Endowment Provides \$1K for LAJ

by Dave Tribby

THE ENDOWMENT fund created six years ago by amateur journalists generated more than \$1,000 last year for maintenance of the largest collection of amateur journals and related materials, housed in the Memorial Library Special Collections department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

According to the 2021 Endowment Financial Report released by the University of Wisconsin Foundation in June, the Leland M, Hawes, Jr. Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) received \$4,388 in investment return from the endowment portfolio's performance during the calendar year, in addition to \$1,336 from donors. From this income, \$1,022 (4.5% of the endowment fund's market value) funded LAJ cataloging and preservation work, \$256 (1%) was paid to the Foundation for managing the endowment, and the remaining \$4,446 was added to the endowment's market value. Here is how the fund has performed over the past two years:

	2021	2020
Value on January 1	\$24,427.98	\$20,023.62
Gift additions	\$1,336.00	\$3,085.00
Investment return	\$4,388.00	\$2,408.07
Support for LAJ	-\$1,021.57	-\$892.77
Administration fee	-\$255.92	-\$195.94
Value on December 31	\$28,874.49	\$24,427.98

The UW Foundation endowment portfolio had a successful year, returning 18.4% in 2021. It has averaged 11.9% over the past five years, and 9.7% over the last ten years.

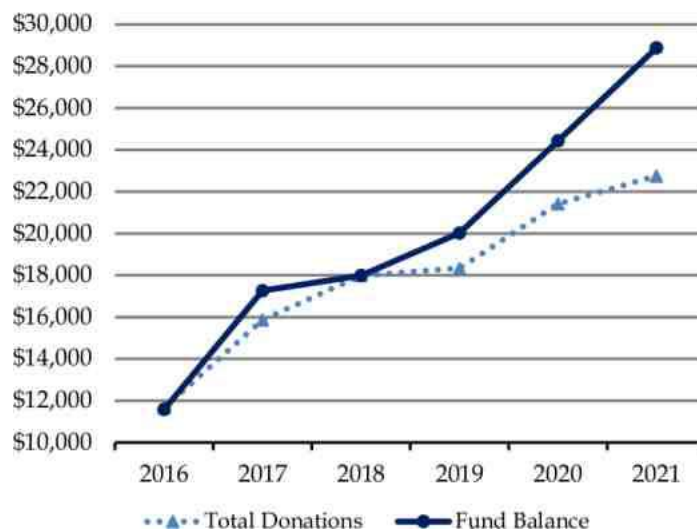
Amateur journalism groups and individuals have donated \$22,756 since fundraising for the Hawes Fund began in 2014. After passing the \$10,000 threshold to become an official endowment in 2016, it has provided a total of \$4,297 in support for the LAJ. The chart above shows the total donations to the fund and the market value of the fund (donations plus portfolio income minus LAJ support and administration fees) since 2016.

The history of the LAJ starts in 1896 when Edwin Hadley Smith began preserving the first generation of amateur journals, going back to the 1870s. The Fossils bought the collection from him in 1916 and over the years found several institutions to house it. In 2004 The Fossils transferred the LAJ to UW–Madison.

The endowment fund is named after past Fossil president Lee Hawes (1929–2013), a leading amateur journalist for 71 years and a strong LAJ supporter.

Donations to the Hawes Fund are tax-deductible. For information on how to make a contribution, visit The Fossils' website. ♦

Hawes Endowment Fund



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

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