

The Fossil

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President's Message

The Boy Editor Who Became a Murderer

by Ken Faig, Jr.

RICHARD Albert Loeb (1905–1936) was the son of Albert Henry Loeb (1868–1924) and Anna Henrietta Bohnen (1874–1950). His father was vice president and treasurer of Sears, Roebuck and a close friend of its chairman Julius Rosenwald (1862–1932). Richard and his three brothers grew up in the wealthy Kenwood neighborhood of Chicago's South Side.

In 1924, he and his friend Nathan F. Leopold, Jr. (1904–1971) were convicted in the “thrill killing” of Bobby Franks on May 21 of that year. Both were sentenced to life terms for the murder and 99-year terms for the kidnapping (the sentences to run concurrently). Loeb was murdered in prison in 1936, while his friend Leopold was paroled in 1958.

Loeb was a bright boy. The following comes from a psychiatrist's report prepared for his trial (source: famous-trials.com/leopoldandloeb/1733-psychiatrists compiled by Douglas O. Linder):

In 1912 at the age of seven, he and Jack Mandel built a five-foot square room with a pointed roof. This was used as a play house. A year or so later the boys formed a guinea pig company and used the playhouse for the office of the company. In 1916, Richard Loeb, with five or six other boys, published two issues of a small three by five inch 24 page journal, called *Richard's Magazine*. His contribution was that of being editor, manager, and



The sensational trial of Leopold and Loeb made headlines throughout the nation during the summer of 1924, from their surprise guilty plea on July 21 until they were sentenced to life in prison on September 10.

author. His writings showed quite advanced thinking for a boy of his age, and reflected well the humanitarian environment of his home.

Julius Rosenwald sent a copy of the magazine to his friend former president Theodore Roosevelt, who sent the young editor a note including the sentiment: “It does me good to see young men of your stamp growing up in this country.” (The Roosevelt note dated May 8, 1916 is in the Julius Rosenwald papers (Scrapbook 5) in the Special Collections at the University of Chicago

Library and is quoted by Eric Reba in *Arrested Adolescence: The Secret Life of Nathan Leopold* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023) p. 18.)

Which school friends of Richard Loeb collaborated with him on *Richard's Magazine* is not known to me. The typography looks better than boys might typically have achieved with a small home press, so a professional printer was probably used. Whether any of the boys—or perhaps one of their teachers—had any association with the organized amateur press movement is also unknown to me. More typically, the circulation of such a privately-printed newspaper would probably have been primarily to friends, family, and classmates.

The centenary of the murder of Bobby Franks on May 21, 2024 will probably focus renewed attention on his murderers Leopold and Loeb. Both were highly intelligent if deeply flawed adolescents. Their attorney

Clarence Darrow (1857–1938) thought that their guilty pleas were likelier to save their lives than pleas of innocence on the grounds of insanity. A jury would have had to hear their insanity defense, whereas the judge alone decided their sentences based on their guilty pleas.

The antisemitism that has recently flared in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict reminds us of the same kind of sentiments which erupted against Leopold and Loeb and their wealthy Jewish families.

In 1936 Loeb was slain in the shower at Stateville Penitentiary by a fellow inmate who claimed that Loeb had made unwanted sexual advances. Leopold was Loeb's lover and curried the favors of young men during and after his long term of imprisonment.

Just how much remorse (as opposed to sorrow at being caught) the murderers felt for the slaying of Franks (who was also from a wealthy Jewish family) continues to be debated. In his autobiography *Life Plus 99 Years* (Doubleday, 1958), Leopold emphasized his humanitarian achievements as an educator and as a medical experiment subject in prison, but later writers like Rebain (*op.cit.*) have emphasized the hedonism of his lifestyle before, during and after prison.

Richard's Magazine stands as evidence of Richard Loeb's early promise. ♦

Richard's Magazine

EDITED BY A BOY

VOL. 1

MARCH, 1916

No. 1

Uncle Alex's Letter

Dear Nièces and Nephews:

THE editor of Richard's Magazine has given me this column to talk to you and become friends. To me it is such a pleasure to have the opportunity of reaching young boys and girls. There are so many things I could teach them and perhaps even more things I could learn from them. All the magazines for boys and girls published in the country are edited by grown up people and most of the time they fail to see the point of view of the young folks. This magazine is edited by boys and girls, for the boys and girls. It will grow as you grow, but you must help. Send us in your letters, your articles; give your opinions, your news; everything will be considered carefully and made use of.

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First page of the first issue of Richard's Magazine
(image courtesy University of Illinois Chicago)

Descriptions of Richard's Magazine

by Dave Tribby

THE IMAGE of *Richard's Magazine* used with Ken Faig's article comes from the University of Illinois Chicago, the only institution listed in the WorldCat library index with original copies of both issues (dated March and May 1916). Kellee E. Warren, Assistant Professor and Special Collections Librarian, efficiently took care of my request, describing what they had so she could provide the image I needed. I asked her to look for any connection with organized amateur journalism. Here is her report:

I have looked through and done a cursory read of the two issues in our collection, and these, as you mentioned in your initial query, were written for a younger audience. That is, there is no mention of amateur journalism/publishing or professional publishing organizations. There are also written dedications on the cover of both issues from Richard A. Loeb (the editor). I know that many editors

would sign free copies to build an audience, so it looks like that is what he did. By the second issue, he had attracted some local advertising, so the last page/verso and the back cover have advertising.

If you know anything about Haldeman-Julius Publishing and the Little Blue Books, *Richard's Magazine* favors those publications, but with a more focused "shaping young minds" ethos.

I chose an image of the first page rather than the cover. She granted THE FOSSIL one-time, non-exclusive permission to publish (in both printed and on-line editions).

A piece in the *Buffalo* (New York) *Evening Times* for August 4, 1924 examined *Richard's Magazine* for hints as to "the working of Richard Loeb's child mind long before that mind ever became linked with Nathan Leopold's in

planning the strangest murder in Chicago's history." The writer found, "Art, music, civilization, human kindness, science, international economics, the horrors of war and the blessedness of peace were among the subjects that the boy handled editorially" and quoted several articles.

Just a Word About Good Reading

Most boys like what is really "trash." These books they procure at circulating libraries, which is not a bad place to go if the selection was a little better chosen. They are usually "The Rover Boy Series" and others of the same type. Instead of reading books like that, read some of Mark Twain's, namely, *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. They are humorous, have a lot of ginger and yet they are good English, which makes them profitable to read.

Jules Verne's books are very excit-

ing and yet very instructive. Some of his favorites are *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *Michael Strogoff* and *Mystery Island*. For history Crake's three series of *Edward the Fair*, *Alfgar the Dane* and *Rival Heirs* are just dandy. They are the Chronicles of Aescendune. *The House of Walderne* and *Brian Fitz Count* are two very interesting separate books by the same author.

Ernest Thompson Seton has written for boys many fine works of the woods which are "swell."

Some of these are the *Biographies of a Wolf and Bear* and *Two Little Savages*.

Scottish Chiefs and *Thaddeus of Warsaw* are books concerning the histories of Scotland and Poland; they are fine.

For the regular history of the Netherlands *The Rise and Fall of the Dutch Republic*, by Motley, is very interesting.

There is a book called *The Boys of '76*, by Doffin, which is so exciting and interesting that I could not bear to stop reading. It is the story of the battles of the Revolution. All of you must know about *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe. It shows what a great thing Abraham Lincoln did for his country when he stopped slavery.

The Lure of the Labrador Wild, by Wallace, is a wonderfully true story of the adventures of the author in Labrador.

In giving you this list I have given you a limited number of the best books I know of. You will enjoy these books and yet they are books that will teach us good English.

Humanity

If we should picture ourselves in England in the tenth century at the time of the invasion of England by the Danes we would see a peaceful nation called the Anglo-Saxons who worshiped the same God as we do and they never dreamt of invading another land.

Maybe they were not scientifically civilized, but I would be glad to say that much for any nation in the war who have had ten centuries to learn to make guns that destroy thousands of men and ruin structures that have been standing without being molested for centuries.

Daily millions of dollars are being spent in the purchase of ammunitions and weapons. Think if that amount of money was spent daily in the beauti-

fyng of the world. Think if all the lives that have been lost in this war could have been spent in peaceful labor and happiness.

Not only the warring factions suffer, but neutral people die on board doomed vessels. Think if Chicago was bombed. Would not as many women and children die in the attack? Would not as many neutral foreigners die? The aeroplanes cannot pick out the men they are warring against.

Such is war in the twentieth century.

Our Choice

We all know that the crucial year at hand for us to choose who will be our next President. This choice can only be made when one knows the characters of all who appear on the ballot; it is also only once in four years that this choice can be made.

The most favored candidates for this election are Wilson, Taft, Hughes and Roosevelt. We know that Wilson has been a very good President and that another might have placed the United States in the terrible European War. We all know the ability of Taft and Hughes and the perseverance of Roosevelt; his strong character.

He was the one who brought our country through many difficulties and who has lived in the White House for seven years. May he live there another four. Some people say that he would bring this country into the war, but don't forget that in seven years in the White House the United States was in no war. We must remember the war between Russia and Japan: if you have studied that war you will know that it was ROOSEVELT who was mediator.

It was he again who appointed a children's bureau at Washington at the head of which he placed Miss Julia Lathrope of Chicago. This bureau has done more for the babies of the United States than many physicians.

And therefore my choice is the man who has proved his valor and has the chance of his life to mediate again, MR. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The *Times* noted the "bright, keen, wholesome, and yet necessarily naive" magazine "vividly suggests the long and devious route that the mind of the boy editor must have followed before it became capable of planning the crime for which the State now demands death on the gallows." ◆

Letter to the Editor

THE FOSSIL for January was another nice issue. It took me down one of those holes I wrote about for *Ink Cahoots* last year ["The Genealogy Rabbit Hole"].

First there was the Minter thing. Always like to read stuff about H. P. Lovecraft, having spent four years in his neighborhood. Another name, which David Goudsward did not mention, was Prof. Angell — Angell Street is a major thoroughfare on College Hill.

The bigger distraction came with Ken Faig's article ["Female Amateurs of the 1880s: A Virginia Trio and Massachusetts Duo"]. In 1964 we moved into a Victorian Queen Ann in Rutherford, New Jersey. The owner was Donald Loomis, whose father had owned and lived in the house since the 1930s. Gilbert Loomis was from Westfield, Massachusetts and a true automotive pioneer. He produced and sold an automobile in Westfield, 1901 to 1906 or so, and subsequently was a factor in the Speedwell Automobile in Dayton. Anyway, after much searching I concluded that he was a distant cousin of Oliver Loomis [husband of Francis A. Parsons] mentioned in the article. I had to go back to the 1600s to find the tie.

George Chapman
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Included with George's message was "My Antique Car Odyssey and a Brush with Automotive History," an article he wrote for the July/August 2017 issue of Bulb Horn, magazine of the Vintage Motor Car Club of America. ◆

Pulled Into a Lovecraft Mystery

by Dave Tribby

AS reported in the January issue of THE FOSSIL, when Ken Faig appeared on a podcast in December he mentioned several mysteries surrounding H. P. Lovecraft. One of them caught my attention: The name Howard P. Lovecraft, with occupation boilermaker, appears in the 1917 Los Angeles city directory. Ken noted that Lovecraft lived

in Rhode Island at the time, and once mentioned that he had never traveled west of the Mississippi. Could there have been another person with the same name living on the opposite coast? Ken discussed HPL's ancestry, and explained there were very few Lovecrafts living in America — and no other Lovecraft was named Howard.

Perhaps someone living at 2033 E 4th St. who was either an amateur journalist or knew him some other way decided to substitute that name for their own. Or maybe someone involved in the production of the directory, perhaps as compiler, proof reader, or Linotype operator, either mistyped the last name or inserted it as a private joke. It would have been a very private joke, as it seems unlikely Lovecraft would have ever seen the entry.

Another possibility: the directory company may have intentionally included a bogus entry. Map, encyclopedia, and dictionary publishers have included made-up streets, biographies, or words in order to catch those who copy their work. (Look up "Mountweazel" for a famous example.) I have no evidence that the Los Angeles Directory Company engaged in that practice, but it seems possible.

And what are we to make of the occupation boilermaker? Ken wondered whether it could have been a tweak at Lovecraft's strong support of temperance, since a boilermaker is a type of alcoholic beverage.

I logged onto Ancestry.com and found the 1917 directory. A search revealed eight additional people living at the address, none of them a familiar a-jay name. I expanded the search of Los Angeles directories by plus or minus five years, thinking there would be a lot of continuity in the residents and any misnamed individual would stick out...but was surprised to see how

most of the names changed from year to year. Only two of the names appeared at that address in earlier years, and none afterward.

The building appears to have had very transitory tenants from 1912 to 1921. "Howard P. Lovecraft" did not appear in any other California directories in the 1910s and '20s, or in other Los Angeles County records of that period.

There were 233 boilermakers in the 1917 directory; in 1916 there were 151 and 293 in 1918, but none named Howard.

I sent my results to Ken, asking if he could think of other ways to search the records. He sent me the Halloween 2022 issue of his *Ken's Kit & Kaboodle*, which discussed the mystery in much more detail. The directory entry was discovered by Adriano Monti-Buzzetti, an Italian journalist and novelist, and brought to public knowledge by Lovecraft scholar S. T. Joshi on his blog in August 2020. Ken pointed out that city directories were expensive, and inexpensive photocopying was not available in 1917 — so if it was a prank, how would it be shared? He presented a number of theories of how Lovecraft could have ended up in Los Angeles in 1916-17, then debunked each one.

What About 2033 E 4th St?

Ken's research revealed that 2033 E 4th St. in 1917 was the Hollenbeck Park Hotel, owned by Charles I. Balls. (Charles and his wife were the only consistent residents in my 1912-17 list.)

A search in Newspapers.com for the address turned up a classified ad in the July 1, 1917, *Los Angeles Times* that confirmed Ken's research and provided a little more information:

<p>FOR SALE — HOLLENBECK PARK HOTEL, 28 rooms, lease and furniture. Doing good business. Half cash, balance payments. Going East. Must sell. Buy from Owner, MRS. CHARLES J. BALLS, Boyle 2295. 2033 E. 4th st.</p>

The hotel had 28 rooms, but since only nine names were associated with the address in the 1917 directory it appears there was a mixture of long- and short-term guests.

LOS ANGELES (1917) CITY DIRECTORY		1293
LOVE—Continued	LOVE—Continued	
* Arthur carp h 225 E Av 58	* Waldo W dept mgr Ville de Paris h 1548 3d av	
* Arthur D carp r 225 E Av 58	* Walter A foremn Weaver Ref Co h 1018 E 57th	
* Beessie photoplayer r 4510 Fountain av	* Walter C r 631 W 45th	
* Cath D Mrs r 401 S Kingsley dr	* Wilbur W clk r 1548 3d av	
* Cecil D welder r 512 Neva pl	* Wm J clk h 3920 Budlong av	
* Chas foremn Title Guarantee bldg r 5222 Latham	Loveall Amanda M wid Abram r 224½ S Burlington av	
* Chas A clk r 1258 Temple	* Frank appr r 559 Stanford av	
* Chas A ins agt h 4112 Eastern av	Loveberg Godfrey contr 2025 Ellendale av	
* Chas E inv 326 W 3d rm 500 h 457 S Harvard blvd	* Nels h 1248 N Westmoreland av	
* Chas H slsmn Jacoby Bros r Santa Monica	* Nels H electr h 1252 N Westmoreland av	
* Clara O cashr r 124 W 31st	Lovecraft Howard P boilermkr r 2033 E 4th	
* Clare mach h 1303 Sanborn av	Ioveday Geo 1st eng L A Gas & Elec Corp	

Why was Howard P. Lovecraft listed in the 1917 Los Angeles City Directory?

Why Boilermaker?

To learn more about Lovecraft's writing in that era, I searched the Internet and found Project Gutenberg's compilation of pieces he wrote in *The United Amateur* between 1915 and 1922. (I later learned that even more of his amateur articles can be found in the book *Collected Essays, Volume 1: Amateur Journalism*, edited by S. T. Joshi, from Hippocampus Press, 2004.)

One entry from June 1916 dissects a column by George W. Macauley, blasting the author for describing professionals who wrote for the UAPA as "mercenary."

Why is a professional author necessarily less desirable as an amateur journalist than a professional plumber or boiler-maker?

This passage seems to present the answer to one of the mysteries: how was Lovecraft connected with that occupation? Since Lovecraft himself mentioned the boilermaker trade around the time the 1917 directory was being compiled, it seems likely a UAPA member was responsible for the entry, probably one living in the Los Angeles area, as it was published by Los Angeles Directory Co.

Who are the Suspects?

I contacted the Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and requested a scan of a UAPA membership list from late 1916 or early 1917. Research Services Librarian Carly Sentieri found one in the September 1916 issue of *The United Amateur* and forwarded it to me. It lists five members living in Los Angeles:

CALIFORNIA	
2145c	William De Ryee, Box 613, Santa Cruz. Los Angeles
2116c	Rose W. Baker, 528 N. Benton Way.
2224c	E. E. Cates, 325 N. Fickett St.
2141c	Freda Sabina De Larot, 715 West 55th Street.
2114c	Adam Dickson, 1120 So. Grand Ave.
1156c	Mary H. Lehr, 411 N. Broadway.

The number to the left of the name appears to be a chronological member identifier. As a reference, Lovecraft, who joined in 1914, has number 1945. The letter following the number indicates the member's age, with "c" indicating over 21. In a quick review of the entire list, the highest number I noticed was 2344. It appears that Mary Lehr's membership predates Lovecraft's, and the remaining joined much more recently. Let's examine the Los Angeles members in alphabetical order:

1. Rose W. Baker: Rose Wentworth Baker was born December 9, 1866 in Woodville, Sandusky Co., Ohio, the daughter of Sanford G. Baker (1817-1912) and Phebe E. Osborn (1834-1913). She grew up on a farm near Woodville with her parents, six brothers, and three sisters. By 1910 Rose and her older sister Ida

(1861-1943) had moved to Los Angeles. Census, city directory, and voting registrations show a variety of jobs for Rose: hotel waitress (1910), housekeeper (1912), clerk (1920), and manager of lodging homes (1930, 1940). Her voter registration was with the Socialist party in 1914, but she was unaffiliated from 1920 until 1934, when she registered as a Democrat. The 1940 census indicates she had two years of college and was never married. Rose died in Los Angeles on August 21, 1959 (age 92), and was buried near her parents in Woodville Cemetery back in Ohio.



Rose W. Baker. Picture provided by Peter Arvo, her great-great-grand-nephew.

Lovecraft mentions her in his "Department of Public Criticism" in the December 1915 *United Amateur*:

Hit and Miss for August is a neat and attractive little leaflet by Miss Rose Baker, which, though not new to *Amateur Journalism*, now makes its first appearance in the *United*. The general tone of this individual publication is Socialistic, though a generous space is allotted to the amateur world. ... The Exchange Column is very interesting, though the reviews are all rather brief. We shall officially bear in mind the anti-critic paragraph, and strive not to be quite so harsh as the type therein delineated.

Two pieces of Miss Baker's verse are also contained in *Hit and Miss*. While not of perfect taste or execution, they display a marked leaning toward metrical expression on the author's part, and impel us to advise both a further study of poetical art, and a careful perusal of the best bards, with especial attention to regularity of lines, placing of accents, and selection of appropriate words or phrases. *Hit and Miss* improves with each issue, and from the conscientious ambition of its editor we may reasonably expect to behold its rapid approach to the front rank of informal amateur journals.

A search of reports and membership lists in *The National Amateur* shows Rose was first listed as member of NAPA in the May 1914 issue, but was not listed after March 1915.

Fossil Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson checked the card file Tony and Victor Moitoret created to index their extensive collection of amateur journals. It shows Rose published three issues of *Hit and Miss*, the first dated August 1915 and the last two undated. She also participated in "*Girls*," a "co-operative paper by lady members of UAPA of A" headed up by Edna Thorne of Napa, California.

2. E. E. Cates: Edward Earle Cates was born September 12, 1860 in East Vassalboro, Maine, the fourth of six sons of Charles Bunker Cates (1820–1888) and Margaret B. Barker (1829–1909). Edward earned a Bachelor's degree in 1883 and a Master's in 1888 from Colby University (now known as Colby College) in Waterville, Maine. He married Margaret Wightman (1864–1946) August 18, 1886 in New York. They had three children: Bennet (1887–1942), Margaret (1890–1973), and Cynthia (1903–1996).



Edward Earle Cates
(from FamilySearch)

Edward served as principal of several high schools in New Hampshire and New York from 1884–93 and in Los Angeles from 1893–97, then as president of Frederick College in Frederick, Maryland, 1897–1904. After a stay in Springfield, New York, the Cates family returned to Southern California by 1910. Edward E. Cates died July 4, 1932, in Los Angeles.

I did not discover any references to E. E. Cates in Lovecraft's writings, and the Moitoret index did not have any entries for him.

3. Freda Sabina De Larot: Freda deLarot was born October 14, 1889 in California, the daughter of Octave Narcise deLarot (1853–1891) and Annetta E. Gottschalk (1873–1940). Both parents were natives of Louisiana, and they were married in New Orleans September 16, 1886. Freda had an older brother, Arthur C. deLarot (1888–1957), who was born in San Francisco. In the aftermath of her father's death at age 38, the family moved back to the South, living in Mobile, Alabama, where Freda attended Barton Academy, and later lived in New Orleans, Louisiana. After Arthur became a brakeman for the Union Pacific railroad, Freda and Annetta lived in Evanston, Wyoming, and, by 1914, in Ogden, Utah. In 1916 the women were living in Los Angeles, where Freda worked as a clerk.

In 1918 or 1919 Freda married George J. Landry (1886–1959), a pharmacist originally from Louisiana. The 1920 census shows them living in Los Angeles, but they appear in the 1924 Santa Barbara city directory. Freda and George had two children, Paul (1922–2004) and Iris (1925–1989). By 1926 the family had relocated to Bakersfield, 80 miles northeast of Santa Barbara.

In June 1933 the *Bakersfield Californian* and *Fresno Bee* published articles describing Freda's success in writing three novels. From the Fresno paper:

Lady Doc is the name of her first novel, published by The Guilders' Press. It is a story of a poor girl of the type of family known in the South as poor white trash.

Le Chateau Deniere (the last house) is a story of a haunted house and deals with Louisiana's glamorous

pirate lair, Bayou Barateria, and the Vieux Carre of old New Orleans.

Gallant men who helped to build a city in the quagmire are depicted in the story *Peter Jasleroux*, a love tale of modern New Orleans build on the glamour of the old city.

An August 25, 1933 article in the *Ogden Standard-Examiner* noted the Uinta County Library had received the three novels written by "Mrs. Landry, known as a writer of vivid southern stories." (Searches of the WorldCat and Library of Congress catalogs did not turn up these three books, or any others by Freda Landry.)

In October 1942 the *Bakersfield Californian* reported, "Mrs. George Landry is in Sacramento taking a ground mechanic training course. She expects to enter service at Minter Field. Mr. Landry, a local pharmacist, is proud of his wife's achievement and is holding down the home front with the assistance of her daughter, Iris. ... Son Paul is in the air corps."

The Landrys continued to make their home in Bakersfield until her death on September 9, 1958 at age 68. She was buried in Bakersfield's Union Cemetery.

Lovecraft mentions Freda in his Public Criticism columns for June and August 1916:

"A Gentle Satire on Friendship", by Freda de Larot, is a very clever piece of light prose; which could, however, be improved by the deletion of much slang, and the rectification of many loose constructions.

The rather loosely defined domain of the "sketch" has thriven this year, since it elicits fluent expression from those less prolific in other branches of literature. Mr. Melvin Ryder has entertained us with an entire magazine of this sort of material, whilst Mrs. Ida C. Haughton, Irene Metzger, Benjamin Repp, Mary Faye Durr, Ethel Halsey, Clara Inglis Stalker, Freda de Larot, Helene E. Hoffman-Cole, Helen M. Woodruff, Ira A. Cole, and Eloise N. Griffith prove no less entertaining with shorter sketches.

4. Adam Dickson: Adam Dickson was born June 13, 1881 in Roxburgh, a small village in the south of Scotland, the son of Adam Dickson (b. about 1845) and Helen Robertson Miller (b. about 1849). By 1901, Adam, his parents, and older sister Helen (b. about 1880) had moved fifty miles northeast to the town of Arbroath on the North Sea Coast. At that time his occupation was Draper Assistant.

On August 1, 1913 Adam crossed from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to Seattle, Washington. On



Freda deLarot Landry,
1933

August 13 he filed a Declaration of Intention for naturalization to the United States in Los Angeles, listing his occupation as Clerical.

An article in the August 28, 1915 *Los Angeles Times* describes a gathering to raise funds for British relief. It closes with the paragraph,

The fund that will be sent abroad was increased by the sale of leaflets containing patriotic poems of the authorship of Adam Dickson, No. 846 West Ninth street, and patriotic pennants and refreshments.

The final reliable record I located for Adam was his entry in the 1917 Los Angeles city directory, which listed him as a waiter living at 616 Loomis. (The name Adam Dickson was fairly common for boys born in the 1880s in Scotland, making it difficult to tie records to a particular individual with that name.)

I found three references to Adam by Lovecraft. From the April 1916 criticism column:

Other poetry in [*The Coyote* for January] is by Adam Dickson, a bard of pleasing manner but doubtful correctness. "Smile" needs rigorous metrical and rhetorical revision to escape puerility. "Silver Bells of Memory" is better, though marred by the ungrammatical passage "thoughts doth linger". In this passage either the noun must be made singular, or the verb form plural.

June 1916 Department of Public Criticism:

"My Native Land", a poem by Adam Dickson, describes the Scottish Border with pleasing imagery and bounding anapaestic metre. Mr. Dickson is a poet whose progress should be carefully watched. His improvement is steady, the present piece being easily the best specimen of his work to appear in the amateur press. ...

The Woodbee for April opens with a melodious poem by Adam Dickson entitled "Love". While the metre might well be changed in the interests of uniformity, the general effect is not at all harsh, and the author is entitled to no small credit for his production.

August 1916 criticism column, "First Annual Report 1915-1916":

Adam Dickson, a Scotsman by birth, but now a resident of Los Angeles, writes tunefully and pleasantly. His pieces are not yet of perfect polish, but each exhibits improvement over the preceding. He tends to favour the anapaest and the tambic tetrameter."

5. Mary H. Lehr: Mary Henrietta Lehr was born January 1882 in Hardin Co., Iowa, the daughter of William Lehr (1848-1926) and Henrietta Boyd (1865-1930). In 1890 the family moved to Redlands, California, where William first made and sold shoes and later grew oranges. In the 1902 Redlands city directory, she is listed as a Linotype operator for *Redlands Daily Facts*. The 1910 census shows Mary living in Redlands with her parents and employed as a type setter in a printing office. A 1911 newspaper article refers to her as a Lino-

type operator. By 1912 she had moved 70 miles west, to Los Angeles, where she was associate editor of *The Daily Southern Californian*, the student newspaper of the University of Southern Californian, during its first year of publication. Her 1914 voter registration lists her again working as a Linotype operator. City directories and voter registration records show she was in Los Angeles through 1916. She represented USC with two poems (one each under the pen names Maryetta Lehr and Heinrich Lehr) in the book *The Poets of the Future: A College Anthology for 1917-18*.

Newspaper reports show she was a teacher in Golconda, Arizona during the 1917-18 academic year, but by November 1918 she had returned to Redlands to teach.

On December 24, 1919 she married Samuel Guthrey (1879-1952) in Redlands. The wedding announcement noted he "is a civil engineer in the service of the government and Mr. and Mrs. Gunthrey [sic] will leave soon for the north where he has accepted a position with the government." However, the 1920 census, taken in January, shows Mary Guthrey living alone in Los Angeles, working as a bookkeeper for a printer. In the few records I found during the 1920s, none show the two living together. He filed for divorce in Texas on December 10, 1930.

Voter registrations show Mary living in the Los Angeles suburb of Watts and working as a teacher in 1924 and 1926, then the Redlands city directory lists her as a resident in 1927. The last solid record I found for her was a June 3, 1930 newspaper notice that Mary H. Lehr Guthrey had sold real estate in Redlands. Perhaps no more records were easily found because she remarried or moved out of California.

Mary was a long-time amateur journalist and member of both the United and National APAs. She first appeared on the NAPA membership list in November 1905, and was last listed in May 1923.

In his *History of Amateur Journalism*, Truman Spencer mentions Mary several times. She is included in a list of early twentieth century writers who "rose above the general plane." She won NAPA laureates for her 1908 story "Beautiful Is That Is Beautiful," for poems in 1911 ("Morning Dew") and 1914 ("The Love of God"), and for editing *Progressive Amateur Press* in 1913. Spencer also mentions she was Official Editor of the local Los Angeles club, producing one issue of *El Angeleno* for August-September 1911. Mary was elected United treasurer in 1911 and third vice president in 1918.

The Moitoret card file shows Mary had a significant publishing record. The earliest publication, *The Book of the Knights and Ladies of the Pen*, was dated March 1907. Her *West Coast Advocate of Amateur Journalism* first appeared in Autumn 1909, and there were four "New Series" issues in 1912-14. *The Progressive Amateur Press*

volume 1, number 1 was dated November 1910, with a second issue in that volume dated 1910-11. Volume 2 was produced with Henry G. Wehking, with issues 1, 2, 3, and 5 all dated 1912-13.

Mary is listed a co-producer with Anthony Moitoret of *The Meteor* numbers 4 (November 1910), 6 (April 1911), 7 (July 9, 1912), and 8 (Spring 1919). Mary contributed to the first two issues of Helene E. Hoffman's *The Official Feminine*, dated February and May 1912. She collaborated with Leston M. Ayres on issues 15 through 19 (January 1915 - July 1916) of his *The Amateur Arena*.

Mary's name comes up a number of times in Lovecraft's writing for *United Amateur*. From Department of Public Criticism, May 1917:

The United Amateur for March contains "Love's Scarlet Roses", an exquisite piece of lyric verse by Mary Henrietta Lehr of California. Miss Lehr, a scholar and poetic genius of high order, is a prominent amateur of a few years ago, lately returned to activity after a period of endeavour in other fields. Her verse is uniformly distinguished by depth of inspiration, delicacy of sentiment, and grace of structure; occupying a place amongst the rarest products of amateurdom.

Department of Public Criticism, July 1917:

"Sweet Frailty", a poem by Mary Henrietta Lehr, contains all those elements of charm, delicacy, and ingenuity which mark its author as one of amateurdom's most cultivated and gifted members.

Department of Public Criticism, January 1919:

A third prose piece (though according to ultra-modern conceptions it might be termed poetry) is "Aunt Prissy's Red Cross Prayer", by Heinrich (alias Mary H.) Lehr. This homely sketch has a distinct appeal in its delineation of pathos and wistfulness, and displays much knowledge of human nature on the author's part.

...

Miss Maryetta (alias Mary H.) Lehr is likewise represented by two poems; one of which, "The Unfathomed Sea of Pain", is particularly thoughtful and profound. "Forgive My Heart, Too Numb to Love" throbs with real emotion, which is not lessened by the questionable accentuation of "on-slaughter" on the last syllable.

President's Message, September 1917:

Within the next few months many more papers are to be expected; including an excellent one from Miss Lehr.

President's Message, July 1918:

Early in the next fiscal year will appear *The United Co-operative*, the fruit of this year's planning, edited by Mrs. Jordan, Miss Lehr, Mr. J. Clinton Pryor, and the undersigned.

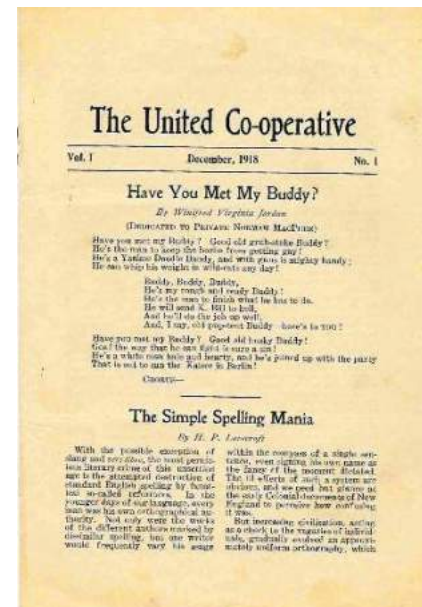
"Maryetta Lehr" together with Lovecraft, W. Paul Cook, Winifred V. Jackson, and Rev. J. Clinton Pryor produced the first issue of the *Co-operative* for Decem-

ber 1918. She was not part of the other two issues, for June 1919 and April 1921.

Conclusions?

Of these five Los Angeles members, none have a proven connection to the creation of the city directory, but Mary Lehr seems the most likely. In 1916-17 she was highly involved in amateur journalism, was mentioned numerous times by Lovecraft, and had a connection to the printing industry that might have allowed her to sneak his name into the directory.

In any case, the UAPA Los Angeles members of 1916 were an interesting group!



Mary Lehr worked with H. P. Lovecraft on the first issue of *The United Co-operative*

OLD BUNDLES AVAILABLE

IF YOU are interested in collecting NAPA bundles dating back to the 1960s, contact Fossil Bill Boys (his email is williamboys@att.net). He and wife Ruth are preparing to move to a retirement home and he has several box-fuls to give away, "or, alas, to just recycle." He is in the process of sorting through them and compiling a rough index.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

WHEN The Fossils set up its website in 2005, we found a low-cost plan whose capabilities met our needs. The limit of 100 megabytes of file storage might have been restrictive for a business, but fit our needs and only cost \$25 per year.

There is a wealth of information about amateur journalism history available on our website, including listings of public amateur journalism collections, descriptions of people who have won Fossil awards, most of Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism*, and links to resources elsewhere on the Internet. All of those are fairly static, not growing much after their deployment.

The one section that does grow is the archive of THE FOSSIL that holds issues going back to October 2004 (77 issues currently). In order to save space, each issue's PDF file is compressed, leaving images that are fine for

viewing on a screen but not sharp enough for printing. Recent issues of THE FOSSIL require an average of half a megabyte of storage, with some reaching a full meg. We currently use 65 megabytes of space, leaving room for thirty to sixty more issues – as long as they don't have too many graphics. (I imagine that this issue will require above-average space.)

This year when it came time to renew, I checked out all of the plans offered by our Internet Service Provider and found a new one that was similar to the current one, but offered 10 times as much file space (1 gigabyte) at less cost: only \$20 for one year, or \$36 for two. It was an easy decision to switch plans.

The first addition I've made is to load a scan of "The Phenomenon of H.P.L.," the ten-page biography of H. P. Lovecraft written by Helen V. Wesson that appeared in the July 1957 issue of THE FOSSIL. I scanned the pages several years ago for someone who had requested it, and finally the website can handle the 16 megabyte file. You will find it in the "History" section of the website, and (for a while) on the home page.

Let me know if you have any ideas on how to use the new space. ♦

NAPA to Meet in Cincinnati

by Dave Tribby

THE NATIONAL Amateur Press Association will hold its 146th convention July 18-20, 2024, (Thursday through Saturday) at the Hampton Inn in Cincinnati, Ohio. According to NAPA President Alice Brosey, many attendees plan to arrive on Wednesday and depart on Sunday.



Although NAPA has an agenda of business sessions, including approval of reports and election of officers, there is plenty of time for socializing with fellow amateur journalists and other fun activities. They are planning a tour of the Cincinnati Type and Print Museum on Friday afternoon and also a writing class led by a University of Cincinnati educator. The annual banquet will be held at The Montgomery Inn, a prominent Cincinnati restaurant. All amateur journalists are welcome to attend.

NAPA held 144 consecutive annual conventions dating back to its founding in 1876, but had to cancel the 2020, 2021, and 2022 conventions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They finally held their 145th convention July 20-22, 2023, in Columbus, Ohio.

For full information, including hotel reservation details, visit the NAPA website (www.amateurpress.org) or contact Michelle Klosterman, chair of the Reception Committee, at Reception@AmateurPress.org ♦

New Fossil: Tim Lonegan

by Dave Tribby

FOSSIL secretary-treasurer Tom Parson received a membership application in late December from Tim Lonegan of 18436 Santa Carlotta Street, Fountain Valley, California.

I wrote to him to ask how he heard about The Fossils and what motivated him to join our organization. His reply:

I am a longtime H. P. Lovecraft fan and collector. As such, I've acquired quite a few Amateur Press publications from his time and beyond and have become very interested in the Amateur Press phenomenon.

Among the many AP publications I have in my collection are many copies of THE FOSSIL. I've long thought that I should become a member to learn more about your organization as well as to keep abreast of any HPL material that might show up in future issues.

I'm also hopeful that there might be on occasion various individuals and dealers who might advertise AP items for sale. At long last I have joined as a member and look forward to reading my new issues as they arrive.

Welcome, Tim! We hope you enjoy being a Fossil. ♦

2024-2026 Board Selection

by Dave Tribby

FOSSIL by-laws call for elections in July of even numbered years, so any nominations are now in order for two slots on the Board of Trustees.

Members of The Fossils elect the Board; they in turn appoint the secretary-treasurer, official editor, librarian, and webmaster. The three trustees select one of their own as president. Because the president carries over to the next term, only two trustees are elected.

Any proposed amendments to the by-laws would also be voted on in the election. Amendments, proposed by at least five members, must be submitted to President Faig no later than June 10.

Any member who wants to run for office should file with Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson by June 30.

Ballots would be mailed to members by July 10 and then returned no later than July 31. The new term of office begins August 15.

For each election since 2012, only two candidates filed for the two elected positions, and there were no amendments. The president then proposed the election be canceled, with the two candidates appointed as trustees, in order to save postage and effort. Should there be no additional candidates, and no amendments, the same procedure is likely this year. ♦

1993 AAPA Convention in Dayton, Ohio

by Dave Tribby

THESE classic ajay photos, provided to me by Greg McKelvey, are from the American Amateur Press Association's 1993 convention, held August 6 through 8 at the North Airport Ramada Inn in Dayton, Ohio. Nils R. Bull Young hosted the convention, with assistance from fellow Buckeyes Bill Haywood, Guy Miller, and Linda Donaldson. Greg McKelvey was president.

Thanks to Ivan Snyder and Austin Jones for helping me identify the people in the photos. Let me know if you catch any errors or can identify additional people.

Attendance as printed in the November 1993 *American Amateur Journalist* included 44 members and 16 guests. **Arizona:** Al & Alma* Fick; Greg McKelvey. **Austria:** George Hamilton. **Florida:** Lee Hawes. Fred Liddle. **Illinois:** Jon Peters; Bob Weigel. **Indiana:** Dave Churchman; Donald Ruch; Dale & Mary Jane Stedman.

Kentucky: J. Hill Hamon. **Massachusetts:** Harry & Margery Spence. **Michigan:** Jeanette Belic*; Dale Clemens; Phil Driscoll; Jim & Gillian Horton. **Missouri:** Charles L. Bush; Schuyler R. Shipley. **New Mexico:** Marianna Sturgeon. **New York:** John Larsen*; Roy Lindberg. **Ohio:** Vince Barman; Gary Bossler; Linda Donaldson; Bill Foster*; Mary Gridley*; Amy Harper*; Bill Haywood; Miriam Irwin*; Ray Mannier; Jerry Martin; Guy Miller; Paul Miller*; David Petreman*; Marge Adams Petrone; Robert Sanguigni*; Jack Scott; Dale Starr; Hal & Judy* Stearne; Nils, Cindy*, Ian*, & Andy* Young. **Pennsylvania:** Stephen & Elizabeth Bayuzick. **Texas:** Les Boyer; John & Anna Beth Vaglianti; Tom Whitbread. **Virginia:** Bob & Cary* Ferguson. **Washington:** Gale Mueller; Byron Scott. **West Virginia:** Austin & Jean* Jones. (*non-member) ♦



Sky Shipley, Greg McKelvey, and Harry Spence



Guy Miller and Fred Liddle



Byron Scott



Charlie Bush, Marge Adams Petrone, and Les Boyer



George Hamilton



John Vaglianti and Tom Whitbread



(Above) The Saturday afternoon auction was held outside. **Left Section.** First row: Greg McKelvey, Bob Ferguson, Marianna Sturgeon; Second row: George Hamilton; Third row: unidentified, Phil Driscoll, Austin Jones; Fourth row: Jim Horton, Lee Hawes; Fifth row: Marge A. Petrone, Anna Beth Vaglianti; Sixth row: John Vaglianti, Roy Lindberg; Seventh row: Gary Bossler. **Center Section.** First row: Harry & Margery Spence; Second row: Byron Scott, Jack Scott, Fred Liddle, Dale Clemens; Third row: unidentified, Alma Fick; Fourth row: Jean Jones, Al Fick (facing down), J. Hill Hamon; Fifth row: Donald Ruch, Bob Weigel; Sixth row: Gillian Horton; Seventh row: unidentified. **Right Section.** Dave Churchman, Elizabeth & Stephen Bayuzick.

(Right) Auctioneer Sky Shipley was assisted by Carey Ferguson.



Gale Mueller, Al Fick, and Dave Churchman



Nils Young at Carilon Park Print Shop Linotype



Lee Hawes (in front of Alma Fick)



Bill Haywood and Jerry Martin



Al Fick



Linda Donaldson

25 Years Ago (April 1999)

President's Message

by President Bill Snodgrass

SOON, some of our writers will zero in on Little Rock and become Arkansas Travelers. I wish I was going. It would be great to meet you all and to see Mr. Horn's many presses even if I don't own a press. Hope springs eternal, though, and I've been thinking of getting me a Kelsey. Some guy from Mt. Vernon, Ohio whose initials are J. S. might get me started the weekend after the AAPA-Fossil reunion while my wife Betty and I are in Columbus at a veteran's reunion.

I owe several members a debt of thanks who are taking charge of the Fossil's end of the reunion. They are chairing the meeting, arranging the banquet, making announcements, handing out awards, greeting people, and other things. Thank you from myself and Vice President Annie Ri Gilbert. Thanks and kudos to Linda Donaldson, Les Boyer, John Horn, Jack Scott, Bill Venrick, Martha Shivvers, Guy Miller, and others.

Besides election results, banquet, awards, etc., with the Executive Board's approval, I would like to appoint Kenneth Faig to the position of Historian. That seems to be Ken's forte. Please understand, if Daniel Graham is still actively doing this job, or the Board thinks we should not change, that is OK, but I think he must be pretty ill or something because many people have tried to get answers from him including myself and John Wall, President of UAP. It has been impossible to hear from him.

15 Years Ago (April 2009)

Greetings and Farewells

by President Guy Miller

SADLY, though, as we send greetings to our new members, we must bid farewells to Fossil Eunice M. Fontenot and former Fossil Charles L. Bush.

Eunice had faithfully served The Fossils as secretary-treasurer and later as Fossils President from 1974 to 1977. We plan to have a more complete report for members in our July issue.

Charlie Bush, a member of the old United, joined the Fossils in 1975 and served a term as Fossils Historian (1986). He became a member of NAPA in 1977. But he gave his closest attention to AAPA which he joined in 1973. Immediately upon his affiliation, he resurrected his publication *The Arrow Amateur* and proceeded to extend his activity as an officer of several AAPA posts including mailing manager and president.

by Editor Ken Faig, Jr.

AS USUAL, our President is modest about his own many contributions to our hobby. As part of his "downsizing" campaign, he has donated the Guy Miller Amateur Printing Collection to the University of Iowa Special Collections & University Archives, where Fossil Librarian Mike Horvat's collection of science fiction "fanzines" also resides. At present, the Miller Collection (which is open for research, cataloged as MsC 881) consists of an admirable run of publications by outstanding amateur Willametta (Turnepseed) Keffer and associated material. Related collections held by University of Iowa Special Collections also include 1.75 linear feet of the amateur papers of Lauren Geringer (MsC 847) and 0.80 linear feet of the correspondence of Burton Jay Smith and Willametta Turnepseed from 1941-1944 (MsC 868). Finding aids for the Miller, Horvat, Geringer, and Smith-Turnepseed Collections are all available on the library website. ♦

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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