

# The Fossil

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## 2024 Paxton Award Presented to Marc Brosey

by Bill Boys

*Remarks made by Fossil Bill Boys (2008 Paxton Award winner) when presenting the 2024 Award on July 19 at the National Amateur Press Association's 146th convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.*

DAVE TRIBBY, the official editor of *The Fossils*, wrote to me and the Fossil Board, "The Fossils last presented the Russell Paxton award for Service to Amateur Journalism in 2019, mainly because there are only a few amateur journalists who have been active enough to make 'substantial contributions' to our hobby.

"But one name has stood out: Marc Brosey. Both he and Bill Boys (Paxton Award winner in 2008) have been consistent publishers in the NAPA bundle for years. Marc is currently serving NAPA as Mailer, Manuscript Manager, and Custodian of the National Amateur Clearing House. Marc is a past president as well."

"Marc has undertaken a massive program to scan the amateur journals collected by Jake Warner and post them online at [jakesjournals.com](http://jakesjournals.com). To this collection he has added the left-over papers from Lee Hawes' collection several years ago, and the collections of Barry Schrader, L. M. Lawson, and Russell Paxton." Thousands of journals have been scanned to date, and Marc has set himself the goal of adding *fifteen* more scans every day. This immense contribution toward making amateur journals accessible exceeds anything remotely like it. In the May issue of his *Manuscript Monthly* he announced his intention to save the entire corpus to Blu-ray discs, which avoid the problems of power surges or electric field interference – problems which can damage hard drives and thumb drives. (But he

noted a possible dilemma if future technology made Blu-ray disc readers obsolete! And in his June *Manuscript Monthly* he reported that Sony has announced that they *will* discontinue production of Blu-ray discs.)

Continuing with what Dave Tribby wrote, "Marc, who turned 39 last November, 'married into' the hobby – his wife Alice is the daughter of David and Melody Warner, and granddaughter of both Jake Warner and Jack Hageman – but he has made his own mark on NAPA and amateur journalism. Their son Elijah was signed up just after he was born, and recently published his own amateur journal."

"Marc hasn't numbered his *Manuscript Monthly* issues, but has been producing them for years, and it has given several non-publishing writers a consistent platform." He has also published *Meh* and *Simple Journal*.

"Looking over the list of Paxton award winners, it looks as if Marc will be the youngest person to receive it."

Marc and Alice have themselves moved and resettled Jake Warner's printshop in Lenoir City, Tennessee, where (possibly) attendees at NAPA's 147th convention will have a chance to visit it next July, since Eastern Tennessee was voted the 2025 convention site.

In his day job Marc works with computers. That is an understatement. He has his own seven billion parameter model of a text-to-speech algorithm which is loaded onto his local AI (Artificial Intelligence) server. I must admit that I cannot personally confirm that fact; I read it in one of his *Manuscript Monthly* journals; but it



Bill Boys presents Marc Brosey with the 2024 Russell L. Paxton Award for Service to Amateur Journalism. (Photo: Dave Warner)

indicates how advanced Marc's computer abilities are, compared with those of us who manage to send text messages, do word processing, and maybe use desktop publishing!

When my wife Ruth and I decided to move from Knoxville to Columbus, Ohio, Marc helped our downsizing by taking a good number of my resource books, theological library, board games, and other materials. I was glad to find an appreciative re-user for part of my library.

In April, Marc announced that the NAPA bundle requirement was dropped from 90 to 75 due to declining membership. He coupled that with a recommendation that if we want that number to go back up again, we need to recruit new members, and especially ones who would publish in the bundles. I heartily second that, and would note that Marc's sentiments demonstrate his interest in the future of amateur journalism in general, and of the National Amateur Press Association in particular – a most fitting exclamation point on



which to close this presentation of his Russell Paxton Award for Service to Amateur Journalism – both in the past, plus with intimations of the future. ♦

## The Paxton Award

by Guy Miller, Fossil President 1994-95, 2000-12  
(Compiled from several President's Messages)

TO refresh your memories about the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award For Service to Amateur Journalism: During the 1986-87 administration of J. Ed Newman, this hobby-wide award was instituted by an anonymous donor known only to the president but since identified as Fossil John Horn. Russ, the first recipient, received the award at his home in Salem, Virginia, on December 13, 1986.

Not strictly a Fossil Award, we are, however, honored to have been asked by John to arrange for the selection and presentation of the plaque on his behalf. Asked for guidance in determining the acceptable candidate, John writes, "As an example of 'service to amateur journalism,' one need only look at Russ Paxton. The recipient should be a person who has given freely of his or her time and effort solely for the benefit of their fellow amateur journalists."

The objective of the award is certainly commendable and most certainly throws a challenge to those who have the responsibility of determining the recipients of such a distinction. Thus it was recognized as a high compliment when the donor asked The Fossils to undertake the task of making those choices. History attests that succeeding administrations have striven conscientiously to assure that the award has been well placed. John continues to underwrite the cost of the award.

## Recipients

THE following have received the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism:

1986: Russell L. Paxton	2003: Leland M. Hawes, Jr.
1988: Lauren Geringer	2004: Joseph A. Diachenko
1989: Willametta Keffer	2005: Frederick J. Liddle
1990: Leslie W. Boyer	2006: Gary Bossler
1991: Harold Segal	2007: Dean Rea
1992: Victor Moitoret	2008: William E. Boys
1993: Ralph W. Babcock	2009: Jacob L. Warner
1994: Eula "Merry" Harris	2010: Ivan D. Snyder
1995: Hyman Bradofsky	2011: Ken Davis
1996: Lenore Hughes	2012: Ken Faig, Jr.
1999: Guy Miller	2016: Martin "Mike" Horvat
2000: Louise Lincoln	2018: David M. Tribby
2001: Michael J. O'Connor	2019: Peter E. Schaub
2002: Stanley Oliner	2024: Marc Brosey

## Award Nominations

IN January 2019, Fossil President Ken Faig appointed Dave Tribby, "the Paxton award chair and nominator, and that his nomination be final once ratified by a majority of The Fossils board."

Anyone (Fossil or non-member) wanting to suggest someone to be considered for the award should send the name of the candidate with a description of the person's accomplishments. Dave's contact information is included in the list of officers on page 12. ♦

## Faig Congratulates Brosey

Hello Marc,

Just a belated word of congratulation on your well-deserved Paxton Award.

You are doing valuable work to preserve the record of our hobby with JakesJournals. Not only with the digitization itself but also with the gathering of additional source material like Bill Boys's archives.

Your family has at least four generations of ajoy activity to its credit. I hope the story will keep on going with the generations to come.

Again, thanks for all the great work you have been doing to preserve the re-

cord of our hobby and congratulations on a well-deserved Paxton Award.

Sincerely,

Ken Faig, Jr.  
President, The Fossils

Hey Ken,

Thank you for the kind words of congratulations. It's rather humbling to find myself on the short list of people who have received this award in the past, all of whom I admire greatly, your name included. I'm doing what I can to try to regrow interest in the hobby of amateur journalism.

The history of amateur journalism is worth preserving on its own, but I

would like to see if we can get more people who haven't heard of the hobby to become interested in it. I've taken the position of Director of Publicity and Recruiting for the NAPA, and I've been making a point of linking to the aapainfo.org or the amateurpress.org websites when posting about a new journal on JakesJournals to social media (currently Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). I'm hoping to see if this will generate some new buzz for both associations. We'll see. Thank you again for your warm congratulations.

Thanks,  
Marc



### President's Message

## Y.W.A.P.A. Member Zebuline Hunt

### Great-Great-Granddaughter of William Henry Harrison and Zebulon Pike

by Ken Faig, Jr.

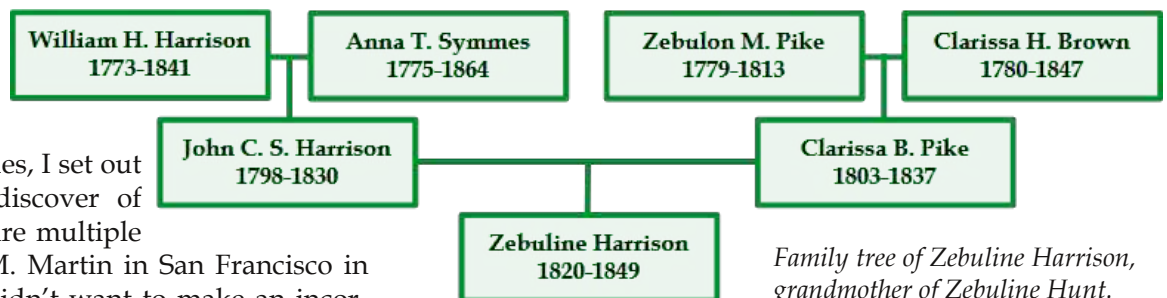
WRITING in her "Questions?" column in the *Webster Amateur* for November 1887, Edith Minter mentioned "Zebbie Hunt" as one the individuals she wished would account for the demise of the Young Women's Amateur Press Association (Y.W.A.P.A.), which lasted for only a little over a year in 1885-86.

Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* (p. 163) mentions that Jennie M. Martin and Zebbie A. Hunt issued the *Mirror* from San Francisco in the mid-1880s. Nixon's *History of the National Amateur Press Association* lists both women as participants at the 1886 NAPA convention in San Francisco (chapter 13), Jennie chairing the committee that counted proxy ballots and Zebbie responding to a toast to the Y.W.A.P.A. Nixon also notes (p. 226) that both Jennie and Zebbie were dropped from the membership rolls in 1889. The catalog record of the *Mirror* at the American Antiquarian Society lists two issues: September 1886 (Vol. 2, no. 1, "suspended 6 months before Sept. 1886") and October 1886. The Bradofsky collection at the University of California, Berkeley has one issue: Vol. 1, no. 3 for September 1885. Given those clues, I set out to find what I could discover of Zebbie A. Hunt. There are multiple possibilities for Jennie M. Martin in San Francisco in the 1880 census, and I didn't want to make an incor-

rect guess. It makes sense that Zebbie Hunt's co-editor would also have been a member of Y.W.A.P.A., but lacking a membership list, I am not sure.

I struck first pay dirt in the 1880 census. The following household was enumerated in San Francisco: Symmes H. Hunt (head), age 38, custom house officer, born Kentucky of Indiana-born father and Kentucky-born mother; Josephine Hunt (wife), age 33, housekeeper, born Indiana of Virginia-born father and French-born mother; Zebbie A. Hunt (daughter), age 13, at school, born Indiana of Kentucky-born father and Indiana-born mother.

Symmes Harrison Hunt (1841-1921) continued to work as a San Francisco customs house officer for the rest of his life. He was the son of John Hunt (b. January 17, 1816 Hamilton Co., Ohio, died June 11, 1886 La Cygne, Linn Co., Kansas) and Zebuline Adelaide Pike Harrison (born August 31, 1820, died June 14, 1849 Sugar Grove, Boone Co., Kentucky). His mother was a



Family tree of Zebuline Harrison, grandmother of Zebuline Hunt.

granddaughter of both Gen. William Henry Harrison (1773-1841) (ninth president of the United States) and Gen. Zebulon Pike (1779-1813) (explorer and namesake for Pike's Peak in Colorado). Harrison's son John Cleves Symmes Harrison (1798-1830) and Pike's daughter Clarissa Brown Pike (1803-1837) had married in Boone Co., Kentucky on September 27, 1819. Gen. Harrison's wife was Anna Tuthill Symmes (1775-1864) and Gen. Pike's wife was Clarissa Harlow Brown (1780-1847). Anna Tuthill Symmes was the daughter of John Cleves Symmes (1742-1814) and his first wife Anna Tuthill (1741-1776), who married in Mattituck, New York, on October 30, 1760. Symmes married 1794 as his second wife Susannah Livingston (1748-1840), the daughter of Governor William Livingston. Symmes' nephew John Cleves Symmes Jr. (1780-1829), the son of Thomas Symmes and Mary Anne (Pelletier) Lakewood, became famous for his "Hollow Earth" theory.

Symmes Harrison Hunt married October 23, 1865 (Dearborn Co., Indiana) Josephine Albertine Cheek (born 1846, died February 8, 1926 Alameda Co., California), the daughter of John Francis Cheek (1824-1869) and Louisa Mae Lucas (1829-1906). Their daughter Zebuline Adelaide Hunt was born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn Co., Indiana on February 27, 1867. She was named in honor of her paternal grandmother, who had married John Hunt on December 5, 1840. John Hunt married (2) September 2, 1849 (Boone Co., Kentucky) America Cave Montague (1815-1878), the daughter of Cave Montague (1769-1845) and Phebe Ross (1792-1870). The 1850 census enumerated in Boone Co. lists John Hunt, age 34, farmer, born Ohio, wife America C. Hunt, aged 34, born Kentucky, son Symmes H. Hunt, age 9, born Kentucky, daughter Clara P. Hunt, age 7, born Kentucky, daughter Mary S. Hunt, age 4, born Indiana, and daughter Zebuline A. Hunt, age 0, born Kentucky. Zebuline A. Hunt, born June 27, 1850, Boone Co., Kentucky, died January 5, 1851, La Cygne, Linn Co., Kansas. John Hunt had by his second wife additional children Edward Hunt (1852-1922), Legrand Montague Hunt (1854-1928), and Jesse Cave Hunt (1857-1936). Symmes Harrison Hunt's

full sibling Clara Pike Hunt (born October 24, 1843 Boone Co., Kentucky) died on August 8, 1871 in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn Co., Indiana.

Our Zebuline Adelaide Hunt married September 12, 1888 (Napa Co., California) Paul Joseph Schafer (name also found as Schaefer or Schaffer) (born June 22, 1863 San Francisco, died May 6, 1955 Alameda Co., California). They had children Josephine Symmes Schafer (1891-1949) (married name Guslander), Paul Joseph Schafer Jr. (1892-1967), and Symmes Hunt Schafer (1894-1977). Schafer was the son of German-born parents Albert B. Schafer (1832-1881) and Katherine Mueller (1837-1924). Schafer worked early on as a record searcher and was appointed secretary of the Board of Health in Oakland in July 1890. He worked in various government positions over his working lifetime, including Oakland postmaster and Alameda County assessor. In the 1900 census, he and his family were enumerated at 354 East 14th Street in Oakland. His wife Zebuline H. Schafer claimed birth in January 1870 in Virginia of a Kentucky-born father and a Virginia-born mother. Also in the household were single friend Leila J. Lilburn (born August 1873 Canada) and



Sketch of Zebuline from the Sunday, September 15, 1901, San Francisco Examiner.

married boarder Anna Shakespere (born October 1848 New York). The 1900 Oakland city directory listed Paul J. Schafer as assistant postmaster and Mrs. Zebuline H. Schafer, obstetrician [sic], both residing at 354 East 14th Street.

However, by the time the 1910 census was enumerated Paul Schafer claimed to be single. He was living with his widowed mother Katy Schafer in Oakland, with niece Thelma Calhoun, age 6, and nephew Vernon Calhoun, age 5. He and Zebuline had divorced.

On October 25, 1902 Zebuline married (2) Herbert Wardle Beck (born June 4, 1876 San Francisco, California, died January 14, 1954 San Francisco, California) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The 1910 census enumerated Herbert W. Beck, age 36, a fruit farmer, and wife Zebuline, age 38, living in township no. 3 of Placer Co., California. Her children Paul, age 17, and Symmes, 16, were also in the household.

About 1913 Zebuline married (3) Lawrence Matthew Yore (born April 15, 1876 California, died April 11, 1941 El Dorado Co., California), the son of John J. Yore (born August 1836 New York) and Mary Daley (born May 1840 Ireland). In 1910, Lawrence had been enumerated as a 34-year-old single quartz miner in Placer Co., California. When he registered for the draft in 1918, he was a farmer residing in East Auburn, Placer County. In 1922, Placer County voter rolls listed Lawrence Matthew Yore as a farmer in Butcher Ranch precinct, and his wife Mrs. Zebuline Hunt as a housewife in East Auburn precinct. They were then both registered as Republicans. Probably the land farmed by Lawrence Yore was in Butcher Ranch precinct, while their marital home was in East Auburn.

The 1930 census enumerated the Yores as residents of Georgetown precinct in El Dorado County. Lawrence Yore was working as a gold miner. His wife Zebuline H. Yore claimed birth in Kentucky of a Kentucky-born father and a Virginia-born mother. In 1930, both Yores were registered as Democrats on the El Dorado Co. voter rolls. Zebuline [sic] H. Yore died, age 67, in El Dorado Co., California, on Dec. 9, 1937. Her actual age was in fact seventy. Her widowed husband Lawrence M. Yore, age 63, was enumerated in Kelsey,

El Dorado Co., California in the 1940 census, still working as a gold miner. He died less than a year later.

Zebuline Hunt did keep up her connections with her children following her divorce. When he sailed on the Armagh from New York City on August 15, 1918, Capt. Symmes H. Schafer of Battery B of the 143rd Field Artillery, 40th Division, named his mother, Mrs. Zebuline H. Yore of East Auburn, Placer Co., California as his next of kin.

I have not discovered a burial place for Zebuline (Hunt) Yore. I doubt that she ever had the opportunity to answer the question Mrs. Minter posed in her "Questions" column in 1887. But at least she has not faded into total obscurity. During their time in East Auburn, Zebuline and her second husband Lawrence were probably fairly close neighbors of Clark Ashton Smith (1893-1961) and his parents. Whether they ever met I do not know. But at least this young amateur journalist, with the unusual first name recalling her illustrious great-grandparent Gen. Zebulon Pike, has not faded into total obscurity. Could she have imagined being the wife of a gold miner in a rural setting when she first entered the amateur journalism hobby in San Francisco in the mid-1880s? It seems unlikely. But the currents of life take us to many unexpected places. ♦

## Zebuline's Marital Woes Made Headlines

by Dave Tribby

WHEN Ken Faig sends me one of his meticulously researched genealogical reports about an amateur journalist, I search Newspapers.com for supplementary information from contemporary publications. In the case of Zebuline Hunt, there were a surprising number of salacious headlines.

The September 5, 1901 *Oakland Tribune* front page blared, "Paul Schafer Tells of Unhappy Married Life."

This morning a copy of the complaint in the suit for divorce, brought by Mrs. Zebuline H. Schafer against her husband, Paul J. Schafer, Assistant Postmaster of this city, was served upon the defendant. ...

It is understood that the wife charges that since 1890, the husband has been guilty of extreme cruelty and, also that he has been harsh, and unaffectionate.

It is also said that Schafer deserted his wife at frequent intervals, sometimes for a month, making in the meantime no provision for her care or maintenance ...

Mr. Schafer, the defendant in the

case, was seen by a *Tribune* reporter this morning. He denied all the charges against him. ... He declared that he preferred fighting his case in the court and not trying it in the newspaper. ...

"I want my children. I would have been willing to grant my wife a divorce without a contest but not while she lays claim and has possession of my children." ...

The article included Schafer's contention that through her work with the Christian Science church, she brought a Mrs. Brandes, the wife of a murderer, to live in their home, supposedly as a servant, under the assumed name Rose Thiel. He claimed the women, "took possession of my home and I had no right there, although I was paying the expenses of the place."

Soon after that, my wife went East and remained about seen weeks. She went to see Mrs. Eddy, the Christian Science healer.

Ten days later the *Sunday San Francisco Examiner Magazine* devoted a full

**PAUL SCHAFER TELLS OF  
UNHAPPY MARRIED LIFE.**

**SHOOTING AT A MYSTERIOUS MAN—TALE OF A FRENCH  
RESTAURANT—MRS. BRANDES AN ISSUE—CHRIST-  
IAN SCIENCE IN THE CASE.**

This morning, a copy of the complaint longer be responsible for her debts. In the suit for divorce, brought by Mrs. Zebuline H. Schafer against her husband, Paul J. Schafer, Assistant Postmaster of this city, was served upon the defendant. It is understood that the wife charges that since 1890, the husband has been guilty of extreme cruelty and, also that he has been harsh, and unaffectionate. It is also said that Schafer deserted his wife at frequent intervals, sometimes for a month, making in the meantime no provision for her care or maintenance ...

In August of this year, the plaintiff says that the defendant said to her mother, Josephina Goodwin, "Your daughter was in a French restaurant in the city of San Fran-"

page to "Oakland's Mysterious Woman in Black," (Rose Thiel/Mrs. Brandes) who was described as destroying the marriages of two different Oakland women involved in Christian Science.

Strange things happen in this world—and some of them happen in Oakland.

There are in Oakland two wrecked homes—gone to pieces on the rocks of discord in the divorce court.

There are in Oakland flotsam and jetsam of the wreckage—two desolated husbands. ... These two homes were wrecked, and these two husbands were desolated—so the two husbands say—by Christian Science and Mrs. Etta Brandes. ... Mr. Schafer is of domestic inclination. He was

—indeed, his closest friends say he is—deeply in love with his handsome wife. He is genuinely, affectionately fond of their three pretty children. ...

She became interested in Christian Science six or seven years ago. She abandoned Catholicism for it. She became a healer. ... She brought visitors home, of all sorts and conditions, and inducted them into the mysteries of Christian Science. ... She put a sign up on the front window of their home to the effect that it was the “Christian Science Reading-rooms.” She put another sign on the front door, saying “Walk in.” When Mr. Schafer came home from his office, he says, he found Christian Scientists filling his parlors, Christian Scientists dining at his table, Christian Science the one absorbing topic of conversation. ... he sickened of Christian Science ...

Mrs. Schafer is an uncommonly handsome young woman with a pretty taste in dress. She has a placid face with a far-away look in her blue eyes and she lives in seeming comfort and some elegance in the pretty white cottage in East Oakland. ...

“As for my own [divorce] suit—Science has nothing to do with that, let Mr. Schafer say what he will. Indeed, it was Christian Science that kept me with him so long. I would have left him,” she said with the most placid sweetness and the evenest tone and the dreamiest, most impersonal look in her eyes. “I would have left him long ago but for Science.”

Mrs. Schafer is an enthusiast. Whatever her faith, she was a devotee. ... She could have died at the stake with a song of triumph on her lips. She has the zeal for martyrdom if her cause calls for martyrdom.

After these and other notorious articles, Zebuline’s Father, Symmes Hunt, came to her defense in a page one article in the September 18, 1901, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*:

“As to her deserting him when she went East, I will say that he knew she was going on Christian Science business a whole year before she left here and the trip didn’t cost him a cent. She took her children with her for a visit to their great grandparents in the East and Schafer knew all this. ... We don’t want to jeopardize his position, but since he’s had his say, we ought to have ours, too.”

The Oakland newspapers an-

nounced the divorce trial was set for November 19, then continued to January 8, February 24, and March 5. On that last date, the *Oakland Tribune* reported,

Mrs. Schafer has gone East. Her whereabouts is unknown. She withdrew the complaint some weeks ago just when it was about to come up for trial. It is understood, however, that there has been no agreement between husband and wife looking toward a settlement of the differences which have arisen between them.

About seven months later there was a brief page 6 notice in the *Lincoln Nebraska State Journal* for October 27, 1902:

Justice Carson of Council Bluffs, on Saturday married Herbert W. Beck of Paducah, Ky., and Mrs. Zebulina Schaefer [sic] of Oakland, Cal. The couple applied in Lincoln at the county judge’s office on Saturday morning for a license but when the bride-to-be was asked if she had been divorced within the last six months she admitted that it was only two months since the decree had been entered in her favor. It is not known whether it was secured in Nebraska or not. Clerk Harry G. Abbott told the couple that Iowa laws were better for them than Nebraska statutes and they took a noon train to Council Bluffs. They were on their way to California and the journey was slightly interrupted by the jaunt eastwards.

Zebuline and her new husband had worked together for the Christian Science church in Oakland going back several years. The July 19, 1902, *Oakland Enquirer* reported he voluntarily gave up his position as secretary of the Pacific Coast Borax company and had, “gone East to devote his life to Christian Science.” He landed in Paducah, Kentucky, about halfway between Nashville and Saint Louis. (According to a biography on the Longyear Museum website, he maintained a lifelong connection to the Christian Science church and was appointed to its Board of Lectureship in 1942.)

The newlyweds headed to California, and the February 25, 1903 *Sacramento Bee* had a small ad: “Mrs.

### KIDNAPER IS CAPTURED ON STEAMBOAT

**Paul Schafer Arrested Aboard Sacramento River Craft.**

Former Wife and Detective Wait on Dock for His Coming.

Effort Is Made to Convince Him, but He Is Found With His Little Daughter in Stateroom.

Paul Schafer, the assistant postmaster of Oakland, who kidnapped his little daughter, Josephine H. Goodwin, to Sacramento on Monday afternoon, arrived here this morning on the steamer Apache in this city on the steamer Apache. He was taken into custody by Detective E. J. Gilman.

At the time of the arrival of the Apache the Mrs. Beck and her husband were on the dock waiting for Detective Gilman. When the Apache docked and the daughter was taken from the steamer, the detective failed to appear. Detective Gilman, C. E. Winkler, the city, and Inspector J. H. Winkler, the city, were looking for the kidnaper. Winkler reported that he had seen the boat at Charbonnet. Winkler reported that he had seen the boat about a year and a half ago on the Sacramento river. Winkler reported that he had seen the boat about a year and a half ago on the Sacramento river. Winkler reported that he had seen the boat about a year and a half ago on the Sacramento river.

Detective Gilman knocked on the stateroom door, which was open, and saw a man and a woman. The man was Paul Schafer and the woman was his daughter. The man was Paul Schafer and the woman was his daughter. The man was Paul Schafer and the woman was his daughter.

### SCHAFER IS BITTER AGAINST WRECKER OF HIS HAPPINESS

Assistant Postmaster of Oakland Tells Story of How His Home Was Invaded and Wife and Children Taken From Him by Herbert Beck



LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS ABDUCTED BY HER FATHER FROM SACRAMENTO, AND MOTHER OF THE CHILD, OF WHOM HER FORMER HUSBAND SAYS HABITS THINGS.

**R**OBBED of my wife and children, my little ones' names stolen from them by a scoundrel I have once kicked out of my house and once thrashed, I thought it was high time to take steps to protect myself," declared Paul J. Schafer, assistant postmaster of Oakland, as he talked about the charge of kidnapping upon which he was arrested while leaving the Sacramento River boat

Josephine H. Goodwin [Zebuline’s mother], Mr. Herbert W. Beck, and Mrs. Zebuline H. Beck, Christian Science Practitioners, are now located in Stoll Building, 5th and K Streets.”

Within a few months, Paul Schafer discovered his wife, children, and her new husband were living just 80 miles from Oakland. On June 8, 1903, he picked their 12-year-old daughter, Josephine, up on her way home from school, put her in a waiting buggy, and made his way to the steamer *Apache* on the Sacramento River for a trip to San Francisco. The Becks learned of the boarding, sent word ahead to the authorities, and when the *Apache* landed in San Francisco detectives apprehended Schafer on charges of kidnapping. Josephine was returned to her mother.

Schafer told his side of the story in “Schafer is Bitter Against Wrecker of his Happiness,” an article in the *San Francisco Call* for June 11:

“Robbed of my wife and children, my little ones’ names stolen from them by a scoundrel I have once kicked out of my house and once thrashed, I thought it was high time to take steps to protect myself,” declared Paul J. Schafer, assistant postmaster of Oakland, as he talked about the charge of kidnapping upon which he was arrested while leaving the Sacramento River boat

<p><b>WANTS DIVORCE TO BE ANNULLED</b></p> <p>Paul Schafer, Assistant Postmaster of Oakland, Appeals to the Courts</p> <p>BRINGS A SUIT IN STATE OF NEBRASKA.</p> <p>Claim Is Made That the Wife Secured Separation Upon False Testimony and Without Being a Resident</p>	<p><b>PAUL SCHAFFER VINDICATED IN NEBRASKA COURT.</b></p> <p>Judge Sets Wife's Divorce Aside After She Had Married Herbert Beck.</p> <p>OMAHA, Neb., November 24.—Paul Schafer, assistant postmaster at Oakland, who journeyed nearly 2000 miles to have the divorce granted to his wife in October, 1902, set aside was yesterday completely vindicated by Judge Sears. For two years Mrs. Schafer has lived as the wife of a</p> <p>divorced man. Children's game that Schafer, instead of being a drunkard was an upright and sober man. Mr. Schafer files away the charge of being a drunkard and gives him equal rights to the children who have lived all this time</p>
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Apache early yesterday morning in this city. ...

Schafer declares that his former wife, Mrs. Zebuline H. Schafer-Beck, procured a divorce from him in Nebraska by fraud and perjury. He says he had no knowledge of the proceedings and that no papers were ever served on him, despite the fact that he is one of the prominent Federal officials of Oakland ...

Without equivocation Schafer flatly asserts that his purpose was to gain possession of his daughter in order that he might compel his former wife to go to Oakland, where they were married and where their children were born, to make a fight for their custody.

The father says he made no secret of his intentions when he went to Sacramento a week ago, that he apprised the police and the District Attorney of his mission, and declared his purpose to take his daughter if he could get hold of her. And he says further that he would have accomplished his ends had not a fainthearted private detective revealed the route he had taken for San Francisco. ...

"I have been laying my plans carefully to get my daughter back to Oakland, because I thought if I got her here the mother would surely follow and then I could at once commence a fight to get the custody of the three children. That I shall do at Sacramento at once, because I can prove that there was fraud in the divorce proceedings.

"I had hoped to be able to make the contest in Oakland, where I am so well known."

The June 23 *Sacramento Bee* reported, "Schafer Case Is Dismissed; Court Holds There Was No Guilty Intent."

Paul J. Schafer, of Oakland, and H. J. Winters, of this city, underwent preliminary examination in the City Justice's Court yesterday afternoon on the charges of child-stealing.

Both defendants were discharged from custody, Justice March holding

that the prosecution had failed to show the defendant, Schafer, was aware that his wife had been granted a divorce in the State of Nebraska.

The Court further held that the defendant did not know, at least, the prosecution had not shown he did, that the Court had awarded the children to Mrs. Schafer, now Mrs. E. Beck, and

therefore no criminal intent had been shown in his taking the girl into custody.

Two days later, the *Oroville Daily Register* provided additional details:

An important point brought out in the testimony was the admission of Mrs. Beck, formerly Schafer's wife, that she secured a divorce from Mr. Schafer in Omaha, Nebraska, October 21st, 1902, and was married three days later in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, having crossed the line to have the ceremony performed.

On August 15, just weeks after he was cleared of child-stealing charges, Schafer filed suit in Lincoln, Nebraska, to set aside the divorce secured by Zebuline the previous fall. He charged that it was approved due to false testimony and his wife had not been a bona fide resident of Nebraska, having come to the state for the purpose of securing the divorce.

The next day, Zebuline was interviewed in Sacramento by the *San Francisco Call*. She prepared a statement:

My divorce was granted on the ground of habitual drunkenness in Omaha, Nebr., October 22, 1902. My residence in Nebraska was bona fide, as I can prove, because I went there with the avowed purpose of practicing Christian Science ...

In September 1901 I commenced a suit for divorce against Paul J. Schafer in Oakland ... Schafer made no cross-complaint at this time, which he certainly would have done had he such facts as he now claims he had. ...

I went East because he threatened my life, and also he told my mother that he had every lawyer and Judge in the county of Alameda "fixed" so that they would not dare bring a decision contrary to his wishes, and this later I believed firmly, because my suit was postponed many times against my expressed wishes. ...

He took his daughter forcibly away from her teacher against her will, as

any one who heard her screams for help can testify. Schafer used his political pull (as he is doing now in Nebraska) to work the police of Sacramento, and as he had done in every city where he supposed I would locate, and his movements are not now and never have been aboveboard.

In October 1903 the District Court of Omaha dismissed Schafer's suit, due to insufficient evidence. He appealed that result, and on April 21, 1904, the Supreme Court of Nebraska issued a ruling, allowing him to contest the divorce decree:

It shall be unlawful for any person who shall obtain a decree of divorce to marry again during the time allowed by law for commencing proceedings ... and a violation of this act shall subject the party violating it to all the penalties of other cases of bigamy. ... It is probably true that parties may marry again within six months from the date of the decree if no error or appeal proceedings have been commenced, but there is no doubt that in so doing they must take their chances on having the decree vacated.

The divorce case was re-heard in Nebraska seven months later, this time with the husband allowed to present his own evidence. Here is how the *Omaha Evening World-Herald* reported the results in a story on November 24, 1904 titled "Mrs. Schafer Finds Herself Married to Both Husbands":

Mrs. Zebuline H. Schafer, or Beck, now finds herself in the predicament of having one more husband than the law authorizes, as the result of a decree granted by Judge Sears. The decree of divorce from a former husband, Paul J. Schafer, assistant postmaster at Oakland, Cal., is swept aside, and Herbert W. Beck now becomes the superfluous husband, according to law. ...

In effect, the court denies jurisdiction over the case, because Mrs. Schafer was a non-resident; sets aside the divorce, and leaves Schafer and his former wife in the same legal relations that they were before she secured the divorce. She still has possession of the children.

The Schaffers later did divorce, since Zebuline was married to her third husband, Lawrence Yore, by 1914. But that divorce and remarriage did not attract the same attention as the events of 1901 to 1904. ♦

# Robin E. Rider

April 26, 1950 – August 24, 2024

by Dave Tribby

AMATEUR JOURNALISM lost a good friend when Robin Rider, Curator of Special Collections at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died suddenly and unexpectedly from a brain aneurysm in August.

Her initial contact with The Fossils came twenty years ago at a critical moment in the life of the Library of Amateur Journalism. Since 1982 the LAJ had been housed in Stayton, Oregon, under the oversight of Mike Horvat, but health issues were forcing him to give up that responsibility and the building housing the massive collection was scheduled to be demolished. The Fossils' LAJ Committee, headed by Ken Faig, searched for an appropriate institution that might be open to holding the collection. In the fall of 2004, UW Special Collections became the primary candidate, and in November Robin, as curator, became central to the negotiations. Her December 1st and 2nd onsite inspection of the LAJ went well, and UW agreed to accept the donation. The 300 LAJ boxes were loaded on a Yellow Truck trailer on December 21, beating the deadline to vacate the premises by only ten days.

Once the truck arrived in Madison, Robin took responsibility for arranging appropriate storage for the fragile papers and other artifacts, and assigning staff to catalog the collection and prepare it for public use. Her first "LAJ Progress Report," in the April 2006 issue of *THE FOSSIL*, described the cleaning, re-boxing, and indexing work underway. She met with amateur journalists who ventured to Madison, including in May 2015 when Fossils Ken and Carol Faig and Barry Schrader met with her to discuss the possibility of an amateur journalism conference held in Memorial Library. That event became a reality in July 2016, when Robin and other members of the UW staff hosted The Fossils, NAPA, and AAPA for three days of discussions.

Between 2018 and 2024 Robin wrote six articles for *THE FOSSIL* to keep us informed on work underway to preserve the LAJ. She also put us in contact with several academics who wrote *FOSSIL* articles describing their work using the LAJ. She assisted both Ken Faig and me on research that turned into *FOSSIL* articles.

Robin Elaine Rider was born April 26, 1950 in Wyoming, the daughter of Jack L. Rider and Janet E. Shea. Robin grew up in Cheyenne, graduating first in her class at Central High School in 1968. She then headed to California, earning a B.S. degree in Mathe-

matics from Stanford University in 1972. She did her post-graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving both an M.A. (Mathematics) in 1974 and a Ph.D. (History) in 1980. Following appointments at Berkeley and Stanford, she joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 as curator and head of special collections. In 2002 she was named associate director for collection development, management, and preservation for the General Library System. Her biography on the UW website noted, "My current research, writing, and teaching sit at the intersection of history of science (especially early modern science) and history of the book."

Fossil President Faig remarked on her legacy: "I join the entire Fossils board and membership in expressing our sorrow at the passing of Robin Rider. The wonderful LAJ collection would not be at UW-Madison Special Collections today had it not been for her efforts. Users of LAJ for decades and hopefully centuries to come will have Robin to thank for this wonderful resource."

David Pavelich, Associate Dean for Special Collections and Collections Strategy, shared his memories: "Robin was exceptionally knowledgeable, passionate, and curious, especially about the history of science and mathematics and the history of books. She had a dry but incisive sense of humor. Despite her years in California and Wisconsin, her Wyoming accent never quite left her, and she talked often of the high winds of Cheyenne (also dry and incisive). She was curious about how things worked, and over the years came to understand Memorial Library's HVAC, plumbing, and other systems better than most of us would ever care to (she knew many campus steamfitters and electricians). She enjoyed traveling and researching and visiting the world's great libraries (including recently those in France and England and Harvard). She also loved the university and the life of the mind, and she was especially happy working among books and manuscripts with her dear colleagues and students in the Department of Special Collections. She thrived most when teaching and sharing her enthusiasms with students and learners of all ages. The department and its collections are forever stamped with her spirit, care, and expertise."

In addition to her work at Memorial Library, she was a Senior Lecturer in the History of Science and taught several courses. ♦



Robin E. Rider



# Fossil FY'24 Finances

by Dave Tribby

THE MOST recent Fossil fiscal year ran from August 15, 2023 to August 14, 2024. During that time, income totaled \$782 and expenses \$800.25:

<b>Treasury Balance on August 15, 2023</b>	<b>\$3928.27</b>
Income for Fiscal Year 2024:	
Memberships (20)	\$410.00
Subscriptions (2)	\$20.00
Donations (13)	\$352.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$782.00</b>
Expenses for Fiscal Year 2024:	
Bank Fees	\$63.34
Website - Internet Service Provider	\$35.91
Website - Domain Registration	\$15.16
THE FOSSIL - Postage	\$128.51
THE FOSSIL - Printing	\$557.33
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$800.25</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>-\$18.25</b>
<b>Treasury Balance on August 14, 2024</b>	<b>\$3910.02</b>

The largest expense item was THE FOSSIL. There were a total of 44 pages in volume 120, the same as volume 119, with printing costs rising by 1.6% and

postage by 16.1%. The production and mailing cost for a single copy of the four issues was \$23.59, indicating the true value of an annual subscription (currently set at \$10/year).

The cost of our website's Internet Service Provider increased by \$10.96. The new rate is for two years, so the annual cost actually decreased by \$7. Banking fees were much higher due to the purchase of new checks for \$27.34.

Nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of renewing members and subscribers made donations ranging from \$2 to \$100, and those donations totaled 82% of dues and subscription income. Many thanks to those who help cover our increasing costs and allow us to keep fees low for members who cannot afford an increase.

During the year, Mick Taylor converted his subscription to a membership and Tim Lonegan joined as a new member. Two Fossils, Gary Bossler and Jim Hedges died. We ended the year with 19 regular members, 1 life member, 3 couples as joint members, and 4 subscribers, a net loss of one subscription during the twelve months. ♦

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## Official Editor's Message

# Amateur Journalism in the Media

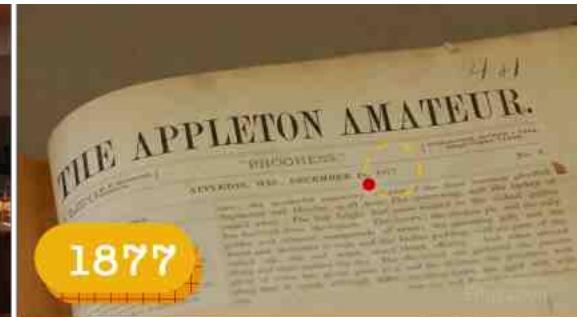
by Dave Tribby

SEVERAL video and audio projects related to amateur journalism have recently become available on the Web.

### "Fit to Print"

An episode of the PBS Wisconsin Education series *The Look Back* describes the early days of amateur journalism. Titled "Fit to Print," the nine minute online video opens with Archivist Cat Phan asking Public Historian Nick Hoffman how people kept in touch before social media.

They contact University of Wisconsin Libraries Special Collections to see if they can figure it out. "I know that



Scenes from PBS Wisconsin's "Fit to Print" episode of The Look Back.

they have a lot of old things. Maybe there's an answer."

The next scene shows them being welcomed by David Pavelich, Director of Special Collections, who shows them some amateur journalism newspapers. The researchers focus on *The Appleton Amateur* from 1877. To dig deeper, they interview Amateur Journalism Expert Jessica Isaac, whom many Fossils will remember as the author of "Amateur Journalism: Rooted in Adolescence" in *THE FOSSIL* for January 2016 (number 366) and also as the keynote speaker at Amateur Journalism Conference 2016, held at UW-Madison.

Jessica explains how the expectations of teenagers were changing as the country industrialized in the 1870s. The invention of small printing presses provided a new way for them to make connections with other young people and explore their interests and identity. The earliest amateur journals were modeled on professional juvenile magazines of the time, but soon editorials became more important as the publishers debated topics among themselves. Jessica also describes the process of hand-setting type and letterpress printing.

Cat and Nick are fascinated with the process and technology of publishing, and appreciate how it allowed so many young people to share ideas across the nation, and even further. They close by challenging their viewers to make and share their own papers. "You'll be continuing a tradition started by young people just like you over 150 years ago."

The video can be found online at

<https://www.pbs.org/video/fit-to-print-doqcxo/>

Its description:

Young people writing and printing their own newspapers became popular in the late 1860s and 70s, or the Progressive Era, with significant industrialization in the United States. With the invention of a small, hobby printing press, young people could make and share news and grow communities by printing and swapping them.



### *Strange Magick*

Another recent documentary with a connection to our hobby is *Strange Magick*, which explores the connection between noted horror writer (and amateur

journalist) H. P. Lovecraft and occultist Aleister Crowley (born Edward Alexander Crowley). Fossil Trustee David Goudsward, an executive producer and narrator, notes the two did not have a direct connection, but both were acquainted with Myrta Alice Little, who was briefly a member of the United Amateur Press Association.

As David explained in *THE FOSSIL* No. 383 for April 2020, Little and Lovecraft both appeared in the November 1920 issue of C. W. Smith's amateur paper *The Tryout*, and around the same time were corresponding. When Lovecraft ventured from Providence, R. I. to visit the Little family home in Hampstead, N. H. the following summer, they visited Smith at his home in Haverhill, Mass., about ten miles away.

Little had a number of children's poems and other pieces published in the professional press in the early 1920s, which brought her into contact with Crowley.

On its website at

<https://www.strangemagickdocumentary.com/>

*Strange Magick* is described as "a dark labor of love crafted over 10 years, uncovering the war secrets, occult societies, and strange stone sites in New England that connect two of the most infamous thinkers of the 20th century." The official video trailer is available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7HaWR7Fyf0>

David is associated with several productions, and he has a biography in the International Movie Database ([imdb.com](http://imdb.com)):

Goudsward is a prolific author with over two dozen nonfiction books to his credit. He is a cryptozoologist specializing in historical aquatic cryptids and a regular contributor to Lovecraft studies and the history of the Amateur Press movement. He is a member of the Board of the International Cryptozoology Museum and *The Fossils*, the historians of Amateur Journalism.

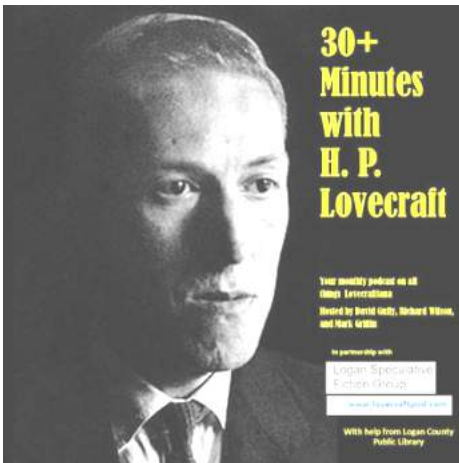
As of early September, David had completed his latest book, *Adventurous Liberation: H. P. Lovecraft in Florida*, except for a last run through of all the chapters. It was ready to send to his editor, "who shall attempt to reduce the word count down to something slightly less than the unabridged OED."



Scenes from the trailer for *Strange Magick*.

## “Seven Club Tales”

Fossil President Ken Faig, Jr. participated for the third time in the podcast *30+ Minutes with H.P. Lovecraft*, hosted by Richard Wilson, David Guffy, and Mark Griffin. The 88 minute episode, released August 14 and titled “Seven Club Tales,” discusses whether Lovecraft read three books of fic-



tion (particularly *Journal of William Jefferay, Gentleman and More Seven Club Tales*) by author John Osborne Austin (1849-1918). The stories in these books typically include references to the supernatural and many are set in Lovecraft’s home state of Rhode Island, elements that would no doubt appeal to him. Ken discusses Austin, his stories, whether Lovecraft read them, and what impact they may have had on his writing.

The podcast is available free online on a number of services, such as Apple Podcasts or Spotify, or you can visit the website

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/lcpl>

Ken’s previous podcast episodes were “Edith Minter” (October 13, 2022) and “People & Places” (December 13, 2023, discussing Lovecraft’s genealogy and sharing stories about his family and friends). ♦

## New Member Profile

# Your Newest Fossil

by Mick Taylor

IN THE FOSSIL No. 384 for July 2020, James Hedges described the “long and meandering” route that led him to an interest in amateur journalism. That is certainly also the case with my own discovery of *ajay*. I suspect that in future years the ranks of *ajay* historians will be swelled by people with a similarly diverse background, rather than the alumni of NAPA or AAPA. For me an interest in archivism, local history, H.P. Lovecraft and his circle, and the zine scene of the early 90s eventually lead to a discovery of your august organization.

When I was in high school in Cape Town, I told my history teacher that I would like to be an archivist. He graciously set up an interview for me with the director of the South African National Archives, who gave me more information on how to go about equipping myself for this profession, as well as talking about the contents of the archives and the importance of the work. I ended up not following that career path, but have remained convinced of the value of preserving all documents, not just those deemed important at the time.

After I emigrated to the U. S. to go to grad school in the early '90s, I suddenly had access to a much larger and wider range of material than I ever did in South Africa. I was like a kid in a candy store, hunting down material on my favorite subjects and engaging in corre-



Fossil Mick Taylor and Woofles

spondence with others of like mind. It was an exhilarating time. Of Fossil relevance, I was able to find much more information on my favorite author, H.P. Lovecraft, and learned of his involvement with UAPA and NAPA. I also joined my first APA, the Lovecraft-oriented “Esoteric Order of Dagon” amateur press association. There I was exposed to the work of scholars like Ken Faig, S.T. Joshi and David Schultz. (I left that APA for many years, but have since rejoined.) Ken’s work in particular fired my imagination, with his painstaking and lovingly detailed research on the various personalities of *ajay*.

At that time too I became involved in a different *ajay* scene of sorts — the thriving zine proliferation of the '90s. I became part of an informal circle of characters that were interested in some of the more fringe aspects of Lovecraft studies. They produced or contributed to a number of amateur and semi-pro journals on the general topic of “high weirdness”, which included analyses of such topics as Lovecraft, UFOs, Philip K. Dick, psychedelics, conspiracy theory, and the like. Although not a formal amateur press association, we functioned in a similar manner and were more or less a “NAPA for kooks.”

In the immortal words of the Grateful Dead, “what a long, strange trip it’s been.” Years of this activity were followed by years of doing other things. But a renewed burst of interest eventually led me to The Fossils. I have developed a great appreciation of what you have done and continue to do as amateur journalism historians. It is an honor to be a Fossil, and I hope that I find ways I can contribute to the group. ♦

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*\*Note: The Fossils Board of Trustees granted life membership  
to Martin M. Horvat. ♦*

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## The Fossil

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

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