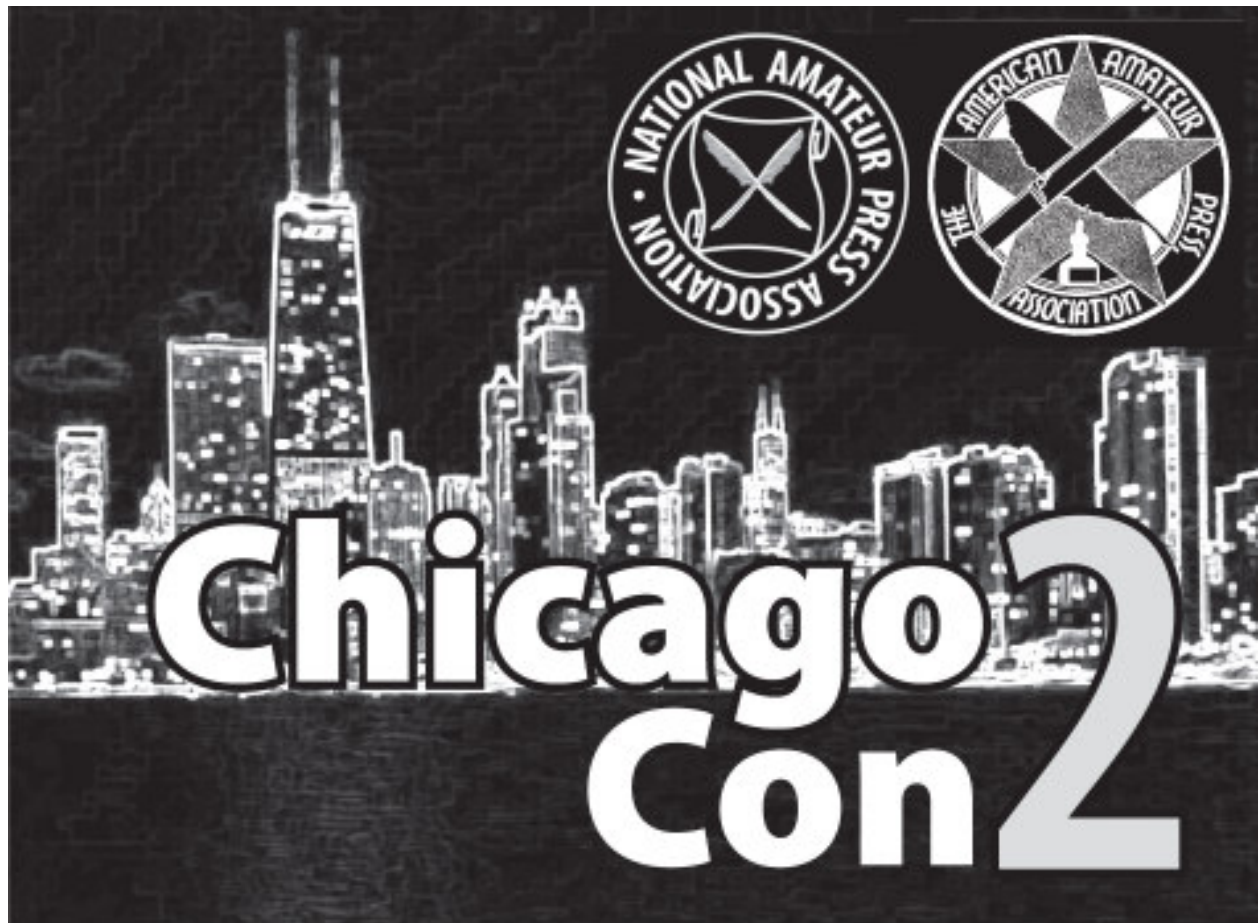


# *The* **National Amateur**

March 2010

Volume 132, Number 3

*The Official Organ of The National Amateur Press Association  
Published Since 1878!*



NAPA ■ AAPA ■ JULY 22-25

**This is The One  
You Don't Want to Miss!**

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## The National Amateur

The Official Organ of the National Amateur Press Association

Volume 132 Number 3

March 2010

Published quarterly by the National Amateur Press Association, a non-profit organization established July 4, 1876 to promote amateur journalism as a hobby. Members write, print, publish and exchange journals by direct mail or through the association's mailing bureau which collects and distributes a "bundle" of journals every month. Membership is not restricted by age, sex, or race.

Anyone interested in the hobby, upon endorsement by a present member, will be considered for membership. This includes a subscription to The National Amateur, and entitles a member to participate in association affairs. Dues are \$20 for U.S. members. For members outside U.S., \$27.50 Europe air mail, \$50, Far East air mail, \$60.

Active members are qualified to vote in the

annual election of officers held at the annual convention. Any active member may also participate in the annual laureate competition, use the mailing bureau and the manuscript bureau. Additional members in the same household may join for \$2 annually, but only one copy of the official organ and the bundle will be sent to this household.

**COVER:** Artwork contributed by Mike O'Connor, President of AAPA and also a member of NAPA from Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**2010 Chicago Convention Committee - Bill Boys, Chair**, Harold Cheney, Ken Faig Jr.

**2010 CONcurrent CONventions; NAPA-AAPA Elk Grove Village, IL, July 22-25, 2009.**

## President's Message

History is being made! For the first time, the American and National Amateur Press Associations will be meeting at the same time and in the same place when we assemble in Chicago in July. Particular thanks to local host Barry Schrader; he chairs the AAPA convention committee but also belongs to the NAPA.

This concurrent convention in itself should attract a larger number of members from both groups.

Beyond the historic significance of meeting simultaneously, and sometimes jointly, in convention, is the larger possibility of sharing the fruits of our creative contributions.

To take but one example, I concur with those who would like to receive bundles containing production from both associations. Shouldn't AAPAers have the benefit of Jake Warner's *Boxwooders*? And shouldn't NAPAers be enriched with Lee Hawes' *Gator Growl*?

Although I have for some years belonged to both associations, I have devoted my time and service largely to the NAPA. I trust it will not be considered disloyal to suggest that we have a lot to learn and receive from the AAPA. Although it might be debated who needs whom the most, we might agree that in different ways we need each other!

We should not allow organizational identities and differences to deny us the larger good of what we are all about. The glory days of amateur print jour-

nalism may be behind us, which is all the more reason that we can appreciate and advance our closer cooperation.

I am pleased that the way has been made clear for us this year to come together in this "con-con" format. And I am hopeful that the way will become increasingly clear for us to walk hand in hand and to publish page with page.



All about appointments:

You will note on the masthead the names of those who have consented within the past year to serve in different appointive capacities. Newly announced is Alice Brosey, who has consented to be our new historian.

In addition, pursuant to discussion at the Parkersburg convention, and following an open invitation to participate, a task force to review and recommend revisions to the constitution was appointed in October. Despite the interest expressed by all six members, it became apparent that dealing with the matter by committee and mostly via the internet is too unwieldy. Member Melody Warner provided a "NAPA Constitutional Forum" on her family website, providing us with the best means to date of exchanging views. However, we agree that any actual proposals are going to have to come from individuals. To that end I have asked Gary Bossler to refine his proposal made unsuccessfully at the last convention by incorporating ideas gener-

ated either by Melody's forum, bundle journals, or other venues, and to present it in clear and concise form for amendment action at the upcoming convention. The effect of this for the task force is that its function has been changed from making a proposal as a group to that of providing input individually in an advisory capacity.

I have intentionally not attempted to secure a recruitment replacement inasmuch as I believe that the offices of publicity director and recruitment should be merged, even as their functions have already been somewhat blended by Gigi Volkart. If I am mistaken in this, it can be corrected without much damage done. As to the manuscript bureau, after unsuccessful attempts to fill the position, Bill Boys promptly and efficiently accepted my request that he temporarily manage it until the right person could be secured or until the office itself be eliminated or combined as some have advocated.

Once again I express my appreciation to all of the above, to those who have at least considered serving but have found it impossible at this time, to all who have served in each of these posts over the years, and to those who might well yet step forward when the call comes to carry on the necessary work of the Association.

Laureate judges of award are listed below. Please note that all nominations, while due to recorder Marti Abell by March 15, will still be honored if sent in by the first of April.

## LAUREATE JUDGES OF AWARD — 2010

ART – Robert Tauber is the Book Arts Specialist with the Ohio State University Libraries and is director of the Logan Elm Press. With degrees in the Fine Arts and Art History, he has taught courses and presented workshops in graphic design and print media. He also hosted the 2009 AAPA Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

EDITING – Scott Mooney is the author and publisher of two books (*Usury: Destroyer of Nations*, and *Money: Symbol & Substance*) and numerous articles and essays. With a special focus on early American works, he is currently re-typesetting for republication a book originally published in 1666.

EDITORIAL COMMENT – Tami Lange, with degrees in journalism and English, has served in various newspaper editorial positions (special editions, education, religion, business, city), having received awards from the Associated Press, the Ohio Newspapers Women's Association and Ohio Professional Writers.

FICTION – Debra Shostak, a professor of English and chair of Film Studies at the College of Wooster, is a member of the Society for the Study of Narrative

Literature. Specializing in 20th century American literature, she has published studies on the novelist and Pulitzer Prize winner Philip Roth.

HISTORY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM – Leland M. Hawes, Jr., known by many in the a-jay world as “Mr. AAPA,” retired from *The Tampa Tribune* in 2004 after 52 years of writing his column “History and Heritage.” Past president of AAPA (more than once!), Lee has published his exceptional hobby journal, *The Gator Growl*, since 1942.

MISCELLANEOUS PROSE – Jay W. Simson, former journalist and editor of *The Times-Bulletin* newspaper in Van Wert, OH, is the author of three books on American Civil War history (*Naval Strategies of the Civil War*, *Crisis of Command in the Army of the*

*Potomac*, and *Custer and the Front Royal Executions of 1864*).

POETRY – Mark Hersman is a poet who brings to his writing the knowledge and flavor of both archaeologist and naturalist. His recent chapbook, *Unearthed*, demonstrates his support of the literary arts by way of small press publishing (Pudding House Publications).

PRINTING – David Wiesenberg, owner of Wooster Book Company and affiliated scholar in English at the College of Wooster, did much early work with letterpress printing, specializing in color fidelity. Since entering the publishing field he has been presented with the Ohioana Citation in the field of humanities and an Advocate of Literary Arts Award by the Library of Congress. 🍷

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## Harold, We Miss You.

HAROLD SEGAL is still teaching me things, even after he has gone. The article he wrote for Rich Hopkins and published by Rich in *Farewell CAMPANE: A Tribute to Harold Segal* in the February 2010 Bundle, has so many good things in it. He said he had his own style, a good one to follow.

I never cared for the small caps a computer makes because I believe they are merely reduced in size. In the article Harold said, “One other eccentricity of mine: I have two sizes

of small caps. One that normally is used with the font, the other is 8-point on 10 cast to align.” Note his name on the first sentence. This is set in 12-point and I simply typed his name in all caps and then highlighted AROLD and EGAL and changed the type size to 9.3. Doesn’t that look better than HAROLD SEGAL?

Harold constantly amazed me with the things he accomplished with PageMaker on the computer. Just learning to use the computer at his age was admirable. He will indeed be missed by many and we’re all better off because we knew him. 🍷



This view of the two room suites at the convention hotel shows one of two flat screen TVs at far left plus a look into the bedroom where guests have a choice of two double beds or one king-size when they make reservations.

## **CONVENTION INFO AND RESERVATIONS WEBSITE**

by Bill Boys

Something new for this year's convention is that the hotel has set up a special website for attendees to get information on the hotel and to register, and at the convention rate of \$79 a night.

For the National & American Amateur Press, type the following into your web browser:

[http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/  
StarGroupsWeb/  
res?id=1001047097&key=DC8A4](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1001047097&key=DC8A4)

I have just made my own reservations using this website and it worked just fine. Incidentally, I also learned that they allow guests to have a dog in the room -- good for us, since we travel with one of our Golden Retrievers.

Of course, if you prefer, you can also register by telephone, (847) 290-1600. 🐾

## NAPA Website Usage

by Jon McGrew

There has been some discussion recently about the usage of the NAPA website ([www.AmateurPress.org](http://www.AmateurPress.org)), so here's a little bit more information.

Our last monthly reports show "unique visits" to the website during the month. They define "unique visits" this way:

*"A visitor is counted as an unique visit when requesting at least one page. If more than 30 minutes have elapsed since the first page impression, further requests will be counted as a new unique visit."*

This means that if you go to our website and look at, say, the NAPA Convention info (and we hope you do that), you have had to open several pages to see that, so your page counts are recorded. But your usage only counts as one "visit" during that time. If you go on and look at the Officers list, it's still part of that one visit. But if you come back again after lunch, it counts as a new "visit."

By these methods, our monthly report for January 2010 showed 4,461 "unique visits" to our site...but that's misleading. Now, I know that search engines visit the site, too (Google, Yahoo, MSN, etc.), to gather up the information that ends up in their search-engine listings. And yes, their usage is counted as part of the visits. What I didn't know is how much of the total is taken up by their usage. In looking at that, I was surprised.

The way that the search engines work is that they send out "robots"—small bits of software that travel through the

Internet to gather information for them. (Because they traverse the Web, they are sometimes called "spiders.") These robots are automatic processes, and all of the search engines have to use them to know what's out there on the Web.

There is a lot of information available about the usage of our website beyond what's reported in our weekly/monthly/quarterly reports. One of the reports shows what level of browser visitors use. I looked at that this evening, and saw that it separately reported usage by robots (since they aren't using traditional browsers). What surprised me was the number of hits that are attributed to search engines.

Of the 4,461 visits to our site last month, 2,747 of those hits were from search engines (!), leaving a paltry 1,714 visits from carbon-based life-forms like you and me. That means that during the past month (January 2010), human usage only accounted for about 38% of the total usage. I am very surprised to see such a high percentage of usage from the robots. MSN is the prime offender, accounting for almost 40% of our total website usage, with Yahoo hot on their heels. Google is actually a little better behaved.

So, it turns out that our "real" usage isn't as high as we thought that it was... the reported numbers are being inflated by the usage of these robots. Their usage is important, and I don't want to discount it, but it's a housekeeping function that all websites have, and I don't think that's what we're envisioning when we talk about the usage of our website. Still, the remaining 1,714 website visits in the past month that are legitimately attributed to human life-forms isn't really chopped liver, is it? 🐼

## 2010 NAPA Convention Planning Underway

by Barry Schrader

The historic 135<sup>th</sup> convention of NAPA will be held in the Chicago suburb of Elk Grove Village at the Sheraton Suites hotel from Thursday, July 22 through Saturday, July 24.

Convention chair Bill Boys and co-chair Barry Schrader (for AAPA) are coordinating this year's meeting so that the American Amateur Press Association will convene at the same time and place, an historic first for both organizations.

Reasonable room rates of \$79 a night for a two-room suite have been arranged for attendees and the rate is good for anytime from July 21 through July 25 for those wishing to stay longer and take in some sights around the Chicago area.

The hotel is just off Interstate 90 and only 10 minutes travel time from O'Hare Airport. A \$19 shuttle is available to the hotel. Those flying in to Midway Airport will need to rent a car or carpool with friends. There are also connections from the downtown Amtrak train station via the Metra commuter train that runs to nearby Arlington Heights so a short taxi ride will get people to the convention hotel.

Spouses and other NAPA family members will find nearby attractions to fill their hours as well. Two swimming pools, inside and out, plus a spa are free to guests of the hotel as well as an exercise equipment room. A

Starbucks coffee bar, cocktail lounge, full service restaurant and business center with free computers and WIFI access are also adjacent to the lobby and our hospitality room, which will be open three nights from 7 to 10 p.m. Just a few miles away in Schaumburg is the 300-store Woodfield Shopping Mall, the largest in the Chicago suburbs.

Special features this year will include an optional Charlie Bush Memorial Chinese dinner on Thursday, July 22 at the nearby Peapod restaurant. There is also a Friday noon Fossils Appreciation Luncheon to recognize old timers in amateur journalism, open to all convention attendees and their guests. A noted amateur journalist known as the "Erma Bombeck of Wisconsin" is being sought as the luncheon speaker. On Friday afternoon a charter bus tour will take guests to sights in Chicago, including the home of President Obama and the Tribune Tower gift shop on Michigan Avenue. Seating is limited to 50 riders and signups must be received two weeks prior to the convention. More on that later.

On Saturday there will be two joint events with the AAPA, the traditional auction will feature auctioneers Dave Warner and AAPA's "Sky King" Shipley, each handling their own organizations' items but members from both groups are welcome to outbid each other. The Saturday night joint banquet will include brief comments from both AJ group presidents and a keynote



speaker from the Chicago Tribune, investigative reporter Ray Gibson, author of the book “Blind Justice.”

An optional post-convention trip to the Platen Press Printing Museum of Amalgamated (APA) printer Paul Aken in the suburb of Zion is slated for Sunday morning as well as a luncheon

there. Carpools will be arranged for that trip.

More details will be forthcoming on the NAPA website as well as by NAPA emails, the bundles, and through the National Amateur. Questions can be directed to Bill Boys at his email or snail mail address. 🐉

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## Posted at All the Avenues:

### The Critic's Report

By Heath Row

“The critics ... like Cerberus, are posted at all the avenues of literature, and who settle the merits of every performance.”

—Oliver Goldsmith,

“An Inquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning”

This installment addresses NAPA member materials and items published and distributed in the bundle in September, October, November, and December 2009, as well as January 2010. I apologize for the delay in between critic's reports; my wife and I moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles last fall. May we now settle the merits.

### September 2009

Robert Bierman's short story “Hash Marks” in *The Boxwooder* #482 was an interesting tale of charity, identity, and routine. I'd welcome more fiction from this author. (More on Bierman, in fact, below.) Heck, I'd welcome more fiction, period.

*The Buck Creek Press* #60 impressed me even more than Wilson

Barto's previous edition (mentioned in *The National Amateur* Vol. 132, No. 1). Barto's remembrance of Harold Segal was friendly and went beyond commenting on hobby printing as Barto remarked on Segal's support of union print shops. This edition includes other politically related content, as well. Barto mentions the imprisonment of Pennsylvania state senator Vincent Fumo, and the cost of universal health care and the role of special interest groups. In parallel, his wife weighs in with some anti-war commentary balanced with criticism of late-'60s anti-war activism. A poem by Martha Shivers, some of “Merle's Pearls,” and a piece complaining about people who talk on their mobile phones in public round out the issue. Slim, but an excellently well-rounded, multi-contributor item in the bundle.

Harold Shive's *Impressions by Hal...* #80 includes two items of note. First of all, his brief essay “In Moderation” makes the case for just that (albeit almost half-heartedly). And “Printer's Progress” offers some early history of the typewriter. Those items are balanced by a short joke and a few sug-

gested additions to the dictionary. While I would have liked Shive to take a stronger stance in terms of moderation, I did prefer the pieces that didn't seem like found text. More personal writing, please!

Wasn't Harold Cheney a good-looking man during his Korean War days? At first, I thought that that photograph was the highlight of *In-Between* Vol. 4, No. 3, but then I read "Greening Up Time," a surprising short piece about appreciating—and preserving—the natural world around us. While I hadn't really made the connection before, these half-sheet issues published in between issues of *Mambrino's Golden Helmet* (hence the title!) offer nice breathing room and a different approach to Cheney's publishing.

*Mart's Mouser* #62 offers a welcome report on last year's NAPA convention. Not only does it give readers a sense of what happens at the annual gathering, it might serve as ample inspiration to join other members in the Chicago area this summer. I know I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.

If writing is any indication of one's parenting, Alice Brosey is lucky to have David Warner as a father. His marriage advice as printed in *The Offshoot* #39 seems spot on to this relatively recent married husband, and I hope I write something as heartfelt and helpful if and when my son gets married. Then again, maybe I'll just hold on to this issue of *The Offshoot*. Thanks for sharing your thoughts on matrimony with people outside the family!

## October 2009

Welcome, Richard Polinski, whose "Red, Black, and White: The Printing of the Declaration of Independence" makes up the whole of *The Boxwooder* #483. With a nicely handset cover by Jake Warner, Polinski's piece provides an in-depth look at the technological and transportation challenges faced when printing and distributing the Declaration of Independence. He focuses on two printers, John Dunlap and Mary Katherine Goddard, recognizing two people who had a hand in the early days of our democracy—but whose names are not well known. An excellent contribution by a newcomer to the NAPA.

While Harold Shive's endnote to "The Ghostly Lovers" in *Impressions by Hal...* #81 was somewhat confusing (who wrote the item as published?), I enjoyed it as much as I enjoy most ghost stories: just enough. That said, I was intrigued by the item's contention that West Virginia and North Carolina lay claim to the most ghost stories involving trains. Is that true? Not quite sure how I'd approach verifying that without undertaking a doctoral thesis!

Louise Lincoln devotes the 102nd heating of *The Kitchen Stove* to her dislike of free verse, which she doesn't consider poetry. Even moreso, the item is a challenge to lazy poets and bad poets, regardless of their chosen form. (In the small press, there are plenty!) The two poems that follow under the title "The Department of Utter Nonsense Presents" not only have meter

and rhyme, they poke fun at lazy grammar gone colloquial. A pleasant pairing published by Guy Miller.

Belatedly, Arie Koelewyn treats readers to *Lake Effect* #17 (the issue is dated July 2009), which contains two pieces by Neil Garrison: “The Folly of Youth” and “A Rock Run Report.” In the first piece, Garrison details his decade-old hobby of making stone arrowheads—and how it gives him pause to remember, use, and newly appreciate the geometry he hated while in high school. The second piece offers seven daily diary entries from a flint-gathering expedition he made in May 2008. Along with “Introduction to Knappers-R-Us,” the two pieces make an interesting introduction to the hobby of flintknapping, or arrowhead chipping. The issue is wonderfully printed, and I was fascinated by the topic. Kudos!

*Mambrino's Golden Helmet* Vol. 7, No. 5, continues Harold Cheney's Golden Fur stories, along with his Korean War journals. The most interesting item in the issue, however, was “The First Hilton,” which discusses the novels of James Hilton, author of *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*, and considers the discrepancies between the books and their movie versions. I've not seen any of the movies or read any of the books, but Cheney's account intrigues me. To the Netflix queue!

As one of the—by my estimation—“younger” members of the NAPA at 36 years old, I enjoyed Gary Bossler's exhortation in *Ohio Views* #29 to get more involved. His encouragement re-

minds me that it's been awhile since I've shared an issue of *Karma Lapel*, but it also reminds me of the group's greatest asset: its members and the connections between them. *The National Amateur* connects us, the bundles connect us, comment cards connect us, publishing connects us, the convention connects us, and the organization's history connects us. The important thing is to *connect*. If you haven't reached out to a fellow member for awhile, please consider doing so. In fact, the pamphlet gave me an idea for a project that I'll be reaching out to select fellow members about soon. You'll see the result in the bundle!

### **November 2009**

The November bundle was a little healthier than the last couple of previous bundles, including about a dozen items, as well as a couple of inserts. More excitingly, the bundle included several items from members I'm not familiar with. Nice to see your journals!

After the previous issue of *The Boxwooder*, I was well primed for more from Robert Bierman. So I was pleased to see that *The Boxwooder* #484 included not one but two stories by the author, who—I also learned in that journal—unfortunately died in April 2009. The first piece, “Physic and Metaphysic,” was wonderful and reminded me slightly of the writing of John Cheever. Extra credit for the use of the phrase “after-dinner Postum.” The second piece, “Summit Meeting,”

had similarly religious trappings, detailing an exchange between God and Satan. Both stories, like that in the previous issue, make me want to read more of this now-gone writer. Rest in peace, Mr. Bierman.

Fred Gage helps celebrate his 84th birthday with *The Gage Pin #82*. The brightly colored, handset item contains a humorous (though true!) story and some fond memories of fellow amateur journalists. Short, but sweet; the inclusion of original writing goes far.

Serendipitously, the bundle also included *Impressions by Hal... #82*. How often does that happen? That journal included a poem celebrating printing written by Douglas Malloch, as well as a couple of humorous stories.

I've never seen a journal from Cynthia Jeanfaivre before, and I quite enjoyed *The Dolphin #1*. Welcome! Combining poetry, humor, personal writing, alternative medicine, and artwork, the two-page item shows energy, inspiration, and promise. I look forward to seeing more.

*In-Between* Vol. 4, No. 4, includes just one brief story, but it is *well* worth reading. Given Harold Cheney's Golden Fur stories, this bit about mice feels like it could be a "deleted scene" or side story from that narrative. Fun—and characters worth returning to, perhaps.

Arie Koelewyn's *Lake Effect #18*, dated August 2009, features material of a sort that I've enjoyed for two years now. Is it an annual tradition? In this edition, Koelewyn publishes the prize-

winning pieces from a 2009 poetry competition held by the mid-Michigan chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters. Zelda Moran from Ann Arbor offers three poems, almost dominating the proceedings, but it is Lansing resident Cheyenne Roy's "Lessons in Romantics" that hit me the hardest. A worthy project, and good to see again. My wife's family lives in East Lansing; I'll have to send this journal to them.

Having missed last year's convention—and starting to plan for my attendance at this year's—I've really enjoyed and learned a lot from members' reports on the gathering in Parkersburg. Guy Miller offers his in *Lamplighter #20*. The historic comparisons of the NAPA, AAPA, and other ajay organizations was insightful, as was Miller's description of how proposals are discussed and debated in two primary bodies.

Inspired by the passing of Mary Travers of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame, Dave Schwartz devotes the whole of *Ohkee-Doekie #48* to the lyrics of "Puff the Magic Dragon," as well as some information about the song's origin. It's not as interestingly printed as some of Schwartz's items, but it's a tidy piece all the same. The vintage paper stock lends itself well to green on green printing.

I don't think I'll ever tire of reading travel writing, even amateur travel journal entries like those published in the November 2009 edition of *Pennant Bravo*. Collecting about a week's worth

of “camp logs” by Bill Boys detailing a trip to Maine last fall, the issue balances mundane, everyday experiences like breakfast and reading poetry before bed with somewhat more important topics such as the history of the cabin in which they stayed, genealogical research, and industrial accidents. Wonderful stuff, especially the comparison of the old (wood heating, card games) and the new (going into town to do email, genealogical databases, and Freecell).

Sonya Davids reaches out to the NAPA membership in *Recollections & Ruminations* #5 to express her appreciation for everyone publishing and printing—particularly those members who are no longer with us. The item was written by Davids, typeset by Bill Boys, and printed using paper from her late husband, Harold’s shop. I think team efforts like this are awesome. A special thank you to NAPA members who help other members see their contributions come to life in print. And encouragement to members who can’t publish as often as they’d like to find supporters who can help them remain active in the hobby.

And Robert Nelson gets special recognition for hand lettering *Squawks of Whizdom* #49. He used two different Pilot fine point pens to create the two-page item, which compares his life and military service with that of Donald Blakeslee. The result is touching and insightful—whose life has paralleled your own? Fascinating what life’s twists and turns can bring us. I would

love to see more hand-lettered journals. Used sparingly, it can have a lot of impact.

### **December 2009**

Wilson Barto continues the political commentary shown in his previous issue in *The Buck Creek Press* #61, commenting on two Pennsylvania judges who were charged with accepting kickbacks for sending young prisoners to specific detention centers. While the exact details of the case are somewhat confusing—what judge overturned what ruling? Who changed their plea to what?—it’s clear that, if the charges are found to be true, even those who purport to practice the law need to be overseen. Knowing the law isn’t the same as respecting or abiding by it. Barto also recounts some of the recent woes faced by newspapers such as *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, suggests that health care reform might not be socialism, but a civic endeavor instead; and makes some satirical suggestions for new railroad model kits. He balances his own contributions with some pearls from Merle Beckwith and a commentary by his wife on the marketing of pharmaceuticals. Increasingly one of my favorite journals.

*The Kitchen Stove* #103 contains three Christmas-themed poems by Louise Lincoln. Of the three, I found “The Quest” most interesting. Its innovative retelling of the Christmas story was refreshing, and the moral at the end was well phrased. Kudos!

Similarly, Guy Miller opens

*Lamplighter* #21 with some Christmas verse, as well. But the lion's share of the issue is devoted to "Face-lift or Head Transplant?" That two-page address to the membership offers his thoughts on several of the challenges facing NAPA. Personally, I'm not all that interested in the inner workings of the constitution as such—but it seems clear that some members think aspects of it hinder the growth and activity of the organization. Everything we do should be oriented around four things: Increasing or at least sustaining the membership of the association; encouraging and supporting the arts of writing, editing, publishing, and printing; encouraging interaction among members; and preserving the history of the organization. Anything that hinders that should be rethought. And if *rethinking* starts to hinder that, we might need to rethink *that*. Paralysis by analysis could be a real threat, and persistent self-reassessment might turn off newcomers more than it helps us overcome our challenges.

In *Mambrino's Golden Helmet* Vol. 7, No. 6, Harold Cheney continues the story of Golden Fur. He also offers "Another Opening Scene for a Story," which makes for a tempting inspiration for a bit of writing in response. An exquisite corpse or game of Consequences, anyone? My favorite part of the issue, however, was the back-to-back inclusion of "Being Right When Everyone Else Thinks You Are Wrong" and "Retrospective Determinism." While the two pieces could have been

fodder for a longer essay, the two indicate the risks of not taking risks, as well as the risks of adopting rose-colored glasses or logical fallacies once those risks have been taken. Interesting food for thought.

While the November *Pennant Bravo* shares stories of some recent travels, *Marti's Mouser* #64 offers some travel writing of a more local variety. During a visit by her daughter and grandson, Martha Babcock Abell shares some area sites and sights with her visitors, experiencing her home town like a local tourist.

The December issue of *Pennant Bravo*, then, features almost 30 poems by retired minister John Lackey. Most of the poems touch on topics of making the most of life, the beauty and bounty of nature, the importance of spirituality, childhood memories, unity, and poetry itself. My two favorite poems are "Not So Very Tall At All" and "Poems and Lumber," which do relatively different things, and do them well. The latter poem makes me want to try my hand at a sestina! (Sometimes the best writing inspires you to write.)

Finally, Bill and Gigi Volkart weigh in with a rare, joint issue of *The Hinterlands Press* and *Scriptus* giving an update on their recent life experiences. Thank you for contributing a journal to the bundle—and I hope that 2010 is slightly easier for you and yours than 2009 was.

### January 2010

I really enjoyed "This Old Earth" in

the June 2009 edition of *The Boxwooder*. So I was pleased to see Jake Warner's "Space, Time, and Mass" in the more recent #486. Drawing on the work of Galileo, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, and others—and perhaps inspired by recent articles in *Skeptic* and *Discover* magazines—Warner reviews the basics of the three concepts before introducing some more speculative and interesting aspects with which the average person might not be as familiar. Well done.

*In-Between* Vol. 4, No. 5, included a couple of interesting tidbits. If Harold Cheney is truly having difficulty finding a place to buy pocket protectors, he might be interested in [pocketprotectors.com](http://pocketprotectors.com); they even sell clear ones. As a zine publisher since the late '80s, I'm better versed with the fine art of photocopying than mimeograph, but 20-pound paper is indeed the gold standard for zines. I wasn't aware of the move to mils in terms of measurement, though.

Marsha Barrett's *Minor Review* Vol. 4, No. 1, was another fine collection of news items; related quotes, terms, and online resources; and other material. Her brief biographical sketch of Shah Rukh Khan reminded me of a recent (like, last weekend) visit we made to Madame Tussauds wax museum in Hollywood. A life-size replica of Khan was installed at the end of January. It marked the first time a Bollywood actor was honored by Madame Tussauds, and it was one of the few statues we didn't recognize immediately. Interest-

ing how someone can have such an impact on their home country's—and global—culture, and still be largely unrecognized in the United States. This might be an example of retrospective determinism, but having just gone to Madame Tussauds, I was destined to enjoy this issue of *Minor Review*. Interesting serendipity, regardless! I'll have to check out Marsha's blog.

Ken Clevenger's "Editors: The Modern Raison D'Être for the Horsewhip" in then January *Pennant Bravo* was clever and welcome, but—at least to this editor—a little on the long side. (That's a joke, folks.) It didn't make me think about editing, though; it made me want to read P.G. Wodehouse.

I didn't comment on the first instance of *Quoth the Ravenswood* in the October bundle, but Mark McComas contributed another edition to this bundle; I enjoyed it, so it bears noting. McComas's goal seems to be to offer a thought-provoking quotation as a small printed item to the NAPA, as well as the AAPA. This issue piqued my interest more than the first because its quote is a little more oblique—is this the original quote, or a play on words? Thought provoking in either case! Additionally, it's printed in the format of a rounded-edge business card, which makes it extremely tempting to pass it on to someone else. All of our journals are designed and printed for readability and portability (They need to fit into the bundle.). But how many are designed for communicability? Are we writing things worth discussing or

quoting? Are we publishing items people want to share with others? Something to think about, perhaps.

Thank you, Sonya Davids, for another excellent issue of *Recollections & Ruminations* (#6). I appreciated your mailing comments on the November 2009 *Pennant Bravo* and encourage other NAPAnS to consider doing the same occasionally. I'm curious what APC is an acronym for.

*Shandygaff* Series 2, No. 6 (the first since April 2009), shares Hazel Cuadrado's memories of the recently departed Al Fick and details the seasonal closing of her campground. I'd like to learn more about the campground and look forward to future issues of *Shandygaff*. The issue also included a really long URL. If you'd like to include URLs in your items but don't like how the occasionally long Web

addresses look in print, you might consider using a URL shortener and redirection service such as tinyurl.com, bit.ly, or wi.nr. They're less intrusive than extremely long URLs—and are much easier to type in to a Web browser from a printed page.

If you'd like to join the bureau of critics and contribute to this column, contact me at 438 N. Stanley Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036; kalel@well.com. I'm particularly interested in collaborating with members of the National Amateur Press Association who don't currently contribute items to the monthly bundles—but who'd like to share their insights and opinions on, as well as responses to other members' materials. Contributions can be made by mail, email, or fax to accommodate your preferences. 🐼

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## Chicago: 60 Years Ago

As a boy of about eleven or twelve, my parents and I took a vacation trip to the city of Chicago. It was a very short trip and my memories of it are almost gone. The only thing that sticks out in my memory of the trip was our visit to The Museum of Science and Industry.

I was truly amazed at almost everything I saw there. I remember a huge model train layout that was so very realistic. I believe in the same room there were full size airplanes hanging from the ceiling.

There was a model of an old town from the West with wooden sidewalks. Also a modern farm with a house and barn and milk house. There was also an actual working coal mine which was entered through a crude elevator. It gave you a sense that you were going down deep into the earth.

I also remember seeing the many stages of growth of a baby from conception to birth. The models were so lifelike they took my breath away.

I vowed that one day I would take my children to see this, but that never came about. I'm sure the museum is still there, but doubt that much of what I saw is still there. 🐼



# Official Reports

## TREASURER'S REPORT Oct. 24, 2009, to Jan. 22, 2010

**Bank Balance, Oct. 23, 2009** ..... \$ 3,091.63

### Income

Gifts Received ..... \$ 15.00

### Interest Income

Life Member Fund CD 9.91  
Regions Bank CD's 152.65  
Total Interest Income ..... 162.56

### Membership Dues

Family, Renewals 2.00  
Regular, New Members 20.00  
Regular, Renewals 250.00  
Total Membership Dues Income ..... 272.00

Weixelbaum Trust Fund Income ..... 825.51

**Total Income** ..... \$ 1,348.67

### Expenses

Mailing Bureau ..... 1,015.00

National Amateur, The ..... 840.00

Website hosting ..... 20.00

**Total Expenses** ..... \$ 1,875.98

**Net Increase (Decrease)** ..... (\$ 527.31)

### Transfers

Regions Bank CD's interest automatically reinvested,  
as noted below ..... (\$ 152.65)

**Bank Balance, Jan. 22, 2010** ..... \$ 2,338.07

### Other Assets

Regions Bank CD \*\*\*\*\*2676

Value on Oct. 23, 2009 . . . \$ 10,908.16

Accrued interest to Jan. 22, 2010 73.60

Value on Jan. 22, 2010 . . . \$ 10,981.76

Regions Bank CD \*\*\*\*\*9017

Value on Oct. 23, 2009 . . . \$9,869.07

Accrued interest to Jan. 22, 2010 79.05

Value on Jan. 22, 2010 . . . 9,948.12

WesBanco Bank CD (Life Member Fund) . . . 8,376.37

**Total Equity** ..... \$ 31,644.32

Note: The Total Equity reported in the last quarterly report (\$29,153.60), was in error, as it omitted the bank balance at the time (\$3,091.63), so should actually have been reported as \$32,245.23.

Respectfully submitted,  
William E. Boys, Secretary-Treasurer

**March 2010 Vol. 132 No. 3**

## Recorders Report

Marti Abell, Recorder

Those who are qualified to vote as of Feb. 3, 2010.

Martha Abell  
Marsha Barrett  
Wilson L. Barto  
Merle Beckwith  
Gary Bossler  
Bill Boys  
Kent Clair Chamberlain  
Harold Cheney  
Hazel Cuadrado  
Sonya Davids  
Ken Faig, Jr.  
Fred Gage  
Cynthia Jeanfaiivre  
Rich Hopkins  
Arie Koelewyn  
Louise Lincoln  
Mark McComas  
Guy Miller  
Robert Nelson  
Robert Orbach  
Richard Polinski  
Barry Schrader  
Dave Schwartz  
Martha Shivers  
Hal Shive  
Jack Visser  
Bill Volkart  
Gigi Volkart  
David Warner  
Jake Warner

Also Lifemembers and ex-presidents are qualified to vote.

The deadline for Laureate nominations is April 1st. As of Feb. 3, none have been received.

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## **NAPA SECRETARY'S REPORT NOV. 15, 2009, TO FEB. 15, 2010**

### Renewals -- Regular (21)

Brosey, Alice, Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Chapman, George, Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Church, Harrison L., Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Curtis, Anthony R., Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Davis, Wayne P., Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Gordon, Edna Drossel, Exp. Nov. 30, 2010.  
Gordon, William E., Exp. Nov. 30, 2010.  
Hamilton, George W., Exp. Apr. 30, 2011 (sic).  
Harrigan, Francis X., Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Hines, Laurence R., Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Holt, Lisa Brandstetter, Exp. Nov. 30, 2010.  
Kapplin, James L., Exp. Jan. 31, 2011.  
Lewis, Philip E., Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Michael, Terry A., Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Neuschwanger, Debra G., Exp. Nov. 30, 2010.  
Parson, Tom, Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Row, Heath, Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Schrader, Barry L., Exp. Dec. 31, 2010.  
Stephenson, Carla, Exp. Oct. 31, 2010.  
Stickler, Alice M., Exp. Jan. 31, 2011 (sic).  
Stonehocker, Kikuko, Exp. Apr. 30, 2011 (sic).

### Renewals -- Family (4)

Brosey, Marc, Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Curtis, Judith G., Exp. Sep. 30, 2010.  
Kapplin, Norma M., Exp. Jan. 31, 2011.  
Schrader, Kay E., Exp. Dec. 31, 2010.

### Reinstatements -- Regular (1)

Hidden, J. Gary, 1433 Washakie Cir., Ogden UT 84403-4369. Phone (801) 479-0522. Email hidden1@msn.com. Exp. Dec. 31, 2011.

### New Members -- Regular (1)

Dawson, James N., PO Box 292, Malden WA 99149-0292. Email: jamesmdawson@yahoo.com. Exp. Feb. 2, 2011. Sponsored by Bill Boys.

### New Members -- Honorary (2)

Jones, Austin & Jean. Years of Honorary Membership: 2009-2014. Exp. July 31, 2014.

### Dropped -- Regular (3)

Allen, Don.  
Donnelly, Sean.  
Gray, J. Speed.

### Dropped -- Trial (2)

Anderson, David.  
Gibson, MJ.

### Resignations (1)

Spiesser, Nathalie.

### Address Changes/Corrections/Additions

Brosey, Alice, phone (615) 781-6886.  
Brosey, Marc, phone (615) 781-6886.  
Holt, Lisa Brandstetter; delete email address LisaH@BrownCountyWriters.org. (Continue lisaatceltic@yahoo.com.)  
Kapplin, James L. and Norma, winter address: 3100 Binnacle Drive, #107; Naples, FL 34103-4186; effective Dec. 18.  
Kleiman, Gerry; delete email address helen\_gerry@hotmail.com.  
Palmer, Floyd, 714 Escondido Dr., Leander TX 78641-7820.  
Patell, Veronica, 7220 E. Genesee St. Apt. 236, Fayetteville, NY 13066-2184.  
Segal, Gussie, The Watermark, 2 Franklin Towne Blvd., Apt. 1910, Philadelphia PA 19103-1233; email gussiesegal@comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted,  
William E. Boys, Secy-Treas.

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## **Executive Judges Report**

The Executive Judges have received no requests and have taken no action.

Leah G. Warner, Chairman  
Guy Miller  
Arie Koelewyn

## Historian's Report

Alice Brosey, *Historian*

### November-2009 bundle 15 items

*Concurrent Convention Flyer*, undated, unnumbered, 1pp, 8.5x11, Barry Schrader  
*impressions by hal*, #82, Nov 2009, 4pp, 5x7, Harold Shive  
*In-Between*, Vol 4, #4, Nov 2009, 8.5x5.5, 2pp, Harold W. Cheney, Jr.  
*Lake Effect*, #18, Aug 2009, 20pp & cov, 4.25x7, Arie Koelewyn  
*Lamplighter*, #20, Nov 2009, 5.5x8.5, 4pp, Guy Miller  
*Manuscript Bureau Offers*, Unnumbered, Nov 2009, 1pp, 5.5x8.5, Bill Boys  
*Marti's Mouser*, #64, Nov 2009, 8.5x11, 2pp, Martha Babcock Abell  
*Ohkee-Doekee*, #48, Sometime in 2009, 4.25x5.5, 4pp, Dave Schwartz  
*Pennant Bravo*, Nov 2009, 4.25x7, 24pp, Bill Boys  
*RECOLLECTIONS & Ruminations*, #5, Nov 2009, 5x7, 2pp, Sonya Davids  
*Shandygaff*, Series 2, #5, Nov 2009, 5x7, 4pp, Hazel J. Cuadrado  
*Squawks of Whizdom*, #48 Nov 2009, 5.5x8.5, 2pp, Robert F. Nelson  
*The Boxwooder*, #484, Nov 2009, 12pp & cov, 5x7, Jake Warner  
*The Dolphin*, #1, Nov 2009, 8.5x11, 2pp, Cynthia Jeanfaivre  
*The Gage Pin*, #82, Nov 2009, 4x6, 4pp, Fred Gage

### December 2009 Bundle 11 items

Holiday Greeting, 2009-2010, 8.5x11, 1pp, Robert F. Nelson  
*impressions by hal*, #83, Dec 2009, 4pp, 5x7, Harold Shive  
*Lamplighter*, #21, Dec 2009, 4pp, 5.5x8.5, Guy Miller  
*Mambrino's Golden Helmet*, Vol VII, #6, Dec 2009/Jan 2010, 5.5x8.5, 16pp, Harold W. Cheney, Jr.  
*Manuscript Bureau Offers*, Unnumbered, Dec 2009, 1pp, 5.5x8.5, Bill Boys

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*Marti's Mouser*, #64 [65], Dec 2009, 8.5x11, 2pp, Martha Babcock, Abell  
*Pennant Bravo*, Dec 2009, 4x7, 32pp, Bill Boys  
*The Boxwooder*, #485, Dec 2009, 8pp & cov, 5x7, Jake Warner  
*The Buck Creek Press*, #61, Dec 2009, 7x8.5, 4pp, Wilson L. Barto, Sr.  
*The Hinterlands Press/Scriptus*, Dec 2009/Dec 1,2009 #25,8.5x11, 2pp, Bil/Gigi Volkart  
*The Kitchen Stove*, 103rd Heating, Dec 2009, 4pp, 5x7, Louise Lincoln/Guy Miller

### January 2010 Bundle 12 items

*2010 Reception Committee News* #1, Jan 2010, 5.5x8.5, 2pp, Bill Boys  
*impressions by hal*, #84, Jan 2010, 4pp, 5x7, Harold Shive  
*In-Between*, Vol 4, #5, Jan 2010, 8.5x5.5, 2pp, Harold W. Cheney, Jr.  
*Manuscript Bureau Offers*, Unnumbered, Jan 2010, 1pp, 5.5x8.5, Bill Boys  
*Marti's Mouser*, #66, Jan 2010, 8.5x11, 2pp, Martha Babcock Abell  
*Minor Review*, Vol 4, #1, Jan 2010, 8.5x11, 2pp, Marsha Barrett  
*Pennant Bravo*, Jan 2010, 4.25x7, 16pp, Bill Boys  
Press Release, Jan 5, 2010, 8.5x11, 1pp, Gigi Volkart  
*Quoth the Ravenswood*, #2, Jan 2010, 2.25x3.75, 2pp, Mark McComas  
*RECOLLECTIONS & Ruminations*, #6, Jan 2010, 5x7, 2pp, Sonya Davids  
*Shandygaff*, Series 2, #6, Jan 2010, 5x7, 4pp, Hazel J. Cuadrado  
*The Boxwooder*, #486, Jan 2010, 8pp & cov, 5x7, Jake Warner

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## Ouchy Thoughts

Only those with Indefensible Ideas  
need to inflict torture!

Defensible Ideas need No blows.

—Kent Clair Chamberlain, Oct. 2009

## The Last Word . . .

As I sit down to struggle with this piece, I was struck with a disconcerting article I read in our morning newspaper (Feb. 19, 2010). It seems Canton, Ohio, the city I see from my front porch, has appeared on a list published by *Forbes Magazine*, entitled "America's Most Miserable Cities." Canton is number nine on the list and Chicago is ten. This is the second time in the last two years that *Forbes Magazine* has put Canton on a list that no city wants to be on. In 2008 Canton, Ohio was dubbed as one of America's "Fastest Dying Cities."

For this list of America's Most Miserable Cities, *Forbes* looked at the nation's 200 largest metropolitan areas and they were judged on nine basic indicators: unemployment, taxes, commute times, violent crime, weather, number of Superfund pollution sites, corruption by public officials and how the area's pro sports teams have fared during the last two years.

So here I am, sitting a stone's throw from the ninth most miserable city in the nation, trying to promote an historic gathering of two leading amateur journalist groups at the tenth most miserable place in the nation. Thankfully we are not meeting in Cleveland. It's rated number one.

Casting that aside, though we are calling our gathering "**Chicago Con 2**", it's actually being held in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, which is somewhat removed from Chicago. And though

there are many interesting things to see in Chicago, primarily we are going there to meet and greet people who have similiar interests in that of amateur journalism.

I remain very hopeful that the historic event of AAPA and NAPA holding both of their respective conventions at the same time and at the same place will turn out well. By this I mean positive things will happen as a result of its taking place. I have been a member of both organizations for a number of years, but like most people who belong to both, most of my efforts have been in one group. In my case that has been NAPA.

There are other folks in NAPA who are active in both groups. Fred Liddle has had a presence in both organizations for many years. He has, I believe shifted from a staunch NAPA supporter, to the AAPA group.

Another example is George Hamilton of Vienna, Austria, who has long been an attendee at NAPA conventions. Now we've not seen George since the Lexington, KY convention. I recall trying to induce George to come to Canton (maybe it was Massillon) and he said, "Frankly, I've kind of lost interest in NAPA." So, perhaps we'll see George at Elk Grove, Illinois.

There are maybe ten or so people who might have tried to attend both conventions. They will save a lot of money in travel, lodging and meals. That prospect alone just might induce a lot more people to attend. See you at **Chicago Con 2?** 🐾