

Whippoorwill E-Comment

Number 38

May, 2005



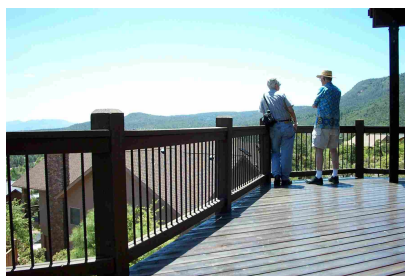
The McKelvie Eyrie

THE post-convention traditional AAPA picnic was held at the home of Greg and Sally McKelvey, in Pine, AZ, 80 miles north of Scottsdale. The drive up was a scenic climb out of the Phoenix basin into the cooler air at the southern edge of the mountainous Mogollon rim of the Arizona Plateau. Their beautiful home is a true eyrie, hanging on the edge of a mountain with a grand vista that surely qualifies it as an American Berchtesgaden. A deck extends around three sides affording a view that is stunningly beautiful. Greg's print shop occupies the entire bottom, ground level basement floor. It is totally organized, and contains the wooden hand press Greg is standing by was constructed by Richard Hicks of the Bobcat Press. Presses include a huge Hoe flatbed iron press, two C&P 8x12's, and about 20 small tabletop platen presses. It is the largest print shop of anyone's I know of, and houses a most impressive collection of type. There are 300 fonts of wooden type, and 600 fonts of metal type houses in 12 double-wide cabinets, stacked one upon another.

THE expected notorious Arizona heat did not set in until the convention ended. Temperatures in the Scottsdale area were in the upper 80s and those at Pine were near 80 degrees, a most pleasant surprise. Even with dozens of hobby printers scurrying about in the print shop, it was not crowded. The type set at the Day's Inn convention meeting room was printed on one of Greg's brightly colored C&Ps.



Jack Scott walks to join Dave Tribby in examining a rare wood font.



Len Carrick and Dean Rea admire the view from the deck



Dean Rea locks up a chase of type set at the convention

AFTER inspecting the shop, the action moved upstairs and outdoors where Sally McKelvey cooked hamburgers and hot dogs on a large grill built into the deck. We sat on chairs on the deck in the cool breezes and did what ajers do best – eat and talk. The high point of the convention for me was the trip to Pine to experience Greg and Sally's home and fantastic print shop. It was great to see old friends again and to meet new ones. AAPA conventions truly are family reunions.

WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT is the personal journal of J. Hill Hamon, (a retired WHAT?) who lives in the backwoods of central Kentucky at 1515 Evergreen Road, near Frankfort, 40601. I am delighted that there are such men as Greg McKelvey and John Horn who have preserved our vital typographical heritage by salvaging type and presses and caring for them in working print shops.