

The Tribby Tribune

Number 53

July 1996

As with most of the other cases, I published an elementary school paper on it for awhile. My last use of the “Ace” press was a two-color *Tribby Tribune* for the December 1971 AAPA bundle.

When I first joined the association, several Swiftsetters recruited by Les Boyer in 1968 were still active. I believe the last Swiftset paper to appear in an AAPA bundle was Lenore Sobota’s *The Town Crier* for May 1972.

World Wide Web Watch

- The AAPA Web site averaged ten visits per day during April and May, with slightly fewer in June. (People typically spent less time on their computers during summer.) The actual number of “hits” is somewhat larger since only graphical browsers can be counted. If you have a browser, visit <http://members.aol.com/aapa96/>
- Over 100 other Web sites include a link to an American Amateur Press Association page.
- In searching for references to AAPA pages, I found many other “AAPA” groups: Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants, American Association of Physical Anthropologists, American Association of Port Authorities, American Association of Professional Apiculturists, American Association of Psychiatric Administrators, Ansett Airlines Pilots’ Association, Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, Atlanta Area Psychological Associates, Arizona ASL [Advanced Squad Leader] Players Association, Asian American Parent Association, and Asian American Psychological Association.
- This issue of *The Tribby Tribune* is available on the Web at address <http://members.aol.com/aapa96/tribune53>

Colophon

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Election Issues

IN THE MAY bundle, Les Boyer’s *Desktopper* lays out an excellent case why several of the proposed amendments dealing with organizational changes should be defeated. I agree with Les’s assessment about the change in officers and terms of office: although they may not do any severe harm, they certainly won’t help the AAPA.

Historical Perspective

Similar changes have been proposed in the past. In the 1950s, the Manuscript Manager and Second Vice President positions were removed. The experiment didn’t work and the offices were reinstated a few years later.

In 1978 the Official Editor noted, “Some members have proposed...leaving only those officers that are absolutely necessary. In their view, with fewer positions to fill it would be easier to find candidates for all offices. Although this may be an advantage, new members might shy away from taking on those important offices that would be left. Welcoming new members or placing manuscripts is a much easier way to start as an officer, compared to controlling the finances or getting the bundles out on a regular schedule.”

Mike’s Rebuttal; Dave’s Response

Mike O’Connor, who proposed the amendments, defends them in the June *Spare Time*. He notes the AAPA’s demographics are changing and we will probably be a much smaller organization in twenty years. However, eliminating over half of AAPA’s elective offices in anticipation of a shrunken membership is premature. Maybe we should reconsider when the roster drops below 200.

Mike points out that the Board of Directors usually has very little to do. But I remember the sheaf of correspondence Len Carrick brought

to last year's convention, showing all the mail generated as the result of a contentious issue. Every now and again it's useful to have the Board available to decide issues.

People supporting the amendments dismiss the idea of a few power-hungry officers ruining the organization. Yes, there is almost no chance of "naughty" officers manipulating the APA, but in my 26 years of membership I have seen folks with odd ideas get elected. As long as other officers balance them out there is no problem, but we lose that balance with amendment number 2.

Mike believes yearly elections are a waste of time. That's a valid observation from the Secretary-Treasurer who has to prepare two ballots and three envelopes for each member. Besides, Mike notes, most officers serve for two or three years anyway. But let's look from a prospective candidate's point of view. I know that I would be more willing to run again for an APA office if it were a one-year commitment rather than two. Sometimes it's hard to predict whether circumstances will allow effective service for that long.

Thanks, Mike!

Mike certainly deserves credit for thinking through the issues and putting together a well crafted set of amendments to implement his proposals. Some of them are good ideas, but the need for amendments 1, 2, and 4 is not yet at hand.

How to Vote

Remember to return your ballots to both the Secretary-Treasurer and the Ballot Recorder before August 15. Here's how I plan on voting:

- #1: **NO** (eliminates the offices of Second Vice President, Manuscript Manager, and Printing & Publishing Manager)
- #2: **NO** (eliminates the Board of Directors)
- #3: **YES** (increases dues to \$15 per year; \$2 for family members)
- #4: **NO** (provides for two-year rather than one-year terms)
- #5: **YES** (minor housekeeping changes)

AN UNEXPECTED CHANGE of Mailer can confuse members and thin out the bundles. Fortunately, that did not happen when ill health forced Vic Ables to resign and Jack Scott stepped in to complete his term. Jack's inaugural May bundle was fat: 22 journals including big issues of *American Amateur Journalist*, *Ken's Paper-Weight*, and *Writers' Voice*. June's bundle was even larger and included a **52-page Scarlet Cockerel**.

Of particular note was Mike O'Connor's *Spartype* for May: 24 pages painstakingly handset and printed one page at a time (some in two colors) on his 6 by 9 Sigwalt. In addition to the visual joy of clean layout and crisp printing, there was solid content: Marge Adams Petrone's remembrance of Milt Grady is an important contribution to amateur journalism history, while George Hamilton and Jim Lamanna shed light on current ajay topics. Mike caps the issue with informed commentary of his own. Thanks for a labor of love!

Booming Bundles!

START PLANNING YOUR page for *Ink Cahoots '96*, the APA's annual cooperative publication, so you can meet the August 31 deadline. I need 4½ by 6 inch pages with at least a ½ inch margin on the side that will be bound. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped post card if you want acknowledgment that your page arrived.

Send **350** copies of your page. This is more than the Mailer requires, but the extras go to good use. I send early copies to folks who donate at least \$2 and request an early peek. It's also nice to have samples for those who want to see an issue.

Any questions? Please write me at the address in the colophon.

Another Switseter

I must confess: I belong to the fraternity of AAPA publishers who got their start using rubber type "Switset" presses. Most of the folks who have recently mentioned this in their papers got started in the 1940s or '50s, but mine was a Christmas gift in the early '60s.