

Ohio e-Views

December 2008

Massillon

“The More Things Change

the more they stay the same.” That is an oft quoted old line from who knows where. Prompted by the article in the *Gator Growell*, I dug into my copies of old AAJ's and read the article quoted by Lee Hawes in a 1944-45 *AAJ Yearbook*. Right next to it in my very incomplete collection of *AAJ's* was an 8 page AAJ, Vol.14, No. 2, January 1950. The following is an editorial by AAJ Editor, J. Rolfe Castleman.

This Matter of Consolidation

There is much talk again about consolidation of the various amateur press associations. The arguments seem to be concerned with the costs of the association, and their official organs, and the duplication of efforts because many amateur journalists belong to all of the groups.

On the surface I would agree and would heartily approve an amalgamation of all amateur journalists into one press association. To accomplish such a task is not so simple.

The trouble would come in attempting to unite the American and the National. Here we have two groups that are run in opposite ways in administrative view-points. All official business of the AAPA and all of its elections are conducted out of an annual convention. The American was founded out of an annual convention that malfunctioned. The American's constitution specifies that all official business and elections shall be conducted by mail.

Constitutionally, the American may not unite or amalgamate with any other association. Here is another difficulty.

The National Amateur is published Quarterly in the NAPA, while the AAPA is required by a recent amendment to its constitution to publish a 6 by 9 official organ six times a year.

These are not the only difficulties, for many more could be cited, but it goes to show how many troubles will have to be overcome to unite with any other group. Particularly the National. It is true the constitution can be changed, but that takes much time.

The whole subject of consolidation has come up many times before. I am not in favor of thinking too much about it for the reason that it has

been to the fore before, and possibly as merely a fiasco. The only results were very much talk and no do. For the American I would advise against it because it means a complete revision of our constitution and a complete adjustment of our administrative functions. Until such time that the movement for consolidation attains more popularity generally with all persons, I will have to continue to advise against it.

—Editor

A lot has changed in 58 years . . . and a lot has stayed the same. The American has changed the size of its official organ, I would assume because 9x12 paper has virtually disappeared or become too expensive. The National has changed its official organ size from 9x12 to 7x10 long before my time, and I assume it was a matter of economics. They stubbornly cling to that size, it has been said, because it makes a more substantial looking publication than 5½x8½. (and there is not too much waste when printed on 11x17 paper.) Why shouldn't NAPA change the NA to 8½x11?

I am not advocating wholesale merging yet. I do think a combined convention would make for a much more enjoyable time for all. I go to conventions to see old friends and make new ones. I hope to be in Denver and I should be able to make Columbus. But it would be much cheaper for me and 41 other people who are members of both organizations if they were both in the same place.

This started out to be a standard version of Ohio Views, but my dilly-dallying and procrastination caused me to try an electronic version in an effort to get it out quicker.

My original Colophon had included the following:

415 copies will be mailed by two different mailers to their memberships. 42 households will receive duplicate copies.

This, of course does not apply since I'm going the electronic route. Also some members will not see it and those who do may not see it in Dec. of 2008, depending on the time involved with those charged with placing these on the web sites.

—GB

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to NAPA and AAPA!

COLOPHON: This issue was key-boarded using Bookman types, on a HP Pavillion a1600n computer, proof printed on an HP 1020 Laserjet, saved as PDF file and hopefully made available to the members of AAPA and NAPA by Gary Bossler, 145 Genoa Ave SW, Massillon, OH 44646. E-mail:gary@bossler.com