



The Heritage Goose



RECEIVES A TIP OF THE HAT!

by Bob Mullen

Over the past 21 years I have been fortunate to be able to attend the APA Wayzgoose almost every year. Why do I keep going to the "Goose?" Because it's a place to see old friends and make new friends with people who are just as passionate about letterpress printing as I am. It is a chance to learn and share news, tips, history, and stories about this old craft that is my hobby, and to be inspired to print more and new things, and to just feel good about being a printer. Of course, one can buy, sell, or trade for new stuff, too. The Heritage Goose in Huntington, West Virginia did not let me down. Our gracious hosts Austin

and Jean Jones and their family and friends put on a well-organized show in a beautiful setting at the Heritage Farm Museum and Village in the Appalachian Mountains. By my count, eighteen states and one Canadian province were represented, from Oregon and California to New England and across the east and Midwest.

I stayed three nights on-site at the Heritage Farm along with quite a few others in one of several cabins snuggled into the narrow West Virginia valley. My cabin, called the Woodbury Inn, had four bedrooms, two modern bathrooms, a well-appointed kitchen, and a living room. 150-year-old hand hewn log walls and antique furniture gave the lodge a very pleasant atmosphere, and the central air conditioning was most



Deborah and Benjamin Franklin--just kidding, folks, it's actually Jean and Austin

Jones acting their characters after the Saturday evening banquet.

appreciated. Breakfast foods were supplied, and Mike Denker, Harold Shive, Rick von Holdt, Greg Walters, Karl Mulac, and I enjoyed talking about printing and other things over cereal and coffee each morning. And in the evening, we city folk were treated to the bright stars of a dark country sky.

The Wayzgoose began with an open house at the Jones home in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, an historic town on the Ohio River, just an hour upstream from Huntington. I drove the scenic route along the north side of the river and arrived at Point

Pleasant by mid-afternoon. A large group was already there enjoying huge turkey drumsticks and barbequed pork, everyone chatting about printer-things under a large awning in the back yard. People wandered in and out of Austin's tidy shop and marveled at the treasures contained there. With full stomachs, we drove to the Heritage Farm for hospitality at the welcome center.

Friday morning the group had the run of the Heritage Farm museums after an introduction to the site from its founders Michael and Henriella Perry. The muse-

ums included buildings for transportation, steam engines, industry, and a general store. But the Museum of Progress drew the biggest crowd because it had the printing exhibit, one that Austin Jones has worked on with the Perrys for many years. It shows the progression of the printing craft from the hand press to the linecasting machine. Austin demonstrated on his wooden hand press and several others took their turns pulling an impression. Some tried out their skills making type in a hand mold.

After lunch we car-pooled into town for a tour of the Chapman Printing Company, a printing business with plants around the nation that is headquartered in Huntington. They continue to run a letterpress department along with the most modern of printing equipment. After that we drove



One of several air conditioned log cabins with modern kitchen and bathrooms that many of the Wayzgoose attendees stayed in on the grounds of the Heritage Farm.



The swap meet at full throttle.

up a steep hill to the Huntington Art Museum where we viewed close-up works by printmakers from Dürer, Rembrandt, and Audubon to Andy Warhol. After eating in town, we again enjoyed conversation and refreshments at the welcome center.

Saturday morning's swap meet opened at 9:00. Sagging tables awaited the treasure hunters and were soon relieved of many pounds of lead and iron. For sale were newly cast type by Bob Magill and Rich Hopkins and beautiful new wood type made by Stan Harris as well as lots of used type and equipment, new books on printing and

rare old books on printing, posters, and other printers' goodies. I purchased some cuts and the new reproduction Hamilton Wood Type catalog put out by John Horn and Rich Hopkins, and I found a nice 19th century 18 point font of Mackellar's Sloping Black. When I got home, I discovered a small font of another 19th century face mixed in the type case, 6 point Outing from the Dickinson Foundry.

Messrs. Churchman and Peat entertained the crowd at the afternoon auction, hawking goods and making wisecracks about them. Highlights included an antique font of ornamented wood type, a se-



John Horn, Raleigh D'Adamo, and Stephen Hirschberg watching Austin Jones work his wooden handpress.



Karen & patty Anton, Jim Horton, Mike Anton, and Ernie Blitzer at the swap meet.



Austin Jones at home in his print shop.



Auctioneers Dave Peat and Dave Churchman selling copies of Dave Greer's limited edition Wayzgoose poster.

ries of Inland's Cosmopolitan, a cylinder once used to print wallpaper that had been turned into a table lamp, and Dave Greer's limited edition 2010 Wayzgoose poster. In all, the auction made over \$700 for the Wayzgoose fund and also made for a lot of happy campers, er, printers.

After 71 diners filled up on a great feast at the Saturday evening banquet, son Tim

McClung hosted a program entitled "An Experience, An Evening with Friends" that featured several APA members, and included a brief and insightful talk about freedom of the press by local journalism teacher Nerissa Young, and wit and wisdom from Benjamin and Deborah Franklin (Austin and Jean in full costume). Marjorie Wilser, Karen Anton, Rich Hopkins, Dave Peat, and Dave

recently passed away.

Austin and Jean spent nearly two years planning this Wayzgoose, and their efforts certainly paid off. An excellent time was had by all in attendance. Thank you to Austin, Jean, their children Tim and Tracy, and to nearby printers who assisted them, Rich Hopkins, Harold Shive, Karl Mulac, and Linda Donaldson. Well done!

Churchman each spoke for 5-10 4 minutes about an experience of theirs that had inspired them to go further into this crazy and wonderful hobby of letterpress printing. The talks were serious and light, but Churchman had everyone in tears of laughter.

Sunday morning, the Joneses continued their non-stop efforts by cooking pancakes, waffles, sausages, and bacon at the welcome center. Everyone partook of a leisurely meal, tying up loose ends before they left. With a long drive to St. Louis ahead of me, I said my goodbyes after eating my fill and headed west. Those who remained gathered for a short time at the historic church and meetinghouse where Rich Hopkins paid tribute to APA members who have



If you haven't got your poster done and about ready to mail in—MAN, YOU BETTER GET GOING! Deadline for posters is July 8. The last poster mailing was a huge success and this one should be another great Poster Tube Bundle!

Here are the details:

Minimum poster size: 180 square inches (approx. 11x17)

Maximum: 24" in one dimension

Deadline: July 8th, 2010

Send to: Melanie Mauro

254 West Madison Street, Easton, PA 18042

Email Melaine