



MichiGeese gather

By ARIE KOELEWYN

The first person I saw at the 2011 Amalgamated Printer's Association's Waygoose was fellow organizer, Joe Warren. To be honest, Joe did most of the work. Wednesday was move-in day

and opening of the hospitality room for evening socializing. But not long after spotting Joe, others began appearing. By 6 pm a small group moved to a nearby restaurant for a relaxed dinner less than a block from the hotel.

The Causeway Bay Hotel is located in

southernmost (and landlocked) Lansing, Michigan; less than half a block from the buildings I worked in for 21 years. I haven't been there for almost 5 years, but I still turned into the office parking lot instead of the hotel lot. No one else seemed to have any problems finding it, though; at least I

heard no complaints.

After the Wednesday dinner, the hospitality room opened and a small group of folks sat around and swapped tales and other lies of printing experiences for the next few hours. That first group of early arrivals seemed to be tired from their travels because by 10:30 pm things were pretty well wrapped up for the evening. A fair dent was put into the refreshments provided, but I'd overestimated the thirst of the group and what I'd purchased for the first night or two lasted the whole weekend.

Thursday morning brought the first of the scheduled events. Presumably, there was some breakfast socializing, but both Joe and I were at home putting the final prep on the scheduled open houses at both Letterpressions (Joe's shop) and The Paper Airplane Press (mine). I can only speak for the turnout at my place, since the open houses were concurrent and neither of us could visit the other. Luckily we only live a few miles apart and get to visit regularly. The turnout was great, about 40-50 people came through The Paper Airplane Press and I showed off my newly cleaned printshop with its six (currently) printing presses, a paper cutter, perforator, and four type cabinets squeezed into half a basement.

Arie Koelewyn and Joe Warren were co-chairs of this years APA Wayzgoose.

Joe's place is a bit more extensive; part it in the basement of his house and the big stuff in the garage. Joe had remodeled half of his garage into a heated, well-lit printshop that houses a Heidelberg Windmill, a Miehle Vertical V-50, a Ludlow plus a stone and a powered Rosbak perforator.

Both open houses were reported a success. That success at my place was due in no small part to my wife, Kate's presence on the main floor, welcoming folks as they arrived, showing them where the printshop, and I, were to be found and seeing to the refreshments for one and all. No doubt, Joe's wife Sharon, performed similar yeoman's duty at Letterpressions.

After dinner (I doubt many were hungry after being fed all afternoon at the open houses), the hospitality suite again opened its doors for conviviality. All the seats were filled and it was SRO at the bar. The hospitality suite consisted of two fairly large bedrooms adjoining a huge living/dining room type setup. There were plenty of spaces for conversing with fellow printers.

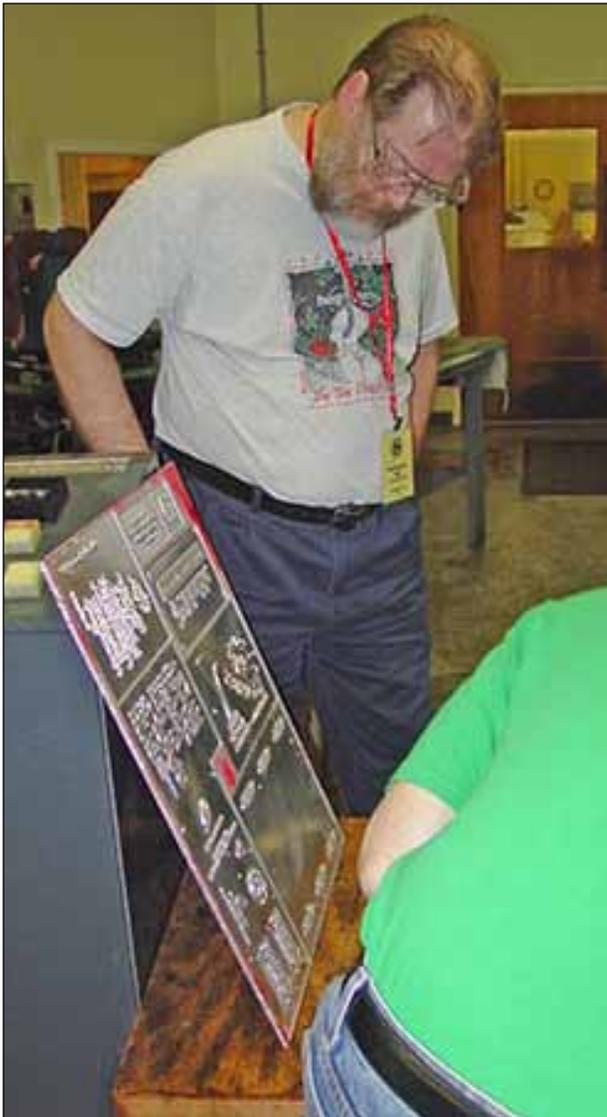
Friday morning began with a bagel breakfast in the hospital-

ity suite. A mix-up over who was bringing the coffee maker was quickly resolved by a quick trip to the gas station across the street and 2 64-ounce containers of coffee seemed to satisfy the caffeine cravings adequately.

After a leisurely breakfast, with plenty of more conversation, everyone gathered in the hotel lobby for the car pool assignments and the road trip to Owosso Graphic Arts. Owosso, MI is about 40 minutes away from the Wayzgoose hotel. Everyone arrived safely and was met by OGA employees directing traffic to their parking spaces. This, in my experience, is typical for the



A magnesium plate, jut out of the etching machine at the Owosso plant is placed over a set of gas burners and hit with high heat momentarily, as part of the engraving process.



Arie Koelewyn examines a large plate of ganged smaller plate images at Owosso.



Larry Riad, Sara Wrzesinski and Austin Jones get an explanation from Owosso plant manager on how plates are coated before the image is exposed to them in the Owosso plant.

folks at Owosso. Friendly and efficient. This was my second visit through the facilities and what struck me was the growth that OGA has seen since my last visit (1997).



These are the APA logos just after exposure.



The APA logos after being etched.

The facilities are much larger and our guide pointed out that they possessed the largest etching machine in the world. I can't recall the exact story, but it was built for another company and acquired when that company couldn't take possession.

After the Owosso Graphic Arts tour most folks went on to lunch in Owosso and then a trip to the Steam Railroading Institute. Given the popularity of the steam train at the recent Mt. Pleasant, IA 'Goose, I have no doubt this was also a very enjoyable time. However, I chose to return to the hotel for a quiet afternoon and preparation for the evening. Steve Saxe was also heading back, so I had the opportunity to get to know him better through a pleasant conversation on the drive back. We also stopped and had lunch at one of my old haunts, a tiny local chain that specializes in grinders. It's been a few years, but they still remembered my name.

The Friday evening program consisted of two informal talks by Joe Warren and myself. Joe spoke about die cutting and creasing and ordering dies for both. I spoke about some of my experiments in using unusual printing surfaces, such as die cut wooden and foam shapes, hand cut cardboard and bent lead rule (a 2 point rule is almost exactly the width of a scroll saw or skill saw kerf). There was a lively Q&A afterward



The world's largest etching machine for zinc and magnesium plates —custom built—in the Owosso plant which is capable of producing up to 120" long plates.



This is the shipping department at Owosso. At the end of the day, all employees come into this area to assist in shipping out the orders of the day.



Mike, Parry and Karen Anton manning their table at Saturday's Swap meet.



Joe Moran from Muskegon show APA members Charlie Bauder and Don Tucker items of interest at his table.

that migrated to the hospitality room for lots more letterpress conversation well into the evening.

As an aside, this seems to me to be the key element to a successful convention of any sort, but printing in particular; people want to talk and get to know the newcomers and renew old friendships. A hospitality room well stocked in snacks and beverages with plenty of sitting room just makes work better.

Saturday morning started fairly early with load-in for the sale. Sales at my table were fairly brisk and I got rid of almost all

the stuff I brought. There seemed to be a good number of newcomers with cash in hand to buy up wanted items. And, of course, there was more than a bit of passing on of choice bits of letterpress stuff to the old-timers.

Saturday's lunch was a catered buffet of cold cuts and bread with yet more opportunities to talk to people you hadn't yet connected with.

After a leisurely lunch it was time for the auction. Dave Churchman, one of our usual auctioneers was unable to attend this year, so Greg Walters stepped in to assist

Dave Peat. Both were well assisted by John Rogers, Bob Magill and others, with Dick Niehaus and Sara and Ky Wrzesinski keeping track of the sellers and buyers. A total of \$1,684 was collected for the APA treasury.

Around six in the evening on Saturday, people started to gather in the hotel lobby for the annual group photograph. For some reason an amateur photographer (me) was chosen to take the photo. Being a bit nervous and unsure, I took a number of photographs with four different cameras, in the hopes that at least some of the shots would come out useable. In the end the best



APA's famous (or infamous) auction is in session. Over \$1600 of the proceeds landed in APA's treasury!

photos came out of the older of my digital cameras. But in order to get a couple of latecomers into the shot, some Photoshop skills were called for. Sara Wrzesinski said this was the kind of thing she did often at work and volunteered to do the honors. In the meantime there were a number of acceptable, if incomplete, shots.

Right after the photo, the banquet began. Food in abundance, more good conversation, a few announcements, including Joe Warren handing out the wood mounted copper APA logos made by Owosso Graphic Arts. They were to have been handed out at the end of the tour, but OGA was unhappy with the etching and opted to re do them. Joe got



Bob Magill and Dave Peat ran the Saturday afternoon APA auction and thrilled all with their knowledge and ability to get members to part with their money.



Marjorie Wilser found a "rare" chase to fit her Golding and was so pleased about it (and didn't want to lose it) so she wore it to show all of her terrific find.



Dick Neihaus and Ky and Sara Wrzesinski manage the huge job of keeping track of bidders at the auction and tabulating at the end to see who owes what.



Winners of the Guy Botterill Memorial Type Contest were Celine Aubry (second place) Rick "Guy" von-Hold, contest organizer and Mark Barbous the first place winner.



Runners-up winners in the Botterill contest for creativity and neatness were Patty and Karen Anton.

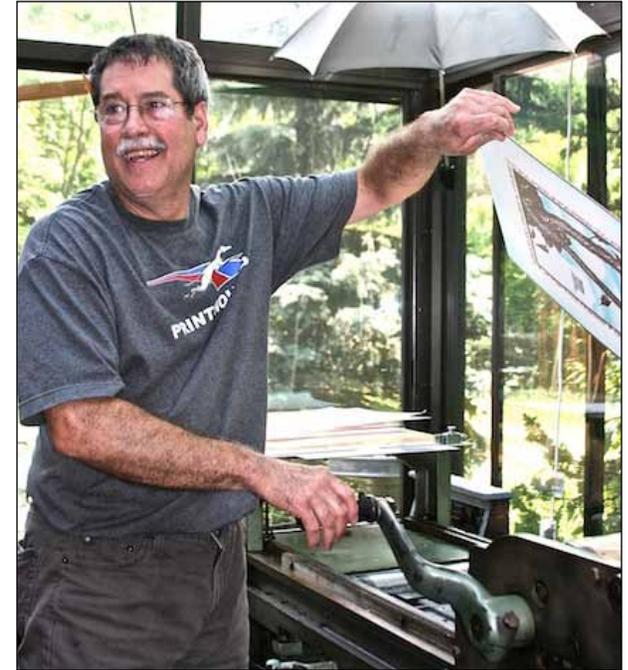
them on Friday but by then most folks were off to the railroading museum. After plenty of food and conversation, Steve Saxe presented his talk: "Turning Lead into Gold: 19th Century American Type Foundries & their Specimen Books." (Read a little more about Steve's talk on the next page.)

Saturday night saw one last session in the hospitality room.

In past APA Wayzgooses, Sunday morning was usually a goodbye breakfast in the hotel and the trip home. The Michigander Goose added a final trip and open house for those who still had time for one more letterpress fix. At 11:00 a dozen of so hardy folks showed up at Hollander's in Ann Arbor. Hollander's is probably one of the larger stores where one can buy sheet quantities of hand made and fine machine made papers in the country. They have a dazzling

display of cover and text weight sheets and related supplies, including quite a selection of book binding cloths and leathers. Co-owner Tom Hollander also showed off his classroom setup with plenty of letterpress and binding equipment.

The final event was the Open House at Gravure Graphics at Jim Horton's house near Ann Arbor. Jim has a great collection of presses and type. One of his three printshops is in a glass greenhouse attached to the side of his house with a Vandercook, a C&P and a number of wood engraving machines. It's kind of tight, but has a great view of the woods out back. The others are in the basement and a garage complex. Hot dogs and lemonade, and yet more letterpress conversation was a great way to wind down the 2011 Michigander Wayzgoose.



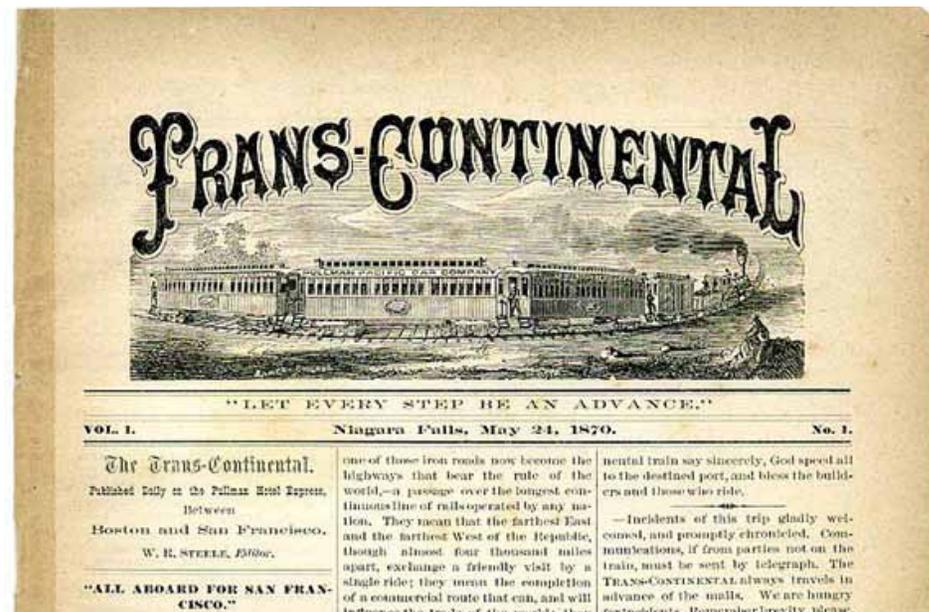
Jim Horton demonstrates on his Vandercook for visitors to his shop on Sunday afternoon.



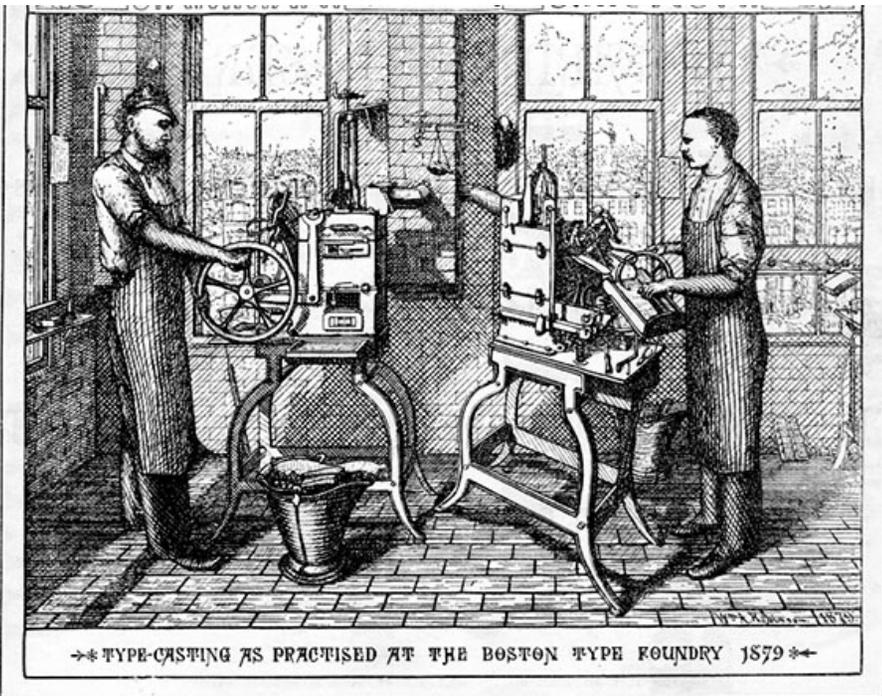
Goose co-chair Joe Warren gives away from Michigan T-shirts as door prizes at the banquet Saturday evening.



Page of ornated type from the 1860 specimen book of the Boston Type Foundry.



Issue of the Transcontinental, printed on a Gordon press on the first passenger train to cross the US, in 1870.



Type casters at work at the Boston Type Foundry in 1879, from the Boston type specimen book of 1880. The operator on the right, William A. Robinson, made the drawing.

Saxe speaker at Goose banquet

The dinner speaker at the Lansing Wayzgoose was Steve Saxe (old-timers will remember that he gave a talk about the history of Golding & Co. at the Concord Wayzgoose in 1985, and a talk about the history of the Kelsey company at the Hartford Wayzgoose in 2000). His subject this time was "Turning Lead into Gold: American Type Foundries and their Specimen Books." The talk was originally given as the annual Hofer Lecture at Harvard, in April 2010. It was a PowerPoint presentation, with 146 images showing typefounding from its earliest days in America to the consolidation of most foundries into the American Type Founders Co, in 1892. A few of the images are shown here.



Steve Saxe

It's been a busy letterpress year so far—with more to come!

It's been quite a letterpress summer — at least for me. I started refurbishing both a 12X18 New Series C&P and a 10X15, 1950-vintage Windmill earlier in the spring and finished them before our hot summer kicked in. Then in May there was Chuck Dunham's "famous" Every-Five-Years Letterpress Auction where some APAsers showed up: Jack Brubaker, John Finch, Rick vonHoldt, Chuck Wendel, Celene Aubrey, and yours truly.

Then came the Michi-Gander Goose in Lansing where Hosts Joe Warren and Arie Koelewyn, and Jim Horton and Phil Driscoll pulled together a great event. One of the highlights was the trip to Owosso, Michigan to visit the worlds largest engraving company — Owosso Graphics Arts, Inc. I think we were all very impressed (pun intended) with the well-organized and extremely spacious facilities at Owosso - plus the very welcoming and gracious hosts they were.

A good-sized swap meet generated a lot of smiles on Saturday, and the auction fol-



lowing was conducted humorously by the auction team of Peat and Magill. Thanks Joe, Arie, and all who made Lansing a memorable Goose/Gander!

Now I am happy to report that plans are coming together for the 2012 Wayzgoose to be hosted by Printers' Hall in June at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa — where some big changes are being undertaken. The 2012 committee of George Chapman, Bill Allan and Maryann Humphrey, Steve Alt, Rick vonHoldt, Chuck Wendel, and myself, have a very good start on all of the plans for a very good Iowayzgoose. In fact we will have a lot of

information on it going out to you this fall.

And, as fall approaches, Printers' Hall will be hosting the 18th annual Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair September 15, 16, and 17. Come see what we're excited about this year!

But looking back on this spring and summer, I have to tell you that the most memorable times have been meeting some of the new graphic arts students and new folks getting in to letterpress printing. Experiencing their excitement about our craft, and helping some of them ink their first type form and pressing it in to paper and peeling off their first print . . . well, that's just one of the best things I enjoy about sharing letterpress. Yes, it is truly a good thing to share that experience with them and know that here might be one more person to carry on the letterpress craft when I'm done. So, don't ever pass up the opportunity to share your knowledge with the newcomers and drink in some of their excitement in the process.