

Florida Sand, an *E-Journal*

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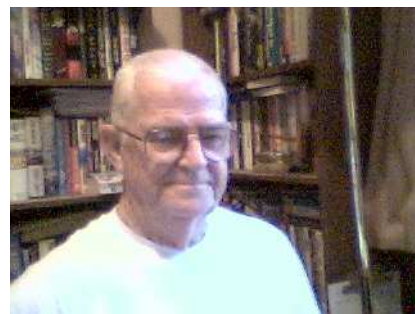
Published for AAPA by Hugh Singleton, who may be reached at P. O. Box 280, Ocoee, FL 34761 and At htsman1102@aol.com

FOR THOSE WHO read this journal and ask themselves what's the name of it, the name is *FLORIDA SAND*. There may be some who wonder why the "E-Journal" is emphasized to such an extent. The reason for that is simple and complex ... and personal. Some will read this and smile knowingly; others may scowl or laugh or simply delete the image from their screen. Perhaps one or two will print a hard copy, and to those I say, "Thank you." The fun of amateur journalism sometimes suffers from abuse of one kind or another, but those of us who truly enjoy the hobby tend to overlook the ups and downs that occur, preferring instead to maintain an even keel, regardless of the storms that come and go like ships that pass in the night, and by dawn are over the horizon.. Much has been said and written in recent years about the decline in membership, the apathy of those who are growing old, and speculation is made that ajay as we know it is in a terminal state.

I do not believe that amateur journalism will vanish, but certainly it has already changed and will continue to change as technology advances. We tend to resist changes that take from us the habits and customs that we have been most comfortable with during our most active times. Indeed, those of us labeled as "hard-nosed" or "stubborn" (if there are any like that), refuse to accept that change is inevitable. A successful farmer in the early thirties wanted no truck with mechanization ... but where is his mule now? I feel that the most lamentable aspect of the whole situation is the tendency for some of us to feel that any change is going to be bad. That simply is not a valid expectation; it is pessimistic and not worthy of an ajayer who supports the hobby. We should

be considering ways to expand interest in amateur journalism, not looking for monsters behind every door that opens. It seems to be true that our schools are placing less emphasis on grammar, composition, and proper use of our language, nevertheless, our young people do learn to express themselves well, and some show great talent, judging from newspaper items written by local high school and college students. Whether amateur journalism was more appealing or interesting in bygone years, it will survive the present decline and in the process, it will reflect the thinking of today's society, as well as the latest applicable technology. Model-T Fords are still admired for the doors they opened to everyone, but none of us would want to use them today. Let's look for new and varied ways to express ourselves in the enjoyment of ajay. Those who will not move from the comfort of earlier traditions are free to continue in their chosen paths—but they do not serve the interests of ajay by raising cries of protest against new ideas.

The flaps and turmoil that followed new ideas and methods in our past have proven that ajay is going to be pushed and shoved by segments who challenge both change and the lack of it—but ultimately change was affected and ajay moved forward with the times. Our attention is wasted on debates that are essentially valueless; we can focus instead on improving the quality of our own journalistic efforts and ajay in general; why don't we do that instead of giving our time to needless argument over matters of small consequence? #



Indecision has tossed you on top of a stump
You're uncertain which way to go;
Then you feel froggy, and then you jump
It's the high grass you need to mow!

