

# Florida Sand, an

# E-Journal

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**I**N THE PREVIOUS issue of this journal, I related how a skin cancer had been removed from my face using a dermatological procedure developed by Dr. Frederick Mohs. That surgery was done on May 17<sup>th</sup>, almost two months ago. I was checked by the surgeon four weeks after surgery and I will be checked again in early September. The doctor tells me that my wound is healing exceptionally well, and that in time my scar will not be noticeable. I marvel at how little remains of what was once a terrible looking wound and I have only admiration for Dr. Mohs and those who practice his method of microsurgery. #



Damaged people are dangerous. They know they can survive.  
--Josephine Hart

## A NATIONAL CONVENTION? WHY?

**T**HE ANSWER might be, “Because we can.” And that sounds logical to me. To meet in pleasant surroundings, to discuss many new and old ideas with our peers, to seek viewpoints from various sources as well as to give our own—these are some of the advantages we enjoy in convention. Nothing equals the nexus of a handshake between friends; or the eye-to-eye contact that speaks volumes without words. It will be sad if we lose the means or the will to gather in national convention—and amateur journalism will suffer another setback. Before we dismiss such a possibility as non-existent,

we should consider the enormous increase in the price of gasoline, and the resulting increase in air fares as well as other travel-related costs. On top of that, think realistically about our age and the likelihood that all of us will reach a time when we cannot travel; will there be younger members to continue the tradition of a convention? For that answer, simply count the number of young people at the Cleveland meeting in August. I find it distressing that we have so few enthusiastic members of the calibre of Susan Petrone, for instance.

AAPA is made up of well-educated and talented people; professionals whose combined experience make it an organization with vast potential. Why, then do we not have young men and women beating a path to our door? For lack of a better term, I’d say it is apathy, pure and simple ... on our part. #

## LOOKING AHEAD

**W**ITHIN ANOTHER ajay group, ideas are being discussed that may ultimately involve AAPA. Some of these ideas have been thru the mill before; some are new, and most of them are worth consideration and discussion. A number of our members are also members of the group I am referring to, and will be familiar with some of the possibilities under discussion. I hesitate to advocate AAPA’s involvement in similar give-and-take discussions, but at the risk of creating another “flap du jour” I think I will. Here are subjects to discuss:

Should we select a permanent site for our annual convention? If so, where?

Should we consider holding a back-to-back convention with another group?

Should we set a permanent date for our annual convention?

How can we best promote interest in ajay among high school and college students?

How can we best promote interest in our national convention among our members?

These are matters of interest to all of us and may well affect the longevity of AAPA as well as its future conventions. Now is the time for serious thought—before apathy conquers all. #