

WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT

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Experiment

EVERYTHING I have printed for the AAPA through the years has been experimental. This issue is the first of hopefully many electronic journals I hope to publish for the organization. I have never tried to do this before and consequently, I don't know what I am doing. I know that theoretically it should work. Who out there will join me in helping the AAPA take this first step into the fourth year of the Second Millennium? It is a logical step and I predict that it may save our evolving hobby group, or at least stimulate writing and publishing.

A Place To Call Home

OUR redoubtable indispensable Alert Manager and his lovely wife, Bill and Jean Venrick have written and published a book — an extraordinary account of the history of the now extinct Fairfield County Children's Home in Lancaster, Ohio. I have followed their progress and am proud of them — a Herculean effort. Bill did all of the composition himself on MS Publisher, and supervised its printing. It is a substantial contribution to the history of Ohio, and is attracting statewide attention. He reports healthy sales of the edition. The Venricks join Robert Orbach as writers and book publishers. Isn't that the name of the game for AJers?

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The poetry is by the printer

Kingfisher

THE most beautiful Christmas card we received last year was a wood engraving by Gale Mueller of a belted kingfisher. We appreciate all Christmas cards from old friends, but we rarely keep any of them. The incredibly detailed art of Gale was so beautiful that we have had it matted and framed, and it now hangs proudly on our living room wall. I salute Gale and am proud to have him as a friend. The AAPA is comprised by the most interesting and talented people I have ever met.

GIFT

Black and orange,
Brilliant even in the stillness of death,
Sweet voice forever hushed.
The neighbor's cat
Presented us with
The broken body of
One of our orioles
This morning.

SUBSTITUTE

As there are
No indispensable men,
There don't seem
To be any
Indispensable birds
A fresh new oriole
Has filled the
Brief vacuum
In our yard.
Singing loudly,
Oblivious of the
Recent sad funeral.