

Things in Motion ...

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice. --Heraclitus (540?-480?)B.C.

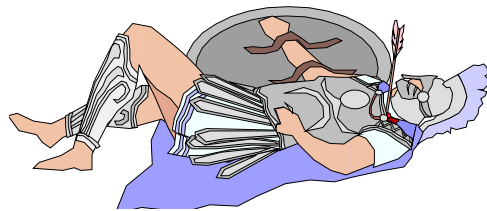
WE NEED A SHOT OF...OF...

OUR MOST recent Presidential Message is a sad commentary on the state that AAPA has reached—and sadder still is the now obvious fact that our fellow group, NAPA wallows in the same quagmire. When I recall the thrill of receiving the monthly bundle almost sixty years ago, I wonder why that thrill no longer exists—why was the fun and anticipation of writing, publishing, just the knowing that whatever appeared in this month's bundle would certainly bring about comments in the next bundle as well as post-cards or letters in the interim no longer there? There was also a steady flow of communication between a lot of the members then—something else that no longer exists. Whatever the cause, there is a lack of enthusiasm for eleven months of the year—relieved only by the annual convention and then quickly allowed to sink out of sight again. Perhaps the problem, or part of it, is that the membership has aged to a time in life when apathy overwhelms the enthusiasm that spurred us in younger days. I admit to a slower step, but I think it would be peppier if those around me stepped just a bit livelier—something unseen in AAPA for the most part. Thank heavens for the few who still wave our flag, however lonely!

Now might be a good time to spread some richly-deserved praise to those who brought the AAPA into existence and kept it moving for the time since. There was no lack of zeal in the earlier years and some who made the organization flower are still with us—to them I say “Thanks!” and “It's been a good run!” Unfortunately, I also feel that I may as well acknowledge that amateur journalism is now in that stage which Shakespeare listed as “the lean and slipped pantaloons.” In his accounting there is only one stage left us.

Perhaps it is not surprising that our hobby has fallen out of favor; it requires vastly less effort to mindlessly entertain ourselves with television, movies, and electronic games. I might even suggest that some of our older genes have evolved away from what was once a good measure of creative incentive. In any event, we have not endowed our descendants with those interests that we once found so compelling.

As Time marches on and AAPA drifts slowly but surely toward the sunset, it would be worthy of us to acknowledge the heyday of our group and to pass along kudos to the people who organized such a vibrant club as AAPA once was—those people are known to any member who was once interested, and probably also to those members who never cared a fig for amateur journalism. #



Speak kindly of the dead
if you deign to speak at all.

Number 47, Autumn 2008

Published for AAPA by Hugh Singleton
at 102 Azalea Trail, Leesburg, FL 34748.