

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.

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IN THE SPRING ...

MY NEIGHBOR has returned to his home in the far northern state of Wisconsin. He is one of many who spend their winters here in Florida, but with the first warming days of a new spring, he's off to old haunts until the chill of approaching winter shoves him southward in the fall. As one who loves the changing seasons I understand his reluctance to give up that cycle of living, yet as I settle deeper into old age, it is less appealing to me to take on the hazards of a long trip—I suspect that my neighbor will soon face the same dilemma that has made me a permanent resident, and happily so.

All of the traditional aspects of spring still are a part of my yearly routine; the undeniable urge to plant flowers, to tend shrubbery and to hang out at the recreational areas where younger men play softball, baseball and tennis. I yield to my springtime yens by limiting myself to daily sessions in a swimming pool, appreciating the fact that I can still contribute to my own good health in that way.

The personal computer has opened a vast and growing world for seniors. From e-mails to my friends to research into the history of my family the world wide web offers an amazing pathway into realms that once were deemed impossible for the average person to penetrate. Now that a tremendous new source of information is available to us, why aren't we rushing to take advantage of this gateway to knowledge? Maybe it's the same thing that prevents us from being active in a-jay—the same thing that stops us from publishing or writing or acknowledging those who do. It's apathy ... apathy ... apathy.

Where is immediacy?

OBVIOUSLY, AAPA is somewhat short on immediacy and I include myself as a member who bears responsibility for it. While we participate in the ebb and flow of AAPA's tide, we ignore to a large degree the changes we have witnessed as the years roll by—and if we have managed a transition from our initial forays into the world of amateur journalism, we mostly keep quiet about it. Instead of lauding the personal computer as a worthy replacement for the typewriter, as an example, we continue to spout the same high praise we once voiced in every journal for letterpress, while at the same time we use our personal computer to produce journals that are superior by far to what we could do with letterpress. Let me hasten to say that I do not advocate the scrapping of letterpress, nor do I want to dampen the enthusiasm of those who find satisfaction in it as a method of publication—my interest is to promote an acknowledgment of our modern technologies.

Following the newspaper came magazines and radio, then television. After messengers came the telegraph, then the telephone and now cell phones. Follow that with the hand presses of early amateur journalism and on to today's desktop publishing; there is little doubt that we have seen a continuous string of advances in how we do things. In AAPA we are reluctant to show enthusiasm for up-to-the-minute methods. Is it any wonder that young people hesitate to join us?

Why don't we write about the fun of desktop publishing? Why don't we show what can be done by publishers like Mike O'Connor? We are missing a bet by failing to promote modern technology as a tool for amateur journalism, and I marvel that we continue to overlook such obvious keys to enhance our hobby.

At the very least, AAPA publishers should be making their opinions known about today's happenings. Journals offer platforms for the pros and cons of all matters relating to a-jay—why don't we seize this opportunity to live in today's world?