



THE WEBFOOTER

Celebrating 44 Years

"Every subject known to man can be found on a post card" -- Club Motto
ESTABLISHED 1966

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www.thewebfooters.com

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June 2010



Happy 4th of July



- ◆ See Mark's "The Indispensible Servant – The Story of Paper" on Page 4.
- ◆ See Maggie's Memo on Page 9.

Next Meeting – June 19, 2010

At Russellville Grange – 12105 NE Prescott Street

10 am to 3:30 pm

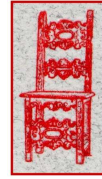


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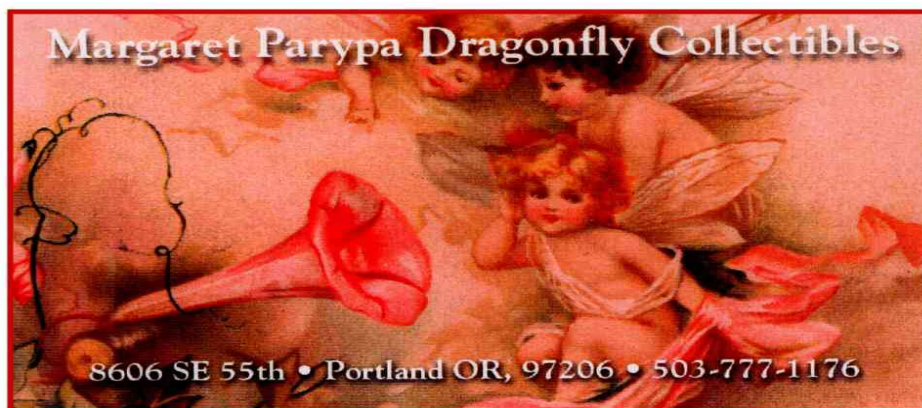
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Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm
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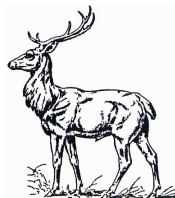
Portland Oregon
at Kliever Armory
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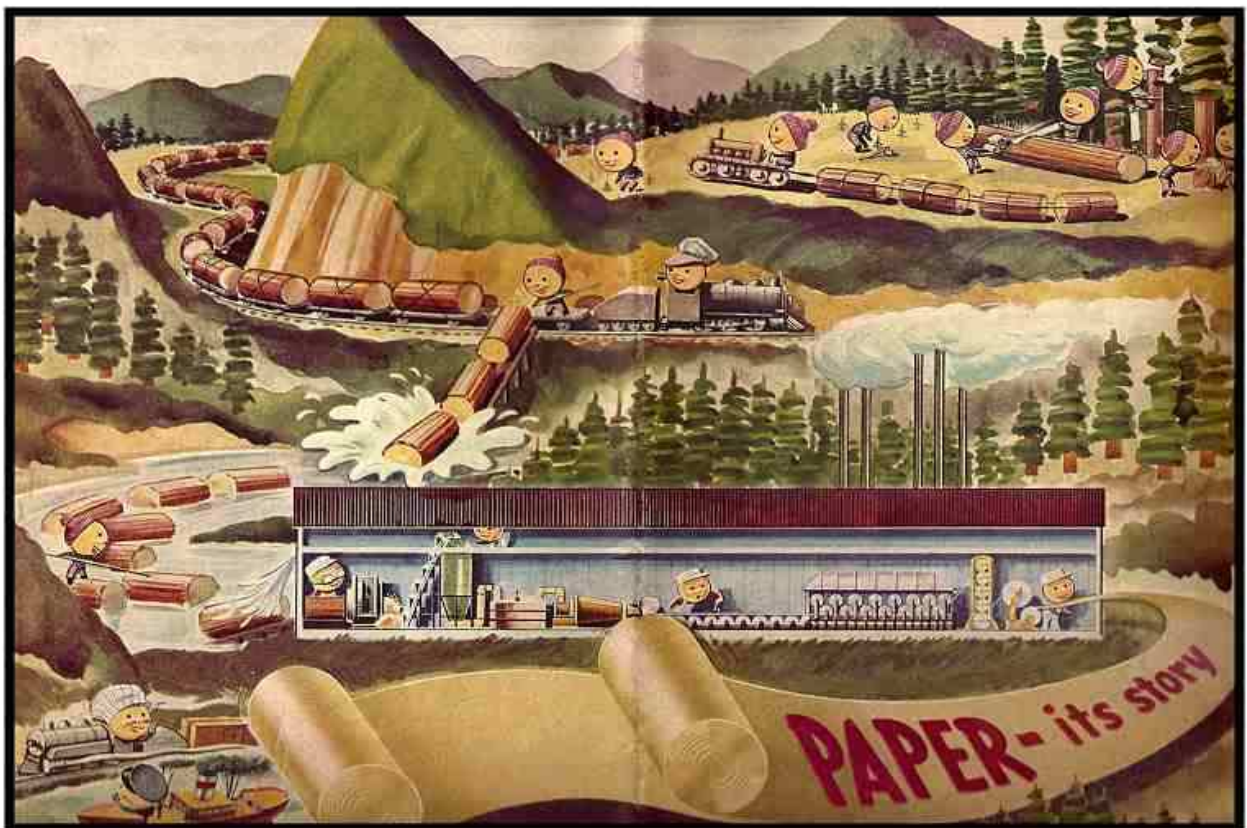
The Indispensable Servant!

The Story of Paper

by Mark Moore



Can you imagine a world without paper? There would be no paper for post cards, photos, ephemera, newspapers, books, magazines, food service and sanitation. There would be no boxes for shipping, no textbooks and writing tablets for schools, no writing paper and envelopes for mail and correspondence. Our drivers' licenses, birth certificates, college degrees and marriage licenses are printed on paper. History has been documented and recorded on paper. We use tons of paper on a daily basis.



Paper is an integral part of our daily lives, yet few of us know the history of paper.

Paper has served mankind's progress for 2,000 years. Paper touches our thoughts, our health, our food, our education, our habits and our culture. It has been "The Indispensable Servant." Written communication dates back to the age when pictures and symbols were written on cave walls. Egyptian and Asian scholars were the first to actually record their thoughts in symbols.

It was in Babylon that soft clay tablets were first used to post the records of the day's business. Filing clerks had to have strong arms to juggle these heavy baked tablets. These tablets of stone were cumbersome at best; so an easier method of record keeping was soon developed by the Egyptians who split thin strips from the sinewy papyrus, a native weed.

The strips were glued together and another level of strips was added on top at right angles. This fairly smooth writing surface was well received.

Original manuscripts on papyrus are still legible after three and four thousand years. In 1945, an archeologist found seven well preserved letters in a jar in an underground gallery about 120 miles south of Cairo. The letters, which date to 500 B.C., were written in the Aramaic language (the tongue of Christ).



In 75 A.D., Chinese scholar Tsi-Lun started experimenting on the development of a better writing surface. He enlisted the help of Emperor Hoti who was himself a scientist and they finally produced a fair grade of paper in 105 A.D. Though they didn't leave their recipe, it is believed to be a mixture of bamboo fiber and old rags, plus the inner fibers of the mulberry tree.

Tsi-Lun beat the ingredients into a mass and mixed it with water. Then he poured it on grass molds. The excess water seeped through and left a flat film of matted fiber which was pulp in sheet form. After letting it dry in the sun, he rubbed it smooth with a stone and the result was paper. History records that the Chinese later used hand molds made from horsehair cloth lashed to bamboo frames. Unfortunately, the magic formula for paper would elude a restless civilization for 600 years.

Book makers in the Middle Ages appreciated the quality of handmade papers. In a world where culture was only for the chosen few, they labored for but one goal—perfection. They recognized the importance of beauty and permanence in their finished product. Many of these books are still with us today.

It was the Arabs who conquered lands on the western limits of Chinese culture and brought paper out of the East. They spread the art of papermaking to the crossroads of the world, first to Northern Africa, then on to Europe, England, and at last to the wilderness that was America in the 17th century.

In 1798, a French workman named Louis Robert announced that he had discovered a way to make large sheets of paper by means of machines, without fire or additional help. He could make sheets of paper that were 12 feet wide by 50 feet long. Robert secured a patent on the machine, but he lacked the funding to finance it. He was able to convince two wealthy stationers, Henry and Sealy Fourdriner, to put up enough cash to build his machine in 1804. After expending 60,000 pounds, the Fourdriner paper machine led them to bankruptcy. They petitioned Parliament for compensation from their losses and their request was granted in the amount of seven thousand pounds in appreciation of their labors.

The demand for paper challenged man's ingenuity to find enough materials from which to make it. The most promising materials turned out to be bamboo, straw, rags leaves, thistles, hemp, garden refuse and even the lowly potato. Rags and straw turned out to be the best components for making paper, but they were usually in short supply. All the time, the real answer to man's quest for papermaking material was hanging over his head in the forest in the form of a wasp's nest.

A French scientist, Rene de Reaumur, was the first to conclude that paper can be made from wood. He observed a wasp taking slivers and bits of wood, chewing them to a pulp and laying them in strips to make a nest.



Reaumur wrote to the French Royal Academy to report his findings in 1719, "The rags from which paper is made are becoming rare. While the consumption of paper increases every day, production of linen remains the same. The wasp seems to teach us that paper can be made from fiber without the use of rags. We can make fine and good paper from the use of certain woods." Reaumur died without seeing his dream of making paper from wood fiber come true.

In 1850, a German named Frederic Kellar studied the pulp making methods of the wasp and with a mechanic named Henry Volter devised a machine for grinding wood into fibers. Then in 1852, Hugh Burgess, an English inventor, was issued patents by the English government for pulping by what is now known as the "Soda Process" and he received patents for the same process two years later from the American government.

A few years later, in 1865, C.B. Tilghman, an American chemist, discovered the method known today as the "Sulphite Process for cooking wood." Of all the methods for making paper, the treatment of wood by chemicals held the most promise for America, a land of trees and water. In America, the arts and sciences found new stature here, leading to the greatest strides in the manufacture of and diversified uses of paper. Though the methods of paper making haven't changed much, printing and publishing have reached new heights in advancement in our lifetime. You can see it in the wonderful ephemera that we collect.

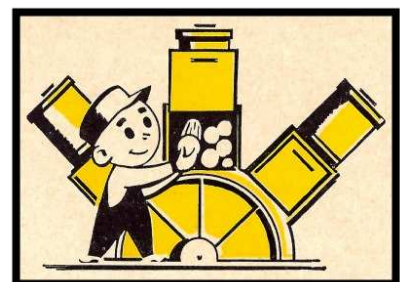
The cells of plant life, the fibrous growth of the tree, cotton, flax or other plants, constitute the basic raw materials for making paper. There are two distinct steps in the production of paper: taking wood and obtaining from it a mass of separated fibers known as wood pulp and treating these separated fibers so they will reunite and form a thin sheet which we know of as paper.

Pulp suitable for paper manufacturing can be made from the wood of nearly all of the common forest trees: spruce, hemlock, fir, pine, poplar, cottonwood and many others. Here in the Pacific Northwest, paper pulp comes from our abundant forests of Western Hemlock, Sitka Spruce and the different varieties of fir. The process of converting trees into paper begins in the forest with the logging operation.

Trees must be cut into logs and delivered to the pulp mill in this form. After the logs reach the pulp mill ponds, the logs are carefully sorted and the bark, which is used for fuel, must be removed. They first shaved off the bark with revolving disc knives or rubbed it off with revolving drums, but this process wasted a lot of wood. Western pulp mills achieved the unbelievable by using a spectacular method of "blowing" the bark off the log by using a jet of water under extremely high pressure in an operation called "hydraulic barking" which leaves the log very clean without the loss of valuable wood.

There are five widely used processes for producing papermaking fibers from wood. One of these is a mechanical process producing groundwood, three are chemical cooking processes, producing what are known as sulphite, kraft or soda pulps and the fifth is a semi-chemical process.

Groundwood consists of the whole of the wood ground to a fibrous pulp by pressing it against revolving grindstones. The cleaned logs must be cut into short lengths and they are forced against the grindstones by hydraulic pressure so that the grinding action is across the grain of the wood. This tears the fibers apart, separating them with a minimum of damage to their length and structure.



Groundwood comprises 80 to 90 percent of the newsprint and is used in other grades of paper.

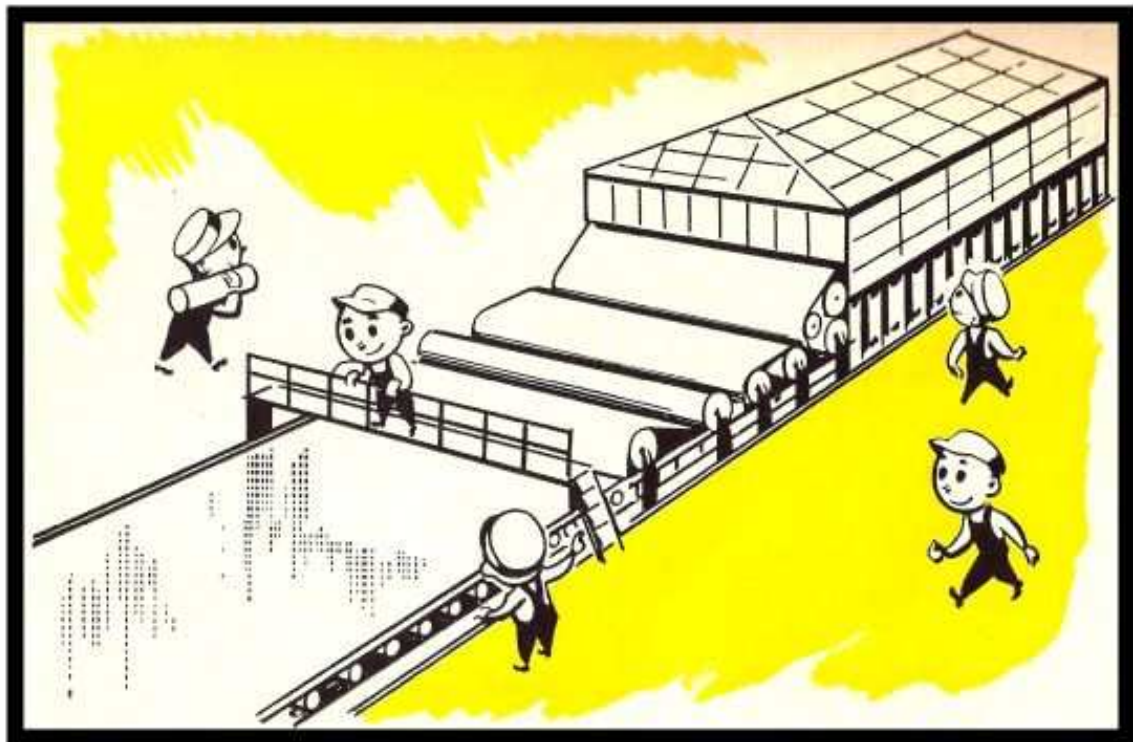
For the manufacture of the better grades of paper, strong, flexible fibers and fibers of white color are required. These are obtained by chemical processes which remove all but the cellulose in the fibers by the action of certain chemicals under pressure and at high temperatures in a cooking process lasting from 8 to 16 hours.

The addition of the various chemicals depends upon the type of wood used. Soft woods such as spruce and hemlock produce stronger pulps that are used for higher quality papers and can be easily bleached. Poplar and cottonwood are used to make white pulps of less strength which are used for papers used in books and magazines. Other chemical processes produce the pulp for brown papers and are costly and difficult to bleach. They end up as filler papers used for corrugating material, cardboard and roofing papers, etc.



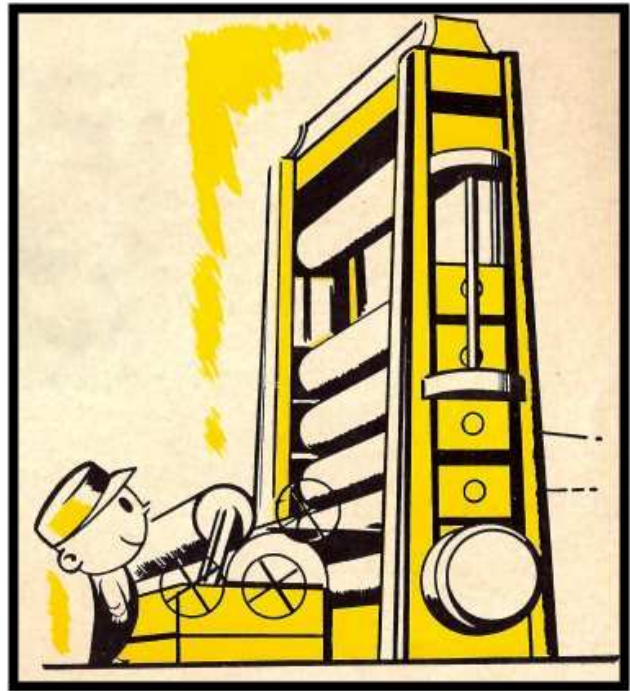
You've all heard the expression "beaten to a pulp." Beating and refining is the next step. The pulp, which is suspended in water, is fed through a machine with a rolling drum and knives that pull apart the fibers. The ends of the fibers become frayed and this helps to make the fibers felt together after the water is drained. This helps to form a uniform sheet of paper. The beating process takes several hours and during this time, the color and sizing materials are added.

The actual formation of the sheet of paper takes place on the paper machine which has two ends. The wet end is where a very wet sheet is formed and pressed; and the dry end is where the wet sheet is dried. All remaining water is driven out by hot dryers. The qualities of the finished product are controlled by the characteristics of the pulp used, by the treatment given this pulp and by the way it is handled in the paper machine.



Paper that comes from the dryers is not smooth enough for most purposes. A finish must be applied by running the sheet a specified number of times through a series of polished steel rollers and by the amount of weight or pressure applied. The finished paper is wound onto large rolls that are either cut into smaller rolls or sheets and then it is packaged for distribution.

In the modern paper manufacturing process, a great deal of scientific control is required to make sure the quality of the finished product is correct. As technology advances, so does the process of making paper. Today's paper mills employ large staffs of technicians who make constant tests on wood, chips, cooking liquors, pulp and finished products.



We are in the infancy of the electronic age. Inventions such as radio and television that were born 80-90 years ago are still operating. A radio built in the 1920s can still receive signals from radio stations today. Early televisions can be connected to a digital converter box and they can still receive TV signals.

However, the development of the recently introduced I-Pad promises to greatly impact the future of the printed word as much or more as the computer has. Simplicity is the future of computing. I feel compelled to warn you that the handwriting is on the wall for the end of the technology of paper. While paper still reigns, we must cherish it while we can. Newspapers and books as we know them may be a thing of the past in our lifetime.

See the full color version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com.

RPPC of the Month





Maggie's Minutes

Attending the May 12, 2010 Webfooter's Board Meeting, held at Elmer's Restaurant were: Mark Moore (President), Tony Roberts (Vice President) Maggie Parypa (Secretary), Arne Soland (Treasurer), Krissy Durden (Membership), Phyllis Palmer and Irene Adams, Directors. After a call to order at approximately 7:00 PM, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Financial Report - Arne Soland reported that the club had a total of \$9,309.98 in our accounts. In checking: \$3425.16; in CD 1: \$1,189.88; in CD 2: \$1,050.14; and \$3,644.80 in the Show Account.

Report of Standing Committees

Membership Chair Krissy Durden reported that there are 235 Active Members (107 individual members, 95 Family Members, 26 Patron Members, 6 Honor Members and 1 Charter).

Refreshments - Reimbursement of up to \$30 is available for those contributing this service. If you are providing refreshments don't forget to save your receipts for Arne. Cheryl Boyer is on deck for providing refreshments for our June meeting. Thanks to Janice Ahl for providing sandwich provisions, pasta salad, homemade pickles and cinnamon rolls at the May meeting.

Our Spring Auction was held at the Grotto Conference Center on Sandy Blvd. Dusty did a great job as auctioneer. The food was wonderful and people who attended said they had a fun time. Unfortunately we lost \$404.78 due to several factors. Meals were discounted from \$20.00 to \$12.00, customers were not charged for the use of credit cards and several winning bidders were not charged the 10% buyer's premium which directly benefits our club.

Our show did have a profit due to our admission fees. On Saturday we had 140 attendees and Sunday there were 25. Thanks to Steve Kuryk for managing a silent auction of surplus library books and magazines. Thanks also to David Sell for boxing and organizing our club cards, they look 100% better. Now we need to find a public address system with microphone and amplifier. Thanks to Portland's Rain of Glass (Mark is also their president) for lending us their equipment the past two years.

Krissy Durden has reported that the communication website on NING for Portland Postcard Collectors has been terminated due to a change requiring pay for use of the site. Thank you Krissy for all your hard work. It was a fun site and we are sorry to have to discontinue it.

Our thoughts and heartfelt best wishes go out to our dear friend Mary Patterson in Seattle. She has been diagnosed with stomach cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Mary is one of the most popular dealers in the Pacific Northwest. We missed her smiling face at the show this year.

Thanks to Keith and Marilee Tillstrom for donating an A-frame sign for the one stolen during our show. Thank you also to Joe Macdonald for volunteering to paint it for us.

One of our members, Brian Johnson, is an archivist for the Portland Archives and Records Center. They recently moved to brand new quarters on the fifth floor of Portland State University's Academic & Recreation Student Center at 1800 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 550. Brian has extended an invitation for Webfooters to take a tour of the new facilities in the coming weeks.

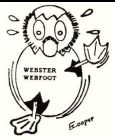
At the club meeting on Saturday, May 15th there was a unanimous vote to award Mark Moore a lifelong free membership to the club. We also approved the purchase of a computer software program to make his job as webmaster easier. This is the best decision we could make to entice Mark to keep doing the wonderful job as editor of our newsletter. We really do appreciate all of his efforts to keep the Webfooters a thriving club.

The meeting at Elmer's was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on July 14th, 2010 at Elmer's Restaurant at 10001 NE Sandy Boulevard at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Parypa, Secretary



Club Officers

President/Editor.....Mark Moore
Vice President.....Tony Roberts
Secretary.....Maggie Parypa
Treasurer.....Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....Krissy Durden
Directors.....Irene Adams and Phyllis Palmer
Historian.....Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....Steve Kuryk



Calendar

June 19 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

July 14 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

July 17 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com



WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240
Portland OR 97217-0240



See Page 4 for Mark Moore's
"The Indispensable Servant, the Story of Paper."