

THE KENTUCKY PRESS

— Of, By, And For Kentucky Newspapers —

Volume Seven

JANUARY, 1936

Number Eight

Country Journalism Stronger Than Ever Program Of Mid-winter Meeting

By A. ROBBINS

Like the Old Grey Mare Country Journalism "ain't what she used to be," but unlike the Old Grey Mare, the country newspaper is younger, stronger and better than ever.

The trend in the country field is toward better newspapers all the time. Interesting newspapers, interpretative newspapers. Subscribers are no longer completely satisfied with the local and personal column and the country correspondence, tho they still remain the "back-bone" of the community newspapers.

Along with the locals the readers want the big news played up, the constructive news dug up, editorials that really mean something and say something, good local features, pictures, some mention and interpretation of state, national and international events.

When a news flash can go around the world in two minutes and a man can fly around it in a week, the world has grown so small that there is no community in the land so small or isolated that it is not interested now in what is going on in the world, because those things effect their everyday lives as never before.

All this means that publishing a country newspaper is no longer a job for a printer, but a job for an editor. A wide awake editor who knows what is going on in the world and can meet changing conditions. It also means that to survive country editors and publishers must cooperate more closely in the future than they ever have in the past.

The only way this full cooperation can be obtained is thru our press associations. Looking into the future I confidently expect to see the services of the KPA and NEA enlarged so that they will not only be our protector and advisor, but our advertising and editorial agents, helping us to get out the kind of newspaper our readers want and helping us to get the national advertising we deserve.

The country newspaper is no more dead than the small town and city. It all depends on individual circum-

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Thursday, January 16

6:30 p. m.—Registration and buffet dinner in Roof Garden, Brown Hotel, compliments of the Brown Hotel.

There will be no cover charge to KPA members in the Night Club and in the Blue Grass Room.

Friday, January 17

9:00 a. m.—Business session called to order in Louis 16th Room by A. Robbins, President Kentucky Press Association, The Courier, Hickman, Ky.

Invocation by Rev. Richard W. F. Seebode, First Unitarian Church, Louisville, Ky.

Address of Welcome by Mayor Neville Miller, Louisville, Ky.

Response by J. P. Gozder, Chairman KPA Executive Committee, The News-Journal, Campbellsville, Ky.

9:30 a. m.—President Annual Address.

9:45 a. m.—Address, "Individuality as an Asset to a Newspaper," by Tom Wallace, Editor Louisville Times.

10:45 a. m.—Address, "The Function of a Modern Newspaper," by John M. Pratt, publisher The Herald-Post, Louisville, Ky.

10:30 a. m.—"Advertising Rackets," Roundtable led by J. L. Bradley, The Enterprise, Providence, Ky.

Friday Afternoon, January 17

12:15 p. m.—Luncheon at Pendennis Club, compliments the Courier Journal and Louisville Times.

2:00 p. m.—Business session in Louis 16th Room at Brown Hotel.

Address, "Newspaper Make-Up and Headings," by John L. Lyons, Mergenthaler Linotype Co., Chicago.

2:30 p. m.—Address, Essentials of Cooperation," by J. W. Hedden, Jr., The Advocate, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

2:45 p. m.—"Rural Correspondents and Circulation," led by C. A. Hummel, The Jeffersonian, Jeffersontown, Ky.

3:45 p. m.—Address, "Free Publicity," by G. M. Pedley, The Herald, Eddyville, Ky.

4:00 p. m.—Victor Green, Manager International News Service, Louisville, Ky., will explain use of the Teletype.

4:10 p. m.—The Intertype Sound Picture.

6:30 p. m.—Banquet dinner in the Roof Garden of the Brown Hotel, compliments of the Louisville Board of

Trade.

Saturday, January 18

9:00 a. m.—Business session in Louis 16th Room, Brown Hotel.

Address by Colonel H. Dorsey Newson, Chief Information Section, Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C.

9:15 a. m.—Address by George A. Joplin, Jr., State Representative National Editorial Association, The Commonwealth, Somerset, Ky.

9:30 a. m.—Address by Robert H. Pritchard, President National Editorial Association, The Democrat, Weston, W. Va.

10:15 a. m.—Report of KPA Legislative Committee.

10:30 a. m.—Report of Secretary-Treasurer, J. Curtis Alcock, Daily Messenger, Danville, Ky.

10:45 a. m.—Report of Committee on Resolutions.

11:00 a. m.—Annual Election of Officers.

12:00 m.—Adjournment.

GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

4:00 p. m.—Reception given by Governor A. B. Chandler at the Governor's Mansion at Frankfort.

Greyhound busses leave Louisville, Fifth and Broadway, at 1 p. m. and 2:30 p. m., arriving at Frankfort at 3 p. m. and 4:30 p. m.

KENTUCKIAN EDITORS CLAIM "YOUNGEST EDITORS" TITLE

A. E. Stevens, 21 years old, and R. G. Mauer, 19 years old, editors and publishers of the Boone County Recorder, Burlington, claim to be the youngest editors and publishers in the state. Can anyone refute their claim? They print an eight-page, six-column weekly and are giving Burlington a practical community newspaper. Now who is the oldest newspaper publisher in the state? Let the Press know.

Congratulations to J. M. Alverson, Harlan Enterprise, on his selection as a member of the highly important state reorganization board.

Congratulations to our friend and co-worker, Keen Johnson. We know, by experience, that he'd do the job right.

Kentucky Press

Official Publication of THE KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

VICTOR R. PORTMANN Editor

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PRESS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

- Augustus Robbins President
Courier, Hickman
- John L. Crawford Vice-Pres.
Times-Tribune, Corbin
- J. Curtis Alcock Sec.-Treas.
Messenger, Danville

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. P. Gozder, News-Journal, Campbellsville, chairman; G. M. Pedley, Herald, Eddyville; J. L. Bradley, Enterprise, Providence; Vance Armstrong, Courier-Journal, Louisville; Keith Hood, Trimble Democrat, Bedford; Joseph Costello, Democrat, Cynthiana; James P. Norris, Independent, Ashland; Robert L. Elkin, Central Record, Lancaster; Thomas R. Underwood, Herald, Lexington; Russell Dyche, Sentinel-Echo, London; Joe Richardson, Times, Glasgow.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Keen Johnson, Register, Richmond, chairman; George A. Joplin, Jr., Commonwealth, Somerset; Warren Fisher, Mercury, Carlisle.

A PROPOSED PROGRAM

The Press suggests the following proposed program for the consideration of the KPA and its legislative committee, to be placed before the present legislature:

A bill, based upon the New Jersey act, to protect press confidences.

A bill, based upon the Federal act, that all citations for contempt of court shall be tried before a disinterested judge.

A bill, based upon the New York act, to permit newspapers, under conditional privilege, to print news of the arrest and charge in criminal cases (with the specification of the exclusion of divorce and scandal news) when preliminary papers are filed with a judicial officer so that only the judge can dispose of the case. The merits of this bill were discussed at some length by Editor Don Weaver, Covington, at the mid-winter meeting last January. As far as statutory law is concerned, every newspaper today commits technical libel when it prints such news of the arrest and charge.

A codification of the Kentucky act requiring officials, who spend public monies, to print itemized statements

in county newspapers, with an additional paragraph for a specified penalty for failure to observe this act.

The Press believes that these bills, conservative in nature, will do much to improve the status of the Fourth Estate in Kentucky.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

The following state papers are celebrating their birthdays this month. Here they are in line:

The Kentuckian Citizen, Paris, A. S. Thompson, January 1, Volume 130, No. 1. What only 130 years old! You baby! Casey County News, Liberty, Otis C. Thomas, editor, begins Volume 32.

Sentinel-Democrat, Mt. Sterling, G. B. Senff, editor, (now back on the job) Volume 69 on January 2.

Another 59-er! Georgetown Times, Mrs. Lila Bell, publisher, Volume 69 on January 1.

Getting along in years! The Woodford Sun, Versailles, Bowmar brothers (nuf sed), Volume 68 on January 2.

Seventy-eight years young! The Franklin Favorite, Sam Maxie, editor, Volume 78 on January 2.

Warren Fisher steered the Carlisle Mercury into Volume 70 on January 2. Many more safe harbors, Warren! Clay City Times, J. E. Burgher, editor, begins the new year on January 2 with Volume 41.

Congratulations to you all and may your prestige, influence, and leadership increase this coming year!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

An account again comes to this office, tho from another state, of the misappropriation of funds totaling nearly \$20,000 by a city official who was not required to account for funds under his direction in itemized statements to the public in newspaper form. What applies to municipal government also is true in county administration.

When will the slaughter stop?

Again these reports come in. Who can estimate the amount of money wasted by public officials, buying, selling, hiring, and spending money rightfully belonging to the people and only under their direction as trustees?

What corporation in the country would stand for it? As stockholders in the city, or the county, how long will people let their officials handle thousands of dollars annually without giving a strict accounting?

But aside from any question of wrongful appropriation of wrongful spending of public funds, not implied in any instance in Kentucky, it is an essential principle of democratic government that the public be kept informed of what officials are doing. This is not a reflection on the officials, any more than it is a reflection on

those same officials to be required to subject themselves to a vote of the people before being re-elected. It is simply a question of putting important and vital facts before the people, who, after all, are the ones who must pay taxes and who have the final determination in the operation of their government.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to every publisher and may 1936 bring you prosperity and good fortune. You might help the fates by attending the mid-winter meeting at Louisville. You cannot blame everybody on the fates!

W. A. BEATTY DIES

William A. Beatty, editor and general manager of The Winchester Sun, died at 4 p. m., January 13, at his home following an illness of five days.

The newspaperman suffered a heart attack shortly before 4 p. m. and failed to rally. He was taken ill last Wednesday from an attack of acute indigestion. On Saturday his condition was reported improved, but Sunday afternoon he began to fail.

Mr. Beatty, a veteran newspaperman and one of the best loved in his profession, came to Winchester in 1929 to assume the management of The Sun following the sudden death of Carl C. Robbins, owner and publisher.

The editor's connections with local newspapers, however, go back to a quarter of a century when he was one of the owners of The Sun-Sentinel. He and Col. R. R. Perry, late of this city, established The Sun as a daily newspaper.

The newspaperman was a native of California, and from that state he departed to newspaper positions on Chicago papers and elsewhere. He was at one time managing editor of The Lexington Herald.

Before coming to Winchester, Mr. Beatty was engaged in the profession in Florida.

He was a member of the bar and a graduate of Leland Stanford University.

Mr. Beatty suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and a paralytic stroke followed.

A newspaper man has been named private secretary to Gov. A. B. "Happy" Chandler of Kentucky. He is Walter Warring Mulbry, a native Kentuckian who has been an employee of the Cincinnati Post for the last five years. He and Mr. Chandler were roommates when they attended Transylvania College at Lexington.

On to Louisville!!!

**COUNTRY JOURNALISM
STRONGER THAN EVER**

(Continued from Page One)

stances. The small town or city that sits back and sticks to old-fashioned ways in this day of high powered cars, high powered selling and airplanes, will probably die, and the country newspaper that does the same will probably die. But the towns and cities, and their newspapers, which are on their toes to meet modern conditions will not only survive but will flourish.

Within fifty years the United States will be a static nation. We will have reached the end of our population growth, if present trends continue. Because of this trend, we can no longer hope for our towns and cities to grow as they have done in the past. We must build for the future on the present foundations. That means more careful planning and building. The greatest help we can get along these lines is from our press associations and by careful reading of their publication, as well as other trade papers.

In my opinion the greatest field in journalism today is in the country field, for those who are willing to work hard, use their heads, cooperate with their fellow editors and publishers and keep in step with the parade.

The students of Corbin High School are regularly given a page in J. L. Crawford's Daily Tribune for their "Maroon and White," devoted to the welfare of the school. The page has its own staff including Truman Smith, editor, Miss Thelma Cole, associate editor.

William E. Hacker's Fleming Gazette announced "the largest circulation ever reached by a Fleming County newspaper," just above an ear echoing "Fifty-five years of continuous publication." The paper changed to an eight-column, ten-page paper on December 12.

John J. Barry's local editor of the Rolling Fork Echo in New Haven is A. W. Torrey.

Orma D. Embry is editor of the Cave City Progress and Carlos B. Embry is president of the Embry Newspapers, Inc.

The Stanford Interior-Journal's editor, E. C. Walton, pointed out in the December 13 issue that on the previous Thursday he had concluded his fifty-fourth year in the newspaper business. Much of Mr. Walton's success no doubt has been due to his courage in every question of importance to the scientifically taking a stand on any and people of Lincoln County. Mr. Walton apparently never has been so busy on something else as to use imported, canned editorials. May he continue long at the head of the Interior-Journal!

HICKMAN COURIER SOLD

The Hickman Courier, a weekly newspaper, the oldest in Western Kentucky, has changed ownership, it was announced January 3. J. T. Howard of Effingham, Ill., purchased the property from A. Robbins, who has been owner of the paper for the last nine years.

Mr. Howard, a native of Southern Indiana, near Louisville, is a graduate of Indiana University and the University of Illinois.

Mr. Robbins, who is president of the KPA, will continue with the Courier as associate editor for the present, and announced that he would continue to live in Hickman.

The Courier was founded in 1859 by the late Col. George Warren and has been operated continuously since that time.

The editor of the Rolling Fork Echo, John J. Barry, fell on the ice in front of the postoffice and fractured two ribs. Dr. J. L. Greenwell, attending physician, announced his condition is not serious.

This office has received Volume One Number Two of the Hindman Herald, a bright newsy paper published by the Herald Publishing Company with R. C. Bailey as editor. We congratulate Mr. Bailey on his new enterprise and wish him every success.

The Kentucky High School Press association met at the University on December 13-14 with 25 high schools represented and over 100 delegates in attendance. These "kids" are all bright and intelligent and devoted the two days to "shop talk" and ways of improving their school publications. We hope that many editors will take time off next year to meet with these high school journalists and give them encouragement.

Many state newspapers appeared in Christmas dress with augmented pages for the Christmas and holiday trade. Special pages, or sections, while requiring plenty of hard labor and long hours, pay well in prestige, advertising, and satisfaction.

Your fellow publishers are interested in what you are doing and what is happening to you. If you plan on getting married, or divorced, or adding new machinery to your plant, take a minute of your busy time and drop a line for the next issue of the Press.

We are happy to state that Clarence Matthews, publisher of the Maysville Public Ledger, who has been seriously ill for some time, is improving.

A. F. Hoffman, Ewing Enquirer, recently installed an automatic feed platen press to make his plant up-to-the-minute in efficiency.

The Bath County Outlook has increased its size from four to eight pages and is bright and newsy.

The Carlisle Mercury has installed a font of 8 point Linotype Paragon with bold.

The National Editorial association will meet in Maine during the week of June 21, according to announcement from headquarters. Start a savings account this week, as the annual pilgrimages of the NEA are both instructive and educational. See America first!

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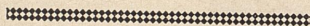


The United States of America enjoys the most efficient, the most extensively used, and the most economical electric service in the world.

All of it has been developed from scratch by far-sighted private enterprise and daring private capital.

While engaged in this gigantic building and operating activity the electric power industry has poured into the public treasury millions and millions of dollars in taxes, and it will continue to do so.

Wouldn't it be folly to destroy this industry, or to cripple it seriously, by politico-economic tinkering that would pile a back-breaking load on the small taxpayer without really benefitting him?



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