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Department of Journalism, University of Maine

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June Graduates Test Job Market

Students Again Beating Paths To Newspapers

First newspapers to employ men who will be graduated from the University of Maine in June are the Daily Kennebec Journal of Augusta, the Brunswick Record, and the Worcester (Mass.) Evening Gazette.

JOHN K. MURPHY, whose home is in Augusta, will join the K-J staff.

ALBERT STEPHEN RILEY, formerly of South Portland, will be a reporter for the Brunswick Record.

JAMES R. WHEELER, Portland, is going to the Worcester Gazette.

Another Maine senior, LAWRENCE D. PINKHAM, recent editor of the Maine Campus, has been admitted to the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University.

Other journalistic candidates have irons in the fire, which they are tending hopefully. Their biographical sketches are on Page 3.

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Maine To Be Prominent At Big NEA Convention

A large delegation of Maine editors and publishers is expected to attend the 65th annual convention of the National Editorial Association, which will be held June 16-20 in Providence.

Bernard E. Esters, Houlton Pioneer Times, is a director of the association, and Charles P. Helfenstein, Anson News, is a former president.

Post-convention tours through New England and into Nova Scotia are planned. The New England tour, which leaves Providence on June 20, calls for a stop at Poland Spring, Me., on the 22nd.
The Maine Journalist

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Vote Of Confidence

The Maine Press Association gave the Maine Journalist a vote of confidence at the spring meeting in Augusta. Without even a hint from us, the MPA offered financial support for two issues in addition to the four originally planned for 1950.

We hope to show our appreciation by giving the MPA's September convention the best coverage we can.

This time, as you can see, we have a tight paper. If you miss items that you expected, it's because we've given priority to our June graduates. We feel that the least we can do is to tell the world about them.

Our young men are in earnest about wanting to be newspapermen, and they appreciate any job tips you may have.

The University of Maine Press Club has voted its thanks to the editors and publishers who have participated in this year's discussions of "The Newspaper and the Community."

The students feel that such sessions give them an appreciation of certain newspaper problems that could hardly be gained in any other way.

Three Maine men in consecutive years have won out in the competition for admission to the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University.

Larry Pinkham, former editor of the Maine Campus, will be our next man at Columbia, following Charles E. St. Thomas and Gerald A. Rogovin.

All words are pegs to hang ideas on.
—HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Our Un-Public Records

By JOHN GOULD

Editor, Lisbon Enterprise

The situation regarding public records here in Maine was again a topic for discussion at the spring meeting of the Maine Press Association, and members agreed to push for repeal of the present law.

Two previous efforts to get the legislature to repeal the law have failed. The thing boils down to the paradoxical fact that public records in Maine are not public—which has a specific meaning for newspapers, apart from the open ridiculousness of that situation.

Reference is made to vital statistic records kept by municipal clerks, exclusive of marriage intentions.

Formerly Available To Public

In the original concept of the state's arrangements, clerks kept such records and they were constantly available to the public. Any citizen could look at the official books.

But the Federal government, with its give-away programs, began a systematic drive for closing public records to the public. Since such records are state matters, the work had to be done in each state.

Here in Maine the deed was done almost surreptitiously—the talking point being the confidential nature of illegitimate children.

Many clerks interpret that newspapers have a "tangible" interest in the records that opens them under a loophole of the law. However, the state vital statistics department has centralized all clerks, telling them the records are closed, with no reference to any loopholes at all.

Legal Points In Doubt

People with tangible interest may look at the records, although Maine's attorney general has opined that he isn't quite sure what that tangible interest might be. Leading cases can be cited, however, to show that newspapers are included, and any lawyer will agree that Maine's law can be strongly argued as unconstitutional from the standpoint of the press—if not from other standpoints.

Papers, however, state that they have not had too much trouble with the law, because of the leniency and sympathy of the respective clerks. This doesn't mean that a test case won't some day appear.

Meantime, others besides the Press are alarmed at the principle of secret government involved. Almost every town has had a stinkeroo of a case—quite apart from the legislature's highly immoral technique of legitimizing bastardy.

Unnecessary Restraint

The logical answer to the legislature is to point out that it needs no law to prevent papers from printing bastardy items. Papers never have printed them.

In one town a family was broken up by unwise and high-handed action under the secrecy law. A case of bastardy that no newspaper had

(Continued on Page Four)

Yours Truly

MPA Picks Kennebago

To the Editor: Arrangements are being completed for the Maine Press Association to hold its annual meeting at Kennebago Lake Camps, in the Rangeley Lakes region, in September. Dates and program details will be announced during the summer.

KINGDON HARVEY, President Maine Press Association

Note From Toledo

To the Editor: It's a long haul from Orono to Toledo, but the Maine Journalist bridges the gap in an enjoyable manner. I read every line of Vol. 1, No. 1.

PAUL A. SCHRADEL,
Managing Editor, Toledo Blade

From The City Desk

To the Editor: Congratulations on the new baby Maine Journalist. Good idea!

VINCENT F. X. BELLEAU
City Editor, Lewiston
Evening Journal
NEAR DEADLINE. June graduation is the next big assignment for (left to right) Elwood B. Bigelow, Jr., John K. Murphy, Bob Slosser, Alan D. St. James, and Donald J. King.


Open House Visitors See Exhibit From Rockland

The Rockland Courier-Gazette's exhibit illustrating a half century of community history was a feature of the University of Maine's Open House Day program on April 29.

Prepared by John M. Richardson, publisher of the Courier-Gazette, and James M. Brown III, director of the William A. Farnsworth Art Museum, the exhibit is designed to show how the newspaper is a chronicler of progress.

Photographic enlargements for the show were made by Sidney Cullen of the Courier-Gazette.

Un-Public Records

(Continued from Page One)

...touched, but which the newspapers had known about for years, was revealed deliberately by the state and resulted in the husband's leaving his wife.

In another town, a man who, with scholarly intent, was working on a town history, was denied access to the official records.

The law says people thus balked can apply to the Superior Court for an order to see the books. It appears that nobody has yet done that. Also, it would seem that any person doing it would need a separate order every time.

Repeal Effort Is Planned

The Maine Press Association plans to present a repeal bill again. Many towns are expected to pass resolutions in their town meetings asking the legislature to repeal the law. At least one has already taken such action, Waldoboro.

Apart from the Press angle, which seems to resolve itself in practice, and which undoubtedly can be solved by a test case in court, the people of Maine might well ask their representatives why anybody bothers to keep public records if they aren't going to be public.

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UNA JEAN MacDONALD, 1948 Maine graduate, was "editor of the issue" for Investor's Reader of April 12. Staff members take turns in planning the content of the magazine.

Melvin Stone Tells Of Successes With Fairchild Engraver

Rumford Falls Times is the first Maine weekly to use the Fairchild engraver, and Publisher Melvin L. Stone is enthusiastic in his reports.

The Bangor Commercial has been using the Fairchild since last October. "We have been able to turn out engravings for the weeklies in our area for about half what they had been paying," Stone writes.

"So far we've done engravings for the Livermore Falls Advertiser, Farmington Journal, Sanford Tribune, and the Berlin (N. H.) Reporter, as well as for our own papers. We have three capable operators.

"In one night recently, in just over six hours, a new operator turned out almost 700 square inches of engravings. On our old outfit that would have taken about three days.

"We trained an apprentice printer in our shop to run the Fairchild in just three hours."

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Newspaper Day Is Oct. 27

The University's second Maine Newspaper Day is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 27. A Saturday morning program is also planned, and visitors are invited to stay over for the Bates-Maine football game. Preliminary invitations have already been extended to Maine's two press associations.

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PHOTOGRAPHS in this issue are by Dick Sprague, who will complete his journalism course next February. Dick is in charge of a new photo lab that has been installed by the Maine Campus.