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Department of Journalism, University of Maine

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IN POWWOW (from the left) are Roger N. Woodcock, new president of the Maine Press Association; John Gould, convention planner; and Kingdon Harvey, retiring president. Bob Elliot, Maine Development Commission, got the picture.

Military Is Making Inroads On Staffs

Military calls are making steady inroads on newspaper staffs. The story of recent University of Maine graduates reflects the trend.

Three 1950 graduates have been called from editorial jobs: Elwood B. Bigelow, Jr., Lewiston Daily Sun; Donald J. King, Piscataquis Observer, Dover-Foxcroft; and James R. Wheeler, Worcester (Mass.) Evening Gazette. A classmate, Alan D. St. James, has succeeded King on the Observer.

Two men of 1949 have been called: Nick Mayo, Bangor Commercial sports editor, to active duty as a Naval Reserve officer.

Gerald A. Rogovin, from the sports staff of Look, to the Army.

MPA’s President

Roger N. Woodcock, publisher of the Sanford Tribune, is the new president of the Maine Press Association.

Other officers are Gerald White, Eastport Sentinel, vice president; Melvin L. Stone, Rumford Falls Times, treasurer; and Mrs. Dorothy E. Roberts, Lincoln County News, Damariscotta, secretary.

The slate was elected at MPA’s convention of Sept. 15-17 at Kennebago Lake Camps.

Woodcock succeeded Kingdon Harvey, Fort Fairfield Review, whose two terms as president had been marked by highly successful conventions.

Entertainment at Kennebago was arranged by John Gould.

31 Newspapers Represented In Orono Sessions

Thirty-one newspapers, including the Hartford (Conn.) Courant and the New York Times, were represented in the University of Maine’s observance of Maine Newspaper Day for 1950.

The program opened on the morning of Oct. 27 with a General Assembly of the University, at which Turner Catledge, assistant managing editor of the New York Times, spoke on “Tomorrow’s Front Pages.”

After viewing a photographic exhibit from Maine daily newspapers and a display of Maine weekly newspapers, visitors were welcomed to the University at a luncheon.

President Arthur A. Hauck emphasized that the University and the press had a community of interest, since both were engaged in an educational mission.

Seminars on the afternoon of the 27th were conducted by Louis M. Lyons, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University; Herbert Brucker, editor of the Hartford Courant; and Harold L. Cross, newspaper lawyer and Columbia University professor.


In the evening, members of the two associations met jointly for a dinner at the Bangor House.

On Saturday morning, Oct. 28, following a “Shop Talk” period, Lt. (Continued on Page Three)
The Maine Journalist

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Our First Year

With this issue, Maine's smallest newspaper rounds out its first year.

Friendly responses from a number of our readers lead us to hope that, in some measure at least, the Maine Journalist is finding a place for itself as a news letter for the state's editorial craftsmen.

That is the Journalist's mission in life, and we shall keep on trying to carry it out.

This year it has not proved practicable to print more than the four issues originally planned. More frequent publication remains as a possibility, however, if demand should warrant.

To all of you, the Journalist extends best wishes for the Holiday Season and for 1951.

* * *

We wish to thank all—speakers, association officers, and visitors—who helped to make Maine Newspaper Day of 1950 the success which we believe it was.

* * *

And now the Maine Journalist congratulates:

Brigadier General Daniel S. Dexter, editorial writer of the Lewiston Evening Journal, on a notable wartime and peacetime career in the National Guard.

Roger N. Woodcock, Sanford Tribune, on his election as president of the Maine Press Association.

Maine Daily Newspaper Publishers' Association, on its very fine exhibit of photographic art.

Francis R. Murphy of the A.P., on alertness in coverage of the Maine Newspaper Day seminars.

Laws And Newspapers

The following is an excerpt from Professor Harold L. Cots's address on "Significant Legal Developments Affecting Newspapers," delivered Oct. 27 at Orono:

"The newspapers, magazines, and other journals of the country, it is safe to say, have shed, and continue to shed, more light on the public and business affairs of the nation than any other instrument of publicity."

In that utterance United States Supreme Court Justice Sutherland, in writing the opinion in which his Court struck down as violative of the First (Freedom of the Press) Amendment of the United States Constitution a state's attempt to restrain the press by means of taxation, pointed up the significance to the public welfare of the acts of legislatures and courts affecting newspapers.

From Readers' Point Of View

In pointing out that the "predominant purpose" of the Constitutional guarantee "here invoked was to preserve an untrammeled press as a vital source of public information" and that "informed public opinion is the most potent of all restraints upon misgovernment," Justice Sutherland emphasized the need for newspaper readers to view with grave concern, in their own interest, any legal event which might involve directly or indirectly a lessening of newspapers' rights, ability and incentives to shed the light of full publicity.

"Significant legal events affecting newspapers, therefore, are not as a rule merely the determination of the personal rights of private litigants or disputants.

Mechanisms Of Adjustment

On the contrary, these legal procedures, whether legislative or judicial or even executive in character and form, constitute in the functioning of our highly complex society mechanisms of the adjustment of the balance between the conflicting rights, desires and interests of the newspaper, the person or institution subjected to publicity, and the readers, or in other words, the public. Thus, each such event usually represents the end product of a controversy which involves the newspaper's right or desire to speak out, some individual's right or desire not to be spoken of, and the intermediate interest of society which is to have full publicity, especially in the cases of public officials or candidates for offices, or other public characters, without individual injustice.

* * *

Brucker Sees Value In Self-Examination

Referring to the Maine Newspaper Day discussion program as a "session of self-examination," Herbert Brucker, editor of the Hartford (Conn.) Courant, congratulated Maine newspapermen for having such an annual gathering.

Brucker, the author of "Freedom of Information," had for his topic "Freedom of Information on the Home Front."

Emphasizing that "the American newspaper press is the best that ever existed in any country or society at any time," he added:

"We have a long way to go before American journalism is the fine flower of perfection we like to think it is."

* * *

Summers Explains Service Journalism

Journalism's expanding functions within the armed services were described to a Maine Newspaper Day audience by Lt. Col. William M. Summers, recent editor-in-chief of The Stars and Stripes, European edition. "American newspapers being the primary means of keeping our citizens informed," he said, "the Armed Services publish service newspapers to assist in making the American serviceman the best informed in the world."

Colonel Summers, who is now associate professor of military science and tactics at the University of Maine, explained to editors and publishers some of the operational problems of the newspaper he headed.
Lyons Emphasizes Moral Potentials Of Newspaper Job

“Every newspaper is potentially a great moral force just by its existence and its functions,” Louis M. Lyons, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, told Maine Newspaper Day visitors.

Speaking on “The Newspaper Job,” Lyons made clear his belief that a part of that job was to “act as the conscience of the community.”

“The newspaper can set the tone of the community in matters of public conduct,” he said, “and here its function is vital.”

Pointing to the editorial page treatment given to New York’s Hanley letter episode by certain metropolitan dailies, Lyons deplored a “lack of righteous indignation.”

That part of the address drew editorial comments from several newspapers the following week. In Maine, the Daily Kennebec Journal said, “Dr. Lyons’ otherwise splendid speech had a few characteristically academic deviations.”

Pointing out that the Hanley story had received top page-one news space in the papers criticized, the K-J suggested, “Naturally editors moved cautiously when men of long-proved integrity and honesty were involved.”

Lyons told his audience that Maine “ought to be a good place to do newspaper work.” He said:

“Life comes much closer to the smaller newspaper. . . You can get the feel of a town if it is small enough to be felt. And you can really know what’s going on that matters—or how to find out.”

* * *

JOHN M. O’CONNELL, Jr., managing editor of the Bangor Daily News, was on the committee that welcomed General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the Atlanta convention of the Associated Press Managing Editors on Nov. 17.

* * *

JOHN D. CONNERS, Old Town, is a graduate student in journalism at the State University of Iowa.

University Is Host To State’s Press

(Continued from Page One)


John R. McKernan, editor and co-publisher of the Penobscot Times, Old Town, conducted a seminar on “Sports News for Community Papers.”

Cards from the Maine Newspaper Day registration desk show this representation of the state’s press:

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Francis R. Murphy (Portland), Robert M. Crocker (Augusta).

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL, Augusta: Paul S. Plumer, Brooks W. Hamilton.

BANGOR COMMERCIAL: James D. Ewing and Mrs. Ewing; George M. Murray and Mrs. Murray; Constance Ehrenfried, Richard Hammerich, Warren B. Randall.

BANGOR DAILY NEWS: Richard K. Warren, John M. O’Connell, Jr., Kalil Ayoob, Delmont T. Dunbar, Elmer S. Ingalls, Marilyn Wyman.

BELFAST REPUBLICAN JOURNAL: Roger W. Brace, Harold H. Todd, Jr., Peter Starrett.

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Catledge Declares Press Is Guardian Of Basic Freedom

“Your job and mine is primarily to tell the story of our day and analyze its impact,” Turner Catledge, assistant managing editor of the New York Times, told editors and publishers on Maine Newspaper Day.

“So long as people are fully informed they will insist on being free,” he said.

Addressing a General Assembly of the University of Maine, Catledge expressed the view that artificial barriers of censorship in Irpn Curtain countries had sharpened American editors’ awareness of their obligation to preserve press freedom.

After developing the theme that citizens of the United States could not escape the responsibilities of world leadership, Catledge said:

“We of the newspaper profession have a peculiar responsibility in these great challenges of our times. We are the custodians of one of our primary freedoms, without which no other liberty can endure. It is up to us to cast tomorrow’s front pages out of coming events. Survival of press freedom itself depends on how well and how responsibly we discharge this task.”

Catledge spoke of the “growing consciousness on the part of editors and publishers of the role we must play in the protection and conduct of free society.”

He said that at no previous time in his experience as a newspaperman had he “known of so much concern among ourselves” about “the place, the functions and the responsibility of the press.”

* * *

New Addresses:


Military addresses of other Maine newspapermen will be published as they are received.
Sports Can Help Small Newspaper, McKernan Reports

John R. McKernan, editor and co-publisher of the Penobscot Times, told Maine Newspaper Day visitors that many small newspapers were failing to cash in on opportunities in the field of sports.

Conducting a seminar on Oct. 28, the Old Town newspapersman said:

"A regular sports page, featuring local sports written and edited by a member of the staff who has other duties, or by a part-time employee, will add tremendously to the smaller paper's readership, and at a surprisingly low cost."

McKernan said that lack of manpower and fear of costs were responsible for "haphazard, intermittent and unplanned" sports coverage that deprived some papers of "potential popularity and circulation appeal."

He emphasized that mere "rewrites of stories previously covered elsewhere" would not suffice.

DANIEL S. DEXTER, editorial writer of the Lewiston Evening Journal, has been retired from the Maine National Guard with the rank of brigadier general. General Dexter's retirement was announced a few days before his son David, Bangor Daily News reporter, entered the service.

THEODORE GRIDLEY and his bride, the former June Cedinik, are living at 3 Jefferson Avenue, Massena, N. Y. Gridley, a 1949 Maine graduate, is with the Massena Observer.

UNA JEAN MacDONALD and Donald C. Mead were married in Rumford on Sept. 2. Mrs. Mead is continuing as a staff writer for Investor's Reader, New York.

BOB SLOSSER, Bangor Commercial reporter, and Miss Gloria Sara Fisher were married at the Methodist Church in Orono on Sept. 3.

SANFORD TRIBUNE had the equivalent of five pages of pictures in its Education Week supplement.

University Is Host To State's Press

(Continued from Page Three)

BRUNSWICK RECORD: Mrs. Elizabeth R. Pullen, Steve Riley.
LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS: Damasco: Joseph T. Melanson.
EASTERN GAZETTE, Dexter: Russell Gerould and Mrs. Gerould, Leo Peters.
PISCATAQUIS OBSERVER, Dover-Foxcroft: Ora L. Evans, Alan D. St. James.
EASTPORT SENTINEL: Gerald White.
ELLSWORTH AMERICAN: Donald Stuart, Gerald Davis.
FORT FAIRFIELD REVIEW: Mrs. C. C. Harvey, Kingdon Harvey, Mrs. Kingdon Harvey.
MOOSEHEAD GAZETTE, Greenville: Horace P. Landry.
Houlton Pioneer TIMES: Bernard E. Esters and Mrs. Esters.
LEWISTON DAILY SUN: Elwood B. Bigelow, Jr.
LIVERMORE FALLS ADVERTISER: Kenneth L. Mann and Mrs. Mann.
PENOBSCOT TIMES, Old Town: John R. McKernan.
PITTSFIELD ADVERTISER: Richard G. Kendall.
MAINE CAMPUS, Orono: Staff.
PORTLAND PRESS HERALD:
EVENING EXPRESS, and SUNDAY TELEGRAM: Guy P. Gannett, Robert D. Beith, Ernest W. Chard, George Mulherin.
MAINE COAST FISHERMAN, Portland: C. Owen Smith, Joan Perry, Gerald N. McCarty.
ROCKLAND COURIER-GAZETTE: John M. Richardson, Sidney L. Cullen.
RUMFORD FALLS TIMES: Melvin L. Stone, Albert A. Rowbotham.
SANFORD TRIBUNE: Roger N. Woodcock.
SKOWHEGAN INDEPENDENT-REPORTER: Lionel E. Foster, Earl D. Rogers.
ISLAND ADVANTAGES, Stonington: Gordon MacKay, Mrs. MacKay.
WATERVILLE SENTINEL: Robert G. Drake.
WILTON TIMES: Rodney Morrison, Mrs. Elsie Kelly.

Daily Newspaper Photo Show Now Ready For Tour

The "Exhibit of Photographic Art from Maine Daily Newspapers," a feature of Maine Newspaper Day, is available for loan to communities, civic clubs, or other organizations.

Requests should be addressed to Professor Vincent A. Hartgen, Department of Art, University of Maine.

Outstanding photographs in news, sports, and feature classifications are included. Several won awards in the competition of the New England Associated Press News Executives' Association.

Last year's similar exhibit traveled wildly over the state and as far away as Scranton, Pa.


EASTERN GAZETTE of Dexter sponsored a local Fire Prevention Day to usher in Fire Prevention Week. Events included a fire department demonstration, a baked bean supper, and a "Fire Quiz Bee," in which high school and elementary students competed for cash prizes.

BILL BRENNAN of the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press received "good story" citations in the New England Associated Press log for Nov. 3 and Nov. 13.

SIGHTSEEING MEMBERS of the American Railway Magazine Editors' Association were guests of the Bangor & Aroostook and the Belfast & Moosehead Lake railroads on Nov. 5.

MAINE FEDERATION NEWS, magazine of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, is now printed by York Press.

GERALD WHITE, Eastport Sentinel, is a member of the editorial advisory board of The American Press.