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AP Editors To Meet On May 17

Public Records Are Live Issue With Weeklies

Members of the Maine Press Association, meeting in Augusta on March 23, reaffirmed their opposition to the Maine law which, at the discretion of municipal clerks, deprives newspapers of access to vital statistics.

In a business session conducted by MPA’s president, Roger N. Woodcock of the Sanford Tribune, the association also decided:

1. To support a bill that would require the state printer to send legislative notices to all Maine newspapers, for the avowed purpose of informing the public of pending measures “without expense to the state.”

2. To authorize MPA’s treasurer, Melvin L. Stone of the Rumford Falls Times, to engage legal assistance and proceed with a compilation of Maine laws affecting newspapers.

3. To initiate planning for an in-state advertising campaign that would emphasize the community services of weekly newspapers and the intensity of their readership.

The action on legislative notices was taken upon the recommendation of Mrs. Dorothy E. Roberts, MPA’s secretary and chairman of its legislative committee. Mrs. Roberts, who is publisher of the Lincoln County News, Damariscotta, said that the proposal

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RUSSELL GERould, publisher of the Eastern Gazette, is preparing a historical supplement that will be published next July to commemorate Dexter’s 160th birthday. The supplement will be in small magazine format with a color cover and many pictures.

Oroono Visitors Are To Discuss News Handling

Associated Press representatives and editorial executives from Maine’s AP papers will meet for a business session and luncheon at the University of Maine on May 17.

The Orono program, following a pattern set by the group last year, will open at 10:30 a.m. in Room 3, Fernald Hall, with a general discussion of mutual news problems.

The luncheon, at 12:45 p.m. in Estabrooke Hall, will also be attended by journalism students. Decision to hold the meeting was reached at the recent session of the Maine Daily Newspaper Publishers Association.

Francis R. Murphy, Associated Press correspondent, will inform member papers of program details.

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HERBERT BRUCKER, editor of the Hartford Courant, has been honored by the Connecticut Editorial Association “for distinguished service to American journalism” through his book, “Freedom of Information.” Brucker, a Maine Newspaper Day speaker in 1950, received a silver tray with the award.

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LARRY PINKHAM, 1950 editor of the Maine Campus, was employed on the Providence (R.I.) Journal and Evening Bulletin during his spring vacation from the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University.

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LORRAINE HARVEY and John Alan Godsoe were married in Fort Fairfield on March 31. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kingdon Harvey of the Fort Fairfield Review.
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Cubs And Recruits

Employment prospects for the 1951 journalism graduate, provided he doesn’t have a date with his draft board, appear to be excellent. That is largely due, of course, to the demands already made upon newspaper offices by the military services.

About half of Maine’s new graduates in journalism must count on an early tour of duty with the armed forces. The fact that they will have to become recruits while they are still cubs has not, however, diminished their interest in, and enthusiasm for, newspaper work.

As has happened in several instances already, some of the men who go into uniform will find their way into military jobs that utilize their newspaper training. Others will not. In either case, most of them will find that much of the experience gained in the service can later be turned to account in a newspaper office.

The rapidity with which so many war veterans proved that they were also good newspapermen is highly pertinent.

All that is on the morale-boosting side of the ledger. But it does not set aside problems of adjustment that are real and sizable. The spirit with which so many young men are facing up to the situation deserves much more applause than it is getting.

The Journalist salutes them.

* * *

It is the newspaper press that has made democracy possible. The development of the press has enabled news to be diffused and public discussion to be conducted over wide areas. . . .

—JAMES BRYCE

Somewhere In Maine

BY STANLEY R. ATTWOOD

At the risk of being repetitious, let us say that Maine geography is wonderful. The detail of its wonders is the basis of the State’s publicity program handled by the Maine Development Commission and the Maine Publicity Bureau.

Strange and wonderful, also, is the nomenclature of the State. The Indian names alone constitute a problem for the geographer, the historian, the cartographer—and the newspaperman. The situation is paralleled in some measure in Massachusetts, along the Connecticut coast, in Rhode Island, and in sections of New York and Pennsylvania.

In dealing with Maine Indian names, the difference is not so much in form or variety as in multiplicity.

Maine also has an inexplicable assortment of “buros” and “boroughs,” of possessives without the customary apostrophe, of crossroads that may be either a “corner” or “corners.” It has rivers, brooks, and streams, with the terminology seemingly interchangeable without regard to their size. It has, without excuse, a difference in the spelling of the same place name on maps published by different agencies of the Federal Government.

Good news writing has several primary requisites but none greater than accuracy. Once the reporter has learned that John Q. A. Smith is not simply John Smith he should have no trouble recognizing the fact that Littlejohn Island is not Littlejohns or Littlejohn’s, nor is it Little John, Little Johns or Little John’s. It has one name only, even though it may have had several others.

Witness: Peak Island in Portland Harbor (which is, and probably will continue to be, called Peaks Island) was first known as Michaels, then as Munjous, then Pond Island, and also as Palmer Island.

Despite discrepancies on various maps, the nomenclature of Maine is pretty well fixed, officially. Names of the topographic features in Maine and other parts of the Nation are adopted and listed by a single agency—the United States Board on Geographical Names. Supplements to its quarterly report show changes and also list erroneous names.

The Maine Legislature has the power to alter place names but exercises this right with restraint. If it does make a change, its action is recognized by the national board.

Because Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820, many Maine township names exist by authority of the Great and General Court of the Bay State, as specified in the acts of incorporation. When residents of a Maine plantation wished to be incorporated as a town they petitioned Massachusetts. Sometimes, but not always, they suggested a name for the new town. Sometimes the General Court enacted a name of its own choice. And, on at least one occasion, (Continued on Page Four)

In Memoriam

Five More Listed Who Will Complete Journalism Course

The Maine Journalist is printing, in two instalments, the biographies of journalism majors who expect to complete their degree requirements at the University of Maine in 1951.

The second instalment follows:


Also a contributor to Maine Alumnus and to national fraternity magazine, 1949-51. OTHER EXPERIENCE: grocery store, lumber yard, manager of summer resort snack bar, canning viney, poll-taker for telephone company. ADDRESS: 220 Water Street, Skowhegan, or Theta Chi house, Orono, Me.


**PFC DONALD J. KING**, formerly with the Piscataquis Observer of Dover-Foxcroft, is personnel clerk of the 663d Transport Trucking Co. at Camp Edwards, Mass.

**2ND LT. WILLIAM J. BRENNAN**, called to active duty, was honored with a farewell party by the staff of the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press.
Old French Paper Is Now A Tabloid Under New Control

The oldest and largest French-language newspaper in the United States, Le Messager of Lewiston, has been reorganized by a group of Lewiston-Auburn professional and business men. After 72 years, the paper has become a tabloid.

Company officers now include: Edward J. Beauchamp, Androscoggin County Attorney, president; Donat J. Fortin, funeral director, vice president; Joseph Poliquin, banker, treasurer; Fernand Despins, attorney, clerk.

Public Records Remain Live Issue With Weeklies

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would produce no revenue for the papers but would help them perform a public service through their news columns.

Other members of the MPA legislative committee are John Gould, editor of the Lisbon Enterprise, and Mrs. Stone.

In pressing their fight against the vital statistics law, some association members have induced their towns to incorporate in their warrants an article originated by Maynard D. Genthen, Waldoboro Press, and voted by Waldoboro last year. The Genthen article, as adapted for other towns, reads:

"To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to request the next Legislature to repeal the law now on the statutes closing the vital statistics records to the public, as petitioned by the Maine Press Association and others."

Exploration of the possibilities of an advertising campaign to promote the weeklies was suggested by Donald Stuart of the Ellsworth American.

Other participants in the discussions included: John M. Richardson, Rockland Courier-Gazette; Lionel E. Foster, Skowhegan Independent-Reporter; Mrs. Elizabeth R. Pullen and Stephen Riley, Brunswick Record; Francis W. Tully, Jr., Yarmouth Talk of the Towns; and Albert A. Rowbotham, Rumford Falls Times.

Somewhere....

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the bearer of the petition took it upon himself to change the suggested name to one more to his own liking. Greene (or Green) Plantation asked to be named Gilead and came out of the Massachusetts Legislature as Bel- mont. The plantation of Lowtown liked the name "Fluvana," was officially designated as Guilford. Rustfield petitioned to be called "Norage" and came close with the official name of Norway.

By permission of the editor, we here insert a plug for our own book, "The Length and Breadth of Maine," and promise not to mention it again. Published in 1946, with supplement in 1949, it contains, among much other information, a complete listing of Maine place names and former names. And it has the only maps published showing the exact designations of all Maine townships, with the discontinued names.

NEAREST PARTICIPANT in Maine Press Association affairs is Francis W. Tully, Jr. Since November, 1950, Tully and his wife, the former Laura Thorpe of Brandon, Vt., have been publishers of Yarmouth's Talk of the Towns. Tully, who is from Warner, N. H., had been Washington newspaper correspondent for the Yankee Network for 11 years.

CHARLES E. ST. THOMAS, former president of the University of Maine Press Club, is with the general news department of General Electric at Schenectady, N. Y.

RICHARD W. SPRAGUE and Mrs. Sprague (Marilyn Hoyt) are living at 105 Main St., Orono. He is night reporter-photographer for the Bangor Commercial.

FRANCES SAYWARD, University of Maine class of 1946, is a reporter for the Caledonian Record, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

LINWOOD M. DAY, University of Maine class of 1941, is managing editor of the Ardmore (Pa.) Chronicle.

Two Maine Women Are On Committee For N.E. Award

Who was the outstanding New England newspaper woman of 1950? Nominations for that distinction are being submitted to a panel of three judges by the awards committee of the New England Women's Press Association. Two Maine women are members of the awards committee:

Mrs. Guy P. Gannett, Portland, vice president and treasurer of Guy P. Gannett Publishing Co.


The award will be presented at a May 19 luncheon in Boston.

R. H. Costello Is Elected By Publishers Of Dailies

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sistant general manager of the Lewiston Daily Sun and Evening Journal, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Whittier, in his joint post, takes over the secretarial office formerly held by Edward Byron, general manager of the Daily Kennebec Journal.


A P spokesmen at Augusta were: L. P. Yale, chief of the Boston bureau; Thomas Cunningham, executive representative, Boston; Francis R. Murphy, Maine correspondent; and Robert M. Crocker, State House correspondent.

A luncheon followed the business session.

JAMES D. EWING, co-publisher of the Bangor Commercial, conducted the session on newspaper work for Bangor High School's 1951 Career Day.

GEORGE C. LEAVITT, University of Maine class of 1911, is news editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin.