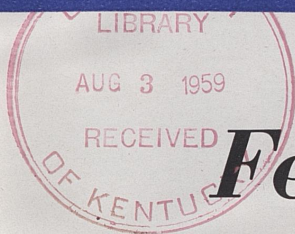


The Kentucky Press



February, 1959

Published in the Interest of Community Journalism . . . Of, By, and For Kentucky Newspapers



Convention Issue



Past President Herndon Evans presents silver pitcher and certificate to Robert M. Watt, Lexington, KPA's Outstanding Citizen for 1959.

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE
NUMBER FIVE

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University of Kentucky
Lexington

Official Publication Kentucky Press Association

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90th Annual Mid-Winter Meeting Sets New Record

By PERRY J. ASHLEY

The Association has just completed its ninth decade of collective service and many of the older members say the 90th Mid Winter convention was the best of all. The days were filled with working sessions while the evenings were given to entertainment and social gatherings. From the organized discussion groups and smaller huddles to "talk shop" many of Kentucky's newspapermen returned home with new ideas about how to better the operation of their newspapers.

Even though many were close, only one new record was set in attendance—that being the Thursday night buffet at which 146 persons were served, 16 more than any previous first night gathering. Master of ceremonies Jim Sheehy, assisted by Raney Hoffman and Mark Etheridge, moved the evening along with songfest and humor, which was spiced by many surprise calls to the microphone by persons in the group.

Friday after breakfast, the business of the meeting got under way with a welcome to the city by Mayor Bruce Hoblitzell and response by Chairman Paul Westpheling. President Martin Dyche called the convention to session and presented his annual report (which is printed elsewhere in the Press). Next, Secretary-Manager Victor Portmann gave the annual report of the Association after which Landon Wills, Herndon Evans, Lawrence Hager, Sr., and S. C. Van Curon were appointed to the resolutions committee. W. L. Dawson was chosen to be chairman of the necrology committee with Mrs. Frances Pitchford and Roscoe I. Downs assisting him.

Charles Dorroh, Hopkinsville New Era, moderated a panel on the business side of the newspaper and was assisted by Seymour Goodman, Elizabethtown Enterprise; and Ed Templin and Russell Scofield, Lexington Herald-Leader. Goodman discussed circulation problems on the weekly while Templin and Scofield took promotion and advertising as their topics.

After the morning business was completed, the big moment arrived when Robert Watt, President of Kentucky Utilities, was named to the highest honor the Association can award, Outstanding Citizen of 1958. Mr. Watt was presented the traditional silver pitcher and cited for the many contributions he has made to his community and state. In his response, Mr. Watt made a strong appeal for the small independent educational institutions and asked for support in their concerted effort to maintain the highest standards of education.

Friday afternoon sessions turned back to



New president Thomas L. Adams, briefs his program with Vice-President Paul Westpheling, Executive Committee Chairman W. Foster Adams, and Secretary-Manager, Victor R. Portmann.

business again with a report on the Kentucky Press Service by President James Willis, Brandenburg. This was followed by a report on the Press Service by Secretary-Manager Portmann. Next a film presentation was made on "The Fourth Stage of Selling" by Secretary Portmann and Perry Ashley consisting of a series of slides prepared by Weekly Newspapers Representatives to be shown to the car manufacturers in an effort to emphasize the weekly newspaper as the best media for advertising to reach the home town market.

Weekly newspaper advertising, led by Alfred Wathen, Jr., and problems of the small daily, jointly moderated by S. C. Van Curon and Ray Gaines, were conducted simultaneously during the late afternoon. At these sessions the problems of the newspapers were discussed by those interested. Serving with Wathen on the weekly panel were Larry Stone, James Willis, and Vic Portmann.

A cocktail party, co-sponsored by the Courier-Journal and the Lexington Herald-Leader was given in the early evening followed by the annual banquet and entertainment. Dancing rounded out the night.

Saturday morning saw the convention again turn to business with a report on the National Editor Association by its vice-president, Guy Easterly, LaFollette, Tenn. Easterly explained the move of the national office to Washington as a means to save the association money by eliminating the maintenance of two separate offices. He also said

the raise of affiliate dues from five to ten dollars was necessary to offset the rising costs of operating the office. It was later recommended by the Executive Committee that the Central Office continue paying the five dollars dues to NEA, which has been the custom in the past, and to bill each of the members for the remaining five dollars. The committee expressed the hope that every Kentucky newspaper will continue his membership and affiliation with the national trade organization.

Next came a panel on the "Public Right to Know" moderated by Norman Isaacs and assisted by Larry Hager, Jr., George Joplin III, James Pope, Jo Westpheling, and James Norris. During this discussion it was pointed out that many things are kept from newsmen across the country which are of common knowledge to peoples in other parts of the world. Isaacs reported there were cases in which technical personnel were deprived of vital information in foreign publications because some government agency had classified the material as secret. He called for more investigation in this area and an effort to get legislative action against such practices.

Malcolm Mason, Lexington, member of the executive committee, outlined a brief history of the Kentucky Independent College Foundation and presented a comprehensive financial report of the past activities. He thanked the members for their support of this important educational movement and

(Please Turn To Page Six)

Newspapers Influenced Lincoln Throughout Career: Townsend

By WILLIAM H. TOWNSEND

Newspapers loomed large in Abraham Lincoln's life. No American statesman ever owed so much to the Press as did Lincoln. Newspapers gave to him his early grasp of public affairs. They were a powerful factor in formulating his political philosophy and affiliation which opposed the Jacksonian democracy of his father and all his other kin—both the Lincolns and the Hankses.

The first newspapers Lincoln ever read were the Western Sun of Vincennes, the Terra Haute Register and the Louisville Public Advertiser. They came to the store of William Jones, at Gentryville, Indiana, where Lincoln worked. The editors of these papers were staunch admirers of Henry Clay, and the Western Sun frequently published his speeches in full, together with much other laudatory material.

Lincoln came to New Salem, Illinois, a crude village on the bluffs of the Sagamon River, in the summer of 1831. At first he clerked in a store, then he and William F. Berry bought one on credit and ran it until, as Lincoln said, it "winked out."

In the spring of 1833, Lincoln was offered the job of Post Master in the tiny New Salem office, which he eagerly accepted. The income of the office was only \$25.00 or \$30.00 a year, but he foresaw an unlimited opportunity for reading the newspapers that came there. Many inhabitants of this sparsely settled community did not come for their mail for a week or more and this gave the young Post Master leisurely opportunity to read such papers as the New York Tribune, the Chicago Press and Tribune, the Sangamo Journal, later called the Illinois State Journal, the Lexington, Kentucky, Reporter, and the Cincinnati papers.

However, the newspaper that absorbed most of Lincoln's attention was the Louisville, Kentucky, Journal, edited by the brilliant George D. Prentice, a militant Whig. Prentice had come to Kentucky as a tutor in the family of Henry Clay. The Journal was, of course, a warm supporter of the Sage of Ashland and it not only published his speeches in full, but its editorial pages expounded that statesman's political principles.

The first newspaper for which Abraham Lincoln ever subscribed was the Louisville Journal and this paper did more than all else to make Clay—to use Lincoln's own words—Lincoln's "beau ideal of a statesman."

When Lincoln returned from the brief military campaign known as the Black Hawk War, he became a candidate for the Illinois General Assembly from Sangamon County. The first thing he did was to evoke the aid of the Press by preparing and sending to the Sangamo Journal his announcement which appeared in the issue of March 15, 1832. This document bears evidence of the many hours the young political aspirant had spent in poring over Kirkham's Grammar and Dilworth's Speller, and its style shows the influence of his "beau ideal statesman," especially the conclusion:

"Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say for one that I have no other so great as that of be-

ing truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of that esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition remains to be seen. I am young and unknown to many of you. I was born and have ever remained in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the voters of this county and if elected, they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined. Your friend and fellow citizen. A. Lincoln."

Lincoln lost this race—the only time he was ever defeated by the vote of the people. But he got 277 votes out of 300 in his home precinct, which at the same time gave Andrew Jackson 185 votes to 70 for Henry Clay.

A few years later Lincoln went to Springfield to practice law. There he formed a close friendship with Simeon Francis, editor and founder of the Sangamo Journal, which lasted until Lincoln's death. Through the four terms that Lincoln served in the Illinois General Assembly, he was the Journal's correspondent on legislative affairs and its editorial pages were always open to him.

It was Mrs. Simeon Francis who invited Lincoln and Mary Todd to her home after their long estrangement in 1841 and brought about a reconciliation. A few months before their marriage, Lincoln participated with Miss Todd and one of her girlhood friends in the publication of an article in the Sangamo Journal, which caused him to be challenged to a duel. James Shields, who sometimes referred to himself as a "hot-headed bachelor from Tyrone County, Ireland," was the Democrat State Auditor. He was extremely sensitive, fancied himself quite a man with the ladies and—for a new comer—had been cutting quite a swathe in Springfield society.

A communication to the editor, with Shields as the subject, was published in the Journal, purporting to have been written by a poor widow, who called herself "Aunt Becca of Lost Townships." "Aunt Becca" made ardent love to Shields, offered her hand in marriage and described herself as "not over 60, just four feet three in my bare feet, and not much more around the girth; and for color, I would not turn my back to nary a gal in Lost Townships."

The epistle closed with a post script to the editor: "If he concludes to marry, I shall enforce one condition; that is, if he should ever happen to gallant any young gals home of nights from our house he must not squeeze their hands."

When the outraged Shields inquired the authorship of this letter, Lincoln assumed sole responsibility and Shields promptly challenged him to a duel. Lincoln, with his enormous reach, towering head and shoulders above his stocky, short-armed adversary, selected as weapon cavalry broadswords of the largest size. However, after the duelling party had reached the scene of battle on "Bloody Island" in the Mississippi below Alton, counsel of friends prevailed and the duel was called off with honor

to all concerned.

This incident seemed to embarrass Lincoln a great deal and he rarely allowed it to be mentioned in later life. To one of his close friends he confided: "I didn't want to kill Shields and I felt sure I could disarm him with the broadswords. Furthermore, I didn't want the damned fellow to kill me, which I rather think he would have done, if we had selected pistols."

If the Louisville Journal was the final influence in making Lincoln a Whig, the Lexington, Kentucky, Observer and Reporter undoubtedly played a vital part in shaping his views on slavery.

After the marriage of Mary Todd and Lincoln in 1842, this newspaper came to their home with unflinching regularity. It is true that Lincoln saw much of slavery first-hand on his visits to the Todd home at Lexington, but here he was more likely to see this institution in its most benign aspects. The Todds and their friends were well-to-do aristocrats whose servants were treated as members of the family. Kentuckians of high degree considered those who mistreated their slaves as social outcasts and the Todds were certainly high—so high, in fact, that when Mary "put on airs" among her Springfield neighbors or stood too much on pomp and ceremony in the White House, Lincoln would teasingly remind her that while "God was satisfied with one 'd' in his name, the Todds had to have two!"

It was the pages of the Observer and Reporter, especially the advertisements, that revealed to Lincoln over and over again the profound degradation and iniquity of slavery. Almost every issue of this paper contained notices such as this:

"\$150 Reward

Ran away from the subscriber, on the night of Monday, the 11th of July, a negro man named Tom

about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, of dark color; heavy in the chest; several of his jaw teeth out, and upon his body are several marks of the whip, one of them straight down the back. A reward of \$150 will be paid for his apprehension and security.

B. L. Boston."

Or this:

A Large Number
of
Negroes
wanted

The undersigned wishes to purchase throughout the year, a large number of

Sound and Healthy
Negroes
of both sex

For which the highest price in cash will be paid at his Jail, opposite the County Jail, Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky.

R. W. Lucas

By 1850, many champions of slavery were denying that the negro was a man within the meaning of the Declaration of Independence. When referring to negroes, they did not use terms—such as man, woman or child—which customarily distinguished human beings. For example, this advertisement appeared in the paper that came to Lincoln's home in Springfield:

Great Sale
of
Slaves

January 10, 1855

There will be offered for sale at Public Auction at the Slave Market, Cheapside, Lexington, the slaves of John Carter, Esq., of Lewis County, Kentucky, on account of his removal to Indiana a free state. The slaves listed below were

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raised on the Carter Plantation at Quick's Run, in Lewis County, Kentucky.

3 Bucks, aged from 20 to 26, strong, able-bodied

1 Wench, Sally, aged 42, Excellent Cook

1 Wench, Lize, aged 23, with 6 mo. old pickaninny

1 Buck, aged 52, good with kennels

17 Bucks, aged from 12 to 20, Excellent

John Carter, Esq.

Lewis County, Kentucky."

Perhaps, it is not generally known that Abraham Lincoln was himself once a newspaper editor. However, he and four other Whig politicians edited and published in Springfield "The Old Soldier," a campaign organ for Gen. William Henry Harrison, from February to September, 1840. There is a complete file now in the newspaper collection of the Illinois State Historical Library.

Lincoln could not resist subscribing to small local newspapers and, perhaps, half a dozen came to his home each week. One afternoon, the carrier delivered to Lincoln's residence a little paper called "The Republican," which had just started up in Springfield. Lincoln was not at home and Mrs. Lincoln met the carrier on the front steps, took one glance at the paper, threw it in his face with a lurid message to the editor and slammed the door hard.

In the next issue the Editor's assistant, without the knowledge of his chief, wrote a caustic paragraph about the incident. When Lincoln got back to town, the Editor wrote him an apology, to which Lincoln replied as follows:

Springfield, Ill. Feb. 20, 1857.

John E. Rosette,

Dear Sir,

Your note about the little paragraph in the Republican was received yesterday, since which time I have been too unwell to notice it. I had not supposed you wrote or approved it. You know by conversation with me that I thought the establishment of the paper unfortunate, but I always expected to throw no obstacle in its way, and to patronize it to the extent of taking and paying for one copy.

When the paper was brought to my house, my wife said to me: "Now are you going to take another worthless little paper?" I said to her evasively, "I have not directed it to be left." From this, in my absence, she gave the message to the carrier. This is the whole story. Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

Here, it will be noted that; at least on one occasion the rock-ribbed candor of Abraham Lincoln retreated from the wrath of his volatile spouse!

Furthermore, the general public probably does not know that Lincoln once owned a newspaper. Yet, such is a fact. By the middle 50's of the last century, Illinois had a large and intelligent German population. As the campaign of 1860 approached, the chief German newspaper in Illinois, the Chicago Staats Zeitung, announced for Seward as the Republican nominee for President. The only other influential German paper was the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger, published in Springfield by the brilliant Dr. Theodore Canisius. About this time Editor Canisius became heavily involved financially and Abraham Lincoln on April 30, 1859, with profound secrecy, bought the entire plant and contracted with Canisius to continue as Editor.

Lincoln owned this paper for eighteen months and then on December 6, 1860, after he had been nominated for President, he reconveyed the establishment to Dr. Canisius for a nominal

sum. Needless to say that, during these eighteen months, the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger had been a rip-snorting Lincoln advocate! The next year this newspaper folded up and President Lincoln quickly appointed his faithful Editor Consul to Samoa.

At the close of the celebrated Lincoln-Douglas Debates in 1858, Lincoln put the newspapers to such a practical use that they aided greatly in his election as President of the United States two years later. These speeches had been reported in shorthand by the Chicago Times for Douglas and the Chicago Press and Tribune for Lincoln. Using the text of the Times for Douglas and the text of the Press and Tribune for himself, Lincoln with his own hands made a scrap book with the clippings, which Follett and Foster, of Columbus, Ohio, used to make up a printed volume of the debates, which sold into several hundred thousand copies and contributed heavily toward the Republican victory in 1860.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1952, at the Park-Bernet Galleries in New York, I saw this humble little scrap book with its yellowed newspaper clippings and notations in Lincoln's faded handwriting sell at auction for \$24,000.00.

When Lincoln went to Washington, he carried a good deal of newspaper atmosphere with him, because of his two secretaries, John G. Nicolay, who had been editor of the county paper at Pittsfield, Illinois, and William O. Stoddard, the young editor of the Central Illinois Gazette.

Many newspapers came to the White House during Lincoln's time. His secretaries made abstracts of the most of them for the President's consideration. The only newspapers that he and Mrs. Lincoln are known to have read daily were the Journal from Louisville and those from Lexington. Occasionally the President would make some comment which has been recorded about the contents of the Lexington papers, but it is not known that he made any after he read the following description of himself in the Lexington Statesman, a newspaper that had recently been suppressed for treasonable utterances.

"Abraham Lincoln is a man above the medium height. He passes the six foot mark by an inch or two. He is raw-boned, shamle-gaited, bow-legged, knock-kneed, pigeon-toed, slab-sided, a shapeless skelton in a very tough, very dirty, unwholesome skin. His hair is or rather was black and shaggy; his eyes dark and fireless, like a cold grate in wintertime. His lips protrude beyond the natural level of the face, but are pale and smeared with tobacco juice. His teeth are filthy."

It is indeed fortunate for history that about this time Ralph Waldo Emerson visited the White House and saw the President in a somewhat different light, according to an interview which he gave that day to the Washington Star: Said Emerson:

"The President impressed me more favorably than I had hoped. A frank, sincere, well-meaning man, with a lawyer's habit of mind, good, clear statement of his facts, correct enough, not vulgar, as described, but with a sort of boyish cheerfulness. When he has made his remark, he looks up at you with great satisfaction and shows all his white teeth and laughs. When I was introduced to him, he said: 'Oh, Mr. Emerson, I once heard you say in a lecture that a Kentuckian seems to say by his air and manners: Here I am. If you don't like me, the worse for you!' The point of this, of course is that Lincoln himself is a Kentuckian."

Appropos of the Kentucky Statesman's charge that Lincoln's lips were smeared with tobacco

juice, I am reminded of a story that Lincoln used to tell on himself concerning his abstinence from the more convivial things of life. He said one morning in 1849 he left Randall's Tavern in Springfield for Washington. The only other passenger in the stage coach was a well-dressed, affable Kentuckian, who was on his way home from Missouri.

The two men immediately fell into conversation and after awhile, the Kentuckian produced a twist of tobacco and handed it to Lincoln, who politely said he didn't chew. Further along, the stranger pulled a leather case from his pocket and offered his companion a cigar. Lincoln thanked him, but said he never smoked. Finally, as lunch time approached, the traveller produced a flash from his satchel: "Well, my friend," he remarked, "seeing you do not smoke or chew, maybe you'll take a little of this fine old brandy. It is a prime article and a good appetizer besides." But Lincoln again declined this highest and best demonstration of Kentucky hospitality.

In the afternoon, at the junction as the gentleman from the Blue Grass state was about to take another stage for Louisville, he shook hands cordially: "See here," he said smilingly, "you are a clever, but peculiar companion. I may never see you again and I don't want to offend you, but my experience has taught me that a man who has no vices has damned few virtues. Good day!"

The Lexington Observer and Reporter, although claiming to be for the Union, was always anti-Lincoln and it became violently so after the Emancipation Proclamation. It actively supported McClellan for President in 1864 and published what purported to be quotations from a recent copperhead campaign biography of Lincoln:

"Mr. Lincoln stands 6 feet 12 in his socks, which he changes once every thirty days. His anatomy is composed mostly of bones and when walking he resembles the offspring of a happy marriage between a derrick and a wind-mill. When speaking, he reminds one of the old signal telegraph that used to stand on Staten Island. His head is shaped something like a rutabago and his complexion is that of a Saratoga trunk. His hands and feet are plenty large enough, and in society he has the air of having too many of them. In habits, he is by no means foppish, though he brushes his hair some times, and is said to wash. He can hardly be called handsome, though he is certainly much better looking since he had the small pox."

This reference to "small pox" brings up the little known fact that when Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg address, he actually was suffering from that disease. On the morning of November 19, 1863, Lincoln woke up with a headache. It increased rapidly during the tedious ceremony at the National Cemetery. There was a long, hand-shaking reception at Judge Wills' home. When Lincoln started back to Washington that evening he was greatly fatigued and he was really ill. He lay on a sofa in the train and cold compresses were put on his forehead and eyes.

Next morning he remained in bed and Mrs. Lincoln sent for Dr. Stone, the family physician. Presently the doctor arrived and pushed his way through the throng of officeseekers, eight or ten applicants for every job, who crowded the executive offices and spilled over into the hall leading to the family quarters. When Dr. Stone told Lincoln he had small pox, Lincoln smiled wear-

(Please Turn To Page Five)

The Kentucky Press

Official Publication
Kentucky Press Association, Inc.
Kentucky Press Service, Inc.

Victor R. Portmann, Editor
Perry J. Ashley, Associate Editor

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Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Newspaper Managers Association
Sustaining Member
National Editorial Association
Associate Member
National Newspaper Promotion Association
Printed by The Kernel Press

The Kentucky Press Association recognizes the fundamental importance of the implied trust imposed on newspapers and dissemination of public information. It stands for truth, fairness, accuracy, and decency in the presentation of news, as set forth in the Canons of Journalism. It advocates strict ethical standards in its advertising column. It opposes the publication of propaganda under the guise of news. It affirms the obligation of a newspaper to frank, honest and fearless editorial expressions. It respects equality of opinion and the right of every individual to participation in the Constitutional guarantee of Freedom of the Press. It believes in the newspaper as a vital medium for civic, economic, social, and cultural community development and progress.

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Fulton County News, Fulton
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Robert M. Watt

Robert M. Watt, chairman of the board of the Kentucky Utilities Company, was acclaimed Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Association at the Friday noon luncheon. All came as a surprise to Mr. Watt who came to the luncheon to address the group, as he was led to believe, on his pet topic "The Kentucky College Foundation".

Herndon J. Evans, past KPA president, former publisher of the Pineville Sun and a life-long friend of Mr. Watt, was selected to "introduce the speaker." At the end of his laudatory remarks, he casually remarked that a further honor was due Mr. Watt in his selection as the Outstanding Citizen, and presented him with a silver pitcher, suitably engraved, and a certificate. To say that Mr. Watt was astounded, is a gross understatement.

In his introduction, Mr. Evans stated: "In a state where rugged, mountainous terrain, a far-reaching transmission network, and treacherous weather conspire to interrupt service, Robert M. Watt has made Kentucky Utilities Company synonymous with dependability.

"In the location of new industry and business support of higher education Kentucky will long be in debt to him for his dedicated interest, sage counsel, and untiring efforts.

"Since July, 1957, Bob Watt has been chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Kentucky Utilities Company. For 22 years before that, he was KU president.

"He has just been re-elected to his seventh term as president of the Kentucky Independent College Foundation which solicits contributions from business and industry for support of eight of the state's non-tax-supported senior colleges.

"For many years he has been active in the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, particularly in the chamber's work in helping attract hundreds of new industries which have changed the economic complexion of the state since the end of World War II.

"He was born in Nimrod, N. C., in 1888. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in electrical engineering. Three years later he came to Kentucky where he was resident engineer on the power plant Kentucky Utilities Company was building in Lexington. He became manager of KU's mountain division in 1920. He was elected a member of the KU board of directors in 1927. He was chosen executive vice-president of the company in 1931. In 1935 he was elected president.

"During World War I, he was a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"He has served as chairman of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's Area Development Committee, Industrial Finance Com-

mittee, and Executive Committee.

"He has for many years been chairman of the Kentucky National Parks Commission.

"He has been three times chairman of the U.S. Savings Bond Group Committee covering 12 Kentucky counties. He was one of the prime movers in, and in the early '30s was several times chairman of the Mountain Laurel Festival.

"He was co-chairman of the Transylvania College Development Fund Campaign.

"During a ceremony in 1953 marking the connection of KU's 200,000th customer, Mr. Watt was presented the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's "Award for Industrial Stewardship," which paid tribute to him for "unswerving fidelity to high ideals and business ethics, for progressive business leadership, and for an outstanding record of good business citizenship as marked by your many accomplishments which are materially contributing to the economic advancement of Kentucky.

"He holds an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Transylvania College.

"In 1953 he was singularly honored, along with his company, by the Newcomen Society of England in North America, at a dinner meeting of the society held in Lexington, that time a brief history of his company was published by the Society."

Accepting the pitcher and certificate, Mr. Watt told of his pleasure in the honor. He thanked the newspapers for their interest and cooperation in the College Foundation and asked for renewed interest and participation to mark its future success and growth.

Acknowledgments: Unless credited to the left all photos of the mid-winter meeting were the product of Fred J. Burkhard, Liberty, our excellent official KPA photographer. Our thanks to our photographers.

The man who thought nothing of walking ten miles a day now has a grandson who doesn't think so much of it either.

Your Linotype will

be
contented
as a



with Mergenthaler
Linotype Parts



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• HAMI
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(Continued From Page Three)

ily: "Open the door, Doctor," he said, "and let 'em come in. Now, I've finally got something I can give everybody."

The editor of the Louisville Journal had strongly opposed "secession," but neither he nor his paper had ever been friendly to Lincoln personally. However, on May 6, 1863, Mr. Prentice wrote Lincoln a letter, the original of which I have in my collection. It read:

Journal Office
Louisville, Kentucky
May 6, 1863

To the President of the United States:

I wrote to you last week in regard to my son, Major Clarence Prentice, now a Rebel prisoner at Camp Chase. He would ere this have been forwarded for exchange but General Burnside, at my solicitation, consented to have him detained until I could have time to hear from you. I think there has been time, but I have received nothing from you either by mail or telegram. I know that the pressure of the affairs of state upon you is very great. Perhaps you did not read my letter at all.

Major Prentice is the only child left to me. My household is very desolate. My son is tired of the war though unfortunately he thinks the South is right. I ask you to direct his release upon his taking the non-combatant's oath and giving bond and security for its scrupulous observance. If you cannot do this, as I painfully fear you cannot, I earnestly appeal to you to parole him to stay outside of both the United States and the Southern Confederacy until after the Rebellion.

I should scarcely venture, Mr. President, to make this appeal to you, but that I think I have served the Union cause faithfully, devotedly and successfully. I have suffered very much and sacrificed very much in its behalf—more, I am sure, than any other man in Kentucky, and I am likely even at the best, to suffer and sacrifice more hereafter. I think there is not a candid and intelligent Union man in this state who would hesitate to say to you that I have saved it to the Union politically.

And now, dear Sir, pray grant me what I ask in behalf of my only son. His mother is helpless, and so am I. I am scarcely capable of performing my daily duties to the country, but if my request were granted, I feel I should be buoyant with new life.

George D. Prentice

The parole of young Prentice was vigorously opposed by Lincoln's legal adviser, blunt, old Louisville lawyer, Joseph Holt, who predicted that, if paroled, Prentice would promptly violate its terms. However, ten days after receiving this letter from Editor Prentice, the President released Major Prentice upon his oath to "remain outside the lines of the loyal and disloyal states, or so-called 'Confederate States,' during the present Rebellion and to abstain from in any wise aiding or abetting said Rebellion."

Judge Holt was right. Immediately upon his release from Camp Chase, Major Prentice violated his oath and with a band of irregulars started robbing banks, burning courthouses and spreading terror and destruction generally along the Kentucky-Virginia border, while his father, forgetful of his tearful appeal, sharpened his pencil for bitter opposition to Lincoln's re-election the following year.

On the night that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the wallet he carried held nothing whatever of monetary value. It was entirely

empty, except for two products of the printing press—a Confederate \$5.00 bill and a clipping about the capture of Jefferson Davis.

The President's tragic death received wide editorial comments. I have many of these items in the newspaper section of my collection, but I have always believed that the editorial in the Frankfort Commonwealth was superior to all others, especially in its appraisal of Lincoln's attitude toward the state of his birth. Albert G. Hodges, editor, who had not always seen eye to eye with the President but had at times been his pointed critic, wrote:

"Not only was he one of Kentucky's sons, but he regarded his native state with a high degree of affection and did all that he could to insure her welfare and to strengthen her allegiance to the Union. He invariably listened with deference to her complaints; her grievances were attentively considered and where they in reality existed the cause was immediately removed. His political enemies were always kindly received by him and when their requests were just and proper, they were promptly granted. Yet, in no loyal state had such personal abuse been heaped upon him—as a man and as a ruler he was unmercifully maligned and ridiculed and persecuted.

"Even to speak of him with respect was to subject one's self to the same senseless and wicked abuse. Mr. Lincoln knew all this, but the knowledge was never admitted to his memory. It never kindled malice—it never soured the kindness of the father's heart toward his erring children. He served Kentucky faithfully and justly to the end. And when he died, she lost her best and truest friend."

Such, ladies and gentlemen of the Kentucky Press Association were some of the high lights of Lincoln and the Press.

The right of press photographers to take pictures in court was defended recently by Alabama Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones, in Montgomery, Ala. Judge Jones sharply disagreed with Judge Durwood T. Pye, a Georgia judge who imposed a ban on newspaper photographers that extended to streets adjacent to the courthouse and grounds. Judge Pye, of the Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta, now hearing arguments for relaxing his ban, said the question is whether the courts are to be run by the judge or "the commercial press." He questioned the right of news photographers to "use the public streets as a photo gallery." Judge Jones said "the real issue whether the people have the right to know what goes on in their courtrooms."

"The commercial press as the Georgia judge calls it—but is really the press of the people—is not trying to run the courts," he declared. "It is trying to serve the people. The taxes of the people keep these courts running. Their taxes pay the salary of the judges and the court officers. The courts don't belong to the judges."

He called it "a great mistake, a great disservice to the courts, to ban the press photographer from the courtroom, from corridors, and to even hold he can't take pictures of people on the streets."

(Continued From Page One)

requested their continued aid and support.

Dr. Niel Plummer reported the School of Journalism was already being helped by the foundation as some tuition and books scholarships were being given to students who were in need of financial aid. In repeating his stand of a year ago, he urged more help from newspapers in financial problems and in recruiting worthwhile students.

George Ramey, Director of Mayo Vocational School at Paintsville, told the group that only students from the Eastern part of Kentucky were taking advantage of the facilities of his school. He pointed out that the opportunity for more students from all over the state to take training there was available and should be encouraged.

Highway Commissioner Ward Oats outlined the state highway program and explained the aims and purposes of his department to improve the highway system of the state's primary and secondary roads and the interstate program. He discussed some of the problems involved in putting through this program as evidenced by the mistakes and pitfalls of the past.

George Joplin III reported the School of Journalism Foundation was formally instituted and requested of each member of the Association a pledge to support it. He suggested the pledges be made over a period of four years, on a monthly basis.

Then came election of officers with Thomas Adams, Lexington Herald-Leader, named president; Paul Westpheling, Fulton, vice president; W. Foster Adams, Berea, chairman of the Executive Committee; while Victor R. Portmann was selected as secretary-manager for the 19th consecutive year. The only change in district committeemen was the naming of Ray Edwards, Mayfield Messenger, to represent the First District. President Dyche was presented with an engraved silver pitcher by the Association in appreciation of his service to the group during the past year.

At the noon luncheon, William H. Townsend, nationally known authority on Abraham Lincoln, related how the Great Emancipator's early political life was influenced by the newspapers of the day. His address is printed in another part of the Press.

In the final session of the convention, three of the candidates for the governorship of Kentucky expressed their views of the office to the members of KPA. Those present were Harry Lee Waterfield, Bert Combs, and Hubert Carpenter.

With this recap of the program, another convention, the 90th of the Kentucky Press Association, is in the book and now past history.

Resolutions Passed

The members of the Kentucky Press Association, meeting in their 90th Mid-winter session, January 29-31, 1959, express their thanks at all those who contributed, by their planning, preparation, or presentation, to the excellent program of the convention.

We thank the staff of the Brown Hotel, the officers of the City of Louisville, and all others who helped to make our stay enjoyable and profitable; the Courier-Journal and Times and WHAS for the cocktail party and the floor show and dance; the Lexington Herald-Leader for the cocktail party; the Louisville Chamber of Commerce and the Brown Hotel for the splendid banquet.

We endorse the resolution of the National Editorial Association on January 10, 1959, objecting to the current ruling—Treasury Division 6340—which would restrict the use of cooperative merchandising advertising. We support the efforts of the National Editorial Association to reduce the cost and inconvenience of handling undeliverable copies of second class mail.

We urge each active member of the Association to promote the growth and strengthening of the organization by specific efforts to invite and urge eligible non-member newspapers to become members.

In this state election year of 1959, we urge each state newspaper to provide alert and honest coverage in its particular area so that an informed public may make a wise decision as to state officers and constitutional questions.

We recommend a constant fight to protect our sources of information at all levels, because if we do not have access to all facts, we have little excuse to publish a progressive community newspaper. We vehemently oppose all denial of information, whether by refusal or evasion, and urge editors and publishers to meet such challenges with firm but reasonable policy.

As advertising media, we urge continual vigilance against all types of fraudulent or bait advertising that might mislead or damage our readers. We urge every publisher to reject all such questionable advertising because any incident that weakens a reader's confidence in the truth and usefulness of advertising, has immeasurably weakened our newspapers and our profession. We commend the Better Business Bureaus and the Federal Trade Commission for their constructive efforts to eliminate such types of advertising.

We note with apprehension the action of a fiscal court in Kentucky to prohibit a specific newspaper from receiving any payment for supplies furnished the court or county officers. The evidence indicates that the purpose of the action is to punish the editor-

publisher of that newspaper for news coverage or editorials objectionable to members of the county administration. We believe such punitive action is contrary to the statutes and unfair to the newspaper as well as the people of that county.

As we return to our homes and our newspapers, we urge all members to practice renewed and strengthened loyalty to our state and national press organizations. As we ever keep in mind the fact that, since most of our newspapers are too small to protect our own safety and interests; but, working wholeheartedly together, we can be a powerful voice in protecting the common interests of our constitutions—and ourselves.

Landon Wills, chairman
Lawrence Hager, Sr.
S. C. Van Curen
Herndon Evans

* * * *

In Memoriam...

"As years move on, I find a vacant place
Where only yesterday there walked with
A cherished friend, whose dear beloved
Is missing now from where it used to be.
"As years move on, it happens more and
more;

Companionship which brought us heart
heart

Is quickly gone through the Eternal door
And we are left—forever torn apart.

"As years move on, our friendship list grows
less,

Continually changing day by day,
But tender memories remain to bless
The joy we shared together down the way.

When God appeared to Moses at the
burning bush, He told him to put his shoes
from off his feet for the place whereon
stood was holy ground. When we come
this part of our annual meeting where
remember and honor our departed associates
we feel that we, too, stand upon hallowed
ground; that we should tread with soft feet
steps, speak with careful accents, weigh our
words, and be reverent in our thoughts.

We cannot come to this portion of our
program without subdued thoughts and
soured affections. Often as the challenge comes
which takes from our ranks some loved
sociate, some cherished confere, and as
as the trumpet has sounded its wailing note
we cannot contemplate his passing
noticed. The memory of his virtues lingers
in our remembrances and reflects its shining
luster beyond the portals of the tomb. The
earthen vase which has contained precious
odors will lose none of its fragrance, though
the clay be broken and shattered. So be it
with the memory of those departed friends
of the Fourth Estate.

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On the Ohio Turnpike, every mile is

CONCRETE

the paving material with no "moving parts" to cause hidden wear!

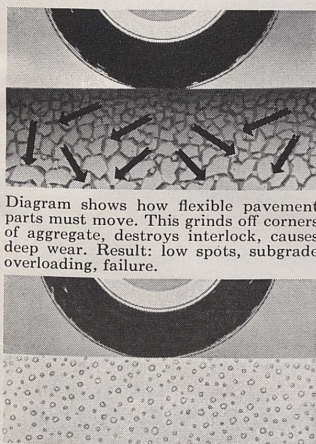


Diagram shows how flexible pavement parts must move. This grinds off corners of aggregate, destroys interlock, causes deep wear. Result: low spots, subgrade overloading, failure.

Diagram indicates stability of rigid concrete. There's no internal movement of aggregate and bond. One reason only concrete's load-bearing strength can be computed mathematically.

\$7,181,898, based on first-cost estimates, was saved by choosing concrete. Now records show maintenance costs are running about half the original estimates!

More proof that concrete does the job—and does it for less money. Last year, Ohio's concrete Turnpike handled some 11¼ million vehicles—thousands with loads of 70,000 to 90,000 lbs.—saved money doing it.

There's a reason. Concrete is built to bear like a beam, not to flex. For flexibility means movement . . .

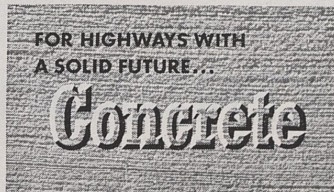
movement creates friction . . . friction brings wear that causes a pavement to wear out *inside* as well as on the surface. That can't ever happen with concrete.

Stability helps give today's concrete its 50-year-plus life expectancy—and its lasting, flat smoothness. On new Interstate System highways, and on all heavy-duty roads, concrete means true economy both now and in the future.

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805 Commonwealth Bldg., Louisville 2, Ky.

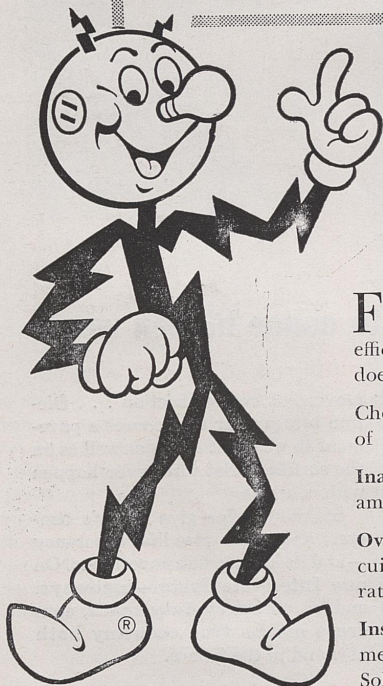
A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete



INCREASE EFFICIENCY -- BUILD BUSINESS
with
**FULL
HOUSEPOWER™**

Be sure you have enough circuits
for peak performance of

- ★ AIR CONDITIONING UNITS
- ★ EQUIPMENT . . . DISPLAYS
- ★ SUPPLEMENTARY HEATING



FULL HOUSEPOWER in your store or office is essential . . . a large enough service entrance, plenty of circuits, switches and outlets for efficient operation. Poor wiring means your electricity-using equipment doesn't get the power it needs for best operation, can't do its job well.

Check these points to see if poor wiring—low housepower—is robbing you of the peak benefits of your electrical equipment:

Inadequate service entrance. Your service entrance capacity should be ample for both your present and future needs.

Overloaded circuits. Too many lights or pieces of equipment on one circuit overload it. Fuses blow, motors may burn out or don't deliver their rated power.

Insufficient outlets. Do you have "octopus outlets"—several pieces of equipment in one outlet? Need lengthy extensions for day-to-day operation? Solution? More circuits and outlets.

Call your electrical contractor, or our nearest office, for a free wiring check-up

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY



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