

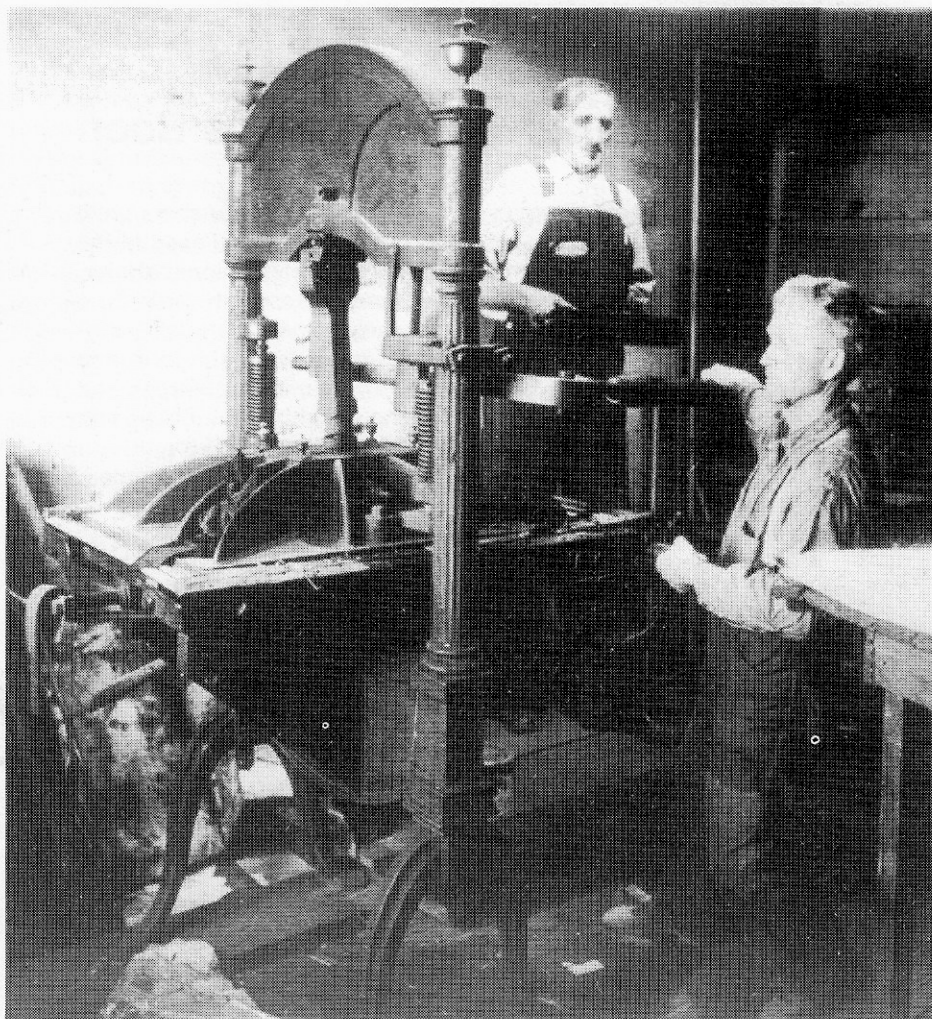


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Pioneer Newspapering In The Palouse





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The Newspaper — A Settler’s Boon

In the sparsely settled areas of the new West, newspapers were often the only tie with the outside world. They filled a real need in the settler's life. They informed him of national and international affairs, albeit, weeks late, advised him on patent medicines that would cure anything from boils to Bright's Disease, they lauded the qualities of the land and climate, published colonist's rates, kept him informed of the number of times his neighbors went to town each week and amused him with the continued trials of the serial heroine, jokes and jabbing comments on any and every subject by the editor.

The new settlers were so hungry for news that when newspapers were scarce, they would often pay to listen to someone else read his copy aloud.

Without the newspapers, much of the West might never have been settled, for they were the "boomers" extolling the virtues of Paradise. —Ed.

COVER PHOTO—The cover photo and that on page seven show Oscar Samuelson operating the Washington hand press and A. A. Stewart doing the inking in an actual production of the **Colton Newsletter**. Mr. F. Gibbs was editor at that time. Photo taken about 1933 by the late Elmer F. Beth, who was Professor of Journalism at the University of Idaho at the time. Courtesy of Thomas C. Ryther of Lawrence, Kansas and Lawrence Welle of Uniontown, Wash.

Pioneer Newspapering In The Palouse

By Roy M. Chatters

FOREWARD

Few remember the early newspapers of the county: the **Palouse Boomerang**, **Ewan Telephone**, **Rosalia Rustler**, **Palouse Rainbelt**, **Colton Eagle**, **Elberton Wheatbelt**, **Tekoa Globe**, **Oakesdale Breeze**, **Oakesdale Tidings**, **Albion Independent**, **Johnson Optic**, **Palouse Gazette** (now the **Colfax Gazette**), or the **Endicott Index**. And there were others.

Several years ago, when the **Palouse Republic** changed hands and the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Pillars, switched from letterpress to offset printing, I decided to purchase the old equipment. My hope was to set up a printing and newspaper museum to preserve the equipment and a vanishing art form. Dr. Neal Klemgard, a private printer, joined me in the purchase of the old flatbed press, typesetting machines, imposing stones and cases of metal and wooden type. More recently, I purchased the **Metalline Falls News** equipment to augment our supply of old printing equipment for a proposed Whitman County Historical Society newspaper museum.

As a natural offshoot of the first purchase, we began to collect original copies of the early county weeklies and to study their origins. We have copies of all of the above papers mentioned.

My interest in newspapers and the business of printing has not been a recent one. More than 60 years ago, I was first bitten by "type lice," those mythical creatures which inhabited every print shop, and it was then I got my first spattering from printer's ink. There is no cure for the infection of the one and nothing will wash off the other throughout life.

My mother's brother was a printer and a small town newspaper publisher in Michigan before the turn of the century and he in turn interested my oldest brother in the printing trade. A small print shop was set up in the basement at home in about 1910 and here the high school paper was published and job printing done. In time, all four of my brothers and I entered this fascinating field, two continuing in the trade during their working years. Perhaps my early initiation into the printer's world now prompts my desire to preserve the old way of getting the news out and to paint for future generations a picture of the oldtime printshop. The outspoken editor, harried printer's devil, typesetters and others all surrounded by an atmosphere of high and often shady good humor.

Why Newspapers Came To The Palouse

What prompted the establishment of small town pioneer newspapers? Enterprising, often itinerate tramp printers moved into new settlements to "boom" the towns, to encourage their friends, relatives and others to immigrate to the fertile Palouse country. Glowing tales were told of the advantages of this new land and copies of the newspapers were broadcast throughout the country and abroad. William Allen White, one of the best-know "country editors," once said that the duty of an editor is to make private sentiment public opinion. This was what many pioneer editors did. Their philosophy on any subject came out in the editorial and had great influence on the readers. They printed up to date quotations on freight rates, land prices, and they literally sold the country. The weather here was always "salubrious," according to the news editor, never too hot or too cold, and there was never a crop failure and the land whatever the price was cheap. It was a veritable Beulah Land! Having boomed to his hearts

content the publisher often loaded his small press, or presses, and his few cases of type into his wagon or onto the backs of pack animals and was on his way to another settlement to repeat the process.

The publisher was often prompted, with the aid of local support or the state political machine, to set up his printing plant to become the opposition paper to counteract the political pleadings of one party against another. The rivalry was often bitter and violent.

There were those publishers who also came for the prime purpose of making money from the venture. Much effort was expended in getting the contract as the "official" county publisher, which was a prized plum. Also, there was much profit (\$6.00-\$8.00 each) in publishing the final notices when a farmer proved his land acquisition. Local job printing and advertising were often insufficient to cover his costs and subscriptions scarcely paid for the cost of the paper needed for printing the weekly issues.

Others entered the field because they were dedicated to the cause of good journalism. Many of these soon learned the cold, hard facts of the economics of running a newspaper business on the frontier. Some survived, others soon went to the wall and became the employees of others or moved away to set up shop elsewhere.

No Guarantee Of Peaceful Life For An Editor

Being a country editor was not a guarantee of living a life of tranquility and harmony with his neighbors. The editors of opposing papers often got into personal attacks upon each other through their editorials, which even now make for lively reading. Libel laws were ignored. More than one editor's vitriolic pen brought the wrath of some reader or an opposition editor down upon his head. They said what they meant, mincing no words and let the chips fall where they would. In some towns, the well-dressed editor included a six-shooter along with his other clothing. More than one editor took to the back door or went home by the back alleys to avoid physical violence from an irate citizen.

There were those editors who for years carried on a friendly feud even though their editorials seemed quite inflamatory. Two such were Orcutt (**Palouse Boomerang**) and I. I. Hughes (**Palouse News**). The doggerel below is a sample.

"If he (Orcutt) is the son of the missing link,
And at the same time the son of his mother,
He is just as much the image of one
As he is a disgrace to the other."

Economic Conditions

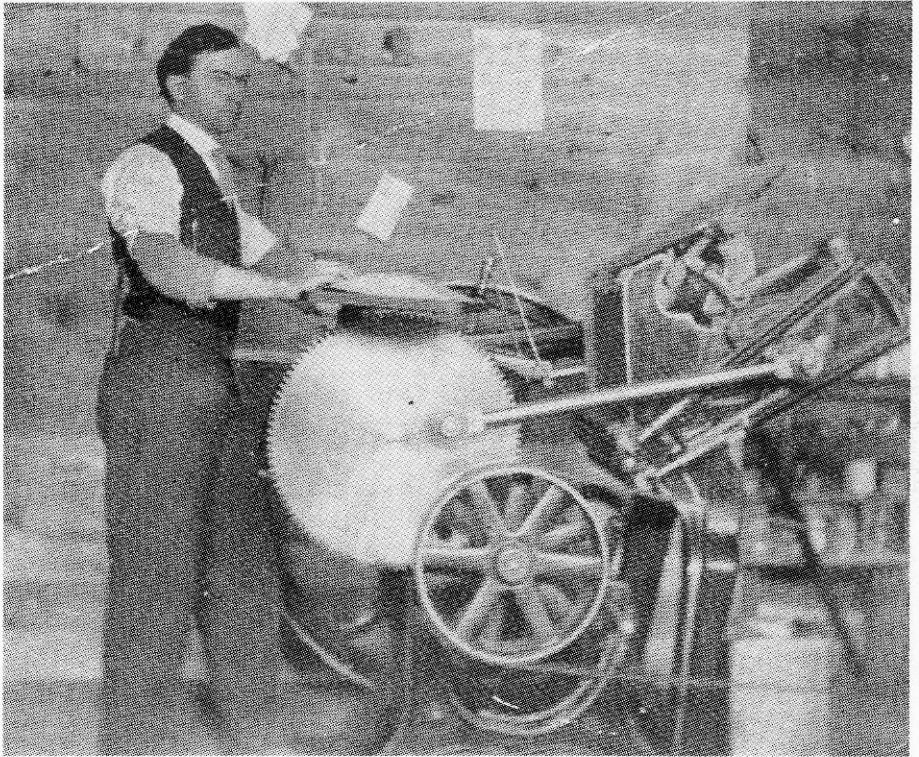
Money and paper were hard to come by so the typical country weekly was printed on paper which had at least two of its pages already printed. The printed pages, called "ready print" or "patent pages" were purchased from a supplier who printed national and international news and a vast number of patent medicine advertisements on two pages. The other two pages were left blank for local ads, news and the editorials. Many times the local publisher had insufficient type of his own to set up a single issue of his paper, hence the patent sheets were a financial boon as well as a reasonably steady source of supply of newsprint on which to print local offerings.

Equipment Often Crude And Type Scarce

The printing presses were often crude affairs and the type of poor quality and in short supply. It was not a rare occurrence for the printer to be short of

enough single letters (called sorts in the trade) of one kind to complete an article, thus necessitating the substitution of another letter of the same size but different configuration or for his "w's" he had to use two "v's" or even leave the letter out entirely.

The early print shop, called a "chapel" in an earlier day, was more often than not cramped and dirty and with the advent of the cylinder press used for printing the newspaper an extremely noisy place and bore no resemblance to the general concept of any other place bearing the name of "chapel." Older people tell me that when the big ninety-year-old press now in our possession, used for the **Palouse Republic** went into operation in its second-floor location, the entire city block shook from the vibrations.



A pioneer printer shown at the small job press used in printing handbills, letterheads and similar material.

—R. M. Chatters Collection

Back Issues Rich Resource of History

The back issues of the early county newspapers are a veritable treasury of pioneer history, containing records of local happenings, births and deaths, accidents, entertainment, topical humor, advertisements and the whole spectrum of the early settler's life. Hopefully, the newspaper and printing museum now being developed in Palouse in a building which is the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. West of Palouse, plus donation of the **Palouse Republic** and **Metalline Falls** letterpress equipment to the Whitman County Historical Society by Dr. Klemgard and me, assure that this facet of Whitman County history will be preserved at the site of one of the county's earliest newspapers.□

PLEASE READ.



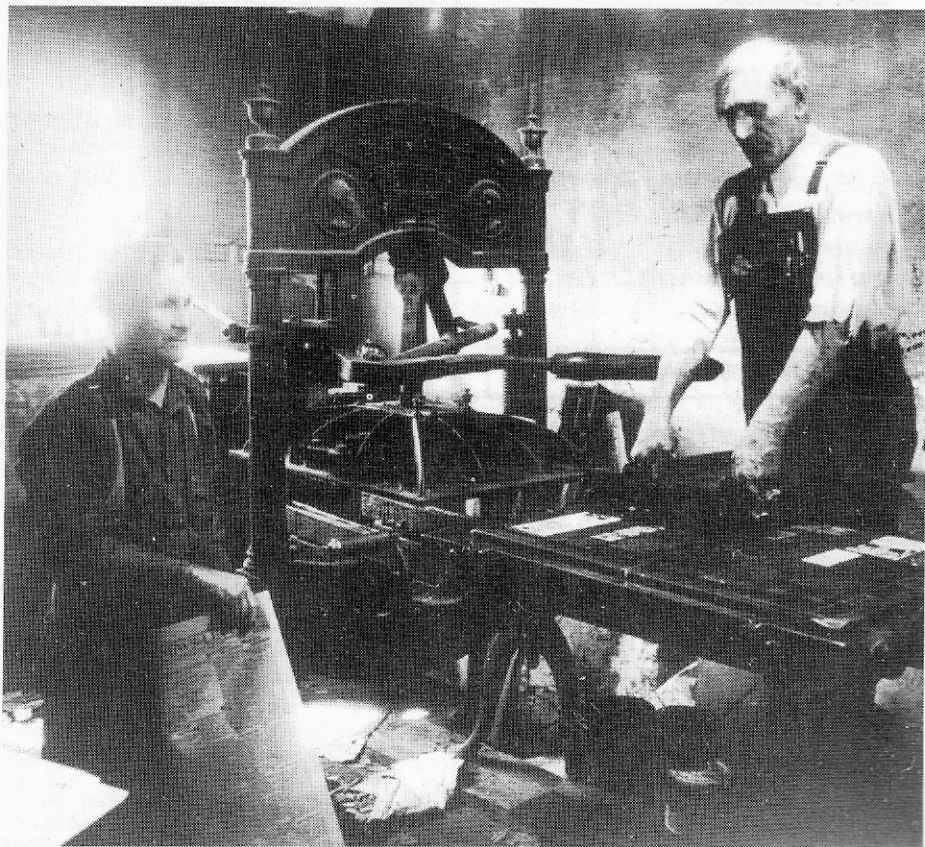
The PALOUSE GAZETTE, published every Friday morning at Colfax, W. T., by C. B. Hopkins, was established in 1877, and is the oldest newspaper north of Snake River. It always contains the latest news, home and foreign market reports, well filled local columns a telegraphic summary of the news of the world, spicy editorials, an interesting continued story, and telephone reports from all the surrounding towns; making it the most complete newspaper in the Northwest. The GAZETTE already OWNS TELEPHONE LINES to Farmington, Palouse City, Garfield, Almota, Pullman, Moscow, Lewiston, Pomeroy and Dayton, and during the Spring of 1886 will EXTEND ITS LINES to Rockford, Spokane Falls, Cheney, Medical Lake, both the Cœur d'Alene and Colville mining regions, Uniontown, Colton, Huntsville, Waitsburg and Walla Walla. This will give it the advantage over all other papers in the Territory, and furnish its columns with the news just one week ahead of its contemporaries. If you want *all* the news, want it *quick*, and want the *best newspaper* in Washington Territory, subscribe for the PALOUSE GAZETTE, \$3.00 per year.

Taken from MARKS AND BRANDS — WHITMAN COUNTY-1886 by C. B. Hopkins.

Gem Of The Palouse

Pullman, the gem of the Palouse, is attracting the attention of people in all directions, and new locations are continually being made here. Our superior educational advantages, the healthful artesian water, the mild climate, the splendid altitude, the hospitable and cultured inhabitants, our rich agricultural surroundings, all combine to make this an ideal place in which to make a home and rear a family. We are rich, rich in blessings, far richer than we realize. The home seeker can do no better than to locate right here.

—The Pullman Tribune, April 20, 1905



—Courtesy of Thomas C. Ryther of Lawrence, Kansas and Lawrence Welle of Uniontown, Wash.

Rates For Immigrants Reduced

From February 15 to May 15 the O. R. & N. Co., in connection with the Union Pacific railroad, will establish a rate of 50 cts. per hundred pounds minimum weight 20,000 pounds, on emigrant moveables, carloads, from Union Pacific eastern terminals and all points west thereof, to all point outlines of this company in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. This is a reduction of 33-1/3 percent. —I. T. Ames, Agent.

—The Pullman Tribune, April 20, 1895

Painful Periods

are overcome by *Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.*

Fifty thousand happy women testify to this in grateful letters to Mrs. Pinkham.

Menstruation is a severe strain on a woman's vitality. If it is painful something is wrong which

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

will promptly set right; if excessive or irregular write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., for advice.

Evidence abounds that Mrs. Pinkham's advice and medicine have for many years been helping women to be strong. No other advice is so unvaryingly accurate, no other medicine has such a record of cure.

DON'T STOP TOBACCO. SUDDENLY

It injures nervous system to do so. BACOCURO is the only cure that really cures and notifies you when to stop. Sold with a guarantee that three boxes will cure any case.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the
Signature of

Wm. D. Fitch



DOWNFALLS

Sometimes in winter at every step there is danger of

SPRAINS
and
BRUISES

which cripple or hurt deeply, but at any time from whatever cause

St. Jacobs Oil

will cure surely and promptly

35 CTS. **PISO'S CURE FOR** 25 CTS.
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use
in 'Time. Sold by druggists.
CONSUMPTION

The Best Preparation for Malaria,

chills and fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.



DROPSY

10 DAYS' TREATMENT FREE.

Have made Dropsy and its complications a specialty for twenty years with the most wonderful success. Have cured many thousands and oases.

DR. E. H. GREEN'S BOWS,
Box E, Atlanta, Ga.

DR. GUNN'S IMPROVED LIVER PILLS

ONE FOR A DOSE. Cure Sick Headache and Dyspepsia. Remove Pimples, Purify the Blood. Aid Digestion. Prevent Biliousness. Do not Grip or Sicken. To convince you, will mail sample free; full box, 25c. DR. BOSANKO CO., Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Druggists.

CUTLER'S CARBOLATE of IODINE

A guaranteed Cure for Catarrh and Consumption. \$1.00. D Lock Box 145.

W. H. SMITH & CO., Buffalo, N. Y., Prop'rs.

There was unearthed in an Indian burial ground in Wallula a few days ago a medal dated 1801, given by Lewis and Clark to Chief Yellopt in 1816 (1806) for kindness shown the voyagers by him and his tribe.

—**Colfax Commoner**, July 6, 1888

A. Overby's farm of 80 acres near Garfield was recently sold to S. T. Liard for \$3,500, or \$40 per acre.

—**Oakesdale News**, April 26, 1901

Embry, who shot Anthony, Editor of the **Leavenworth Times**, has been acquitted. That's just like the way with some juries — they think it no more harm to shoot an editor than a jackrabbit.

—**Marion County Record** (Kansas), 1896

The parsonage of South Methodist Church was entered during Mr. and Mrs. Warren's absence recently by unknown parties who surreptitiously, or purposely, removed their old cook stove and placed in its stead a new and up-to-date stove. Mr. Warren has become reconciled to the action.

—**Oakesdale News**, Jan. 18, 1901

Little Elmer: Mamma, I saw a man down at the blacksmith shop making a horse.

Mamma: You must be mistaken, Elmer.

Little Elmer: No, I'm not, Mamma. He had the horse nearly finished when I came by. He was just nailing on the feet.

—**Palouse Republic**, Oct. 18, 1912

A man could write as funny a comedy about twin wash tubs as about twin beds, but nobody would go to see it.

—**Farmington Times**, March 25, 1921

On the 15th instance — Mr. Nelson Knettle's wife gave birth to a nice boy. Since that time, close watch has been kept over the father lest he injure himself in a fit of joy. Our correspondent says he has already killed the cat and scalded the pup. The poetry sent was good, but our space forbids its insertion.

—**Washington Independent**, Sept. 23, 1880.

The man most talked of throughout the world today is Henry M. Stanley, the renowned African explorer. His fame has extended to Colfax. However, it is not generally known the explorer's great fame dates from a night when he and Doc Miller drank to the health of the rattlesnakes from the same jug. It was one night during the NezPerce War of 1876 (1877), when all the people of the Palouse country were holed up in Colfax, momentarily expecting the hair to be raised by keen scalping knives of the redskins. Stanley rode into town from Lewiston and dismounted from his horse, pulled a demijohn from his boot and requested the commander of the department of the Palouse to join him in a toast to the rattlers and start him on his road to fame. Doc, out of the kindness of his heart, gave the necessary lift and the name Stanley was taken up by the winds and carried to the uppermost ends of the earth.

Stanley, at the time of his Colfax visit, was in this country as a special war correspondent of the **New York Herald**. His work was well done, thanks to Doc and the jug, and he was subsequently sent to report on the Grecian War for that paper and to Africa in search of Livingstone.

—**Palouse Gazette**, May 9, 1890

Not Always A Man's World

Today with the women's lib movement, she would have been called a newsperson or newspaperperson or something equally ridiculous. What she was called by most pioneer newspapermen was unprintable. But like it or not, there were women working in the newspaper field. Whitman county had its share of women editors and publishers. They were Minnie Sargent—1902-06, editor and publisher of **The Pullman Tribune**; Mrs. A. V. Coe—publisher of the **Farmington Times**, 1921; Cora J. Rice—publisher of the **Malden Register**, 1918; Olive M. Cole—editor and publisher of the **Malden Register**, 1921-22; Mrs. Tom Shaughnessy—editor and publisher of the **Albion Journal** and the **Albion Graphic**, 1915; Ruth Coffman and Zenna Cochran—editor and publisher respectively of the **Farmington Independent**, 1919-20; Mrs. Dean Ickes—editor of the **Thornton Progress**, 1925-31; Mrs. W. W. Shore—editor and publisher of the **Farmington Post**, 1929-32; and there were others in more recent times. Women were often co-publishers with their husbands, but more often than not, worked as editors sans, the title if the husband owned the paper. They were intelligent, hardworking and often pushy. They had to be. Even when their success was apparent to fellow newspapermen, any concession was grudgingly given. As one hard-nose commented, "Yeah, she's smart, but she is still a woman."

Not all of the women who helped out in printshops in the early days became publishers or editors; many of them became typesetters, and most of them assisted wherever there was a need in other than their official capacity.□

Herald Smith and a companion in mischief entered the M. E. church surreptitiously Tuesday night and performed a rondo on the organ. The matter was reported at school, which resulted in the execution of another "rondo" on a prominent part of the youth's anatomy.

—Oakesdale News, Feb. 22, 1901

Tale Of An Early Printer's Devil

By R. M. Chatters

The tale of an early printer's devil followed a somewhat uniform pattern — it was not always a happy one. He carried water from the well, swept out the shop, filled the coal scuttle, removed ink from the printed forms with a lye solution, "kicked" the foot-treadle-operated press, sorted rules and reglet from the forms and ran errands. When the Linotype came into use, he cleaned and graphited the matrices and kept the melting pots filled with metal from the "hell box."

He was the butt of practical jokes, ribaldry, and horseplay. As part of his initiation, he was sent around town to borrow a square auger, a left-handed shooting stick or to get the italic chases. He also was, as one old-time printer put it, "sent on indecent errands which were covered from my innocence." At some point he was purposely infected with "type lice" much to the merriment of the other hands in the print shop and to his discomfort.

The printer's devil was the shorn lamb, the flunky and slavey who later, as a journeyman printer, accorded like treatment to another neophyte at the bottom of the ladder in this ancient trade.□

LOCAL NOTES.

The Awakening.

He cast his vote for Grover
Last fall to be in clover.

Alas! the factory wheels are still
And silent are the shop and mill;
There's no more credit at the store,
The wolf is howling at the door,
And his delusion's over.

—Register before it is too late.

Winter goods at Barnett & Ricketts'.

A full line of gloves at Barnett & Ricketts'.

—Mrs. G. Luper is reported to be quite ill.

Go to Barnett & Ricketts' for farmers' clothing.

—Improvement is the order of the day in Colton.

All kinds of meats cheap at Shaw & Ferguson's.

—Judge Flowers went to Colfax Monday morning.

A nice line of gents' shoes at Barnett & Ricketts'.

—J. Huber made a trip to Pullman Saturday last.

—Mrs. Ed. Kennel was in Colfax the first of the week.

—Old newspapers for sale at this office, 25 cents per hundred.

Hereafter cigars and tobaccos are cash at Barnett & Ricketts'.

Best steaks, from 6 to 8 cents per pound, at Shaw & Ferguson's.

A good store building in Colton for rent. Enquire of E. E. Alton.

A No. 1 coal now on sale at the depot. Call and get your supply.

First-class broiling meats, 4 to 6 cents per pound, at Shaw & Ferguson's.

—A large number of Coltonites are attending court at Colfax this week.

—Ed. Kennel has moved his family into Mrs. Jones' residence on S. McGregor St.

Choice cigars at Barnett & Ricketts'.

Hereafter cigars and tobaccos are cash at Barnett & Ricketts'.

—Please call and settle your account with the NEWS-LETTER.

Coal now on sale at the depot, \$8 per ton delivered in city limits.

G. H. McDougall.

—It is said that the reason that strong minded women are not fond of petting cats is that they are afraid of being considered pussilanimous.

—Wilcox & Blessig have moved their stock of drugs into the building occupied by Barnett & Ricketts, and will occupy a part of the same for the future.

—Whatever may be the cause of blanching, the hair may be restored to its original color by the use of that potent remedy Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer.

—The county commissioners have allowed \$500 from the county fund, payable to Mayor Ricketts, for the building of the road leading to the depot. Work on the same will commence soon.

—"In Paris," says a fashion journal, "it is no longer good form to take a gentleman's arm." When you have talked a gentleman's arm off do not try to lug it away with you. Remember, it is his, not yours.

—Have you noticed that in the year 1893, the months of January, April, July, October and December have each five Sundays; that both the first day and the last of the year are on Sunday, and that the year has fifty-three Sundays.

Of interest to ladies.—The scalp may be kept white and clean and the hair soft, pliant and glossy, by the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor.

—Colton News-Letter
November 17, 1893



The first printing office in Whitman county to install a typesetting machine was **The Pullman Herald**, and the above picture was made in 1905, with the then youthful Karl Allen, later publisher of **The Herald**, at the keyboard. Type for **The Herald**, the **Evergreen**, and many college publications was set upon this "Simplex Typesetter" until it was supplanted in 1909 by a more modern linotype machine.

—**Pullman Herald**, Nov. 4, 1938

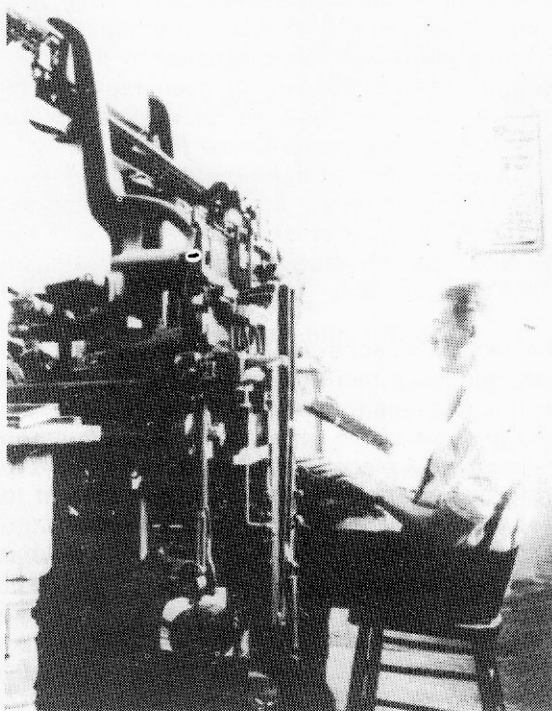
Over Sixty Years A Printer

By R. E. Heitzman

My brother, John, stopped by yesterday with his account of the disposition of the letterpress equipment of the **Palouse Republic**. He seemed to think you would be interested in learning a little about my printing career, which is all I've worked at since I succeeded John at the **Republic** on a before-and-after-school-and-Saturday basis in the fall of 1916. In 1917 and 1918 with a widowed mother and my two older brothers in the army, I'd dropped out of high school and worked full time until John's return in 1919. At that time, John worked at the **Republic** and I went back to school, but still working part-time.

In the summer of booming 1920, the Spokane Typographical Union was scouring the countryside for "country printers" to help man the **Review** and **Chronicle**. I went to Spokane, joined the union, and embarked on a printing career which has taken me from Honolulu to Boston; Jacksonville to Seattle, and numerous way points in the criss-cross pattern. Needless to say, I was fascinated with the printing trade from the beginning and never had any desire to try anything else to make a living. In 1970 I received my 50-year service award from the I. T. U. (International Typographic Union), and I'm now in my 55th year of membership, looking forward to a 60-year recognition in 1980.

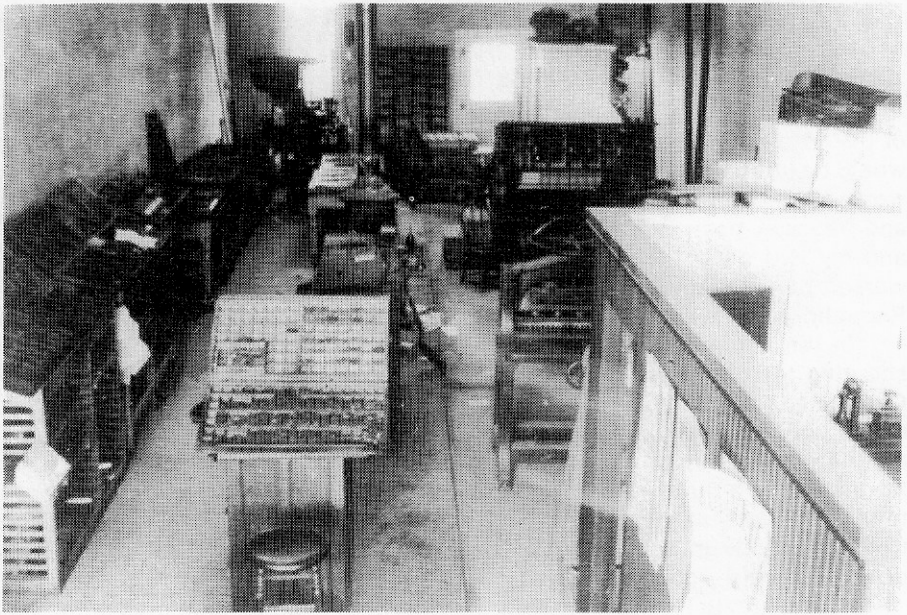
I did return to Palouse, however, and finished high school, graduating from P. H. S. in 1921. Upon graduation, I went to Coeur d' Alene, where I worked the summer of 1921. I closed out my career at 13 years at the University of Washington printing plant in Seattle, from which I retired in 1966. However, I still had some of that "tramp printer" urge and put in a few months more at the trade in San Diego, San Pedro and Pomona, California, then back to Seattle and a commercial plant until December of 1967.



John Heitzman operating the old linotype at the Palouse Republic in 1919. He started at the Palouse Republic in 1914.

FOOTNOTE: Mr. Heitzman started at the **Palouse Republic** in 1914.

Reprinted from a personal letter by permission.



Palouse Republic Printshop — 1919 A typical layout of early printshops

—Photos courtesy of Robert Heitzman

But enough about myself, I want to tell you something about the **Republic**. I was there when the plant was moved from its upstairs quarters over the Post Office to its present street level location. The linotype replaced a “Simplex” machine, made by Unitype Corp. There are not many printers of my acquaintance who have ever seen one of those machines, because by the time I came along those in cities and large operations had all been replaced by linotypes. And the linotype company was on a program of eradicating the Simplex as rapidly as possible. The **Republic** was allowed (undoubtedly) a “trade-in” allowance when the **Republic** got its first lino. The disposition (how vividly I remember the day and the heartache only a dedicated craftsman can understand) when the machine was taken onto the vacant land in the rear of the shop, dumped over on its side, and then absorbed a few blows from an eight-pound sledge wielded with vigor and gusto by the linotype salesman/erector.

Not to my knowledge was the useless object ever hauled away. It may still be there where I last saw it. I would suggest a thorough search be made of that area. You might find the remains. It is possible that some of the type that was used in the Simplex is still around in some of the cases. If so, they would be valuable collectors’ items today — even a few pieces. Whether you get around to probe for the machine or search for some of the type or not; if I ever get to Palouse again that is what I shall do.

That sledge-hammer incident to me, was the beginning of the steel ball and bulldozer era, which is just beginning to catch up with our country in the form of deep regrets for too hasty actions. That Simplex was every bit as marvelous as the linotype, and but for the sledge-hammer could be in working order today — not for any practical purpose of course, but as an exceedingly interesting and entertaining item in a printing museum.□ (Written June, 1974)

From Apprentice To Editor-Publisher

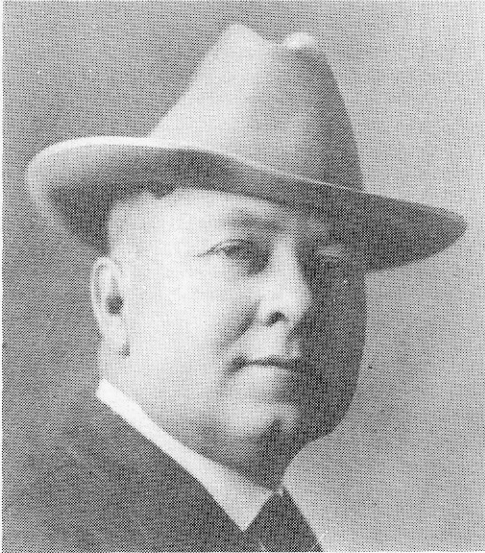
By Carl P. Dilts

My 50 years in the printing business began as an apprentice or "printers' devil" at the **Palouse Republic** after graduation from Palouse High School.

At that time A. J. (Alonzo) Harrington was publisher, and Mr. Brown was editor and general assistant in the shop. Mr. Harrington came from Pennsylvania and began work for Mr. Lynch, who published the Rosalia paper, and who later set up Mr. Harrington in business in Palouse.

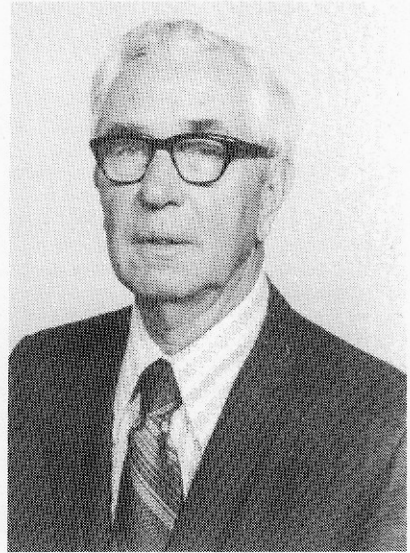
"Daddy" Harrington, as everyone called him: was kindly known to everyone in Palouse and trained many Palouse young men in the printing business including Olin Andrews, Harlan Brown and myself. There may be others also. (Henry Ankcorn, Palouse hardware merchant, for one. —Ed.)

Long before I worked at the **Republic**, the printing plant was upstairs in the same location on North Main. When I began working at the **Republic** in 1922, I first earned \$1.00 per day, and after two years had learned the linotype, press, and most of the work at a maximum of \$20 per week for Palouse.



Brown Schick

Editor of **Palouse Republic** 1913-20



Carl P. Dilts

Employed at **Republic** 1922-24

I worked on the old Model K linotype which was heated by kerosene and denatured alcohol. When the metal got low in the linotype pot, I went to the "hell box" (used metal) and put a few hands full into the linotype pot to melt down to keep the type flowing into news.

Harlan Brown often operated the big 1890 Cottrell press when I was busy with the linotype. Brown was talkative and absent-minded, so it became a joke between Harrington and myself to watch him prepare to run the press. He would be talking and putting glycerin on his fingers as he climbed up to the feeder stand and push in the starter lever. Time after time, he would forget to turn on the motor switch and have to climb back down to turn on the switch and get set again to push in the lever to start the press run.

FOOTNOTE: Mr. Dilts is retired and makes his home in Walla Walla.

After the press run, a high school boy usually came in to help us hand-fold the papers and take them to the post office. We had no folder on the press at that time.

I do remember having to wire the linotype together a few times to keep it going until a service man happened to be on the Palouse route. I also remember groups of school classes visiting the newspaper to watch the linotype and press operate. They always wanted their names set on a slug of type from the linotype: and it was always fun to watch the surprise on their faces when they received the "hot" metal. That was part of the game. No doubt these metal slugs with personalized names are scattered all over the country by now.

I also did a lot of hand-set type for headlines and for the Williamsons' Department Store ad which was usually a full page every week, and took hours of hand-setting of large type.

After two years on the **Republic** I went to Moscow, Idaho to work on the Star-Mirror for George Lamphere Jr. and Brown Schick at higher wages: and then to the **Pullman Herald** in 1926 to work for "Billy" Goodyear and Karl Allen. I worked a night shift with the W. S. C. Evergreen staff since the **Herald** printed the **Evergreen** at that time. This left me free to take a few classes at W. S. C. three days a week, and I made many new friends there.

In 1930 I bought the **Garfield Enterprise**, and in 1931 was married to Virginia Nell Jacobs of Pullman. We co-published the Garfield paper for ten years, and tried once to combine the Garfield and Palouse newspapers to cut down overhead and still serve both communities with a profit. It is only eight miles between the two towns, but they were not ready for it; and I could not see much future in expanding in Garfield.

At this time, the Whitman County Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi was first organized in Pullman by W. S. C. and invited A. J. Harrington and myself to become honorary members. There may have been others, but the W. S. C. chapter probably has the charter members.

After ten years in Garfield came Pearl Harbor, and I had a chance to sell the newspaper to a man who moved the plant to Spokane for a print shop. I received a call from Walla Walla County where Emerson Wheeler, publisher of the **Waitsburg Times**, was critically ill. After two visits there, my family moved to Waitsburg where the newspaper was the only weekly paper in the county, compared to twelve in Whitman County at that time. We co-published the **Waitsburg Times** for 23 years when we sold in 1965 and retired to Walla Walla where I did some part time work at the **Union Bulletin** and the Inland Printing Company until it changed ownership in 1972.

My sister, Fern Dilts (Mrs. Lee Turner) also lives in Walla Walla with her husband Leon F. Turner, who was editor of the **Palouse Republic** on his first job after graduating from U. of W. in journalism. He worked for A. J. Harrington for several years as editor and bookkeeper and was married to my sister in about 1930. They moved to Walla Walla where he has been editor of the **Walla Walla Union Bulletin** for 30 years until his retirement two years ago. □

Mr. Dilts' account is printed from a personal letter by permission.

FOOTNOTE:

Photos courtesy of Mr. Carl P. Dilts and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Olson. Mrs. Olson is the daughter of Brown Schick who was the editor of the **Palouse Republic** from 1913-1920.

Blest be the Man Who Payeth the Printer.

—Lewiston Teller, April 10, 1890

-30-