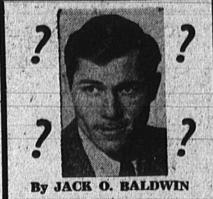


Late Herald Publisher Started Career as Newsboy

51-Year Newspaper Career Ends for Herald Owner



By JACK O. BALDWIN

Many have been the times I have hunched over my typewriter and struggled with the keys trying to fit them into words to fill this column. But no column was ever harder to write than this one.

For at ten o'clock this morning I will carry my boss to his grave.

As I take a grasp on the casket handle and share the load with five other employees I would wish I could bear the load alone, for it would be of slight repayment for the counseling, the guidance, and the words of encouragement—spoken as would a father—that he has given me since I joined the Herald more than five years ago. A man need not know another for 30 years to get to know him. I've seen the time in the service when you could get to know a man in 30 seconds.

A man who climbs a sloping mountainside, a staff in his hands to steady his gait, seldom realizes how heavily he leans upon his staff until it is taken away from him. Now that my boss has gone I'm certain



HERALD FAMILY . . . Grover C. Whyte, sitting, second from right, is shown outside the old Herald building, 1336 El Prado, with the complete staff of the Herald-News in October, 1941. During the 12 years between the shooting of this photo and Whyte's death Sunday, the paper's staff has nearly tripled; chemical departments. The Herald also employs 90 carriers. The old staff 37 people are now employed in the editorial, advertising, circulation, and members are, left to right, standing: Robert Lowellen, senior mechanical sup-

erintendent; L. C. Larson, linotype operator; Bobby Lovell, apprentice; Lawrence Turner, stereotypor-pressman; LaVern Jones, printer; Miss Lute Fraser, secretary, and Leslie Foster, circulation. Left to right, sitting, Miss Birds Paddock, editor of the Lomita News; Michael Straszler, city editor of The Herald and News; Mary Vonderhage, woman's page editor; Richard Carver, advertising manager; and Mrs. Kay Smith, classified advertising.

With the death of Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald on Sunday, there ended an exciting newspaper career that began more than half a century ago on a street corner in Flint, Mich.

By the time the late Herald publisher graduated from high school in 1912, he had had eight years experience as a news paper boy and had been elevated

to assistant circulation manager supervising more than 300 carrier boys.

DUTY IN FRANCE

Upon graduation he took a full-time job with the Flint Journal, working successively in the accounting, classified advertising, and display advertising departments. His newspaper career was interrupted by World War I. He spent a year in the Army, including nine months in France.

After the Armistice the former Herald publisher and owner returned to his job as advertising manager of the Flint Journal. Soon afterwards the desire to go into business for himself prompted him to launch the weekly illustrated "Flint Saturday Night." With him in the venture were W. Harold Kingsley, who was to later join him in the publication of the Torrance Herald, and Gerald T. Lomasney.

Nurtured by tenacity and a

three-man board of strategy, the "Flint Saturday Night" prospered and grew into a daily newspaper published by the Flint Tribune Publishing Co. of which Whyte was president. The daily news sheet grew but it was bucking a five-million-dollar competitor published by the powerful Booth Syndicate. The young publisher saw the inevitable and sold out to a large syndicate.

With the money from the sale stashed in a frayed briefcase he came to California in 1923, formed a partnership with his old friend and associate Kingsley, and purchased a small newspaper in a little crossroads hamlet known as Torrance, California. Purchased at the same time also was a newspaper "flagged" the Lomita News.

MOVE TWICE

With Whyte and Kingsley applying what they had learned in the "big time" back in Flint, the two papers continued to grow. By 1928 the Herald and News office had moved twice: first from 1877 W. Carson St. in a small building opposite the present Torrance Laundry, and later to 1419 Marcelina Ave. in the building presently occupied by the Cycle and Sports Shop.

During 1928 another move became evident and the partners picked up their typewriters and paste pots and moved the office to 1336 El Prado. In 1929 Whyte bought out Kingsley and has remained as sole publisher since that time.

NEW HOME

In November of 1948 the Herald underwent a great change. It moved into a new building, its own, at 1619 Gramercy Ave., its present location. The old flatbed presses were sold, the old stereotyping equipment junked, and highspeed rotary presses were purchased, capable of clipping off 24-page editions at the rate of 10,000 an hour.

During his 30 years as publisher of the Herald Whyte saw the payroll grow from 7 persons to its present staff of 37 salaried employees and 90 associated "little merchants"—or carrier boys.

NEWS SOLD

Whyte sold his interest in the Lomita News in 1950 to its present publishers, Ray H. Reed, who was the advertising manager of the paper at the time of purchase, and Robert Wilcox, then add now, the editor.

At the time of his death Whyte held an active interest in the Westside Graphic, a weekly newspaper serving the west side of Long Beach. The combination of the Herald, its companion papers and the Graphic serve an area of more than 200,000 persons.

From a humble beginning on a sidewalk in Flint, Mich. to a publisher's desk of a newspaper serving a new empire which he helped create, is the story behind the stories of more than half a century.

Final Rites Held for Paul Spiller

Final rites were held yesterday at Stone and Myers Chapel for Paul Spiller, 66, brother of John B. Spiller, 1103 Beech Ave., and Mrs. E. O. Jones, 1688 W. 26th St., Harbor City, who died Sunday at Harbor General Hospital.

The Rev. Elden Durham of the Lomita Presbyterian Church conducted the chapel services and graveside rites which followed at Green Hills Cemetery. The deceased, a native of Texas who was living in Huntington Park at the time of his death, was a Navy veteran of World War I and a member of the Oil Workers International Union No. 128, Long Beach. He is survived by two other brothers, H. B. and R. H. Spiller of Texas, and another sister, Mrs. Charles Affeldt of Ojai, Calif.

Publisher Active In Many Local Organizations

Long active in many civic affairs and betterment projects was Grover C. Whyte, late Herald publisher.

Among the many organizations to which he belonged was the Torrance Rotary Club, of which he had been a long-time member and president during 1938 and 1939 terms.

He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Memorial Hospital shortly after he came to Torrance and has served on the board for 22 years. He has been vice-president of the board 20 years.

He held a membership in the American Legion, supporting its many drives and civic projects throughout his 30-year publishership of the Herald.

The late Herald publisher had been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for many years.

Publisher's Death Prompts Tributes

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE IN MEMORIAL OF GROVER C. WHYTE

Grover C. Whyte commenced business in the City of Torrance almost thirty years ago in the newspaper business. During this period of time he was a public leader in the City for the growth of good municipal government and the progress of the City.

He was at all times honest, courageous, and sincere in his desires to bring truth before the public and advance the fortunes of the City of Torrance. It was his privilege to see Torrance grow from a small community to a modern sized City, and it was his privilege to have the vision to lead and aid in its sound development.

The City of Torrance has lost a great friend, and it is with deep gratitude that the City Council conveys to his family, as a testimonial for the appreciation of his services, its heartfelt sympathy.

MERVIN M. SCHWAB Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST: A. H. BARTLETT City Clerk of the City of Torrance by I. J. HALLANGER, Deputy

Jack Baldwin Torrance Herald My dear Jack:

I have been so engrossed with the details of Supervisor Ray Darby's sudden passing that when I read in the Times this morning of Grover's death, it was a little more than I could take in.

I don't have to tell you how very, very sorry I am to hear of this. You know what I thought of Grover and what a grand person I thought he was.

I know that Ray would want me to extend his deepest sympathies to both you and Mrs. Whyte, and since I don't know her address I am sending it to you for forwarding. It is enclosed and with it a message which Ray had had printed because it expressed his faith. It also expresses mine and I sincerely hope it will bring comfort to you as well as to Mrs. Whyte and her family.

Very sincerely yours, KENNETH SAMPSON Chief Deputy

Jack O. Baldwin Assistant Publisher

California newsmen bows in your grief over the passing of your distinguished publisher and my friend. His long service to Torrance will be a grand monument to his memory.

Please accept my deepest sympathy. JOHN B. LONG General Manager California Newspaper Publishers Assn.

Torrance Herald: We sympathize with you deeply in your loss. We well know that Grover's passing leaves a void that cannot be filled by a few words from old friends.

But we have many memories of Grover that make his passing particularly poignant and deeply felt. Please count us among his acquaintances who remember him as a former employer who was always a gracious host.

Sincerely, GEORGE M. STRASZLER, editor San Gabriel Valley Section Los Angeles Times (Former Herald Editor)

Torrance Herald: It was a sad shock to learn of Mr. Whyte's passing. Mere words offer very little comfort in a time like this. But I do want to convey to you my sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this most trying hour.

Our greatest comfort is knowing that Mr. Whyte abides with Our Father, and Our Father abides with us all. Sincerely, LYMAN L. BOYLAN President San Pedro Typographical Union

Torrance Herald: Regret to learn of the death of our good friend Grover. Please accept our belated sympathies. ASSEMBLYMAN VINCENT THOMAS ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES CHAPEL



HIS HOBBY . . . Advancement of the Torrance Memorial Hospital, a non-profit institution owned by the communities it serves, was a pet project of the late publisher, Grover C. Whyte. He served on its board of directors for 22 years and for 20 years as its vice-president. One of the view portraits taken of the governing board was this one in July 1949 showing the deceased Herald publisher (second from right, seated) with other members of the hospital board. Pictured here (l. to r.): Otto A. Kresse, Mrs. Charles Curtis, E. R. Smith, Whyte, Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, and standing Dr. John Beeman and Don Findley.

Dicalite Plant Manager Talks To Homeowners

Al Muir, superintendent of the Dicalite division of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp., explained the operation of the Waleria Dicalite plant to members of the Pacific Hills Homeowners' board of directors at a meeting in Waleria Monday evening.

At the same meeting, Muir was unanimously elected to the board to succeed Mrs. Don Menger, who resigned.

In his discussion with the board, Muir pointed out that the material produced at the pit was essential in everyday living of residents of the area. He said the dicalite was used to filter sugar and all of the new myacin drugs.

A source of several complaints because of dust, the operation there has been given a clean bill by the County Air Pollution Board, after samples taken from various parts of the area had been analyzed.

Muir said he would have members of the Dicalite laboratory at the next general meeting, April 13, to answer questions of the homeowners on operation of the plant.

A membership drive will be conducted before the April meeting, according to President E. J. Robinson.

USC Representative To Visit El Camino

Dr. Earl Haedler, director of the office of High School and College Relations, University of Southern California, will visit the El Camino College campus on Thursday, April 9, to confer with students who plan to transfer to USC sometime in the future.

Injured Boy Improving

Hospital reports yesterday held a bright note for David Ramsey, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Ramsey, 23821 Madison Ave., Waleria, for the first time since he crushed his leg while playing on an oil well pump on 233rd St. last week. Latest reports revealed the boy is improving and amputation of his foot and ankle may not be necessary.

Chamber Board Okays Neon Sign For Western Ave.

Erection of the new neon sign at Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave. pointing the way into Torrance got the green light from the Chamber of Commerce board of directors at their meeting here Monday, according to Executive-Secretary Dale Isenberg.

The board endorsed the plan and authorized Isenberg to go ahead with the subscriptions to finance the project.

The board also heard the report of the Chamber's parking committee. More information concerning the installation of parking meters is sought before the board makes a recommendation to the City Council.

Requests of various citizens and groups that the Chamber forward a recommendation to Gov. Warren on the appointment of a successor to the late Supervisor Raymond V. Darby was passed over by the board on the grounds that the Chamber was a non-political organization and would not intercede in any political appointments.

Appointed to serve on the group's citizens award committee was Fay Parks.



IN YOUNGER DAYS . . . Pictured in earlier days is Grover C. Whyte shortly after he came to Torrance in 1923 and purchased the Torrance Herald and Lomita News.

65,238 Eligible To Vote Apr. 7 In 15th District

When the polls open for the Los Angeles primary election April 7, 65,238 men and women will be able to vote in the 15th congressional district, Los Angeles City Clerk Walter Peterson announced yesterday.

Two years ago, 51,530 were registered to vote in the district which includes Harbor City and the Shoestring Strip, Peterson said. The 1953 figure represents an increase of 26.80 per cent.

A total of 1,043,010 Los Angeles voters will be eligible to go to the polls.

The 15th congressional post is now held by Councilman John S. Gibson, who is seeking re-election.



Dick Merrill Serving Aboard USS LST No. 857

Serving aboard the USS LST 857 is Dick Merrill, metalsmith fireman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Merrill of 238 Harbor Hills, Lomita.

Merrill, who graduated from Narbonne High School, was recalled to active duty in Jan. 1952.

The 857 supplies UN fighting forces with equipment and furnishes transportation between seaports and islands in the Korean area.