

FIVE-YEAR PERIOD SEES BIG ADVANCE

OBSERVER'S STAFF LISTS 42 PERSONS

In Addition to These Community Correspondents Dot Two Counties.

CARRIER BOYS IN CITY NUMBER 22

Official Family of Paper Takes Great Deal of Pride in New Home, Just Completed.

A great deal of pride in their new home is taken by members of the official family of The Observer. This includes 20 fulltime newspaper workers and 22 carrier boys, in addition to the various community correspondents located throughout the La Grande territory.

For many people the daily contact with their carrier boys constitutes their only knowledge of The Observer staff. The boys deliver papers each afternoon in La Grande or the various towns in Union and Walla counties, and although they have a part in the newspaper for only an hour or two a day, they are extremely important units in the organization.

List of Carrier Boys
The carrier boys at present are: George Anderson, Lavin Price, Charles Young, John Woolworth, Gilbert Stein, Robert McMillan, Frank Junior Hopkins, Walter Dahl, Weldon Farwell, Robert Lockwood, Maurice Beck, Willard Pohman, Howard Plickock, Glenn Victor, Pat Mortier, George Denny, Charles Erickson, John Williams, Fred Freeman, Carl Hansen and Royal Denning.

The carrier boys and mailing department work together. Albert Lilly, supervises the mail. He must get out various bundles for the stages going in all directions each afternoon and for the evening trains.

Both of these distributing units wait for the first turn of the press which is handled by an expert pressman, Archie Miller, Mr. Miller, who is assisted by Van Randel, also handles the stereotyping work and makes all the news and advertising cuts for each edition.

Before the newspaper forms go to the press they must be made up by George Lockwood, Mr. Lockwood is superintendent of the composing room and is an experienced printer in all floor work.

The advertising composition on the composing floor is handled by James Gray. He assembles the type and cuts for all advertising and prepares them for the forms. Feeding a steady stream of type slugs both to the ad man for advertising composition and to the makeup tables for the news columns are Floyd Anderson, Roy McNeess and Byron Bellman. Mrs. Harry Moon is the substitute who is an excellent operator, handling a machine frequently. The regular operators are also experienced machine men and keep the machines in working order all of the time.

These eight men handle the mechanical work of producing a newspaper each day.

Members of Unions
All men in the mechanical department are members of the international unions affecting their respective trades. Mr. Miller, pressman, is a member of International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants Union and the linotype and floor men are members of the International Typographical Union. The employed operators in La Grande, together with Baker members comprise a local in the International Typographical. There are 14 members, increased from eight when the local was organized, Mar. 20, 1924. Dick Smurthwaite, of Baker, is president; Fred Jones, of La Grande, vice president; and Sidney C. Happerset, of La Grande, secretary. The last two years the local has sent a delegate to the international conventions, one at Seattle and one in Indianapolis.

John Clintworth is janitor and has charge of keeping the new Observer building in order.

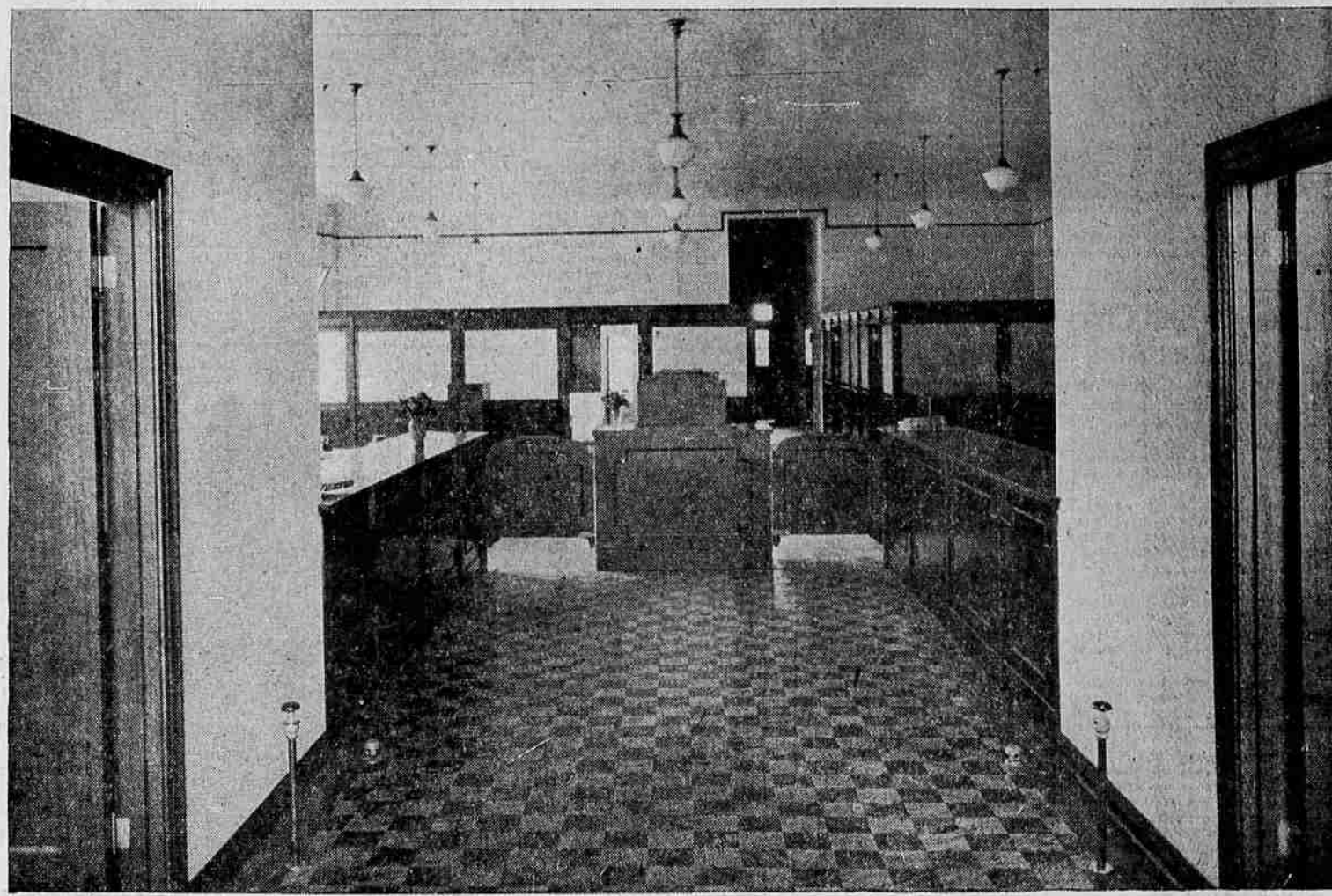
The responsibility of the distribution of the papers rests with Clark Paddock, an experienced circulation manager, who has charge of the carrier boys, supervises their collections and sees that each carrier gets off on his route each afternoon. Mr. Paddock also manages all outside circulation.

In the news room, Nolan Skiff, city editor, supervises the preparation of the news sections of the paper each day, lays out the front page on a "dummy" which in turn goes to the makeup man in the composing room, and edits both the Associated Press and the local news that goes into The Observer. In addition he serves as sports writer and as general news writer.

The valley news section, which appears on Tuesdays and Fridays and which is one of the most widely read departments in the paper, is the work of Miss Mabel E. Morton, newspaperwoman who has made a state-wide name for her

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An Interior View Of The Observer Building



The interior of the new Observer building, as one views it from the front entrance, is afforded by the above photograph, taken by H. J. Ritter. The publisher's office is at the left and the business manager's office at the right. The news room, partitioned off from the business lobby, is seen at the left, and on the other side are two small private offices. In the center appears the mahogany counters separating the public lobby from the space allowed for the business and advertising departments. Partitions are also of mahogany.

AUDIT BUREAU GIVES ADVERTISERS REAL CIRCULATION FACTS

The Audit Bureau of Circulations, often called the ABC among newspaper people, and which governs circulation figures, etc., of The Evening Observer, is an organization of national advertisers, local advertisers, advertising agents, newspapers and magazines with its purpose—its sole aim—to give the advertiser assurance that he is paying for actual circulation when he buys space in an ABC paper.

It is controlled by a board of directors elected from the membership, each director representing some different part of the country. The ABC was organized 16 years ago for the sake of making audits of circulations of newspapers and magazines and has proven highly successful, winning the utmost in confidence from the advertising agencies and private advertisers.

As an example of how closely the ABC and the advertisers work together, both associations hold their annual convention in the same place and at the same time. Last year the two met in the Stevens hotel in Chicago the latter part of October, both meeting together in some of the sessions. At the convention, in addition to usual business matters, new members are received and occasionally some member is expelled if rules and regulations have not been rigidly adhered to.

Principles Recognized Ahead
The principles underlying the ABC are now recognized abroad as basically sound in their application as a necessary step in advertising practice. One statement of P. L. Thompson, president during the past year, at the October convention. The state of affairs among European publishers and advertisers has been in a chaotic state due to the fact that advertising rates were bargained for and all circulation statements a mere matter of guesswork. This same condition prevailed in the United States until the formation of the ABC.

The rules of the ABC are very strict in regard to all circulation figures. For example, some of the rules are given herewith: **Only Paid-Up Subscribers Counted**
Only paid up subscribers are counted—all subscribers must be bona fide and must pay the full price of the paper without contests or premiums. Bulk sales, including those to restaurants, hospitals, hotels, etc., where everybody reads the paper, cannot be counted unless the regular price is paid the publisher. If some advertiser wants 50 papers, those do not count in the circulation figures. Extra editions, unless they consist of the same number of pages as the regular edi-

tions carried the same day, do not count and for that reason, many fight, election, etc. extra editions do not enter the circulation totals. The ABC also sets the limit of country and city circulations for each paper, establishing definite boundaries.

Many national advertising accounts refuse to place advertisements in any newspaper not a member of the ABC as they have found that the true advertising value of a newspaper is based on the number of paid subscribers, and they know that ABC figures tell the true story of a paper's circulation.

Million Dollar Tube Sinks To Ocean Bottom

HAVANA, June 26 (AP)—Doubt was expressed today that the \$1,000,000 tube which broke its moorings and sank to the bottom of the ocean off Matanzas yesterday could be salvaged.

The tube, built by Professor Georges Claude, French scientist, in an effort to revolutionize industry by putting the gulf stream to work, was a mile-long and large enough for a young boy to walk through erect.

When the valves on the compressed air tanks at the extreme end of the tube were opened the dead weight of the huge contraption of corrugated steel, snapped the inch-thick cables holding it to the shore and the tube sank to nearly 4,000 feet of water.

Engineers said the tube would break into its component parts if an attempt were made to bring it to the surface again. Professor Claude remained silent as to his next step, except to notify the French academy of science disaster for a second time had halted his experiment.

The tube was constructed to haul water from the ocean depths to be used to condense steam which Professor Claude hoped to obtain by submitting the warmer gulf stream water to vacuum.

Methodism Now Consists of 3 State Districts

ASTORIA, Ore., June 26 (AP)—Oregon Methodism today consisted of three districts, rather than the usual four, after a stormy session at the Oregon annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church here. The change, recommended in the majority report of the joint committee on districts, presented by Dr. J. C. Harrison, Portland, will eliminate one superintendency and the establishing of new boundaries.

The adoption of the majority report carried with it the establishment of a commission form of management for determining the salaries of the district superintendents. A central treasury will be established and the bishop and his cabinet, together with one minister and two laymen from each district will establish the boundaries and equalize the salary problem.

A third provision placed the maximum assessment which any church may be required to pay toward the district superintendency's salary at 8 per cent of the pastor's salary, a reduction of 2 per cent.

Eugene probably will be selected as the next convention city.

Observer, Now In 34th Year, Under Five Ownerships During Its Life

On an October day in the year of 1896 the first issue of an Observer appeared on the streets of La Grande. That first issue, the date of which is not exactly established with files of the first issues not available, was edited and published by George H. Curry, president of the Union county chamber of commerce, realtor and still in the newspaper business after a "vacation" of a number of years.

When The Observer entered the journalistic field in Union county it was just a few weeks before that memorable presidential campaign between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Curry recalls. It was an exceptionally close race in Oregon with excitement at a high pitch. The people party had all but absorbed the democratic party and in many counties of the state was the dominant party.

Those were the days of a partisan press, and a review of the old files of the papers as compared with the independent press of today would cause many to wonder how any editor could expect to carry life insurance. However, there were compensations as each paper had a strong party following while its political opponents also became subscribers in order to keep in touch with local political conditions.

Takes Leadership
Within two years, Mr. Curry said, the Observer gained the largest circulation in the county which secured its being designated as the official paper of Union county, the chief value of which resulted in increased advertising patronage.

During the second year Fred B. Curry purchased a half interest in the paper and for many years the ownership was under the title of Curry Brothers.

After the second year during a local campaign the Observer entered the morning field as a daily. It was not intended to become permanent, and the day following the election, the weekly issue was resumed. During the period of its few months of experience as a daily it created such a demand among the business men that the proprietors complied with the requests and the Morning Observer became an established institution, making two dailies in La Grande and three weekly papers. After continuing as a morning paper for four years it was changed into an evening paper.

Dennis Buys In 1910
In the year 1904 George H. Curry became sole owner and continued the publication on until April, 1910, when he sold The Observer, after an ownership of 14 years, to Bruce Dennis, now editor and publisher of the Klamath Falls Evening Herald and Morning News. "It is a pleasant memory to review those 14 years," Mr. Curry said yesterday, "and to note the

progress of the development of the city and county as reflected in the newspaper files. Running a daily in a city of less than 3,000 population with competition was no small undertaking and had many amusing features. During that period when the revenues did not warrant a press service a "grape vine service" often permitted us to "scoop" not only Portland papers but local competitors as well. This system worked through the telephone after the towns of Eastern Oregon were served with long distance lines. That was where a morning issue has an advantage. A few boxes of candy would occasionally give the paper a contact with the larger nearby cities by coordinating with the "centrals" who would call up the office and give us special news items. La Grande patrons knowing we had no regular service often wondered how we got the news. On major events they would doubt its authenticity and would wait until confirmed by the larger dailies; but in time repeated confirmation gave the public confidence and the outside news service was accepted generally.

"One time we slipped. During the exciting times of the Spanish-American war, following the sinking of the Maine in Havana harbor, the papers were full of the possibilities of the assassination of General Fitzhugh Lee. During this period The Observer had arranged with a newspaper reporter in Portland to protect us on all big war breaks. This reporter lived on the East side and one night on passing a cigar store saw displayed a bulletin that General Lee had been assassinated and without verifying it he rushed to the telegraph office and wired the story. Fred B. Curry was on duty that night and upon receipt of the wire unwound himself and from the 20 word message wrote a full column of copy. He produced telegrams from London and many world centers and made the story read well. When the writer appeared on the streets about 8 o'clock the next morning he found La Grande citizens in groups all excited. 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