

Women's editors remember trials, joys of reporting

Women reporters working at their jobs seldom resemble Doris Day.

One of the main reasons the word "frump" comes to mind when one of that breed takes an occasional glance in the mirror is that if she did reach in her purse for a comb and lipstick, she always pulls out copy paper, rolls of film and scribbled news notes.

A big difference between men and women reporters is

that men wear clothing with many pockets leaving their hands free to juggle a camera, strobe and battery pack.

There are other differences as observations made by Outlook women's editors, past and present, revealed.

Margaret Maybee, the Outlook's society editor for 6 years and an employee of the firm for 22, remembers with embarrassment the time she wrote up a wedding and

erroneously married the bride to her father-in-law.

Her biggest news story was during the Vanport flood.

"It was a long weekend and the rest of the staff was out of town. When I heard the news on the radio, I got the big graflex camera and had my husband drive me as close to Troutdale as we could get. The roads were underwater so I got into a boat with Richard Knarr of Troutdale Sand and Gravel and floated around taking news pictures. I thought it was fun. I wasn't smart enough to be scared," she said.

Margaret can see into the Outlook's new building from her kitchen window.

"I told Lee (Irwin) that anytime he can't handle it to run up a white flag, and I'll be right over," she laughed.

Dee Lopez, now a writing instructor at Mt. Hood Community College, was the news staff at the Outlook during the changeover from flat bed to offset press.

"We stayed up all night when the first edition on the new press was being printed. No one knew much about the process, and we were stunned when the grocery ads came out upside down," she recalled.

She was one society editor who wore gloves, hat and heels to work.

"We never dressed in pants in those days," she said, "and trailing sheep around a pasture in heels for a picture didn't add much to your composure when an hour later you were doing an interview with a celebrity."

Glenda Hagan, whose four year's as women's editor and



HELEN HANSON, staff reporter.

(Outlook photo)

reporter covered the span of 27 news editors at the Outlook, remembers with horror one make-up day.

"I was wearing crummy clothes and tennis shoes when I was sent out to interview and photograph Senator Hatfield who was in Gresham. I was hiding behind pillars trying to get my pictures when a man on Hatfield's staff said to me, 'He's seen little girls in tennis shoes before.' I was 21 and crushed," she remembered.

Suzanne Ashmun made the statement echoed by her predecessors, "The mistake I remember most is always the one I made last week."

She reflected that one of the best parts of being a women's editor was "the warm respect and trust you get from the people in this community."

Purcell helped Outlook

Much of the growth of The Gresham Outlook came during the 1941-1960 period in which Tom Purcell, published the paper.

Purcell came to Gresham from Hampton, Ia., in 1941 to acquire The Outlook. Under his stewardship, it became one of Oregon's leading weeklies. Purcell not only was active in the community but also served as president of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assn.

He still lives in Gresham and is actively retired.

Before coming to Gresham, Purcell had published a newspaper in Iowa City, Ia., and had served as business manager in Hampton, Ia. He had received many honors in the publishing field in Iowa before coming west.

All told, he was a newspaperman for 39 years.

Reminiscing in later years, he said that the thing which pleased him most about his tenure at The Outlook was the "growth of the area", particularly in the post-war years.

Always an optimist, Purcell felt that the Gresham area had an almost-unlimited future. Events have since proved him correct.

Other than newspapering, Purcell's two chief hobbies were bridge and politics. Unabashedly Republican, Purcell was an active voice in GOP politics for many years, both in Iowa and Oregon.

He also founded Gresham's radio station, KGRO (nee KRDR).

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