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News staff happy mix of veterans' novices

Backbone of The Outlook is its news staff, a happy mix of veterans spiced with learners.

"Actually, all good reporters are learners," said Hugh Gale, Outlook news editor. "In this business you can't stop learning. That's why newspaper work is so fascinating."

There are two things that make a good news man, Gale believes.

"One is to stay awake and alert; the other is accuracy," the veteran of 30 years in the newspaper business said.

Gale has a degree in English literature from University of Washington and did graduate in journalism.

He has been news editor at several newspapers in Oregon including Ontario Argus-Observer, Ashland Daily Tidings and the Oregon City Enterprise-Courier.

Before coming to The Outlook nearly five years ago, Gale was feature editor for the Clarke (Suburban) Press for five years.

Gale is at his best teaching novice reporters the how-tos of the newspaper business.

"Forget the fancy language; tell them what happened," is Gale's advice to the novice reporter.

He reminds newcomers of the W Sisters—Who, What, When, Where and Why.

Gale himself favors "grabbers"—a short, crisp lead sentence that hooks the reader and makes him read to the end of the story.

Buford Sommers, himself news editor of The Outlook twice, is now back as free lance photographer-reporter.

The University of Washington alumnus wears many hats from stocking caps



BUFORD SOMMERS,
photographer-reporter.
(Outlook photo)

for his stint as bicycle-rider feature writer and a businessman's hat for straight news stories.

He sees the ordinary in an unusual way as evidenced by his creative picture features—"Gresham as Seen by a Dog" and a "Bird's Eye View of Gresham."

"I have more seniority around here than our publisher," Sommers laughed.

Staff Reporter Sharon Nesbit of Troutdale is one of the few native Oregonians on the staff. The Sandy High School graduate was news editor of the Sandy Post when she was 17 years old.

"In those days, I thought I knew everything about writing," Mrs. Nesbit laughed. "The more I write the more I realize how little I know." I never even considered writing a job in those days.

After taking time out to study at Pacific University, Forest Grove, the reporter became women's editor of the Seaside

Signal.

Mrs. Nesbit, whose husband Bill is an insurance agent, juggles her writing in between two children, Vickie, 11, and Warren, 8.

Her office is one-half of the kitchen stove and she has brought in copy that caught fire quicker than the soup she had on the stove.

"I've also chased news stories across the yard—the east wind in Troutdale is terrible."

Mrs. Nesbit covers news in Wood Village, Fairview, Troutdale and "parts of Corbett" and has the agility to report on everything from city council meetings to dogs with 13 puppies.

A member of the Troutdale Historical Society, she brings this special interest to the historical articles she counts among her favorite subjects.

She is co-author of the "Hapless Homemaker" column, along with Outlook

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