

United Press Observes 50th Anniversary of Transmitting News

Early News Handlers, Telegraphers Recall First Days of Operations by United Press

BY UNITED PRESS

At least two of the newspaper men who handled United Press dispatches on the receiving end when the U.P. was born 50 years ago are active today on the same newspapers.

They are M. F. Bowers, 83, daily columnist and feature writer for The Daily News of McKeesport, Pa., and Thomas F. Murphy, 78, associate editor of the Scranton (Pa.) Times.

In interviews on the U.P. golden anniversary being observed today, they recalled newspaper days of 1907, when the first U.P. news came chattering into the office in the jerky cadences of the dot-dash telegraph code and was copied on a typewriter by an operator.

"We had no designated telegraph editor at that time," Bowers said. "Each man in the office would grab a piece of copy from the telegrapher's small desk, slap a headline on it, and turn it in to the editor. Jim Lauderbaugh, the operator, worked a good eight hours a day, and the stuff came over in pretty good shape. News Moved Fast.

"He made no carbon copies just hung the single sheets on a copy book. Once in a while, if we were in a hurry, we'd grab a piece right out of the typewriter. We had one edition. It hit the streets about 3 p.m."

"I was doing sports. From the U.P. accounts, we got out extra editions on the World Series that fall, and that was considered something in those days. I find, from the files, that on June 21, 1907, our sports pages carried:

"New York — Wise money picks Nealon to win the Suburban. John W. Gates gets down on 20-1 shot to win \$80,000. Our front page carried items dealing with Dan Hanania's divorce case in Cleveland, a West-Union strike in Chicago, and a cable from Paris about soldiers striking against doing strike duty."

Murphy, who this month received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Scranton, recalled that he was relief man for the regular telegraph editor in those days.

"The U.P. news was spicily written, and we played it up," he said. "I think it helped to make the Times the leading newspaper in Scranton. The U.P. seemed more organized, less conservative, than other services had been."

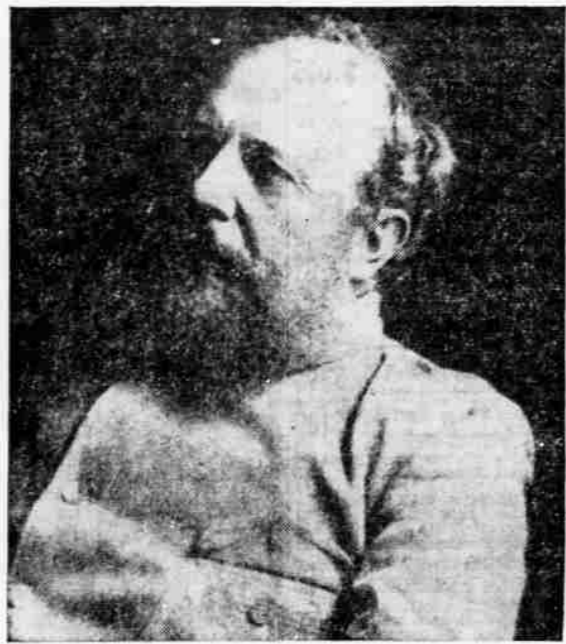
"We got copy from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the telegraph operators were loyal about staying on in a big story emergency. We got out two editions, at 2 and 4 p.m., and I believe we worked a little more leisurely than we do today. But we did a lot of leg work. I think some of the boys today lose a lot by relying on the telephone and not getting on the scene of a news event."

Murphy started with The Scranton Times 60 years ago in the circulation department, and

progressed to the city desk, city hall, and politics. He now is chief of the editorial page. He has written extensively of the history of Scranton.

In McKeesport, Bowers began his long association with The Daily News in 1884—selling its first edition on the streets as a boy of 10. He did his first reportorial work on the Johnstown flood in 1889.

He later covered courts and city hall and worked on the city desk. His daily column is concerned mostly with local history.



FOUNDER OF THE UNITED PRESS was the crusading E. W. Scripps. Taking two regional press associations of his own, he bought a third to unite with them into a single organization, the United Press Associations. The date of founding was June 21, 1907.

By UNITED PRESS

Three telegraph operators who were working for United Press the day it was born, June 21, 1907, looked back today on 50 years that has seen the telegraph key replaced by teletypes and teletypesetters.

The three original U.P. telegraphers are Eugene O. Tomlinson, 85, of Glendale, Calif., James Doyle, 77, of Minneapolis,

Mail Tribune Continuous UP Member Since '42

The Mail Tribune today extends congratulations to United Press on observance of its 50th anniversary in transmitting news gathered from all points of the world to newspapers, radio stations and television stations around the globe.

United Press news stories first appeared in the Mail Tribune on Nov. 5, 1923, when the newspaper subscribed to a daily "pony" report of 500 words. Between 1929 and 1942 the paper used United Press and Associated Press news reports alternately, and for a period during that time, simultaneously.

The Mail Tribune has been a member of United Press Associations continuously since Aug. 21, 1942, and now receives approximately 30,000 words a day.

and Edward Mullen, 74, of Cleveland. Tomlinson and Doyle have retired, but Mullen still is active in the Cleveland bureau as the chief telegraph operator.

In 1907, good telegraphers could translate the clattering messages received in Morse and Phillips code into typewritten copy at a speed of sometimes as high as 50 words a minute. The sending operation meant instantaneous coding of news stories and relaying them to other U.P. bureaus. Sometimes telegraphers had to double as correspondents.

Mullen Had Fast Fist Mullen was known as one of the "fastest fists" in the business. His dexterity won him a transfer to U.P.'s Washington bureau as chief operator several months before World War I. Mullen recalls that he pounded out the text of the U. S. declaration of war against Germany in Phillips code and for three solid days transmitted by code the numbers of the selectees who were to make up the American Expeditionary Force.

Mullen was assigned to the Cleveland bureau in 1920 and marked his 50th anniversary with the U.P. and its predecessors in 1955. Hugh Baillie, then president of the U.P., wrote then that Mullen and the United Press had handled "quite a packet of history" together and Mullen had seen "changes beyond the imagining of Jules Verne."

Tomlinson started as a telegrapher with the "old" United Press, a predecessor of U.P., in Cincinnati in 1897. After several years with Scripps-McRae, he moved to Los Angeles to open an office for Scripps News. Tomlinson, his telegraph key, and his battered Remington typewriter became the U.P.'s Los Angeles bureau in 1907.

Still Active At 85 Tomlinson opened the U.P. Tacoma, Wash., bureau in 1909 and did a variety of jobs for the wire service in West Coast bureaus before he retired in 1931. Since then he has dabbled in real estate and pursued his hobby of gardening. He still drives a car daily.

Doyle began his career as a news telegrapher with Publisher's Press in 1904 and was working a telegrapher's key in Erie, Pa., when United Press was formed. He remembers one of his first U.P. dispatches concerned a flood in Erie in which 15 persons died.

When Teletypes replaced Morse operators in Erie in 1930, Doyle transferred to Minneapolis to receive the U.P. telegraphic report for the old Minneapolis Journal. Later he learned to operate a Teletype. He retired in 1951 with a record of only three days' absence from work in his 47-year career.

Alcester, S.D. — Bert Wheeler and Einar Anderson decided not to let their political feelings interfere when they went into business together. Wheeler is an enthusiastic Republican and Anderson has just as ardent feelings about the Democrats. This year they celebrate their 40th anniversary as a clothing store partnership.

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News Gathering Freedom One of U. P. Principles

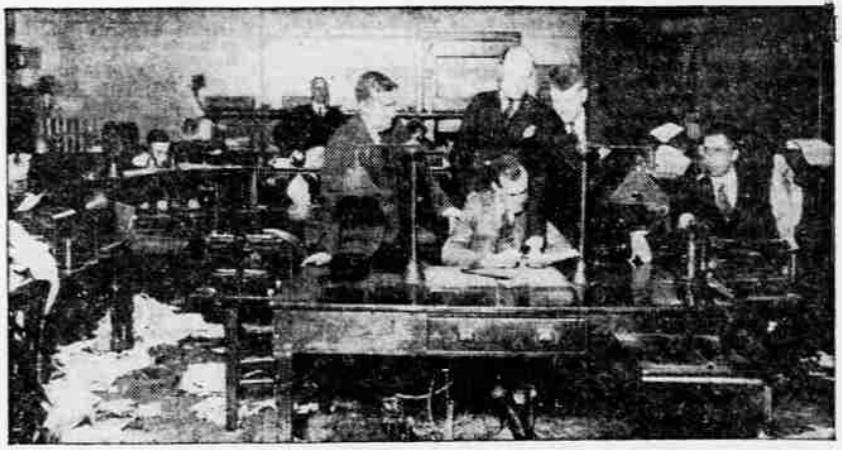
New York—For 50 years the United Press has pioneered on the frontiers of news freedom. One of the principles the U.P. adopted from the beginning is that it should have the freedom to gather its own news and to distribute that news anywhere, free from any private or government restriction.

This principle stemmed from necessity when the U.P. was young. In the United States in those days, a press association was conceived to be little more than a network of wires over which newspapers exchanged news.

International newsgathering followed a similar pattern—press associations exchanged news of their respective countries with each other instead of sending their own correspondents abroad. This method was easy, it was cheap and it became monopolistic. For in exchanging their news, the major international agencies agreed not to sell their services in each other's territory. In this comfortable world news cartel, the British and the French played leading roles, the French pre-empting Latin America as their exclusive sphere and the British reserving the sole right to serve newspapers in the Orient.

The United Press began its fight for free access to news sources from the day it was born. U.P.'s own staffers were assigned to cover the news at home and abroad. In the United States the U.P. sold its service to any newspaper that would pay a fair rate. It invaded the territory of the cartel abroad by selling service in the hither to exclusive areas—in the Orient, South America and Europe.

In 1912, five years after it was founded, the United Press



UNITED PRESS NEWSROOMS, then and now: above, in the early 1920's, in the old World Building, New York. Karl Bickel, then U.P. president, stands in the center of the group by the desk. Next right is his successor, Hugh Baillie. Standing, left: E. T. Conkle, superintendent of bureaus; and, seated, center, William H. Grimes, New York bureau manager. Below, the main newsroom today, in the News Building.



was invited to join the cartel. It declined and continued to build its independent resources. The experience and confidence gained in this early struggle are the roots of a tradition that has been carried on and developed. The U.P. many times has defended vigorously its right to access to the news, and treats any attempt to hinder its reporters as a challenge to the trust reposed in it by its thousands of clients around the world.

At the end of World War II the United Press was responsible for reversing the plan of the military and getting the press admitted to cover the executions of the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg. In Korea the U.P. led the successful fight to cover the Panmunjom truce talks.

At the United Nations Geneva Conference on Freedom of Information in 1948 the United Press was the only American press association officially represented. Its representative kept before the delegates the importance of facilitating the free flow of news among nations.

The high hopes then of establishing the principles of freedom of information in firm treaties have been blighted in the years since by the tensions of the Cold War. But the expression methods for achieving international news freedom remain in the record.

Teletype Circuits Replace Morse Code To Sped World News

New York—When the United Press began transmitting news 50 years ago the Morse key was the medium. Pictures could be sent only by messenger or mail.

Today 60-word-a-minute teletype circuits blanket the United States by landline and the rest of the world by radio. Pictures are transmitted instantly throughout the United States by landline and to newspapers abroad by radio.

Many newspapers in the United States now set type from teletype-setter tape punched in United Press bureaus throughout the country.

Dot Dash Method Slow In 1907 a story from Vienna went by dot and dash telegraph to London, with several relays en route to slow it down. From London it was relayed by cable in dots and dashes, at a maximum of 20 words a minute, with more relays in Ireland and Newfoundland, before it reached the shores of the United States for

another relay to United Press New York headquarters. A Morse operator there transmitted it on a landline circuit to newspaper offices, at a speed geared to the slowest operator in all the newspaper offices on the circuit.

Today an operator in the Vienna bureau transmits directly from Vienna to the Frankfurt bureau on perforated tape and runs the tape through another teletype circuit direct to United Press headquarters in London. London retransmits by radio teleprinter direct to United Press New York headquarters. A flash can be received in New York and relayed countrywide within 30 seconds of its transmission from Vienna.

Send Around World Today for 18 hours daily New York U.P. transmits by radio teleprinter to the Buenos Aires bureau and simultaneously to 52 other points in Latin America. Another radio teleprinter signal direct from the New York newsroom goes around the world in both directions 19 to 20 hours daily, with 31 points in Europe, the Middle East and Asia receiving instantaneously and simultaneously for translation and redistribution.

Pictures received from foreign points can be and frequently are transmitted directly into the landline telephoto network in the United States. The first foreign picture to be transmitted that way was one of Captain Carlsen aboard the doomed Flying Enterprise off the coast of England in early January.

Ike Pays Tribute To United Press

New York — The United Press marked its 50th anniversary today with a tribute from President Eisenhower on the part it has played in strengthening the free world by straight reporting of the news.

On its birthday today, the 10,000 men and women who make up this unique newsgathering organization were, as every weekday, sending almost four million words of news literally around the world.

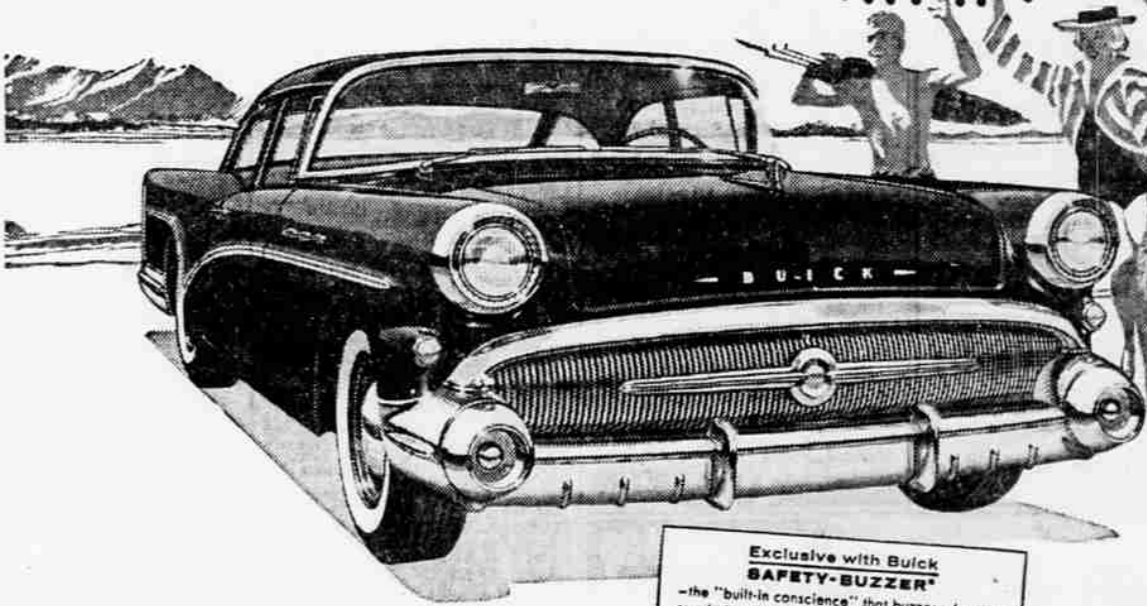
Their stories and pictures went to 1,580 newspapers in this country, were translated into 45 languages for clients in 71 foreign nations. They were heard on radio, seen on television, beamed to ships at sea.

Hillman Franchise in Medford Changes Hands

Jack White of White's Cycle shop, 36 South Bartlett st., Medford, has sold the Hillman automobile franchise to Jack Parsons of Parsons Motor company, 315 East Fifth st., White has announced.

The franchise includes sales, service and parts. White maintained the franchise for about a year for the English-made vehicle. White said he will continue to handle other sports cars and motorcycles.

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