

# Herald and News Observes Fiftieth Year As Daily Klamath Basin Publication In 1956

Fifty years ago marked the start of daily newspapering in Klamath Falls when the Herald, a five column, four page daily was established by Fred Crozemiller. Since that time the newspaper has played an extensive role in the area, has grown up with the Basin, has prospered as the Basin grew. For fifty years the Herald and its one-time partner, the News, has prospered when the people of the Basin prospered, pulled its belt up another notch when times were tough, rejoiced with the citizens at the area's growth and been saddened by the occasional setbacks suffered by the growing country.

But there has never been any going back right from the start. The country around Klamath Falls grew from the crossing at Linkville to the present city of today, and the newspapers of Klamath Falls and surrounding towns did their part to aid in that growth. Played their role as dispenser of news, mirror of the happenings both political and otherwise, taken sides, espoused causes, praised the noteworthy and chided the men and parties who put personal gain above the progress of the area.

When a daily newspaper is started in a town it's a pretty good sign that things are on a stable basis, that prospects for the future are burning bright and marks the time when the country changes from a raw, sagebrush and grass, timber and mill economy to a stable community where people build permanent homes and settle down to build up a successful and thriving town and area.

Today's newspaper has grown from the little five column four pager of 50 years ago to its present size because the country has grown proportionately. Just as we started out slowly in the field of agriculture, so did we start out small in this business of publishing newspapers.

It's fun to look back into the past, so let's go back and take a look at the newspaper history of the Klamath Basin.

It all goes back a long way before the time of the Herald. James Bowdoin and his shadowy and never-seen partner, Curtis, pioneered in the journalistic field when they organized and printed the Linkville Star in 1884. The old plant of the Etna Post down in Etna, California, was shipped up here and the paper went into business, both with a weekly newspaper and a job printing plant, one of the finest on the coast.

Bowdoin, a registered Democrat, nevertheless opened the columns of his paper to all parties and supported the "best man." After five years of work he turned the plant, situated in a building near the present site of the Baldwin Hotel, over to his son, W. E. Bowdoin, who carried on, but with a strong Republican flair. He took in to partnership with him Peter Connolly, known as Peter the Poet because of his lyric style, and the two carried on as amicable partners for four years. After that time Bowdoin pulled out and Connolly took over complete charge and switched to strong support of the people's party. Connolly, in turn, took into partnership a young man named J. K. Haynes. But with the departure of Bowdoin the spirit was gone and the paper, now called the Klamath Star, was in trouble. In 1895 the plant's creditors moved in and forced Connolly out. Haynes tried grimly to hang on but it was too much and on the last day of October in 1895 it published its last edition and folded. The equipment was sold to the short-lived Klamath Express, a paper that had started in 1892, and was later to be used in the publication of another short-timer, the Klamath Independent. Upon the demise of the Independent the presses and equipment went back to California, this time to Sisson, which is now Mt. Shasta, and there they finally wore out, as far as anyone knows.

Papers grew, and died, like mushrooms right after the turn of the century. Old timers will recall the days of the White Lake paper, the Times, which was established before the town was built. It was published as job work in the shop

of the Klamath Republican, but was moved to its White Lake home in 1905 by owner-editor E. B. "Bert" Hall. The town of White Lake, destined for only a brief moment of glory, had a population of 200 and the spirit that goes with new country. But the paper had a booming circulation of 900, being mailed out of the Merrill post office every week to points all over the Basin. Vance Hutchins, one of the more colorful journalistic lights of this country, was managing editor, chief editorial writer, typesetter, pressman, jan-

itor and general factotum. The equipment consisted of an old Army press and a stick rack full of hand set type. Hall was out selling real estate, ads in the paper and enthusiasm for the new city. It was Hutchins and the Times that gained national publicity for the area with his story of N. S. Merrill's huge mule. He claimed the animal was ideally suited for work in this country and urged the widespread use of mules. He also stated that Merrill's mule was the biggest and oldest of its breed in the United

States. This led to a feud with a Florida paper, they claiming those same honors for several Florida mules, and the editorial battle finally made the columns of the nationally distributed Home and Fireside magazine.

In 1906 the Bonanza Bulletin first saw the light of day in the town of Bonanza under the steady hand of Charles Pattee and Frank Salcedo. It was bought later in that same year by J. O. Hamaker who published under the stirring bannerhead of his motto: "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may. Justice to all; favors to none."

The Bulletin weathered the fire of 1909 but finally went under in the 1914 conflagration. Hamaker started out with an Army press, later buying an old Washington, a tiny handful of type, the slates out of a pool table for his makeup tables and large supply of elbow grease and grit. The original plant was on Market Street near Central but was soon moved to the coffin room of the Bauman blacksmith shop.

Perhaps one of the most interesting papers in Klamath's history was the Chronicle, which came into being in 1910 and died a natural death two years later. Unable to get editorial support from the Evening Herald the businessmen interested in the continued growth of Linkville district started the Chronicle. Grant Lincoln was brought in to run it and the paper fought a hot and bitter battle against the KD-backed Herald and its drive for the growth of the Hot Springs district. Backed by the "hog combine," a name pinned to them by the Herald, the paper, whose major backers were Judge George Baldwin, Charles Moore Sr., Alex Martin Jr., and Fred Melhase, fought for growth and for the building of a downtown courthouse as opposed to the proposed site where the high school now stands. It was a great fight, but the paper, although eventual winner in the courthouse end of things, soon went under. Gone before it could achieve its purpose.

Best known, perhaps, of all the early papers was the Northwestern which started in 1912. Sam Evans, young, impulsive and fiery, built his building, the same one where the Herald and News is now published, built up one of the finest newspaper plants on the West Coast, and then plunged into battle with practically everyone and everything in the Klamath Country. An eternal and vicious foe of the Herald, Evans was in and out of court and libel suits constantly, charged city officials with mismanagement of office and led a left-handed crusade against vice in the city. A drive, incidentally, which lost much of its punch because one of his backers was Richard Hotelling, a wealthy and influential California liquor dealer. A fact which the Herald was constantly reminding the public about.

The Herald, today's paper, was taken over from Crozemiller and his family—his wife was the composer and his three boys delivered it—in 1908 by W. O. Smith and shortly after, E. J. Murray. Under their regime the paper knew some of its best moments, went through the most exciting times of its life.

When Murray pulled out in 1922 the paper stated that Fred Soule had purchased the two dailies. Later, in 1924, Luther Rood, was mentioned as the president of the corporation, but in that same year, Rood announced that Murray was again holding the reins. In 1926 the paper was sold to Bruce Dennis, president of Inland Publishing Company and then, in 1931, the papers were bought by the Southern Oregon Publishing Company, its present owner.

There were little papers, too. There was the Fort Klamath News, started by Frank Salcedo, one of the Bulletin founders, and later published by Catherine Prehm Terry.

There were such papers as the Klamath Falls Express, the Pioneer Press and the Morning Express. There was the Republican and the Sun and the Klamath Chronicle.

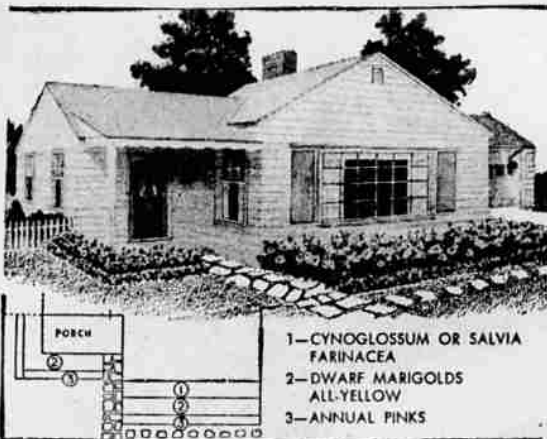
There were so many papers and so many men and women who worked in and with them that we haven't room enough to go into them all. But we'll follow up, throughout this anniversary year of 1956, with more complete stories on all of them.

I don't know how people would have done it back in 1906, but today we think we'd rather spread our anniversary issue out over a whole year rather than try to pack the whole thing into one monstrous 50th anniversary edition — which would probably draw some small readership for an idle moment or two and then be relegated to the attic "to be read some other time."

Attics are full of papers like that. So, for the rest of this year, you can look for more early newspaper history from time to time. As well as continuing stories of past and present events in the long and colorful history of the Klamath Basin.

More of the Herald and News history at a later date in this anniversary year.

## New Home to Landscape? Do It With Flower Seed



## Over the GARDEN GATE

Modern house design has greatly influenced landscape planting. The fashion of evergreen foundation plantings, is now conceded to be out-moded, since few new homes have visible foundations which need to be concealed.

Only low growing plants should be planted in front of low, spreading homes, and the brightly colored annual flowers of dwarf habits are widely acceptable as the most suitable plants for this purpose.

Flowers provide a needed decoration to houses of functional design which are devoid of architectural ornamentation. They leave the view from low windows unobstructed. Planting can be arranged so the house does not seem lower, but broader, an effect which is achieved by emphasizing the horizontal line.

Almost every modern home has one or more picture windows. This name is based upon the assumption that they look out upon a pleasing landscape. Your picture window can be given a delightful view by planting a flower garden in front of it.

There are hundreds of annual flowers from which to choose varieties of the desired height and color. Their colors should harmonize with the house and its trim, to produce a pleasing effect.

In the sketch above the house is assumed to be tan color, and the flowers suggested are light blue, lemon yellow and pink. An infinite number of pleasing combinations, to match every house, can be found in any seed catalogue.

Beginners need not hesitate to

grow their flowers from seed. These can be sown directly in the garden, or started indoors and moved outdoors when freezing weather ends.

There are many advantages in growing your own plants, perhaps the greatest being that you can select exactly the colors that you need instead of being limited to the relatively few varieties in the plant markets.

Low-growing annuals which are suited for use in front yard flower beds and borders include: Blue Chinese delphinium, violas, petunias, ageratum, anchusa, pom-pom asters, alyssum, violet queen, synoglossum, annual larkspur, lobelia, dwarf morning glory, nierenbergia, phlox, salvia, verbena and forget-me-not.

Red and pink pom-pom asters, begonias, carnations, pinks, candy-tuft, celosia, clarkia, nasturtiums, petunias, phlox, portulaca, salvia, verbena lilliput and cupid zinnias.

Yellow and orange calendulas, dwarf calliopsis, orange cosmos, dimorphothea, California, poppy, lantana, marigolds, nasturtiums, cupid and lilliput zinnias.

### FENCES

You can have an air-conditioned yard with plenty of privacy if you design your fences to allow for a free flow of breezes. Many new designs add charm to your red cedar fences while still keeping you cool. You can use fence boards set as louvers, or alternate flat boards on either side of top and bottom rail and many other styles.

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### Section Cover

The cover on this week's Herald and News Fifty Years of Progress section was taken by Herald and News Photographer Don Kettler with a 4 x 5 Speed Graphic press camera from the highway to Oregon Technical Institute. Stukel Mountain is shown in the background.

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