

Nebraska Women Who Edit Bright Country Newspapers



Mrs. Chattie Coleman
STROMSBURG HEADLIGHT



Mrs. H. G. Taylor, Central City Nonpareil



Mrs. Lillian M. Krause
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE HUMBOLDT LEADER



Mrs. C. C. Johns,
GRAND ISLAND



Mrs. Sze Norton
HUMBOLDT STANDARD



Mrs. M. C. Hitchcock,
MUTUAL INSURANCE JOURNAL,
LONDON



Anna Hunt
KENNARD ENTERPRISE



Florence E. Reynolds
THE MINDEN PRESS



Mrs. J. K. Keithley
SYRACUSE JOURNAL



Anna L. Miller
LINCOLN STATE JOURNAL



Eunice Haskins
STELLA PRESS



Elveda E. Compton
GREELEY CITIZEN



Mrs. A. P. Kelly, NORTH PLATTE



Mrs. C. E. Nevin
LAUREL, NEB.

Personal Points and Professional Characteristics of the Women Who Adorn the Journalism of Nebraska -- Home-Makers as Well as Leaders of Thought

By EUNICE HASKINS.

NEBRASKA has a goodly number of women who have entered the professional or industrial field, and there have made good; and many of these are engaged in the publication of the bright weekly newspapers that have gained for the state the name of having the best "country" press known the world around. These women are not amateur editors, are not experiments, but are established as practical workers in the field of journalism, understanding its most difficult phase perfectly, and each week are proving themselves fitted in every way for the task they have undertaken. It is something of a stunt at any time to make a good newspaper in any sort of town, and the smaller the town the more imperative the demand that the paper shall be worthy the patronage it must have in order to live. And that woman is willing and capable to enter on the competition that is so fierce, and sufficiently energetic and versatile to wrest success in this field is a tribute indeed to her genius. That the Nebraska newspaper women take themselves seriously is not to be wondered at, and that they appreciate the high calling they have chosen is evidenced by the excellence of the publications they direct. The annual gathering of the Nebraska State Press association always finds conditions brightened and proceedings enlivened by the presence of a splendid body of women editors, and the meeting in Omaha next week will not vary from those of recent years in this regard.

I have been asked by The Bee to write a chapter on the women who edit and generally manage newspapers in Nebraska, outside of Omaha, and feel that the better way to do it is to introduce the ladies, one by one, with just a word of comment as to her personality and her work. In praising one all are praised, and as only the best of feeling exists between them, professionally and personally, I am sure that what is here said will be taken in the spirit in which it is written—just a brief mention, a collection of intimate facts, in the credit of which all share.

Mrs. Mary E. Butler of Lincoln is editor and publisher of the Nebraska Legal News, the official organ of the bar and courts of Nebraska. The death of her husband led to the work. She makes

a comfortable living for her family and maintains a home. She was educated at a Missouri normal school. Mrs. Butler's paper discusses themes of court, law, etc. She is fond of music, books and society.

Miss Annie L. Miller, who began on the Lincoln State Journal as society editor in 1898, is known by reputation if not personally all over the state by her page.

Mrs. Lillian M. Krause married an editor, George Krause, and that is the reason she is associate editor of the Humboldt Leader. She worked more or less for thirteen years, actively the last three years, always in her husband's office, at Flandreau, S. D., and at Humboldt. She maintains a home and takes part in Humboldt society. She likes caring for chickens and flowers, and doing fancy work as recreation. Mrs. Krause is a member of the Alpha Study club, of the Presbyterian church, is worthy matron of the Eastern Star and is interested in other local societies. She is a past grand of the Rebekahs.

Mrs. H. G. Taylor, as Miss Jessie Hart, was married to H. G. Taylor at Havelock, Ia., April 22, 1913. Mr. Taylor is president of the Nebraska Press association and is owner of the Central City Nonpareil, of which he was editor until he went to Lincoln to assume his duties as state railway commissioner. Mrs. Taylor learned the printing business at Havelock, Ia., on the item, of which she had entire charge for a time. Two years ago she began work on the Central City Nonpareil, resigning her position about the first of this year.

Mrs. Elveda E. Compton was born on a plantation in Maryland in 1864. In 1880 her father and brother established a paper at Waverly, Ia. She was a teacher, but helped in the office, and later at her brother's death inherited his interest. In 1886 the plant was sold and in 1887 the family moved to Scotts, Neb., where she completed a law course begun earlier, and was admitted to the bar in 1890. She entered into a law practice with her father, but took the clerical part. In 1898 they leased, and afterward bought, the Greeley Citizen. She took the management of the Citizen and her father continued his legal work. In 1901 she was married to Frank P. Compton, a newspaperman of Seward county, who became business manager and his wife senior editor. They work together and Mrs. Compton keeps house. This year they were able to extend their usual four days' vacation to four weeks, and took a Pacific coast trip from Seattle to San Diego. Mrs. Compton and her husband



never solicit work, as they do not believe in so doing.

Miss Anna Hunt learned the trade in the Register office at Aurora, and later remained in the Republican office of the same town nearly ten years. For a time, when she did only the typesetting, Miss Hunt was recognized as one of the best compositors in Nebraska, particularly specializing in this part of the work. Since New Year's she has been managing the Kennard Enterprise and doing local work, but for one year previously she was the editor and publisher, leasing from an estate. She expected to buy the paper, but it was sold for far more than she cared to pay. The publisher of the paper lives at Blair and writes the editorials. Miss Hunt believes that one can follow the newspaper game to earn a living and at the same time get an education.

Mrs. W. C. Norton for four years has been the assistant of her husband, W. C. Norton, in the publication of the Humboldt Standard. Her greatest hobbies are "cleanliness in the office and neatness about the work." She works at the office seven or eight hours each day, and very often puts in a few extra hours after supper, yet she is able to maintain a home. Mrs. Norton is fond of outdoor life, is a member of the Presbyterian church and is treasurer of the Rebekahs. She keeps away from the office gasoline engine, in which once her dress and apron were wound around the wheels.

Miss Florence E. Reynolds is business manager, editor, bookkeeper and local reporter for the Minden News, published by the News Publishing company, in which she is a stockholder and the secretary-treasurer. Miss Reynolds began newspaper work at the age of 17 in the office of the Harlan County Democrat, then owned by N. J. Ludl, now state printer. She knows all about the mechanical work. She knows what it is, too, to rescue a paper from a fiery death, for twice while she had the Axtell Times leased its office was destroyed by fire, the first fire taking the plant also,

the second fire taking the office before a new plant had been established. Miss Reynolds has been with the Minden News five years. Just now her rights are sufficiently numerous and require so much attention that she is not yearning for the ballot, yet she edits a strong republican paper and knew just where she stood last fall when the party divided. Miss Reynolds has a hobby of a galloping, runaway type—poetry, yet it is seldom that a poem appears in the News. The walls of her room fairly bristle with bits of verse.

Mrs. Charles G. Humphrey is joint owner with her husband of the Verdon Vedette. She was Miss Ada Abbott of Falls City, daughter of a pioneer. She began teaching school at the age of 15, and engaged in newspaper work because she married an editor. They have been so successful financially that Mrs. Humphrey is now able to indulge in women's clubs to her heart's content, affiliating at Falls City, her girlhood home, with which she still keeps in close touch. She has been corresponding secretary of the Woman's club at Falls City the last two years, and is chairman of the present yearbook committee. She is a member of the Eastern Star, of the Shakespeare club and secretary of the Reavis-Ashley chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, all of Falls City. Mrs. Humphrey is Nebraska state editor for the Magazine of Women's Federated Clubs, and a member of the state health committee read a paper on "Eugenics" at the recent Weeping Water convention. Last Thursday she did office work until midnight in order to attend a meeting of the Research club at Stella the next afternoon.

Mrs. A. P. Kelly is typical of the editor's wife who is not his assistant in business. Mr. Kelly is editor of the North Platte Telegraph. The Kellys have a lovely home in North Platte, and Mrs. Kelly as-wife and the mother of three children is ideal. She is an active worker in the Methodist church, is much interested in prison work and helps in every possible way the poor. She and her husband are so kind and friendly to neighbors that their automobile is almost used as a conveyance for the public between their residence district and the business portion of the city.

Mrs. Cora E. Nevin, who was well known by the newspaper fraternity all over Nebraska for many years owing to her connection with the Laurel Advocate, says now she is only a housekeeper, although it is said that she handles a special household column for the Laurel Advocate.

Mrs. Marie O'Donnell Weekes has love and re-

mance blended in her experience as owner of the Norfolk Press. After graduating from the West Point High school, she taught country school and was correspondent from her district for two or three papers. Her news letters attracted the attention of the editor of the West Point Democrat, and she accepted his offer to take a position in his office. When she decided to go into business for herself she needed an all-around newspaperman for a partner, and was attracted to W. H. Weekes by the neat appearance of his paper. The partnership thus formed became permanent by their marriage a year and a half later. Mrs. Weekes tries to make the Press each week carry at least one message that will bring happiness and betterment to someone. Mrs. Weekes is said to be a candidate for the post-office at Norfolk. She has a fine collection of china pitchers that she has been gathering for several years, and the writer suggests that the women at the coming press association have a tea party and shower her with pitchers.

Mrs. Annie Vio Gates is succeeding so well as editor and manager of the Blair Tribune that the publisher, W. R. Williams, can afford to reside at present in sunny California. She was "brought up" on newspaper work, her mother having been an editor, and began about thirty years ago, not continuously, however, until the last fifteen years, following the death of her husband at Stella. He was a railroad man, and when agent for the Missouri Pacific at Stella she helped him more or less in his office for seven years. Mrs. Gates makes her home with her son, Ray Gates, who is principal of the Blair High school. She founded the Baker Brickbat at Baker, Kan., in 1887. When living at Auburn one year she received a nice vote for mayor, when not even a candidate, and it was said of her "the votes were given because of the brave stand she took in regard to the rights of men." Mrs. Gates has missed two press associations in twelve years.

Mrs. Mary C. Hitchcock holds a unique place in Nebraska newspaperdom, as editor of the Mutual Insurance Journal at Lincoln, of which she has had entire charge for seven years. There are only two publications in the United States entirely devoted to mutual insurance, and Mrs. Hitchcock's is the oldest. Her paper is published monthly in magazine style, sixteen pages, and is devoted to mutual insurance news, fire prevention and fire protection work. Her daughter, Miss Julia, is her assistant. Mrs. Hitchcock has been editor of a

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