

# Passing of "Newspaper Row" Recalls Many Names Known to Fame



NEWSPAPER ROW AS IT APPEARED IN 1874.



NEWSPAPER ROW AS IT LOOKS TODAY.

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.**—(Special Correspondence.)—With the removal of the office of The Omaha Bee to another location Newspaper Row, as it has been known for a half century in Washington, ceases to exist, the encroachments of business enterprises compelling the representatives of newspapers maintaining bureaus at the capital to seek other quarters.

In the fifty years since the establishment of what has come to be known as Newspaper Row in Washington, the section between Pennsylvania avenue and F street on Fourteenth street responding to the demands of trade, business blocks and big hotels have taken the place of the one and two-story "shacks" which constituted the "row" in former days, and now the old building at the northeast corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street, which has been occupied by newspaper correspondents since the Baltimore & Ohio railroad abandoned the structure as its headquarters, is to give way to a modern, up-to-date hotel, construction of which is to begin shortly.

The history of Newspaper Row is contemporaneous with the history of the United States for the last half century. History has been made here, many of the famous writers of the country and international writers of note in that period having had offices on the Row or in its immediate vicinity.

Whitelaw Reid, our able and distinguished ambassador to the court of St. James and editor of the New York Tribune, began his career in Washington as a correspondent of the old Cincinnati Gazette, signing his articles under the non-descript name of "Agate," which finally attracted the attention of Horace Greeley, who made an editorial position on the Tribune for Mr. Reid; and on the retirement of John Russell Young succeeding the latter as editor-in-chief.

**First of His Kind.**

Incidentally shows that the first newspaper to maintain an office on Newspaper Row was the New York Herald, its correspondent being W. B. Shaw, who is still engaged in newspaper work as one of the Washington staff of the Philadelphia Inquirer. The credit of having the political news of Washington telegraphed instead of trusting the same to the mails, as was the practice in those days, is also due to the New York Herald, for Mr. Shaw was the first correspondent to make use of the telegraph as a news distributor. In the early '60s Mr. Shaw came to Washington in search of a position in one of the departments of the government, Franklin Pierce then being president, while John W. Forney, founder of the Philadelphia Press, was clerk of the house of representatives. Shaw had learned to "set type" on a little paper in Pennsylvania, but he did not fancy the trade of a printer, and he came to Washington in search of a "job."

He applied to James Guthrie, the secretary of the treasury, for a clerkship, which was promised, but like many another promise, failed of fulfillment, since he became private secretary to the late Galusha A. Grow, once speaker of the house of representatives, and, having some newspaper training, secured a place as Washington correspondent with James Gordon Bennett, the elder. It cost 10 cents a word in the '50s to send a message by telegraph, and there were very few newspapers then that could afford such expensive service. Shaw, like other correspondents of the time, sent his daily budget of Washington events by mail, the mail for New York leaving in the early morning and reaching the metropolis about dark.

One day, in conversation with Mr. Bennett, Mr. Shaw, the dean of the Washington corps of correspondents in point of continuous service, suggested that he bulletin the important events of the day by telegraph.

"Why, it costs 10 cents a word to send a message by wire," replied Mr. Bennett.

"I think it would pay," responded Shaw, "it would cut out the 'ars,' the 'the's' and all superfluous words."

"Well, you may try it," Mr. Bennett said, and the telegraphic correspondent was established. Mr. Shaw sending current matter to the New York Herald until the civil war broke out.

**Developed by the War.**

The commencement of war between the states brought into the newspaper field a corps of well equipped men, and the war correspondent, so far as our own country is concerned, became a potential force. At the outbreak of the civil war there was an influx of trained journalists to the capital of the nation, among them being Ulrich Hunt Painter, who came to Washington just after Lincoln's first election as correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer, taking an office near the corner of Fourteenth and F streets. He was the only representative of the Philadelphia press to accompany President-elect Lincoln on the journey to Washington for the first inauguration. When the civil war began Mr. Painter, with W. B. Shaw, now on the Inquirer, and Henry Villard, then of the New York Herald, witnessed the first battle of Bull Run. And then, after being up probably all Saturday night and when the troops began to move, and in

spite of the fatiguing Sunday, rode all that night in company with E. C. Stedman (then of the World) back to Washington, arriving here about dawn. Undaunted by finding a conscription had been declared over the telegraph lines, Mr. Painter promptly took a train for Philadelphia, so exhausted that he slept on the floor of a baggage car, and wrote out his report of the battle after reaching the Philadelphia Inquirer office. He beat all the northern papers by twenty-four hours with news of the defeat, which they had announced to be a victory. The people of Philadelphia did not believe the bulletin and "extras" issued by the Inquirer and threatened to mob and burn the office of the paper, so that the mayor of the city was called on for protection. Mr. Painter said they might hang him if his news proved to be untrue, which exploit brought this paper into instant repute as an authority for reliable war news; and, with unceasing efforts of his own, together with a large staff of army correspondents, the circulation of the Inquirer was soon doubled. There being no Associated Press at that time, everything depended upon individual achievement. The record of Mr. Painter's experiences includes two or three captures by the confederates, and great physical hardship, notably an eighty-mile horseback ride after the battle of Ball's Bluff. He ignored fatigue and knew no fear.

Up to that time the Washington correspondent was unknown, the big newspaper of the day paying little or no attention to the national capital unless congress was in session, and then a man from the home office would be sent on to report the doings of the national legislature by a series of daily letters to his newspaper with "snappy" descriptions of legislative and semi-legislative utterances upon the politics of the times. Henry J. Raymond of the New York Times, Horace Greeley of the Tribune, J. Watson Webb of the New York Commercial, Hugh Hastings and Whitelaw Reid were among the earliest of the great editors, who were "session" men at the capital and inaugurated "Newspaper Row," having either office or desk room in the brick and frame buildings which constituted the "Row" fifty years and less ago.

**Three Hundred on List.**

In 1859 there were less than sixty-five names of newspaper men in the congressional directory who were allowed admission to the congressional press galleries. These included all who reported the several executive departments and as committee clerks or holding other positions at the capital. Among the names printed in the directory were that of James Rankin Young, then executive clerk of the senate, and later Mr. Young represented for three terms a Philadelphia district in the house of representatives. He is at present superintendent of the dead letter office in the Postoffice department. The names of the proprietors and editors of both daily and weekly papers were also included in the list. Today there are in the neighborhood of 200 correspondents who do nothing but gather and write news for daily papers receiving telegraph service, the names of whom appear in the directory. Anybody holding a government position at the capital or in any of the executive departments in the present day is denied the privilege of the office and press galleries. The names of the proprietors and editors of local papers are also omitted, and they are now admitted by courtesy only. If on important occasions either gallery is likely to be crowded, the regular workers only are allowed admission. Nearly all those admitted to the galleries in the early '50s had offices on Newspaper Row.

**General Boynton's Office.**

General Henry V. Boynton, one of the ablest and best loved men in the newspaper life of Washington, and who died within a year or two, had an office at 21 Fourteenth street and immediately adjoining the present site of the Department of Commerce and Labor building. It is a 2-story brick, and for many years the upper story was unused. General Boynton then represented the old Cincinnati Gazette, afterwards absorbed by the old Cincinnati Commercial, and for a long time secretary of the Commercial Gazette. Before the consolidation of the two papers the Gazette leased a special wire, and Jules Guthrie, then a telegraph operator in Cincinnati, was sent to Washington by the late Richard Henry Smith to work the Gazette wire and assist General Boynton. Mr. Guthrie remained with General Boynton for a year or two when he became a correspondent of several papers, finally graduating as a member of the staff in the New York bureau.

**Pathway to Riches.**

Robert J. Wynne—"Bob" Wynne, as he is familiarly called by those who know him well—at present our consular general at London, then only telegraph operator in the Western Union office, succeeded Guthrie and became General Boynton's assistant. Mr. Wynne resigned to accept the position of private secretary to the secretary of the treasury, ex-Governor Charles Foster of Ohio having become secretary of the treasury, by appointment of President Harrison. After the retirement of Secretary Foster, Wynne resumed newspaper

work as correspondent of the New York Press, which position he held until President Roosevelt appointed him first assistant postmaster general under the late Postmaster General Payne of Wisconsin, whom he succeeded as a member of the Roosevelt cabinet, and after the election of Roosevelt in 1894 as president was appointed to his place at London. Guthrie is still living in Washington, but is in other business, until recently representing a prominent firm of New York brokers.

General Boynton served the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette until the retirement of Murat Halsted, when he relinquished newspaper work to become associated with the War department, and at the time of his death was at the head of the Chickamauga Park commission. It can with truth be said that General Boynton had a marked influence among newspaper men and the "youngsters" in the profession could count on the friendship of this man whose whole life was one of lofty purposes, right living and right thinking.

Below the Cincinnati office (there was no such thing as a newspaper "bureau" in those days) Edmund Hudson, now the representative of the Boston Herald, his assistant being "Harry" Macfarland, now Henry B. F. Macfarland, president of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and one of the smoothest orators in public life.

**Hive of Brilliant Men.**

Before the building now occupied by the Department of Commerce and Labor was erected there stood a ramshackle old four-story brick house, which was occupied by

a number of brilliant newspaper correspondents, as well as by the old United Press and Western Associated Press, prominent among them being Major John M. Carson, now head of the bureau of manufactures, Department of Commerce and Labor. In those days the major represented George W. Childs' Philadelphia Public Ledger and the New York Times. Later he was succeeded on the Times by the late E. G. Dummell, who was the recognized friend on the Row of the Cleveland administration, the Times then being the principal so-called "mugwump" paper. Mr. Dummell was a thin, very yellow of high character and as brainy as they make them. He had the confidence of both President Cleveland and his private secretary, Colonel Daniel S. Lamont. Colonel Lamont frequently visited Newspaper Row and met "the boys" in Dummell's office. Senators and representatives were almost daily visitors at one or the other of the newspaper offices. Pendleton of Ohio was a frequent visitor at the Cincinnati Enquirer office, which was once located at the corner of Fourteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, the last to occupy the building being the Omaha Bee and several other newspapers.

W. C. MacBride was in charge of the Cincinnati Enquirer in those days, looking after the night work for the Enquirer, and in the day time covering the down town departments for the Washington Star. In the latter part of 1880 the Cincinnati Enquirer leased a special wire between Washington and Cincinnati. Mr. John R. McLead had had George Gilliland with him on the Enquirer in Cincinnati as assistant

telegraph editor. When Mr. McLean's father, the late Washington McLean, was about to move to Washington, John R. wanted some one at the Washington end of the wire in whom he had confidence and whom he knew. He had little acquaintance with Mr. MacBride then and induced Gilliland to come to Washington and manipulate the Enquirer's special wire, and also act as MacBride's assistant. Gilliland remained with the Enquirer for a number of years, until he became private secretary to the late United States Senator Calvin S. Brice. MacBride continued with Mr. McLean, and is now regarded as the closest man to John R. McLean in the newspaper business.

**Known to Great Men.**

During the early '50s it was quite the thing for senators, representatives, cabinet officers and the leaders in commerce to spend evenings on Newspaper Row, among the frequent visitors of that day being Hale and Frye of Maine, who were then members of the house, and Aldrich of Rhode Island, the "man" of the republican side of the senate. Ex-Senator Blackburn of Kentucky was almost a nightly frequenter and one of its most welcome guests. McKinley used to drop in occasionally when chairman of the house committee on ways and means, Holman of Indiana, the famous "objector," was likewise a regular caller, and here the nation would be saved, much as it has been saved by "the boys" at the corner grocery.

E. J. Edwards was the head of the New York Sun's office and one of the very best newsmen on the row or in town.

Edwards was the envy of all the younger correspondents because of the fact that so many distinguished statesmen called upon him and treated him with marked familiarity. Mr. Edwards is still in the harness, having become a recognized authority upon many subjects, his articles in the Philadelphia Press from New York over the pen name of "Holland" being looked upon as standard information.

**The Bee's Representatives.**

For upwards of twenty years The Omaha Bee has been represented in Washington, its first representative being Perry S. Heath, who used to have an office with General Boynton. Mr. Heath on leaving the newspaper field entered politics, and having intimate relationships with President McKinley became the first assistant postmaster general under Postmaster General Gary of Maryland.

During the time Mr. Heath represented The Bee in Washington, William Edwards Ansin, then secretary to the late United States Senator A. S. Paddock, furnished The Bee with editorials and paragraphs, having been on the editorial staff of The Bee after leaving Port Robinson, where he was postmaster and post trader. "Billy" Ansin was one of the best newspaper men in Washington in his day, and as a raconteur was without a peer. After the retirement of Senator Paddock, Ansin became associated with Major Carson on the Philadelphia Public Ledger and the Washington representative of the Lincoln State Journal and the Salt Lake City Tribune. He was a division superintendent of the rural free delivery service with headquarters at Denver at the time of his death.

When Perry S. Heath left newspaper work for politics, Smith D. Fry succeeded as representative of The Bee in Washington, and twelve years ago the writer came from the home office of The Bee as its Washington correspondent, which position he has filled ever since.

**Famous Men of Row.**

Some of the other well known Washington correspondents who at various times were located on the row will be found in the list below:

The late Ben Perley Poore came here shortly before the civil war. For a long time in addition to his work for the Boston Journal he compiled the Congressional Directory, for which he received a good salary, and considerable in the way of perquisites. Major Poore was the first president of the famous Gridiron club, organized in January, 1881, and which is noted for its dinners and novel entertainments.

Frank G. Carpenter came here for the Cleveland Leader a quarter of a century ago, and originally wrote under the nom de plume of "Carp." Subsequently he started Carpenter's Syndicate, and in recent years his weekly letters has appeared in thirty or more papers. Mr. Carpenter has done a wonderful amount of traveling in foreign countries, has lectured, and has contributed many illustrated articles to the leading magazines of the United States and Great Britain. His success has enabled him to amass a snug fortune.

Charles W. Knapp came here when a young man just out of college for the old St. Louis Republic, then returned to his native city and did editorial work, and again joined the corps of Washington correspondents, but returned to St. Louis again in 1887 to become editor and general manager of the paper, and holds those positions at present on the Republic, as the first paper established west of the Mississippi river is now called. While in Washington Mr. Knapp was generally conceded to be an authority on financial and economic subjects generally.

One of the most forcible writers on the tariff has been E. J. Gibson, for many years correspondent of the Philadelphia Press. Mr. Gibson is now assistant chief of the bureau of manufactures.

For upwards of a decade Charles F. Towle was the Boston Traveler's representative. He quit the calling to go into theatricals and has made money by having a large interest in the company that has been presenting "Ben Hur."

James Morgan, who for years was correspondent of the Boston Globe and recognized as one of the able and popular men on the Row, has filled for some years a most responsible position in the home office.

**Man from the South.**

One of the most noted of the southern correspondents in the olden times was the late Colonel Littleton Quinton Washington of the Virginia family of Washingtons. At the breaking out of the civil war he entered the service of the confederacy and had several months of field duty, but his health was so poor that he had to quit the army. He accepted a position at Richmond with the State department of the southern confederacy, and during the war period wrote letters regularly for the Loudon Telegraph. For a number of years after the civil war he furnished letters from the national capital to the Telegraph. Colonel Washington was for years the representative here of the New Orleans Picayune. He also for quite a period served the Louisville Courier-Journal and the St. Louis Times. He was a trenchant writer, and being an intense democrat and of an impetuous nature, his denunciations of the confederacy and the hot southern blood fairly boiled during the "reconstruction" period when "carpet baggers" had away in the land of Dixie and negroes occupied seats in both the senate and house of representatives. Colonel Washington was an intimate personal friend of Jefferson Davis, and before Mr. Davis died was in the habit of paying him annual visits at Beauvoir in Mississippi.

Major Richard Sylvester, superintendent of the Washington police department, represented for many years the Kansas City Journal and other papers in Missouri. He made his mark as a correspondent and is recognized as one of the finest "chiefs" in the United States.

**Many Called to Office.**

Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt bestowed important public offices upon quite a number of men who have been engaged in newspaper work here. In addition to those mentioned above they are: Francis A. Leupp, for many years Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post; Harry L. West, democratic member of the Board of Commissioners for the District of Columbia; P. V. DeLoach, fourth assistant postmaster general; the late George H. Walker, for years correspondent of the Cleveland Leader, a special attorney in the Department of Justice; Francis B. Loomis, minister to both Venezuela and Portugal and assistant secretary of state; and Morton E. Crane, secretary of the Immigration commission, which visited Europe during the last spring and summer.

R. C. SYDNER.

## Gleanings from the Story Teller's Pack

**How to Wagoners.**

**HARD-HEADED** old Pittsburgh manufacturer, who made his fortune, when he presses in, "with his coat on," was induced by his daughters to accompany them to a wagoner concert, the first he had ever attended. The next day he happened to meet an acquaintance, who had seen him the night before, who asked:

"I suppose you enjoyed the concert last night, Mr. Smith?"

"Yes, it took me back to the days of my youth," the old man said, with a reminiscent sigh.

"Ah! Summer days in the country, still in a lawn dress, birds singing, and all that?"

"No, the days when I worked in a boiler shop in Scranton."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

**How He Won.**

Miss Lydia Lovell, a clever Wyandotte girl, is the only Indian woman lawyer in the world. She is a member of the Kansas bar, and at Kansas City, about a recent Indian case that she conducted, she told an interesting legal story.

"So I put my man on the stand," she said. "That, if your case is a just one, is always the thing to do. You know the story of the Kansas land claims?"

"Well, out here many years ago a man brought suit before the judge to recover some land that had been outrageously filched from him. His case was a good one, but the other side had gotten its witnesses; had even obtained the plaintiff's witnesses, too; and up to the time when he took the stand himself not a jot or tittle of testimony in his favor had been recorded.

"He, as soon as he was sworn, turned to the justice and said:

"Squire, I brought this suit, and yet the evidence, accepting my own, is all against me. Now, I don't accuse anyone of lying, squire, but these witnesses are the most mistaken lot of fellows I ever saw. You know me, squire. Two years ago you sold me a horse for sound that was as blind as a bat. I made the deal, and stuck to it, and this is the first time I have mentioned it. When you used to buy my grain, squire, you stood on the wagon when the empty wagon was weighed, but I never said a word. Now, do you think I am the kind of a man to kick up a rumpus and sue a fellow unless he has done me a real wrong? Why, squire, if you'll recall that sheep speculation you and me—"

"But at this point the squire, very red in the face, hastily decided the case in the plaintiff's favor."—Kansas City Journal.

**Close to Nature.**

A gentleman from one of the northern states hurried to Texas to the bedside of his son, who lay sick with a very high fever. The doctor who accompanied him was very anxious to procure some ice for his patient, and the father went out in search thereof. He approached a group on the hotel piazza, inquiring where he might get some ice. None of the group made any response for some time, but when the inquiry was repeated, one man suddenly renounced tobacco juice for artificial stimulants, and to the end of the balcony wrote in the album many years ago:

"How's the house, Willie?" asked another player.

"Well," answered Collier, "there are some out there. But," he added, impressively, "we're still in the majority, old boy, still in the majority!"—Harper's Weekly.

**Still Ahead.**

"Willie" Collier, the comedian, was an irrepressible member of a barn-storming combination which, some ten years ago, did the "tack" towns of the middle west. The company had been doing a poor business for several weeks when a certain town in Illinois was reached. Just before the curtain went up that night, Collier was standing at the curtain "peep-hole," sizing up the audience.

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**Quoth the Raven.**

When H. G. Wells, the English novelist, was in Boston he praised Poe at a dinner.

"I think hardly of your New England writers," he said, "for their contempt of Poe. I shall never be able to forget that Emerson called him 'that jingle man.' Today a thousand read Poe when one reads Emerson, and not to know Poe's works is rather a disgrace. There is a little inn—"

Mr. Wells smiled.

"It is a rather poorly conducted little inn," he said, "but the landlady gets every visitor to write something about it in a kind of autograph album that she keeps on her drawing-room table. One visitor wrote in the album many years ago:

"Quoth the raven—"

"The landlady did not understand that quotation. She was not as well-up in her Poe as she should have been. And ever

since that time she has shown the cryptic line to every guest, entreating him to tell her, if he can, its meaning. But the guests are always polite to tell her. They pretend they do not know. And hence, year after year, to every visitor that comes, the poor landlady with her album gives herself away."—Washington Star.

**At Acute Observer.**

A one-armed man sat down to his noonday lunch in a little restaurant the other day, and seated on the right of him was a big, sympathetic individual from the rural district.

The big fellow noticed his neighbor's left sleeve hanging loose and kept eyeing him in a sort of how-did-it-happen-way. The one-armed man failed to break the ice, but continued to keep busy with his one hand supplying the inner man.

At last the inquisitive one on the right could stand it no longer. He changed his position a little, cleared his throat and said: "I see, sir, you have lost an arm."

Whereupon the unfortunate man picked up the empty sleeve with his right hand, expressed and said: "By George, sir, you're right!"—St. Louis Republic.

**Alert as News Getter.**

A western jobber recently sent an aspiring young man on the road to open up a new territory where a new railroad was going through. All the towns being new, there were no hotel accommodations, and it was necessary for the salesman to secure meals and lodgings at restaurants, etc., where the price was 25 cents per meal. On looking over the expense account the manager noticed all meals charged at 50 cents.

"Look here, Charlie, if you have charged me 50 cents per meal on your trip, and I am reliably informed that it is impossible to get a meal for more than 25 cents in your entire territory. How about it?"

"Well," said the salesman, "you are right. It did cost but 25 cents per meal, but I tell you, sir, it's worth the other 25 cents to eat those meals."—Philadelphia Ledger.

**Something New in Tabicloths.**

She had come into the store to buy tabicloths, and she stated in the beginning that she wanted something "new."

The salesman was patient and showed her everything in stock, but nothing suited.

"Oh, dear!" she exclaimed, fustily, "haven't you anything different?"

The clerk brought out one of the discarded tabicloths that he had put back on the shelf, and said with an air of interest:

"Here is one of the very newest designs, madam. You see, the center is in the middle and the borders run right around the edge."

"Why, yes! Let me have that one," she said, eagerly.

**Accommodating.**

There is a good story going the rounds in Pittsburgh of a young man, formerly a stock broker, who dropped many thousands in speculation during the early spring.

One night, shortly after going to bed, the Pittsburgher was awakened by strange signs. At his first motion to jump up he was greeted by a hoarse voice. "If you stir, you're a dead man!" it said. "I'm looking for money."

The clerk pleasantly answered the erstwhile speculator, "kindly allow me to arise and strike a light. I shall deem it a favor to be permitted to assist in the search."

**McCallagh's Start.**

The late J. B. McCallagh, editor-in-chief of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat at the time of his death, served for some years as a Washington correspondent, writing for several western papers. Mr. McCallagh was the originator of the American interview, and his first subject was no less a personage than a president of the United States—Andrew Johnson. McCallagh was a boon companion of President Johnson, and not only obtained favors at the White House of great value to him in his journalistic labors, but was favored through Mr. Johnson to be re-elected on at least two former union generals who had been very severe upon him when McCallagh was a war correspondent in the field.

"Another of the exceptionally prominent correspondents who for years had an office on Newspaper Row is William Elroy Curtis, who was formerly connected with the Chicago Inter-Ocean, but latterly with the Chicago Record-Herald. Mr. Curtis within the past decade has travelled the civilized world over for that paper, and

**Man from the South.**

There never was on the row a more alert newsgatherer than Walter B. Stevens, who made his bow as a Washington correspondent in 1884, coming here as the representative of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. In the Missouri metropolis he had been for years connected with the old St. Louis Times, when that was a profitable journal under the proprietorship of Stillson Hutchins, former owner and founder of the Washington Post, and subsequently the owner of the Republic, Critic and Times—all Washington dailies. Before coming to Washington Mr. Stevens had risen to be city editor of the Globe-Democrat. Stevens could do here any sort of newspaper work, and had the reputation of not getting half the sleep he was entitled to, so industrious was he. It is said of him that he stood equally well with the public men of all parties, and politicians were glad to make him their confidant. Mr. Stevens quit Washington to accept the position of secretary of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company at St. Louis at a large salary, and that place kept him at work for two years or more after the big show was over.

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