

MAJOR J. SMITH DIES

Founder of American Press Association Passes Away.

As President of Country's Largest Newspaper Syndicate He kept in Touch With Publishers All Over America—Served in Civil War.

Major Orlando Jay Smith, president and general manager of the American Press association, died at his home, in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., Sunday evening. He had been ill since September, at which time he was operated upon for cancer of the stomach. Through his long illness he retained his interest in daily events.

Major Orlando J. Smith, the founder of the American Press association, and its president and general manager, from its inception until his death, was a journalist of national reputation.

Major Smith was born June 14, 1842, on a farm near Terre Haute, Ind., of Vermont ancestry. His father, Hiram Smith, was one of Indiana's pioneers.

He sent his son to the public schools and later to Asbury college, now De Pauw university. In later years the university conferred on its distinguished alumnus the degree of LL. D.

At the outbreak of the civil war, Major Smith enlisted. He served until the end of the war, in the armies of the Potomac, Ohio and Cumberland, rising to the rank of major in the Sixth Indiana cavalry. He was wounded near Atlanta, Ga., and was taken prisoner.

After confinement in a Confederate prison at Augusta, Ga., Major Smith was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. He was a member of the Loyal Legion.

After the war Major Smith engaged for three years in cotton planting at Enterprise, Miss. Major Smith began his journalistic career at Terre Haute, Ind., as editor of the Terre Haute Express.

In 1878 he removed the latter newspaper to Chicago, continuing its publication as the Chicago Express. In 1882, he founded in Chicago, the American Press association, the monument to his fame.

Later the main offices of the American Press association were removed to New York, where they remain. The association has branch offices throughout the country, serving thousands of newspapers. In all the association's work, he was the head and front and moving spirit.

Major Smith possessed the broadest of minds. He was keenly interested in life and its problems in all their manifold phases. He found relaxation from material cares in the study and exposition of religion and philosophy and economics.

He embodied his views in several volumes, which have received serious attention from the world's thinkers. The most prominent of Major Smith's books are "A Short View of Great Questions," "The Coming Democracy," "Eternalism," "Balance," and "Agreement Between Science and Religion." Major Smith is survived by a widow, two daughters and a son. The last named, Courtland Smith, is vice president and assistant general manager of the American Press association.

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RAILWAY NOTES AND PERSONALS

Engineer H. F. Holtz is visiting in Omaha this week.

Mrs. E. F. Gleason is visiting relatives and friends in York.

Fireman Jos. Raby has been transferred from Crawford to Alliance.

Mrs. F. J. Carter is spending a few weeks in Cambria with her parents.

Mrs. G. W. Johnson is visiting her old home in Omaha during the holidays.

Brakeman R. E. Evans left yesterday to spend Christmas with his family.

Robt. Clayton and F. C. Walbridge are new employes in the train service.

Mrs. Charles Myers is spending Christmas with her parents in McCook.

Frank Wolverson, son of J. A. Wolverson, is visiting friends in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Engineer A. P. Gordon left Monday for a few days visit with relatives at Denver.

Mrs. F. A. Eckerson left Tuesday for her home in Kansas City for an extended visit.

Con Schnell left yesterday for a few weeks' visit with friends and relatives in Grand Island.

Mrs. H. F. Townley left a few days ago for an extended visit with relatives in Broken Bow.

Flagman John Burke left a few days ago for Lincoln to spend the holidays with his parents.

Conductor E. W. Stewart and family are on an extended visit with relatives in Villisca, Iowa.

F. L. Huston is another of the shopmen who will spend Christmas at his home in Burwell.

Mrs. J. A. Steel and children left Sunday for an extended visit with relatives at St. Joe.

J. F. Richards left a few days ago for his home in Bridgeport where he will spend Christmas.

Fireman R. M. Rea is spending a few days in Hot Springs, recovering from a siege of sickness.

Wm. Morris left on 43 yesterday for a brief visit with his daughter, Mrs. D. S. Criley, of Billings.

Operator H. P. Touhey and brakeman S. W. Hagerty left a few days ago for an extended visit on the coast.

C. W. Foster left yesterday afternoon for his home in Wayne, Nebr., and will return Monday morning.

Conductor B. Ponath and family left Sunday for an extended visit with friends and relatives at Norton, Kans.

R. I. Benjamin of the superintendent's office left yesterday afternoon for a few days visit with relatives in Grand Island.

Engineer John Morris, of Chadron, arrived in the city for a few days visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morris.

Mrs. W. W. Moulton and children arrived a few days ago from Deadwood, Mr. Moulton having been transferred back to Alliance.

Mrs. J. W. Gaddis and children left yesterday for David City, and expects to visit with relatives during the holiday season.

M. E. Garrison left Monday for Burlington, Ia., to spend the holidays with his wife who has been visiting there for some time.

C. O. Moore and family of Edgemont are in the city spending the holidays with Mrs. Moore's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Zehring.

H. B. Kemper, general piece work inspector of Lincoln, who has been in the city for the past few days, returned to his home Tuesday.

J. E. Starns of Lincoln is a new employe in the general foreman's office and will arrive in a few days to assume his new duties. He will succeed F. C. French, who has tendered his resignation.

The freight agent was in a predicament. The shipment had left the consigning point as eggs and had reached their destination as alligators. The agent wired to the head office of the road for instructions.

A despatch from the New York Sun says: E. H. Harriman is at his Fifth avenue home recovering from a bilious attack. His physicians state that the crisis has been passed and it is now hoped for a speedy recovery.

The local freight agent received the reply that he should discard the egg rate and should apply the square root double first class, and add the charge on dynamite plus the rate on Arizona horned toads and deduct 20 per cent.

H. E. Gantz has been promoted from trainmaster's clerk to the position recently vacated by F. A. Pierson as superintendent stenographer. Mr. Pierson has been employed here for

the past five years and will leave the service to engage in business for himself. Mr. Gantz's promotion comes as a result of efficient service. C. W. Foster will succeed Mr. Gantz as trainmaster's clerk.

That the following story is true is vouched for by at least a dozen trainmen of the Burlington system, who run between here and St. Joseph, Mo., says the Lincoln Daily Star. The proprietor of a St. Joseph chop house had ordered a number of alligator eggs from Tampa, Fla. They were packed in the Florida city in seaside sand and properly boxed. There were 18 eggs in the box, but after nearly three weeks on the road, instead of eggs there were 14 live and attractive alligators.

A railroad across the ocean, or at least a part of it, appears to be a reality, judging from the reports that have reached Chicago railroad officials. A road will be built along the east Florida coast, thence 30 miles across the keys and lagoons and 30 miles across the open ocean. From the farthest point to which the road will be built the floats will take the cars to Havana, a distance of 90 miles. The chief advantage of this will be the rapidity of the shipments. No freight cars but passenger coaches and cattle cars will be taken across the keys.

Leading interests in the Colorado & Southern Railroad company, including Edwin Hawley, who is said to be the largest individual stockholder, and Frank Trumbull, the president of the road, announced the sale of the road to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company. The acquisition of the road by the Burlington gives the Hill system, the Burlington being owned by the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern Railroad companies, its longed-for outlet to the Texas coast. It will bear practically the same relationship to the Hill lines in the Gulf of Mexico territory that the Illinois Central bears to the Harriman system. Until the announcement, however, it was generally supposed that James J. Hill's plan to get to the gulf was by the purchase of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad. The directors today (Tuesday) ratified the sale.

Railroad Notes from Edgemont Edgemont Express.

L. Bartlett, master mechanic, went to Deadwood Tuesday.

Conductor W. J. Cruickshank has been assigned to the Orella turn around.

Fireman B. M. Rea of the Alliance division is on the sick list and has gone back to Alliance.

Boilermaker F. McNamara, who has been off for two weeks on the sick list, has reported for duty again.

Fireman J. J. Rodgers has been assigned to passenger trains 41 and 42 between Alliance and Ravenna.

Engineer F. C. Wood of Alliance has been transferred to the Deadwood line and will move his family to Edgemont.

F. D. Wiedenhamer, trainmaster of the Wymore division, has been appointed superintendent of the Sterling division with headquarters at Sterling.

F. Sloate, superintendent of the water service with headquarters at Alliance, was here this week attending to the overhauling of the pumps in the roundhouse.

The Burlington is going to erect a big tank at the roundhouse that will hold about 100,000 gallons and will keep this for cooling purposes as the water must be cooled for use in the tanks.

Mr. C. A. Lyman, who used to be trainmaster at Sheridan and who has been superintendent of the Sterling division for the last six months, has been transferred to the Wymore division as superintendent.

"Lucifer" Gets His.

Editor Casper, who is a candidate for county clerk of Morrill county, took a fall out of the lurid Lucifer who is permitted to spoil space in the Alliance Times. Lucifer exercised his privilege by making an attack upon Mr. Casper, which that gentleman naturally resented, and people who are acquainted with him believe he is justified. If Colonel Ellis really wants some one to butt in on Platte valley affairs, he should secure one who at least knows occasionally what he is talking about. Casper is a democrat, but he is a good man for all that, and if he is ejected his previous public record proves that he will be a competent officer.

Never Indulged.

In the Ft. Robinson notes we notice that an order has been issued, forbidding any of the soldiers from drinking the Crawford city water. We cannot see the necessity of this order as the practice has never been much indulged in.

A Newsboy's Merry Christmas

By D. M. EDWARDS



IT WAS Christmas night and Patsy Higgins was "stuck"—that is, he had more papers than he could sell. With a small bundle under one arm and hands thrust deep in his pockets he strolled up Broadway in the happy Christmas crowds. Through the diamond frosted windows of the restaurants he could see the diners within laughing and animated over their holiday banquets. He jingled a handful of pennies and nickels in his pocket and wondered how in the world a boy with a stock of unsold papers on his hands and only 22 cents with which to have his Christmas feast, keep him through the night and start him in business the next morning, had much chance to be so very happy.

As he plodded aimlessly across Forty-third street a big man, hulking of shoulder, lantern jawed and deep chested, lumbered out of a gambling house near by and swung into Broadway. Grumbling about "hitting me pretty hard" and "never had any luck in my life," he plowed his way across the sidewalk, lunging against any one whose path lay across his. He bowled through a line of musing men and women who blocked the sidewalk in front of an all night restaurant, scattering them like tenpins and making no apologies. Blind to everything but his own ill luck, he noticed nothing until he came upon a disheveled and bolsterous man holding a newsboy and trying to take his papers from him.

"What th' ell y' doin'?" growled the gambler, as he gave the unsteady man a quick punch and tumbled him into a pile of dirt, allowing the lad to dart out of harm's way, yelling in glee at the fallen tyrant.

"Y' big stiff," threatened the gambler, as he leaned over the man, "if y' peep another word I'll wring yer head off. Git up now an' go home t' your wife—An' I s'pose you'll beat her t' git even," he commented, as he turned away.

A few blocks further he heard a voice at his elbow: "Say, mister, I want t' thank y' fer helpin' me when that dude pinched me papers."

"Run along, sonny; don't let it worry y' none."

"I want t' give y' a paper, mister."

"Trot!" returned the other, curtly.

"Please take a paper, mister," persisted the lad, running along beside the man and holding out his bundle.

"'Cause, gee! we don't often have folks help us like you done. I'm stuck tonight, anyway, an' have got plenty to spare."

The gambler stood still and sniffed the air as if at that moment, for the first time, he had caught the infection of the Christmas atmosphere.

"Pretty tough on some of you kids," he said. "Here, take this and go blow yourself," he added, as he pulled a greenback from his pocket, pressed it into the boy's hand and continued on his way.

"I ain't askin' you fer money," called Patsy, tagging along in the man's wake. "I jes' wanted t' give you a paper fer helpin' me."

The gambler made no reply, but walked on all the faster. He had gone a block further and evidently thought himself rid of the boy, when the latter suddenly piped out again:

"Please take yer money back, will yer—"

"Aw, beat it!" said the gambler, savagely.

Patsy stopped. He watched the form of his big man fade into the darkness and then looked at the crumpled greenback in his hands.

"Gee, wouldn't dat mos'ly crimp yer?" he mused as he turned back into the canyon of electric lights and headed for a place where he knew he would find cranberry sauce, steamed dumplings and mince pie at newsboy rates.

SURPRISED THE POSTMAN.

Expected a Christmas Present Which He Didn't Get.

It was the day after Christmas, and the hardworking postman ploughed his way through snow and cold winds, a sack of unusual size on his back.

He ascended the spacious steps of a West-end residence, and in answer to his ring a manservant in rich livery appeared.

"Wait a moment, please," said the servant, as he took the letters. "The mistress wishes to speak to you."

The postman's eye brightened. It was the holiday season. He had done his duty with fidelity. Now, no doubt, in recognition of his regular and faithful—

"I shall be glad," he said politely, "to await your mistress' pleasure."

In a few minutes the lady appeared. "Are you," she asked, "our regular postman?"

"Yes, madam," he answered, bowing.

"Do you come in the morning?"

"Yes, madam."

"And in the afternoon and evening?"

Again he assented, smiling eagerly. Then the lady said:

"Well, was it you who broke our bell?"

THOUGHTS ON BUSINESS

BY WALDO FONDRAY WARREN

SELECTING A MAN

PICKING out the right man for the place, it often measures the difference between success and failure in a business. More often it measures the difference between a moderate success and a phenomenal one.

Twenty or more years ago a carriage factory was started with the idea of doing things in an original way, and a man was chosen to carry out the idea. He had had no previous experience in that line, but he had the right idea and grasped the plan enthusiastically. The work began on a simple scale, so that the inexperienced man was able to feel his way. The business grew until it attained great proportions. The same man is still at the head of it, not as the owner, but as the manager. He proved to be the right man for the place. It would be difficult to imagine how he might have made the business more successful in that particular line.

In thinking of this the thought occurred to me, suppose some other man had been chosen in the beginning. Suppose he had had wide experience, but a different idea. He might have made more rapid progress at the start, or he might have turned the whole business into other channels and have given it a different character. He might not have been able to grow up with it, or might have left it after the first year's trial. The present greatness of the business might have been unknown to-day if it hadn't been that the right man was chosen when the business was small.

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CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

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