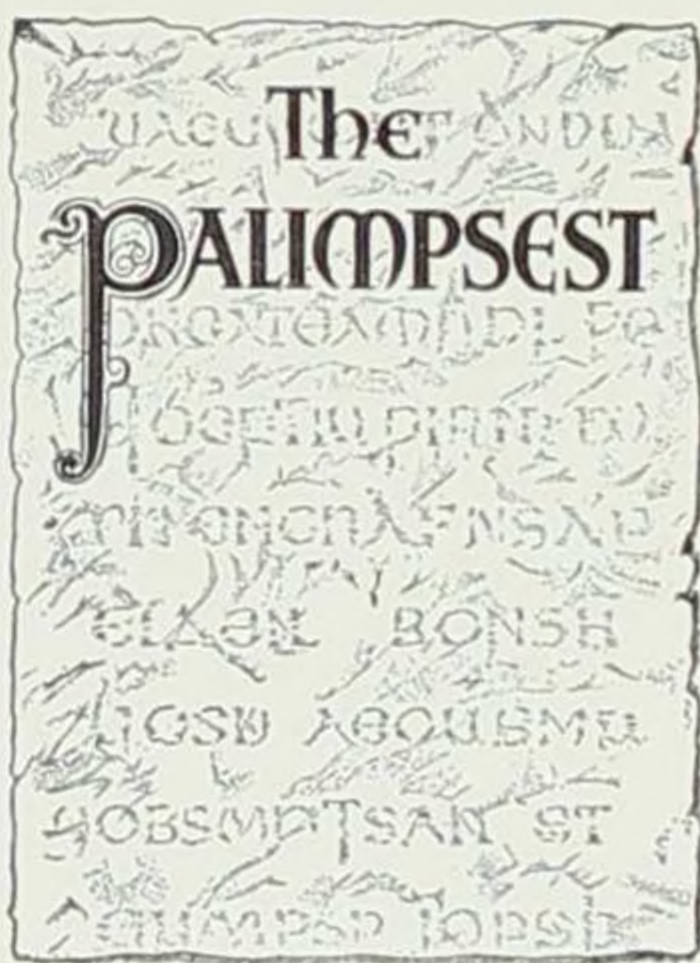


The PALIMPSEST



Published Monthly by
The State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa City Iowa

OCTOBER 1950



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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Top — Home of the Muscatine *Journal*.

Bottom — Home of the Mason City *Globe-Gazette*.

Back — Outside:

Top — Home of the Davenport *Democrat*.

Bottom — Home of the Davenport *Times*.

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Iowa and the Lee Papers

The story of the Lee papers is more than the history of a century of journalism in Iowa. It is the record of the growth of an idea, born in the mind of the founder of what was for many years known as the Lee Syndicate, that a newspaper should be a community institution, so operated as to be financially independent of all influences other than the good will of the people who support it.

In the day when Alfred Wilson Lee formulated that creed, the press in the smaller cities and towns was often so servilely dependent upon outside interests, banks, contending factions, and political parties, as, in the words of William Allen White, to be "beggary at the best and mendacious at the worst."

Alfred W. Lee was born on a farm in Johnson County on the outskirts of West Branch on July 8, 1858. His father was John B. Lee and his mother Elvira Branson Lee, a Hicksite Quaker. Young Alfred attended sub-freshmen classes at the University of Iowa from 1871 to 1873, and was listed

as a freshman from 1873 to 1874. In 1874 he moved to Muscatine where he was employed in the bookkeeping department of the *Muscatine Journal*. His observations of business methods on the *Journal* soon led him to a conviction which became the cornerstone of a journalistic enterprise, whose associated papers formed one of the larger and more colorful groups in the publishing business of the Middle West. It was given expression in 1899 when Lee acquired the *Davenport Times* and informed its readers:

"The *Times* will be subservient to no faction or clique, nor will it depend upon political favor or influence.

"We believe that a newspaper is a commercial enterprise and should be conducted on strictly business principles, seeking patronage solely on its merits. We pledge the best newspaper that can be published at a profit."

It was upon this revolutionary journalistic doctrine that the Lee Syndicate was founded in Iowa. Today it embraces five flourishing Iowa papers — the *Ottumwa Courier*; the *Daily Times* and the *Democrat* in Davenport; the *Muscatine Journal*; and the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*. In addition to these it includes five papers published outside the Hawkeye State — the *Wisconsin State Journal* at Madison and the *La Crosse Tribune* in Wisconsin; the *Kewanee Star-Courier* in Illinois; the *Lincoln Star* in Nebraska; and the *Hannibal*

Courier-Post in Missouri; as well as several radio stations.

The storybook pattern of the Lee papers is a record of achievement of many men and the courage and business sagacity of several women. It is a record of loyalties, of small beginnings, of great dreams fulfilled. Sometimes the episodes recorded reach Homeric proportions.

Alfred W. Lee was the architect of the structure that bears his name. Emanuel P. Adler, who at the time of his death was president of ten companies, was the builder. It was from John Mahin, who for more than fifty years edited the *Muscatine Journal*, that Lee received the early training that inspired the philosophy which was to become the lodestar of this group of newspaper enterprises.

There were less than a dozen newspapers in newly-born Iowa when John Mahin took up the tools of his craft on the Bloomington *Herald* in 1847. Eleven years previously — on May 11, 1836 — John King had established the first newspaper in Iowa, the *Du Buque Visitor*. Montrose and Burlington had their first newspapers in 1837. James G. Edwards started the Fort Madison *Patriot* on March 24, 1838, and Andrew Logan issued Davenport's first paper — the *Iowa Sun* — on August 4, 1838. With an enthusiasm not unlike that of Lee editors for their home state and community, Andrew Logan proclaimed in his first issue: "We are for Iowa, for all Iowa, but of all

places in this territory, or the world, for the loveliest of all the cities of which we write, Davenport is beyond comparison the most beautiful."

No newspapers were started in Iowa in 1839, but two were established at Muscatine in 1840 — the *Iowa Standard* on October 23rd, and the *Bloomington Herald* on October 27th. It was on the *Herald* that young John Mahin began his apprenticeship in 1847.

Iowa editors, such as John Mahin, have played a dramatic role in Iowa history from pioneer days to the present. The frontier editor helped determine townsites, led in community affairs, wrote vigorous editorials on state and national politics, and shaped opinions and decisions on many important matters. With little more than an old font of type, a hand press, intense partisan zeal, and irrepressible confidence, these editors became the self-appointed guardians of the social, spiritual, and cultural growth of their neighborhoods. Their clarion voice was heard in every Iowa community.

Although filled with the enthusiasm and confidence of the pioneers, few men were subjected to more heartaches and financial reverses than were these courageous frontier editors. Of the 222 newspapers established in Iowa between 1836 and 1860, fully 118 had slipped out of existence before the census of 1860 was taken. It is doubtful if any pioneer enterprise encountered so many pitfalls.

Courageous and strong men like John Mahin,

when buoyed up by their idealism and high principles, left an indelible impression on their community as well as the state. Mahin's war against the liquor traffic which flourished in the river cities, led his foes to dynamite his home and those of two other prominent citizens associated with him in this crusade. But sturdy John Mahin never flinched. To him the battle had just begun. Small wonder that A. W. Lee idolized him.

The purchase of the *Ottumwa Courier* by a company of which Alfred W. Lee was president, marked the beginning of what was for many years known in the newspaper fraternity as the Lee Syndicate, although each paper was an independent corporation. The story of its growth is that of many men and women who have carried forward the heritage left them by its founder. The names of Emanuel P. Adler, James F. Powell, Lee P. Loomis, and Frank Throop loom large in such a tale. Most of all it is a record of loyalty of man to man, to ideals, and to trusts imposed in them, and the confidence which a woman placed in her husband's judgment of Emanuel P. Adler.

When A. W. Lee with his wife and daughter, Laura, sailed to England in May, 1907, the Lee Syndicate had already expanded to include the *Hannibal Courier-Post* and the *La Crosse Tribune*. The latter was so weak that had it not been taken over by the Syndicate at the time it might not have survived the year.

When word came of the sudden death of A. W. Lee at Frank Mahin's home in Nottingham, England, on July 15, 1907, those who had been most closely associated with him in the management of the properties received it with forebodings as disturbing as their grief was profound. The captain of the ship had fallen and it was for the moment rudderless in rough waters. When Mrs. Lee returned she revealed what her husband had told her in his illness: "If Adler and Powell will stay with you, you should go ahead as if nothing had happened." Adler asked, "Is that what you want to do, Mrs. Lee?" Upon her affirmative reply, he said:

"If you are certain that is what you want to do, I can assure you now and solemnly promise you that both Jim and I will stay with you as long as you live, unless you fire us in the meantime."

There was never any contract or written agreement as to the conduct of the papers. Powell died in the fulfillment of his pledge. For many years E. P. Adler, as president of the various papers, brought to the organization an application of Lee's ideals in terms of initiative and resourcefulness which carried the Syndicate to heights far beyond the founder's dreams.

For three-score years, or since Alfred W. Lee purchased the *Ottumwa Courier* in 1890, the Lee papers have been a distinctive segment of the American press. They grew up as an Iowa institu-

tion, spreading to four adjoining states. The Muscatine *Journal* is older than the state of Iowa. Three papers of the group in Iowa look back on a century of publishing. All have prospered across the years because their first loyalty was to their subscribers and their communities. The record of the Lee papers is one answer to those who doubt the sturdiness of a free press. Teamwork between the Lee newspapers and their communities carried them through crisis after crisis.

The uniqueness of the Lee papers lies not only in the fidelity to the precepts upon which the group was founded, but in the close family ties that exist within the organization. It would be difficult to find a similar organization which for sixty years has worked together without any corporate connecting ties. There is no holding company to consolidate the interests of the papers. As a matter of form, the group found it advantageous to set up a chain of command which today begins with Lee P. Loomis of Mason City as president; Philip D. Adler of Davenport, vice-president; and Walter W. White of Lincoln, Nebraska, as secretary. But the bonding cement of the "Syndicate" structure is the men and women composing the Lee newspaper family who have holdings in each other's properties and who mutually share the traditions and trust of the founder.

As a group, the Lee papers serve a considerable section of the Midwest empire: five are published

on the banks of the Mississippi; two in state capital and university cities. Collectively, the Lee papers have more than 300,000 subscribers and serve a combined population of almost a half-million. Thousands of readers are familiar with the Lee mastheads on the five Iowa newspapers.



Individually, the papers are independent in their editorial views. Two speak for the Democratic party, including the Davenport *Democrat*, the only Democratic daily newspaper in Iowa. The others roughly classify as "independent Republican," but have not hesitated to support worthy Democratic candidates on occasion in much the same manner as the New York *Times* supported Thomas E. Dewey in 1948.

RALPH J. LEYSEN

The Ottumwa Courier

Looking for a newspaper to buy in 1890, A. W. Lee had narrowed his prospects to Ottumwa, Iowa, and Hutchinson, Kansas. It was fortunate for Ottumwa as well as for Iowa that he decided to purchase the *Courier*, the weakest paper in a highly competitive field. This choice was destined to become a traditional policy in the expansion of the Lee group.

The first Lee paper was important historically for it was almost as old as Ottumwa itself. First issued by R. H. Warden as the *Des Moines Courier* on August 8, 1848, it appeared as the *Daily Evening Courier* on April 5, 1865. Originally Whig and then Republican, the *Courier* supported Des Moines River improvement, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, and stood ever ready to uphold the home, the church, and the school. A. H. Hamilton became editor in 1869 and sole proprietor in 1878, continuing as such until 1890 when he sold to A. W. Lee.

In Ottumwa, Lee established the local-sharing investment policy of all the Lee newspapers as it has been developed in the last half-century. Several Ottumwans were assembled with him to buy the *Courier* for \$16,000. Extremely painstaking in

all his business and financial relationships, Lee soon established himself in Ottumwa as a man of integrity and trustworthiness — a born leader. The *Courier* was profitable from the beginning of the Lee regime. It was also the beginning of the Lee group of newspapers.

In 1890 Emanuel P. Adler was a compositor in the mechanical department of the *Courier* and James F. Powell was a foreman. Adler asked Powell to go to Lee to persuade the publisher to give him a chance as a reporter. That started E. P. Adler on a meteoric career that quickly saw him become business manager of the *Courier*.

A. W. Lee early expressed his confidence in young E. P. Adler. In a brief note penned in December, 1893, Lee wrote:

~~Mr. Adler~~ ^{Dec 1893} I am ² effort & spare no
much pleased with opportunity to ac-
your work I feel that quire information
you deserve congrat- by that I mean
ulation & commendation. the information that
tion. Your pay will comes from studying
be \$12.00 per week trading. You cer-
beginning Monday. tainly have a fu-
If you keep time in newspaper
up your present work. Sincerely, Yours
A. W. Lee

Mr. Adler — I am much pleased with your work & feel that you deserve congratulation & commendation. Your pay will be \$12 per week beginning Monday.

If you keep up your present effort & spare no opportunity to acquire information (by that I mean the information that comes from study & reading) you certainly have a future in newspaper work.

Sincerely yours,

A. W. Lee

Meanwhile, to repay Powell for having assisted him, Adler persuaded Lee to take "Jim" out of the job printing department and put him in the business office. Thus, when Adler was sent to Davenport, after the purchase of the *Daily Times*, "Jim" Powell was ready to succeed to the business managership of the *Courier*. When Lee died in 1907, Powell became publisher, holding that position until his death in 1928.

James F. Powell's name always will be associated with all that was good in Ottumwa community life. He was an untiring worker for all people. The door to his office was always open; his time was freely given to hear any problem. He did not always agree with what was presented. When he did not, his visitor knew it, quickly and without doubt. But Powell was essentially fair. Denied much formal education because he went to work early to help support his family, he was an insatiable reader. He was the keenest of students of government, politics, economics, and social changes. He always stood for the best in everything American. Like John Mahin, he was a fighter for principle.

Meanwhile, the public often saw E. P. Adler

Daily Evening Courier.

No. 1.

OTTUMWA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 5, 1865.

Price 5 cts.

EDWARD H. STILES,
Attorney & Counselor at Law
 And Solicitor in Chancery.
 Over Walker's store, opposite the Ottumwa House, Ottumwa, Iowa.
 He now will prepare to prepare the third Deputy and back pay of soldiers, and all just claims against the Government. Charges moderate, and nothing unless claims are allowed.
 Aug. 20, 1864. E. H. STILES

J. T. HACKWORTH,
ATTORNEY AT LAW
AND NOTARY PUBLIC.
 All professional business entrusted to him will be promptly attended to.
 Special attention will be given to collections, examination of titles and conveyancing.
 Office at Court House, in Ottumwa, Iowa.
 Ottumwa, Iowa, Oct. 23rd, 1863. 62-16 y.

B. J. BOULTON,
BAKER AND CONFECTIONER
 COURT STREET, FOUR DOORS EAST OF THE POTTER HOUSE
 OTTUMWA, IOWA.
 Machine Crackers and Confectionery of every variety at Wholesale and Retail.
 Parties and Balls supplied on the shortest notice.
 62-11—ch. 3-12.

J. S. WALKER,
 Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,
 Clothing, Hardware, Queensware,
HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES,
 GUN GOODS, FURS, NOTIONS, &c., &c.
 Directly opposite the Ottumwa House
 Front Street, Ottumwa, Iowa.
 Aug. 20, 1863—25 14-y

J. C. HINSEY, M. D.
 Office with M. J. Williams, Esq. Residence on the river, north of the Court House.
 April 21, 1864-5 16

OTTUMWA CARRIAGE FACTORY.



The undersigned would respectfully solicit the attention of the public to the facilities which he now possesses for manufacturing
CARRIAGES AND WAGONS
 From the Best Eastern Timber, of every description, after the most improved styles, as good as can be obtained East, and upon satisfactory terms.
 Those wishing to purchase will please call and examine my stock.
 All kinds of repairing done with neatness and dispatch, and all work warranted as recommended.
 A. BALDWIN.
 Ottumwa, July 28, 1864.

E. R. CHANTRY,
MERCHANT TAILOR.
 Late with E. W. Betts.

Has opened a shop over the First National Bank, on Front Street, where he will be glad to see his friends and the public in general, and is confident of giving complete satisfaction.
 Jan. 6, 1865-18 7

DOCTOR W. L. ORR,
 Late Surgeon of the 1st Iowa Volunteers.
 Office over Dr. Ward's drug store. Residence on Second street, a few doors east of Col. Gilkey's.
 Feb. 9, 1865 17

BAKERY AND CONFECTION-ARY.

P. C. DAUM,

Would announce to his old friends and the public generally, that he carries on the above business in all its branches.

Next door to J. Hawley's Store,

Front Street, OTTUMWA, IOWA.

Where he would be pleased to serve everybody in his line.

MACHINE CRACKERS

of all kinds, at Wholesale and Retail.
 Jan. 6, 1865-42-16

SISSON & JOHNSTON,
DENTISTS.

OTTUMWA, - - - IOWA.
 Office on Main opposite the Ottumwa House, up stairs.
 (Oct. 27, 1864-7

TRACY & VANCLEVE,
 General Dealers in
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
MERCHANDISE,

Main Street, one door west of Taylor's Drug Store.

OTTUMWA, IOWA.
 Oct. 13, 1864-6m

MORRIS J. WILLIAMS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
 OTTUMWA, IOWA.
 Office over E. W. Betts' Clothing Store.
 March 22, 1865.

TRAVELERS INSURANCE CO.
 HARTFORD, CONN.

Insures against
ACCIDENTS
 Of every description.

CAPITAL, \$500,000.
 FIVE DOLLARS ANNUAL PREMIUM will insure \$5,000 against loss of life occasioned by accident to any public conveyance by which the assured may at the time be traveling, under the Travelers' Risk Policy.
 TEN DOLLARS PREMIUM secures a policy for \$5,000, and also \$25 per week compensation for personal injury incapacitating the assured from his ordinary business—under the Travelers' Risk.
 TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS PREMIUM secures a full policy for \$5,000, and \$25 per week compensation for all and every description of accident, traveling or otherwise,—under a General Accident Policy.
 Policies for \$500, with \$8 per week compensation, can be had for \$2 per annum, or any other sum between \$500 and \$5,000 at proportionate rates.
 Special and hazardous risks taken at special and hazardous rates.
 No medical Examination required.
 J. G. BATTISON, Pres't.
 RODNEY DENNIS, Sec'y.
 HENRY A. DYER, General Agent.
 ROGERS & BOUNDY Agents, Ottumwa.
 March 9, 1865-42

A NOTHER GREAT VICTORY!

Panic Prices!

J. G. MEEK,

At his stand next door to Ottumwa House, is opening New Goods, from New York and Chicago, embracing

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

HATS, CAPS, BOOTS,

SHOES, AND CLOTHING,

LAMPS, QUEENSWARE,

all of which shall be sold as low

AS ANY HOUSE IN THE CITY.

It continues to act upon the principle that it is the double expense which makes the fur fly.

FARMERS

can find sale at Meek's for nearly every thing they produce, and he has the means and facilities for

BUYING PRODUCE,

and for selling goods upon as good terms as any House in Ottumwa.

300 yds Imperial and Tenon Hyson Tea, cheap.

400 yds Hemp Ingrain and Rag Carpet.

Remember Meek's Cash Store.

Dec 23-64-42-16.

LEATHER AND HARD-WARE

Manufactures and Dealers in Leather, are respectfully notified of the fact that there is a first rate stock of

LEATHER,

of all kinds kept constantly on hand in Ottumwa. Having the very best facilities for preserving large and well selected stocks, are confident this house cannot be surpassed in quality or cheapness of all articles in our line. Have a large stock of

SADDLERY HARDWARE,

AND SADDLES IN GREAT VARIETY

at Wholesale and Retail. A large assortment of

Whips and Collars, Traces and Halter Chains, Curry Combs and Brushes, &c.,

Would also call attention to the fact that we are dealing extensively in

HIDES, PELTS, AND WOOL.

Those having such articles to sell in large or small lots can always depend on getting their value in cash.
 D. M. CHAPIN, Agt.
 Ottumwa, March, 31 1864.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.

Corner of Court and Second Streets,

OTTUMWA, IOWA,

J. P. HALLOWAY, Proprietor.

Having purchased the above house, and fitted up the same in good style, I desire to say to the traveling public and citizens that I am fully prepared to entertain travellers and to accommodate business, and share of patronage solicited.
 Jan. 12, 1865

as a frequent visitor in Ottumwa, for the *Courier* continued to benefit by his wise counsel, his keen judgment, and his careful guidance. Meanwhile, too, the addition of Lee P. Loomis to the *Courier* staff forged another link in the chain of close association of that paper with the Lee group. First in the *Courier* business office, then reporter and city editor, Loomis went from Ottumwa to become managing editor of the *Muscatine Journal*. His ensuing success there and at Mason City earned for him the presidency of the Lee group of papers.

While never on the staff of the *Courier*, Frank Throop often visited Ottumwa in the Lee interests. Throop came from a newspaper family in Mount Pleasant. In later years, as he rose in the Lee group to positions of ever increasing responsibility, he looked forward to his Ottumwa visits.

Through the decades since A. W. Lee acquired it, the *Courier* has stood on the basic principles Lee held through his life. It has developed men who have gone far in the newspaper world. It is headed now by one who rose from carrier boy to publisher. He is Ottumwa-born John Huston, who has been with the *Courier* more than fifty-two years, and publisher since 1928. Huston has served as president of the Iowa Daily Press Association and stands high in the councils of the profession. Clarence S. Johnston, also an Ottumwa boy, advanced from the business office to the managing editorship by 1924.

The ideals of A. W. Lee, E. P. Adler, James F. Powell, and Lee Loomis are perpetuated in the *Courier* in 1950. Independence, financial stability, public service, alert and progressive journalism — these have combined to bring it from a daily circulation of 3,700, when Lee bought it in 1890, to 19,000 today. Now in its second century of publishing, with new metropolitan press equipment, the Ottumwa *Courier* is still as young in spirit as it is stalwart in traditions.

CLARENCE S. JOHNSTON

The Davenport Times

When A. W. Lee acquired his second Iowa paper — the Davenport *Daily Times* — he followed the Ottumwa pattern: buy the weakest paper, establish business principles, and build it into the strongest paper in the community. Eighteen months later, to insure the success of the *Times*, he chose E. P. Adler to head up his new venture.

When Adler arrived in Davenport on January 19, 1901, he found the *Times* one of ten daily papers then being published in what is now known as the Quad-Cities. Davenport alone possessed five struggling newspapers. The stalwarts were the *Democrat*, a pioneer product of the Richardson family; and *Der Demokrat*, spokesman for the large German population of the area.

Humble had been the beginnings of the *Daily Times*, stemming as it did from the *Blue Ribbon News*, a temperance journal launched in 1878. A year later E. W. Brady bought it and renamed it the *Northwestern News*. It was a weekly until 1886 when Brady and his sons converted it into the Davenport *Daily Times*.

The four-page sheet of that time, confined largely to local news, a few advertisements, and some telegraph items which came to the office in

plate form, seems insignificant, indeed, compared to the *Daily Times* of today with its average of 32 pages, its wealth of local, national, international news and features, and its advertising running more than 1,100,000 lines a month.

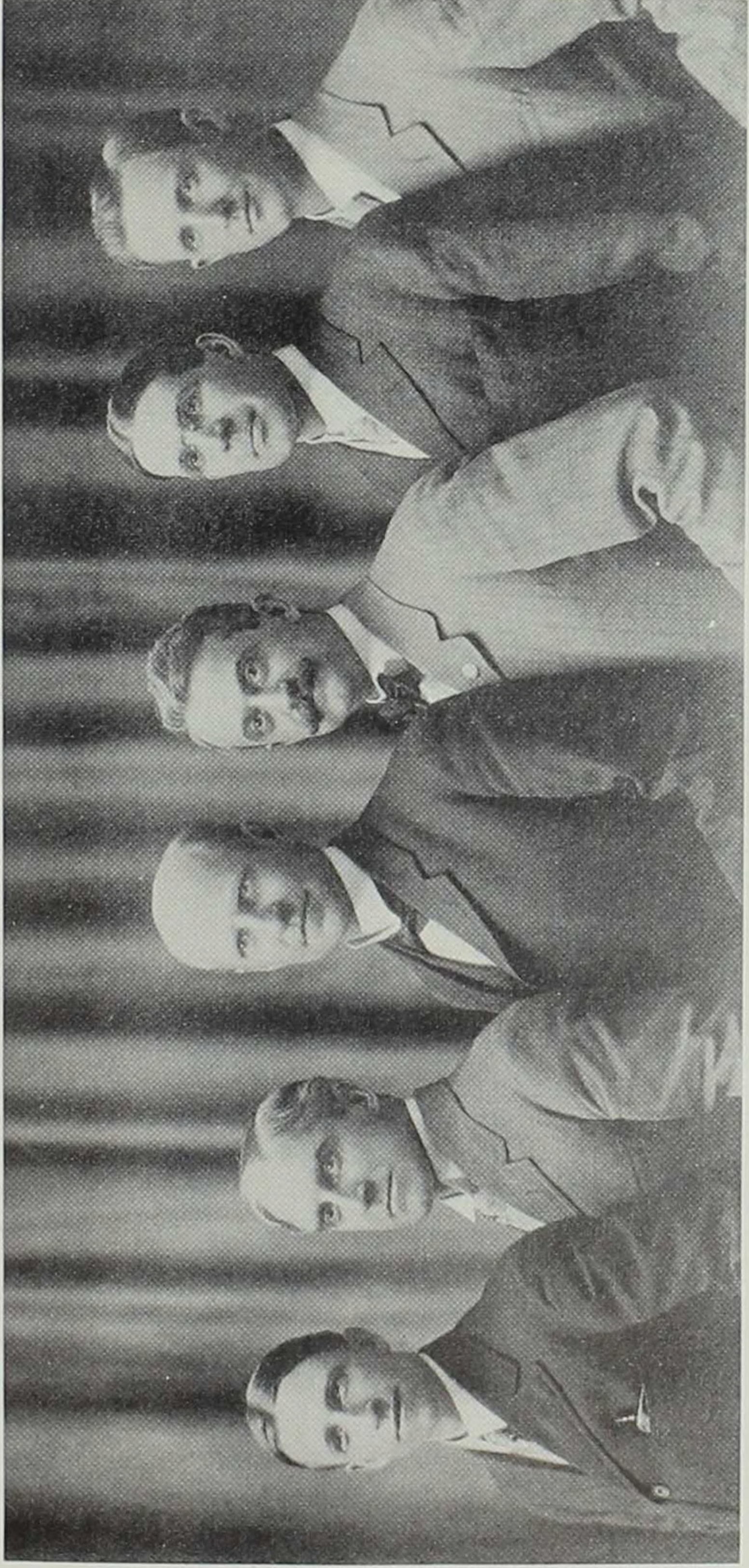
In spite of competition, the *Times* managed to keep its head above water and even outgrew its river front location and had moved to Brady Street between Second and Third when Lee and Charles D. Reimers, his managing editor, bought the paper in June, 1899, for \$20,000.

Out of Adler's brain and heart and energy the new *Times* was erected on a firm foundation. The beams of that structure were strong, weathering many a storm in those early days, and as the years passed and the *Times* grew and prospered, the strain diminished.

Meanwhile a partnership was being formed, recognized but unwritten, the partnership of a newspaper and a community, each serving the other in a relationship based on mutual respect and honor. A city, a journalistic enterprise, and a man had spread roots together, mindful of the heritage of the past, fulfilling obligations of the present, looking confidently to the morrow's challenge.

As the new management began to plow money into the venture, installing the newest and best equipment available, in conformity with its pledge to provide "the best newspaper that can be published at a profit," the seeds planted by A. W.

PUBLISHERS OF LEE PAPERS AT OTTUMWA MEETING IN 1907

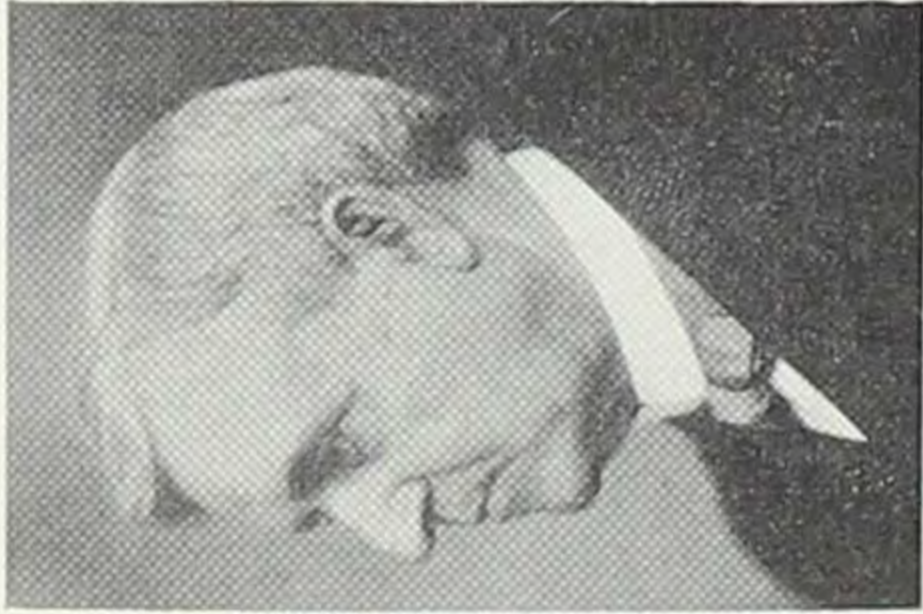


Left to Right: FRANK H. BURGESS, La Crosse; JAMES F. POWELL, Ottumwa; A. W. LEE; E. P. ADLER, Davenport;
FRANK D. THROOP, Muscatine; W. J. HILL, Hannibal.

SOME EARLY FOUNDERS AND EDITORS



E. P. ADLER



JOHN MAHIN



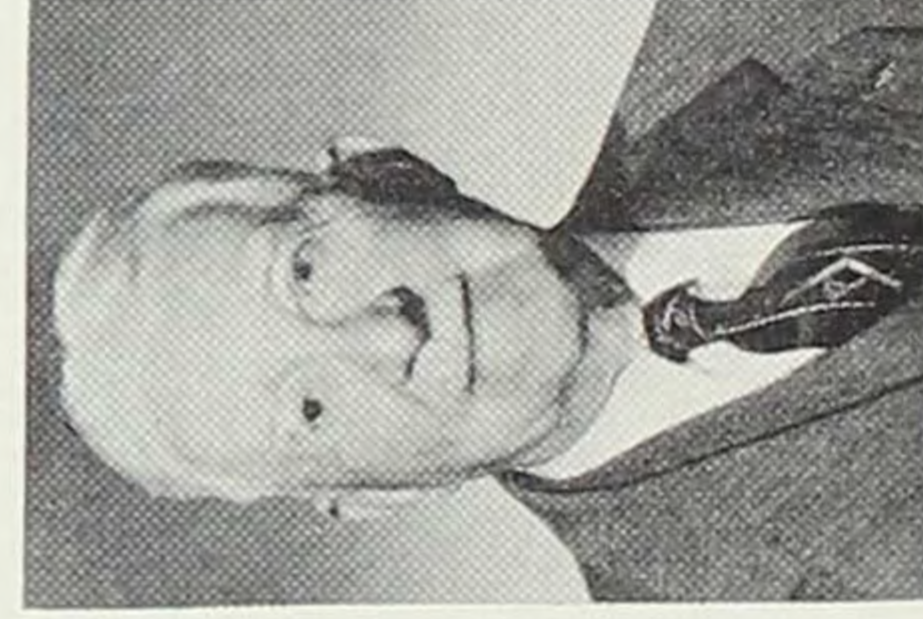
JAMES F. POWELL



D. N. RICHARDSON



J. J. RICHARDSON



RALPH CRAM

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS OF THE LEE PAPERS IN 1950

Mason City

Davenport

Davenport

Ottumwa

Muscatine



LEE P. LOOMIS



PHILIP D. ADLER



LELAND M. TURNBULL



JOHN HUSTON



C. LLOYD BUNKER



W. EARL HALL



RALPH J. LEYSEN



HUGH HARRISON



CLARENCE S. JOHNSTON



WALTER RUSSELL

Ottumwa Daily Courier

43d Year OTTUMWA, IOWA, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 1, 1890.

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April 15th,

IVE

ng Pant Suits

A. H. HAMILTON, Editor and Proprietor

THE LEAVE-TAKING.


August 1st, 1869, I bought a half interest in the **COURIER**, the late lamented General J. M. Hedrick being my partner, and owning the other half interest. We continued together as proprietors and editors until January 1st, 1878, when I bought the other half interest and continued up to the present, the sole proprietor and editor. I have therefore been twenty years and nine months giving my views and thoughts to the **COURIER** readers and for twelve years and three months have been alone responsible for its editorial columns.

I regard the family newspaper as a most potent teacher. I believe, judging from my own experience in life, from youth to manhood, that there is no teacher outside the home circle more powerful for good or ill than the newspaper. As I now recall my own boyhood days I feel confident that aside from the guidance of my parents I know of no other one thing that so gave bent and tone to my mind as the reading of the old welcome newspaper which for many years under one management came into my boyhood home. Now

There was never a more wanton disregard of proper judicial punishment for crime than has been meted out by a judge of New York City in sentencing Sheriff Flack of that city and his co-workers in crime. His and their offenses were of the most heinous character. But he was a leading member in the Tammany crowd and the judge only sentences him to two months in jail and fines him \$500. The sentence bears no comparison to his crimes. In his case "offenses gilded hand shoves by justice." In that great city where a democratic majority of from fifty to seventy-five thousand reigns and controls affairs, exists the most corrupt and rotten government on the face of the earth.

Take out of national elections such corrupting sinks of iniquity and a national triumph for democracy would be an utter impossibility. In the name of democracy that party is simply a mighty menace on free government and our national existence, nearly as much now as it was when the solid southern portion of it was in arms to establish the confederacy.

MAJOR LACEY'S WORK.

Japanese napkins at Worcester's. If Get your pictures framed at Rheem's. Money to loan on real estate security at 5 per cent interest. Write O.M. LADD. Burton & Jaques have removed their law office to 107 North Court street. See those Boy's Unlaundried Shirts for 49c at the 8c Store. Mrs. Briggs has just returned from Chicago with a fine large stock of millinery. For nice dry stove wood, oak and Hickory chunks. Call on us. OTTUMWA FUEL CO. Shiloh's Catarth Remedy—a positive cure for Catarth, Diphtheria and croup. Sold at People's Drug Store. Shiloh's Cure will immediately relieve Croup, Whooping Cough and Bronchitis. Sold at People's Drug Store. No sham about our closing out sale. Everything must go and all goods at bargain. Don't fail to see us before buying. **Unapproachable Stock**  **Unapproachable Stock** **BRAND NEW** To enable every boy to a **BRAND NEW** We begin today a **TRAD**

MORE WIDEAWAKE Than Ever

Our full line of **New Boys and Child** The Purchases are ever before, and the Sal

Major A. H. Hamilton Announces Sale of Ottumwa Courier to A. W. Lee.

Lee began to bear fruit. The paper's circulation grew with each new linotype machine, and when announcement was made of the installation of a "monster three deck" press in February, 1904, the *Times* had boosted its circulation fivefold. It was definitely on the march; in that same month it was able to accept a minimum 12,000-inch advertising contract from the city's largest department store as recognition of its leadership in the field.

The secret of the growth of the *Times* (as well as other Lee papers) was that of men as well as equipment. Of the papers edited by these able, loyal, and courageous men, Adler once wrote: "Published in their own buildings, with the best mechanical equipment, they are newspapers in the best sense of the word, fearless, straightforward, fighting fairly and steadfastly for the best interests of the communities in which they are published, and publishing all the news, especially the local news, all the time."

The deep sense of responsibility to the community which supported them has been a distinguishing mark of the Lee papers. Nowhere was this spirit exemplified more impressively than in Emanuel Philip Adler's record of public service during the half-century he shaped the destinies of the *Daily Times*. When Adler died on March 2, 1949, he was mourned as Davenport's "First Citizen" and the monuments to his memory will stand for many years in structures of steel and stone.

The contributions of E. P. Adler to the city that had been good to him were many and bountiful. The Visiting Nurses Cottage was in memory of his sister, Betty Adler Waterman. His financial aid pioneered Cram Field and Municipal Airport — named in honor of Ralph Cram, the beloved "Flying Editor" of the Davenport *Democrat*. He helped sponsor the committees which laid the foundations of the city's industrial growth, climaxed by bringing both Alcoa and Case plants to the Davenport area. When St. Ambrose College announced a \$400,000 building campaign, his leadership led to the raising of \$60,000 among the non-Catholic friends of the institution.

At the age of seventy-five Adler unselfishly assumed the chairmanship of a drive to expand St. Luke's hospital, an Episcopal institution. Its original goal of \$650,000 did not measure up to the thinking of E. P. Adler, nor his capacity to do big things, so he set about personally to secure subscriptions in such amounts as to spark and inspire an effort which doubled the original goal. Always the most generous giver to any community project, E. P. Adler was never content except as his personal effort matched his check.

The test of his courage and resourcefulness came with the failure of the state's largest bank and the leadership he gave to organize a new institution, which, with assets of \$12,000,000, was able to meet the financial needs of the community when

President Roosevelt declared the national bank holiday in 1933. Today the bank he organized in the depression has resources of over \$80,000,000.

Adler always modestly attributed any success he may have had to the faith in him of one man — A. W. Lee. He had been no less true to a personal code learned in his Ottumwa home from his father, who acted as lay rabbi on Jewish holy days. It was the heritage of the sons of Meyer Amschul Rothschild, from the old patriarch of that great family of Frankfort: "To walk with dignity, to deal fairly, and to live with honor." This E. P. Adler did throughout a long life.

As on the *Ottumwa Courier*, so on the *Davenport Times*, Adler surrounded himself with able lieutenants. Born in Muscatine in 1888, Ralph J. Leysen worked on the *Muscatine Journal* from 1906 to 1922, when Adler brought him to the *Davenport Times* as managing editor.

When Philip D. Adler succeeded his father as publisher of the *Times* in 1949, he came with many experiences and honors. At the University of Iowa he was editor of the *Daily Iowan* and president of the Western Conference editors. Following his graduation from college in 1926 he became editor-publisher of the *Kewanee Star-Courier*. In the brief time that he has served the Davenport community, Philip Adler has demonstrated qualities of unusual ability and leadership.

RALPH J. LEYSEN

The Muscatine Journal

The *Muscatine Journal* is the smallest as well as the oldest of the Lee newspapers in Iowa. It traces its ancestry to October 27, 1840, when the first copy of the Bloomington *Herald* came off a crude, hand-operated press set up in a wretched log cabin on the bank of the Mississippi at Bloomington, a town of just over 500 population. There were only 43,112 people in the Black Hawk Purchase at this time and the Territory of Iowa was six years removed from statehood.

Ownership of the Bloomington *Herald* passed into the hands of N. P. Stout and William Israel in 1847. That same year a thirteen-year-old youth, John Mahin, was apprenticed to it for board and clothing. John Mahin and his father, Jacob Mahin, purchased the *Journal* in July, 1852, from Noah H. McCormick who had owned it since 1848. The first *Journal* under Mahin management was issued July 17, 1852. Meanwhile, in 1849, the name of Bloomington had been changed to Muscatine and the newspaper had followed the town in its change of name.

John Mahin was an energetic and dynamic crusader. An implacable foe of the liquor interests, it was natural that in the course of his career he

should acquire bitter enemies. Principles established by Mahin in his more than fifty years at the helm of the *Muscatine Journal* have continued to guide those who followed in his footsteps.

In his first issue young John Mahin promised better type and content and set forth the principles of community service and interest which still guide the paper. "Locally," Mahin declared, "our paper will be devoted particularly to the interests of Muscatine county and city. Indeed, as our interests are identical, in justice to ourselves, we cannot act otherwise."

The *Journal* became Muscatine's first daily in July, 1855. Orion Clemens, brother of Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), acquired an interest in the paper shortly after the Mahins purchased it, and Mark Twain was employed for a brief time.

Organization of The Journal Printing Company, the firm which now publishes the *Muscatine Journal*, was in 1878; the first officers were John Mahin, John B. Lee, and A. W. Lee. John B. Lee was the father of Mrs. Mahin and A. W. Lee.

A. W. Lee, the founder of the Lee group of papers, first demonstrated his newspaper ability when he became business manager of the *Muscatine Journal*, on which he had worked as bookkeeper and reporter in 1874.

Ownership and operation of the *Journal* remained in the Mahin family until it was purchased by A. W. Lee and associates in 1903 — the third

newspaper to be published by the Lee organization. After disposing of his interests in the *Journal*, John Mahin moved to Evanston, Illinois, to make his home near a son. He died at Evanston July 24, 1919, at the age of eighty-six.

Several notable Lee lieutenants were associated with the *Journal*. Walter Lane, who had previously served as advertising manager and business manager, succeeded Mahin as publisher. He died in 1907. Frank Throop, who had first become identified with the *Journal* in 1901 as city editor, followed Lane as publisher, with Lee P. Loomis succeeding Throop as managing editor. In 1915, when Throop acquired an interest in a Davenport newspaper, Loomis became publisher and was succeeded as managing editor by Ralph J. Leysen, who had previously been city editor.

Loomis continued as publisher until 1925, when he took the helm of the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*. He was followed as publisher by Clyde Rabedeaux, former advertising manager. Rabedeaux served as publisher until his death in December, 1942. C. Lloyd Bunker succeeded Rabedeaux as publisher after formerly serving as circulation manager and advertising manager. The names of George M. Hinshaw, D. D. Mich, and Walter Russell loom large in the story of the *Muscatine Journal*. Russell joined the staff in 1926 and has been city editor since 1930.

There have been many dramatic episodes in the

history of the *Muscatine Journal* since Mahin retired half a century ago. Thus, there was a protracted period of strife, growing out of a pearl button strike, which saw the community divided and bitterness flare into violence so intense that troops were sent to the city. The *Journal*, on the side of law and order, encountered condemnation from both sides in the dispute. When it was settled, the *Journal* set out upon a studied program of re-establishing harmony, in which it found many allies.

Later the *Journal* found itself pitted against an ingenious individual, Norman Baker, who claimed a "cure" for cancer. Sufferers were lured to Muscatine by the hundreds to undergo treatment at a "hospital" hastily converted from a fraternal organization hall. A bountiful income resulted for the proprietor and his associates. The *Journal* incurred the enmity of Baker when it published, as a matter of legitimate news, the names of those who had succumbed while under treatment.

An unprecedented campaign of abuse began over a radio station operated by Baker, involving the publisher, staff members, and executives of the *Journal*. It was continued for several years. The *Journal*, with the spirit of John Mahin of old, adhered to its right and duty to present the facts, even though some opposed publishing such information when it conflicted with their material prosperity. An opposition daily newspaper was

established as the feud raged. Eventually the "hospital" was closed, the license of the radio station revoked, and the opposition newspaper collapsed. Norman Baker subsequently ran afoul of the law with his promotion schemes and served a term in the federal penitentiary.

At about this same time the *Muscatine Journal* found itself called upon to report a "cow war" in Cedar County. The "cow war," an outgrowth of resistance to a state law requiring the testing of cattle for bovine tuberculosis, saw organized resistance to the testing program and eventually the calling out of national guardsmen. The tests were finally accepted as being in the best interests of the public, as farmers became educated as to their worth — a process in which the *Journal* played its part.

The *Muscatine Journal* was among the earliest of the smaller Iowa daily newspapers to add full leased wire service of the Associated Press, at first provided through a Morse telegraph operator and in more recent years by automatic teletypes.

In 1940 the *Journal* printed a centennial anniversary edition containing 230 pages, hundreds of illustrations, and tracing the history of the paper and the community over the span of the century. It was the largest paper ever published by the *Muscatine Journal*.

WALTER RUSSELL

The Davenport Democrat

Franklin Pierce was President, the Rock Island railroad had just reached the Mississippi, and "Bleeding Kansas" was evoking bitter words from northern Abolitionists when David Nelson Richardson published the first issue of the *Iowa State Democrat* at Davenport on October 15, 1855. This notable journal is now nearing its 100th birthday, and is one of the oldest dailies in Iowa in point of continuous publication.

D. N. Richardson, a young printer on the Peoria *Morning News*, had been induced to move to Davenport by promises of patronage and a \$1,000 bonus. Promises of patronage proved illusionary, but the newspaper took root nevertheless, and in 1859 D. N. induced his brother, Jenness J. Richardson, to join him as a partner. D. N. was a scholar who filled the editorial chair well. J. J. was a canny businessman who brought prosperity through careful management and advertising receipts. He was the first known Midwest publisher to visit the east to solicit advertisements. Of him George P. Rowell later wrote in *Printer's Ink*: "No advertiser, big or little, failed to receive a visit from him. A rebuff rolled off him like water off a duck's back. He was in no hurry, he could

wait, would much rather wait than call again. If the order was a small one, he preferred it to none. If the man had no money, there was no objection to taking payments in goods."

The team of the Richardson brothers, aided by B. F. Tillinghast as editor (and later by Ralph Cram), continued to guide the *Democrat* until 1915, shortly before the death of J. J. Richardson. Tillinghast, who had been lured from the *Moline Dispatch*, became a civic leader and a force in journalistic circles. He was Iowa Red Cross chairman and organized efforts to aid the Johnstown flood sufferers in 1889. He also backed a shipload of corn to aid starving Russians in 1892.

As he grew older J. J. Richardson relinquished the details of business management — first to a nephew, C. T. Darling from Vermont, and later to J. B. Richardson, a son of D. N. Richardson, who became an important figure in Davenport business circles. J. J. then plunged into politics, becoming Iowa Democratic committeeman, in which post he had final say on appointment of Iowa postmasters during the Cleveland administrations.

Several other leaders should be mentioned. M. N. Richardson, another son of D. N. Richardson, was a stockholder in the *Democrat* and kept close tab on its operations for half a century, though he never gave it full-time attention. George H. Ballou, a Civil War veteran who carried a bullet in his body and was sometimes miss-

ing at press time because of a convivial meeting with friends, was city editor from 1878 to 1890. J. E. Calkins succeeded Ballou, and has the distinction of editing the Half-Century Edition of 1905, a remarkable job of research.

In 1915, when J. J. Richardson relinquished control to the Lee Syndicate, Frank D. Throop came from Muscatine as publisher. The *Democrat* was the fourth Iowa paper to join the Lee group. Throop headed the paper for about eighteen years before moving to Lincoln, Nebraska, to become publisher of the Lee Syndicate's latest newspaper—the *Lincoln Star*.

Ralph Cram, who had entered the employ of the *Democrat* as a reporter in 1883, became managing editor in 1909 on the retirement of Tillinghast. Soon his name appeared as editor and publisher. Cram was not only a widely respected editor but also a pioneer in the field of aviation, flying with such men as Lindbergh, Rickenbacker, and Eddie Stinson. He traveled on most National Air tours, and at sixty-two became himself a pilot.

In June, 1940, Leland M. Turnbull, who was previously advertising manager of the *Times*, became publisher of the *Democrat*. Turnbull has at all times been a leader in civic activities. He has headed Community Chest campaigns, the Contemporary Club, been a director of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, and a leader in activities of the First Presbyterian Church.

In its pioneer days the *Democrat* acquired first the *Morning Gazette* and in 1902 the *Evening Leader*. Among the personnel of the *Leader* at the time it was taken over by the *Democrat* was Hugh Harrison, then assistant city editor. Harrison started in the same capacity on the *Democrat*, later was advanced to city editor, and in 1940 moved to the managing editor's chair. William A. Ceperley, whose cartoons were a feature of the *Democrat* for many years, succeeded him as city editor.

In its editorial department the Davenport *Democrat* now boasts the services of five men working with Harrison and Ceperley, all of whom have been with the paper from twenty to thirty years. The *Democrat* is an independent Democratic newspaper, but has always aimed to support what its editors believe to be right, regardless of politics. It was the only daily in Iowa which supported President Truman in 1948.

HUGH HARRISON

Mason City Globe-Gazette

The Mason City *Globe-Gazette*, which formally entered the family of Lee newspapers in April, 1925, is the lineal descendant of no less than a score of newspapers, both weeklies and dailies, printed in that north Iowa center of trade and industry. It was the fifth and last of the Iowa dailies to join the Lee group.

First of its antecedents was the *Cerro Gordo Press*, founded in June, 1858, and printed on a hand press carted to Mason City from nearby Osage by one Datus Coon. Coon remained there only two years, then moved on to greener pastures.

In the period between the Civil War and the turn of the century, Mason City's newspapers reached almost epidemic proportions. At one time during the 1880's, the community was served by no less than five different publications, one of them the *Daily Globe*. Best-known of these early day Mason City editors was Leo Chapman of the *Republican*. While he pursued his journalistic calling, his bride served as superintendent of schools. Chapman died when thirty; his widow became one of history's best-known women, a leader in the woman's suffrage cause, Carrie Chapman Catt.

It was to this highly competitive field that a pair of promising young journalists from Ottumwa came in 1898. One of these was William Foster Muse, the other David M. Conroy. With their limited capital, they had purchased the recently merged daily *Globe* and weekly *Gazette*.

Muse, widely known as a bass singer, became editor, and Conroy served as business manager of the new property. While maintaining a stout Republican policy editorially, Muse proceeded on the theory that ultimate success would depend on a superior news service, particularly in local coverage. This proved a sound premise, for one by one the rival newspapers began to fall by the wayside. In 1918 the last competitor, the *Daily Times*, was purchased and merged with the *Globe-Gazette*.

Up to 1918 the *Globe-Gazette* had been designed for a Mason City readership; thereafter it strove for regional patronage in the dozen rich agricultural counties in north-central Iowa. Such expansion involved acquiring a leased wire from the Associated Press to supplant the previous "pony" telephone service; a second daily edition for outlying towns; and an accelerated subscription effort throughout the area.

The *Globe-Gazette's* entry into the Lee group of newspapers in 1925, following Conroy's death in 1923, was in the nature of a marriage long-deferred. It came about on the motion of William F. Muse, who had been associated with A. W.

Lee at Ottumwa in the 1890's. E. P. Adler, too, had been his lifelong friend. This step brought to Mason City as guiding hand for the *Globe-Gazette* Lee P. Loomis, nephew of A. W. Lee and former publisher of the *Muscatine Journal*.

Loomis found what was conceded to be a good newspaper; his task was to make it better. There were additions to the wire and feature services, an expansion of the staff of local reporters and area correspondents, a remodeling of the physical plant, a new high-speed Goss octuple press, and an accent on pictures and art, with an ample photographic department, wirephoto facilities, and a modern engraving department. Accompanying all of this was an enlarged force of salesmen and a third daily edition of the paper designed especially for rural subscribers. The result was a circulation unsurpassed by any city of like size in America.

On the death of William F. Muse in 1931, W. Earl Hall, managing editor since 1920, assumed the *Globe-Gazette's* editorial policy. A graduate of the State University of Iowa, Hall has, along with his journalistic duties, found time for public service on the local, state, and national scene, as well as a considerable amount of world travel.

Largely because of Hall's interest in safety (he served as vice-president of the National Safety Council from 1943 to 1947) the *Globe-Gazette* has the unique distinction of having presented at least one editorial on the safety subject in every

issue for the past nineteen years. In 1937 and again in 1941 the paper was awarded top honors nationally for its espousal of highway safety.

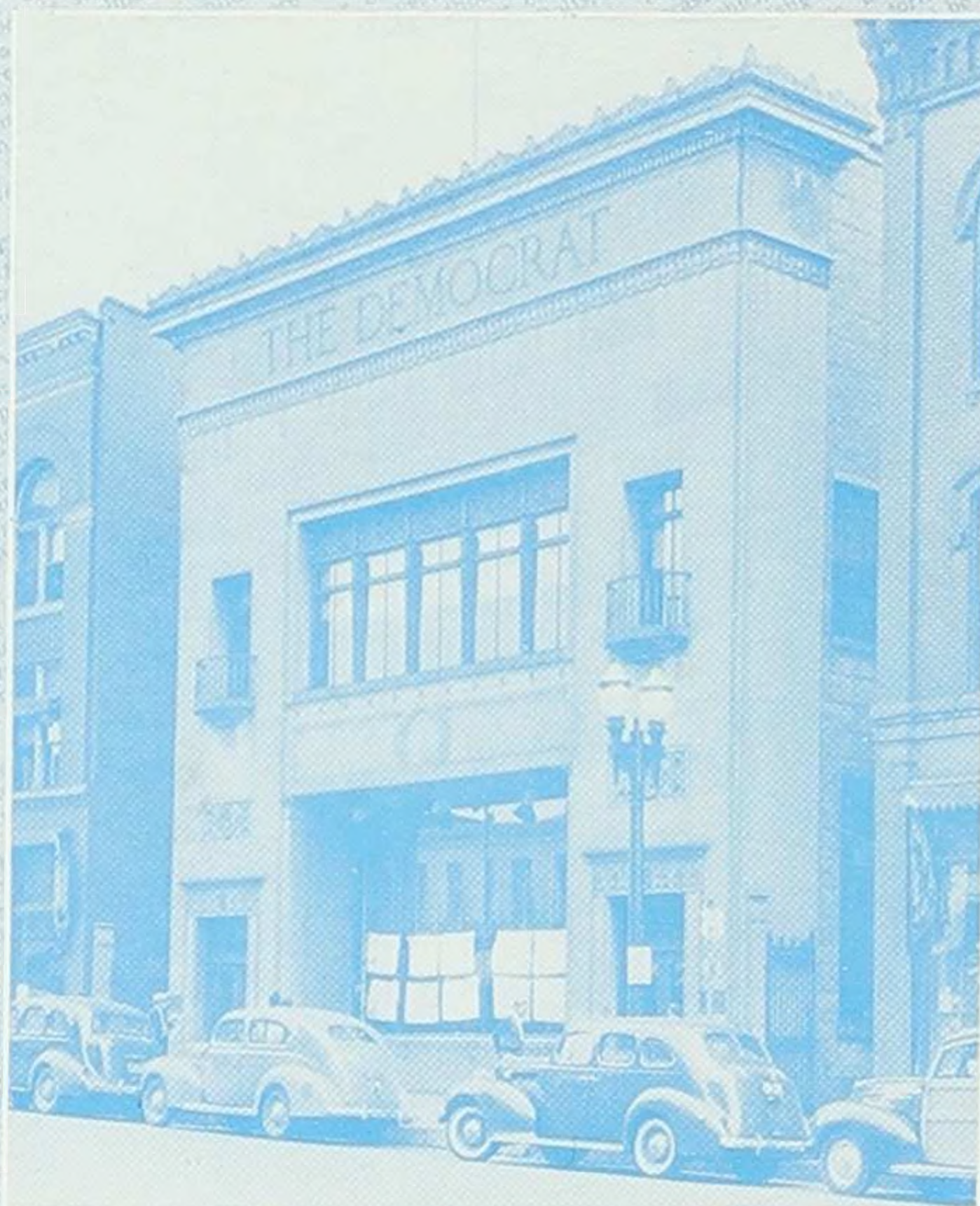
In 1937 the *Globe-Gazette* entered a new sector of the communications field by launching a radio enterprise, KGLO — a CBS affiliate. From 100 watts, the station's power assignment in the dozen years since then has been stepped up to 5,000 watts, with a corresponding improvement of plant, equipment, and program.

For the past several years KGLO and a sister station acquired in 1944, WTAD of Quincy, Illinois, have had their own corporate identities — Lee Radio, Inc., of Mason City and Lee Broadcasting, Inc., of Quincy, both headed by Lee Loomis. There continues, however, a common bond and a close cooperation between radio and newspaper. For both there is the same ideal of success through service. The seventy-three hours of leased wire coverage from AP and UP received in the *Globe-Gazette* newsroom daily is a measure of the news service provided for north Iowans through newspaper and radio.

The *Globe-Gazette* performs its finest service in the support and encouragement of all such community events as the North Iowa Band Festival, which is believed to be the oldest and largest of its kind in America.

W. EARL HALL





OUR YEARS OF
ETING AT MAJOR
LYWOOD STUDIOS

**SOUTH D
ROBBED
BY MA**

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HOME BY CHRIST