

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. 2-12.

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, 1865-15 17 y

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' Life 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' Life Policy*.

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. BATHBON, 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 lbs Imperial and Young Hyson Tea, cheap.

400 yds Hemp Ingrain and Rag Carpet.

Remember Meek's Cash Store.

Dec 23-64-42-16.

LEATHER AND HARDWARE

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 procuring 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