

WANT A.P. DIRECTORS CHOSEN BY REGIONS

Montana Committee Starts Movement to Have Regional Plan Substituted for Population Basis

A movement for a change in the method of selecting directors of the Associated Press has been started by a committee of three Montana members in a circular sent to the membership this week. The proposed change is from selection by population density to selection according to definitely outlined regions. The committee sponsoring the move is composed of James P. Bole, *Bozeman Chronicle*; Warren B. Davis, *Missoula Missoulian*; and J. H. Dickey, Jr., *Butte Daily Post*.

Selection by regions would provide for attention to the special news interests of each region without impairing the present high quality of general service, he committee contend. In presenting their arguments, they state:

"The election of directors of the Associated Press under the present system concentrates an overwhelming majority of the board in the seaboard states and leaves a vast area of the United States without representation.

"The present system is unquestionably fair if we view the election of the directorate purely as a political proposition. The sections of the United States having the greatest population and the greatest number of members elect members from their own sections. It is furthermore admitted on all sides that the Associated Press directors are meticulously careful in their efforts to safeguard the interests of the outlying members.

"While recognizing the scrupulous fairness of the board of directors in all matters affecting what may be termed the smaller membership, there is none the less a growing feeling that the directors should be elected on a regional rather than a population basis.

"The news interests of the membership in, say, the New York area, are almost entirely identical. There are admittedly many members in this area, but their news needs are the same. On the other hand in the large area west of the Mississippi, which has a very small representation, there are many interests which have little in common."

The committee members did not state whether or not they would bring the matter before the general meeting in New York the week of April 25. O. S. Warden, of the *Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune*, is one of the nominees for election to the board of directors this year.

PRESS HELPS BLOCK AID

New York newspapermen who are voluntarily giving their time to the Block Aid Community Organization in its campaign for funds to relieve unemployment distress, include: Arthur Brisbane, R. H. Johnson and J. A. Grant of the Hearst Publications, who have been appointed Block-Aid executives; F. A. Walker, *New York Sun*; Col. Julius O. Adler, *New York Times*; Bernarr Macfadden, *New York Graphic*; A. J. Kobler, *New York Mirror*; R. C. Hollis, *New York Daily News*; Harry H. Schlacht, *New York East Side News*; Harry Goodwin, *Bronx Home News*; William F. Hofmann, *Jamaica Long Island Press*; Fremont C. Peck, *Brooklyn Times-Standard Union* and Harry T. Madden, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

WISCONSIN MEETINGS

The Wisconsin Daily Newspaper League will hold its summer convention at Appleton, Wis., coincident with the opening of the new newspaper plant of the *Appleton Daily Post-Crescent*, in June. H. L. Davis, general manager of the *Post-Crescent*, is secretary of the league. The Wisconsin Daily Advertising Managers' League will also meet at Appleton while the publishers are in session.

NEWSDEALERS HELD

Four New York newsstand owners were held in \$500 bail each by Magistrate Michael A. Ford for trial in Special Sessions on charges of selling obscene magazines. The four all own stands in the mid-town section of Manhattan. They are Harry Roberts, Herman Harris, Nick Palumbo, and Percy Altschuler. Summons were served on them last January and February as the result of a campaign started by District Attorney Thomas C. T. Crain. The prosecutor entered as evidence 59 editions of about 30 different magazines, mostly weeklies and monthlies with a few annual editions.

I. C. C. CAN'T RULE AIR, EXAMINER REPORTS

Broadcasting Not Interstate Commerce, Under Transportation Act, He Says on Complaint of Unfair Rates and Rules

By GEORGE H. MANNING
(Washington Correspondent
EDITOR & PUBLISHER)

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Dismissal of a complaint brought by Sta-Shine Products Co., Inc., Brooklyn, against station WGBB, Freeport, L. I., H. H. Carman, proprietor of the station, and the National Broadcasting Co., alleging unjust and unreasonable broadcasting rates, charges, rules, regulations and practices, has been recommended to the Interstate Commerce Commission by Examiner W. M. Cheseldine.

The complaint is the first to be brought before the commission involving broadcasting companies.

In recommending dismissal of the complaint, Cheseldine said the Interstate Commerce Commission had no jurisdiction over charges or practices of broadcasting companies.

The complaint was brought under the provisions of the interstate commerce act which give the Interstate Commerce Commission jurisdiction over the "transmission of intelligence by wire or wireless."

The examiner pointed out these provisions were incorporated in the act in 1920, while the first attempt at public broadcasting was not made until the late fall of that year, about 10 months after passage of the transportation act. It was not until a year or so later that any attempt was made to broadcast on a commercial scale, Cheseldine said.

"It would therefore appear that the Congress could not have had in mind general broadcasting to the public, as performed by defendants, when the transportation act was passed," he said.

"Since broadcasting was unknown at the time of the passage of the transportation act it is reasonable to assume that the Congress did not intend to pass any law to regulate the charges and practices of broadcasting concerns.

"It cannot be supposed that it was looking into the future and attempting to regulate a mere potential service, one that might or might not be developed, and particularly a service so distinct and different in character from the means of transmission of intelligence then known.

"What it had in mind must have been the transmission of messages by wireless from a definite sender to a definite receiver, that is, point-to-point wireless communication as was then being performed by the United States army and navy and commercial concerns which held themselves out to perform such service for the public as common carriers for hire by means of signals—an entirely different type of communication from that of ordinary broadcasting."

HEADS OKLAHOMA SIGMAS

R. Marsden Bellatti, son of C. R. Bellatti, publisher of the *Blackwell (Okla.) Tribune*, has been named president of Sigma Delta Chi, at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, following the resignation of William Moore. Moore has joined the *Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman* staff, but will continue his university course until June, when he will be graduated.

A JOB TO ENVY

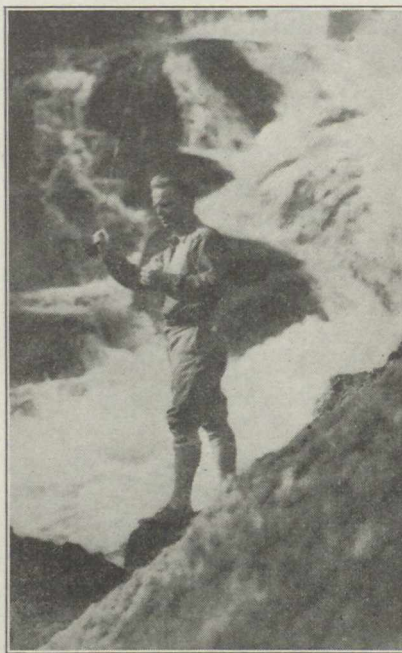


Photo shows Donald Stillman, "rod and gun" editor of the *New York Herald Tribune*, who is conducting a prize fishing competition for the daily. The contest opened April 2 and closes Nov. 10. Fishing tackle and equipment will be awarded those who capture the biggest fish in certain classifications. Mr. Stillman, here pictured in the act of pulling in a big one himself, was for several years managing editor of *Forest and Stream*.

POLICE FACE TRIAL ON REPORTERS' CHARGES

Brooklyn Detective and Two Policemen Ordered by Chief to Answer Charges of Beating Eagle and N. Y. Times Writers

Three members of the New York City Police Department were ordered by Deputy Chief Inspector Thomas J. Cummings this week to stand trial on charges of assault submitted by Frank Wilson, reporter for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, and John McManus, reporter for the *New York Times*. The trial is expected to be held sometime next week.

The defendants are Detective John Croak and Patrolmen Anthony Gamble and Peter E. Cummings of the Classon Avenue station in Brooklyn.

Wilson and McManus filed their charges at the direction of Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney after they complained of the actions of the policemen at the scene of a robbery on Classon Avenue. The reporters had gone with other newspapermen to the Waterbury Rope Works, where four armed men had held up five employees and escaped with \$1,158. They were admitted to the rope company's office but were denied any information by the policemen.

Following this, when Wilson protested this secrecy, Detective Croak is alleged to have hit him with his fist. McManus stepped between the two when the detective reached for his blackjack. The two reporters were then forcibly ejected from the office, and Patrolman Gamble is then alleged to have struck Wilson, loosening one of his teeth and cutting his lip.

Croak ordered the reporters taken to the station house and Gamble attempted to have them booked on charges of creating a disturbance, interfering with police officers and using indecent language, but the charges were ruled out by the lieutenant.

The reporters took their case to Deputy Chief Inspector Cummings, who was instructed by Commissioner Mulrooney to file formal charges against the policemen.

RESERVATIONS MADE AT THE WALDORF

Excellent Attendance Expected at A.N.P.A. Annual Convention—Editor & Publisher in Le Perroquet Suite

Reservations for the annual convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, April 26 to 29 are now being received in numbers sufficient to indicate that the attendance this year, the first year in the new hotel, will be excellent.

EDITOR & PUBLISHER this year will be located in Le Perroquet suite at the hotel, where the recent Culbertson-Lenz bridge match was staged. Among the features at EDITOR & PUBLISHER's stand this year will be a television exhibit, staged with the cooperation of the Columbia Broadcasting Company. Publishers will be invited to go to the Columbia studios where they will talk before the apparatus and be seen and heard in EDITOR & PUBLISHER's suite.

The newspaper promotion copy that was entered in EDITOR & PUBLISHER's first annual contest will be on display. More than 50 newspapers competed in this contest, with the first award, a silver loving cup, going to the *Milwaukee Journal*.

Although there are to be no mechanical exhibits at this year's convention, space is being reserved by many concerns. The activities will center on the third (Ballroom) and fourth floors. EDITOR & PUBLISHER's suite is on the fourth floor, just off a foyer that leads from the upper part of the Grand Ballroom.

Registrations will be made in a large foyer adjoining the Grand Ballroom on the third floor. Other adjoining rooms will be used for meetings of various groups. The Ballroom will be used for convention sessions. The A.N.P.A. headquarters are also located on this floor.

SEEKS NEWSSTAND DISPLAY

Chicago Sunday Times Offers Papers to Dealers, Ends "Hustler" Plan

(By telegraph to EDITOR & PUBLISHER)
CHICAGO, April 7.—Notices were sent to newsstand owners today by the *Chicago Daily Times* that copies of the newly established Sunday Times will be furnished them Saturday evening and Sunday for display on the wings of their stands. Previously the Sunday Times has been handled by its own force of 2,300 men and boys to avoid conflict with the newsstand display of other papers.

J. F. Shanahan, Times circulation manager, stated that last Sunday, after notice to the other Sunday papers, the Sunday Times was displayed on ten stands without disturbing the display of the other papers, and that a city ordinance provides for the display and sale from the newsstands of all Chicago daily (including Sunday) newspapers.

"Assuming, as we do, that newsstand owners will give our newspaper proper display, and will merchandise it as they do competing papers," he said, "we shall not maintain hustlers at your corner. Some newsstand owners may prefer to carry papers under their arms. You will have an unlimited return privilege on all unsold papers."

OKLAHOMA GROUP MEETS

Perry C. E. Hershberger, editor, *Medford Patriot-Star*, was elected president of Group Nine, Oklahoma Press Association, at its recent annual meeting at Perry. He succeeds Clyde E. Muchmore, editor, *Ponca City News*. Other officers are: Ira Williams, *Perry Journal*, vice-president, and J. C. Hopkins, Waynoka, secretary-treasurer. The autumn meeting will be held at Tonkawa.

SPONSORED COOKING SCHOOL

The *Memphis Commercial Appeal and Evening Appeal* sponsored a cooking school in the Ellis Auditorium, March 29-April 1.