

# Shop Talk

about THE WASHINGTON POST and TIMES HERALD

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## WHAT GOES ON

Construction of the new addition to the Washington Post Building started the second week in February when the parking lots were cleared and the contractor roped off the area and started moving in his equipment.

First actual blow struck was by the Washington Gas Light Co. which dug a trench paralleling the west alley. In this are being installed new gas lines to replace those formerly running under the parking lot. The telephone company started work later during the week to reroute phone cables running under the parking areas. The trench dug (and now filled in) paralleling the north side of the Lee House was for the phone lines coming into the Post building, as was the work out in 15th street. The trench cut through the L street sidewalk into the Lenox Building to our west was also part of the phone line relocation.

While the utilities were starting their digging, the contractor had the sheet piling brought onto the construction area, and exploratory trenches were dug to see if any old foundations existed that would impede the driving of this piling. The actual pile driving started on Wednesday, Feb. 18th. Purpose of this is to form a protective underground wall to shore up the sides of the adjoining property when the excavation gets under way.

One problem has been relocation of the truck scale at the northwest corner of Post property. This is important to the operations of Security Storage company and the Post has promised to keep a scale in operation. Production engineer Rogers has worked out a method of installing a truck scale between the two Security Storage buildings and the excavation in that area has been to determine whether or not this will be feasible. While the pile drivers were working at the north edge of the lot it was necessary to shut off the north alley and Security Storage trucks were routed through the former parking areas—the kind of problem which made it necessary to shut off the parking lots before actual excavation started.

Practically all the repair and remodeling of the present Post building, the



Informal ground breaking ceremonies for the Post building addition on February 16th included (left to right) John W. Sweeterman, general manager; James Gilroy, of the Albert Kahn Company; James S. Davidson Jr. of the Charles H. Thompkins Company and James P. Rogers, production engineer.

Photo by Wally McNamee

Times Herald building and the 16th street Annex have been done by the Charles H. Tompkins company, general contractor for the new building, so its people are well acquainted with Post people and problems. Tompkins also built WTOP's Broadcast House several years ago.

The shed erected at the northeast corner of the lot is for the contractor's office, and for tools and equipment. It also provides an on-the-job office for the architect's resident engineer, James Gilroy, who has moved to Washington temporarily.

Next move was removal of most of the "bandstand"—the auxiliary loading dock which was built at the southwest corner of the parking lot immediately after Post purchase of the Times Herald nearly five years ago. This had been used largely as

a storehouse for advance Sunday sections and as a place for dealers to leave bundles of returns. Now it had to go to permit excavation of the lot.

Erection of the fence south of the excavation will create a temporary problem for truckers delivering newsprint and Sunday supplements. These long trailers have had to turn onto the parking lot in order to park perpendicularly against the dock for normal unloading from the rear.

At this writing we are not sure whether the problem can be solved by jackknifing the big trailers into the 35-foot alley which will remain between dock and excavation or whether it will be necessary to unload the trailers at the truck terminal and reload into smaller trucks which can be backed into our dock. This

(Story cont. on back page)

## NEW PERSONNEL MANAGER CREDIT UNION



William R. Merkel

William R. Merkel, new personnel manager, comes to The Post and Times Herald from the Forest City Publishing Company, publishers of the Cleveland Plain Dealer (M-S) and Cleveland News (E).

Bill's introduction to the newspaper industry started after WWII when he joined the Cleveland Newspaper Publisher's Association as assistant to the Secretary. After four years, being a Marine Corps reservist, he was recalled to service during the Korean conflict.

Upon his return to Cleveland in 1952, Bill became personnel and labor relations manager for The News and shortly thereafter administrative assistant to the president of the Forest City Publishing Company. In the latter capacity, he devoted considerable time to coordinating building plans for the integration of the Plain Dealer and News from 1953 to 1956. Last year he gained some advertising sales experience on the News retail staff.

A 1941 graduate of Ohio University, Bill majored in Economics and minored in English. He did some cross country running in college, worked on the university magazine staff and is a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

In WWII Bill served 3 years in the Marine Corps, two of them in the Pacific Theatre. In the Korean conflict he held various posts in infantry training organizations and made 3 trips to the Far East as a liaison officer. He is presently a major in the USMCR.

In Cleveland he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Mid-day Club, Cleveland Executives Association and was for four years a member of the city council and planning commission in the suburban community where they resided from 1950 to 1957.

Married, Bill is the father of 4 year old twin girls and 6 and 9 year old boys. His wife, Jody, is keeping the homefires burning in Moreland Hills near Chagrin Falls, Ohio, until school is out in June.

Bill's schedule has not been conducive to any well organized hobbies but he delights in taking his two sons on hiking and camping trips when time permits.

## CREDIT UNION

At its shareholders meeting on January 30th, the Washington Post Employees Credit Union reported assets of \$439,720 at the end of 1958, an increase of \$54,646 over the year of 1957. Steady gains were shown in membership, shares of members, and number and amount of loans made this year. Membership gained 89 accounts. The number of loans increased 113 with \$161,345 financial difference.

The following slate of officers and board members was approved. President of the Board of Directors—Royal Rodgers, copy service; Vice President—Fred P. Morthorst, accounting; Secretary—Ben Polsemen, national advertising; and Treasurer—Fred Glennie, accounting. Serving on the board are Anne Paradiso, personnel, Bill Reith, credit and collections, Jack Patterson, circulation, Paul Clifford, composing, and Ollie Goodman, news. Chairman of the Credit Committee is Bill Reith. Dick Lucht, accounting and Basil Fowler, retail advertising, serve under Bill. Chairman of the Supervisory Committee is Bob Longstreet, accounting with Clarence Zimmerman, accounting and Mary Wilson, administrative advertising, as members of the committee.

The shareholders voted a 6% dividend as has been done for the past several years.

## PURCHASING MANAGER

Jack Cannon has taken over the duties of purchasing manager. For almost two years, he has been working in the accounting department on various assignments under the direction of Comptroller Robert Thome. His previous experience was with RCA Service Company in Arlington, Va. as office manager. His two year old twins John and Kathleen, plus son, Kevin, keep Jack rather busy but he still finds time for his favorite sports, baseball and football.



## TWELFTH PLACE

The Washington Post and Times Herald has moved up from sixteenth place among all U. S. newspapers in 1957 in total advertising to twelfth place for 1958. This is a substantial jump considering the paper was in seventeenth place in 1956 and eighteenth in 1955. Also noteworthy is the fact that The Post was one of two newspapers of the top fifteen to show a gain in lineage. The Miami Herald gained 574,903 and The Post showed a gain of 481,406.

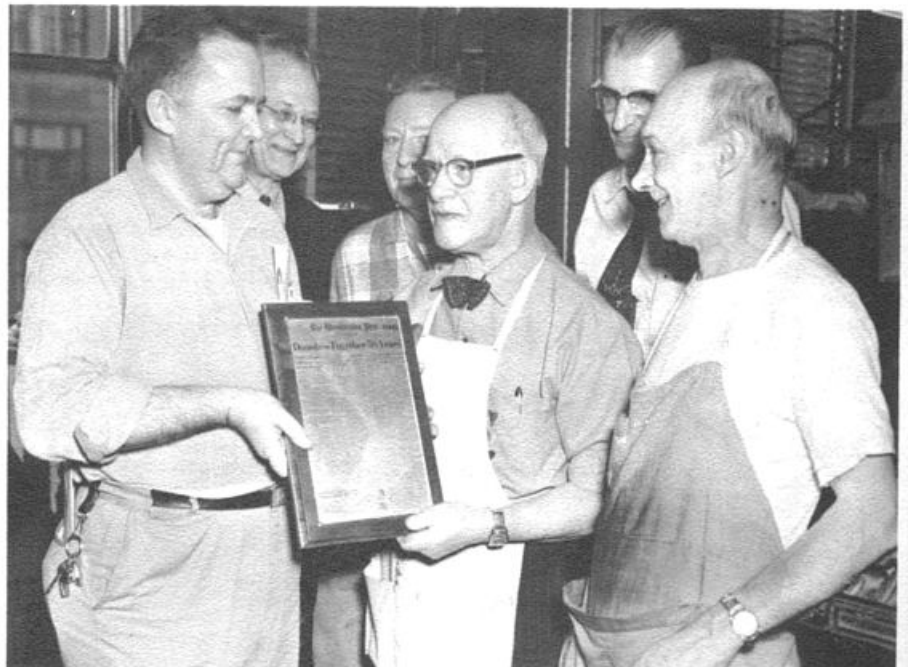


Photo by Harry Deering (composing)

*THE COMPOSING ROOM JOINED in the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration of the Chris Donoho's by presenting a simulated Washington Post front page plaque. Fellow lobster shift members giving the plaque to Chris (center front) are (left to right) Robert Patton, Raymond Bohlayer, William Mower, Gordon Scott and Willie Dorsey. Mr. Donoho has been a printer for 39 years, starting on Boston papers and coming to the Times Herald in 1936. He and his wife, Olivia Jane, devote much of their free time together to travelling. The one thing Chris claims he will not do is to give advice on marriage regardless of how many anniversaries he has.*

## THE STORY OF STEREOTYPING

After the type has been set in the chase, the stereotype department takes over the operation. Foreman Leo Bottoms heads the crew of 29 journeymen stereotypers, 3 apprentices and a mat boy who shuttles mats between The Post and Times Herald buildings. Six years of apprenticeship must be served before reaching journeyman status.



<sup>2</sup> Felt packing the back of the mat is being demonstrated by Ruben Sheer, Carl Ray and Clarence Patterson. These gummed strips prevent the loss of impression in white areas when the hot metal is poured on the mat. It is then put in a roaster for 2 min., 30 sec. to be dried and cylindrically shaped.

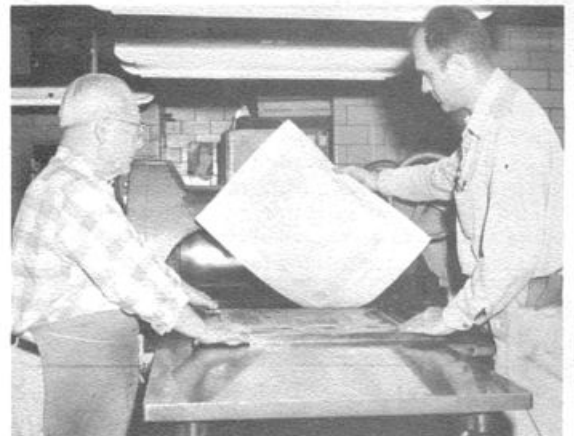
John Nolan puts the plate onto the shaver machine which will automatically cool and shave the plate to an exact thickness of 7/16 of an inch. All raised areas must be the same level. 4.



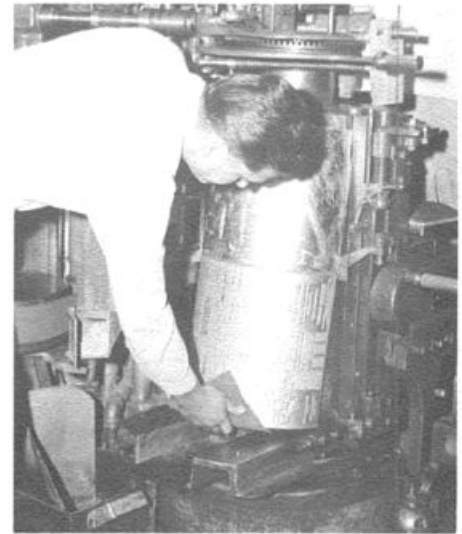
<sup>5</sup> The plate then goes to the milling machine which cuts pockets for the high-tension lock-up on the press cylinder at the T-H building. Above, John Grumbine adjusts a plate on the machine.



<sup>6</sup> Al Ballinger demonstrates the curved plate router used in color plate preparation. This operation routs out dead metal and leaves the subjects of the plate in clear enough relief to print.



<sup>1</sup> Angelo Fernandi and Paul Barr check the wood fiber matrix (mat) as it comes out of the molding machine on the 4th floor. Each page of type is molded producing an exact stereotype pattern of the page.



<sup>3</sup> The mat is placed in the casting box where hot metal is poured into the mold. Richard Balkcum shows the plate after it has been cast from the mat.



<sup>7</sup> Foreman Leo Bottoms and Assistant Foreman Otis Lawrence check the plate for depth and halftones to see that the cast is of desired quality.

Photos by Norman Driscoll

## (New Building Contd.)

would be cumbersome and also run up handling costs; another reason why we are anxious to get the north section of the addition ready for use as quickly as possible.

This part of the building operation is designated as Phase One and is scheduled for completion in July. At that time the new loading area should be completed and methods provided for transferring newsprint and supplements across from the new construction to the L street building. Then the present loading dock will be closed off, the "alley" behind it will be excavated, and Phase Two will have started.

Phase One includes completion of excavation and exterior construction not only of the loading area and the new receiving dock but also of the northern two-thirds of the entire addition up through the fourth floor. This will permit the two new Goss presses, of seven units each, to be installed while interior work is being completed and without waiting for the entire outer shell to be finished. A temporary weatherproof south wall will protect this area while Phase Two goes on.

Phase Two involves excavation of the remainder of the reel room area and construction of the five storey portion between the present building and the northern two-thirds finished in Phase One. It also includes completing the inside work in both portions and, finally, removing the existing back wall of the present building.

The construction work, not including the press installation or alterations in the existing Post building, is scheduled for completion March, 1960. Shop Talk will keep Post people informed of what's being done and why, issue by issue.

## POST & TH HAILED FOR URBAN RENEWAL REPORTING

The Washington Post Times Herald was praised recently, along with five other newspapers, for outstanding performance in the field of evaluating and reporting slum problems.

This evaluation was presented by Stephen G. Thompson of Architectural Forum, the nation's leading architectural planning magazine, before the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment offices in San Francisco.

Thompson condemned "newspapers by and large as suffering from the same blindness or inadequacy as most officials" with regard to slum problems.

Others on this preferred list of fair-minded newspapers were The Christian Science Monitor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Louisville Courier Journal, Cleveland Press, and Washington Star.



UPI Photo

**ON THE HOUSE.** Staff photographer Charlie DelVecchio (left) was the object of the Soviet's touring Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan's compassion. Mikoyan felt the press was working too hard and said so through his host, Russian Ambassador Mikhail Menshikov (middle). He grabbed Charlie by the arm and ushered him through the crowd to the bar. The rest of the photographers followed en masse—to take Charlie's picture, of course!

## ACCIDENT REPORT

Post employes had 146 on-the-job accidents during 1958, a very slight drop from 1957's total of 150. A better record was set in time-lost accidents, that is, those serious enough to cause the employe to stay away from the job. Only 23 of these accidents occurred last year, a 20% drop from the previous year's 35.

More than one third of all the accidents happened in the composing room but fortunately many of these were minor in nature. The table shows the incidence of all accidents and lost-time accidents by departments in 1958:

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BREAKDOWN YEAR—1958

Department	Number of Accidents	Time Lost
Composing	50	5 persons
Press Room	27	5 persons
Mail Room	22	6 persons
Building Service	14	2 persons
Stereo	5	0 persons
Circulation	5	1 persons
Accounting	4	1 persons
Machinists	3	1 persons
Classified Advertising	3	0 persons
Advertising	3	0 persons
Engraving	2	0 persons
Copy Service	2	0 persons
News	2	0 persons
Electricians	1	0 persons
Mimeo	1	0 persons
Editorial	1	1 persons
Library	1	1 persons
Total	146	23 persons

## PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY

Workmen's compensation law regulations require that all on-the-job accidents be reported to the commission within five days. This means the employe should report immediately to the foreman or supervisor, who in turn should fill out the accident report and get it to Personnel within 24 hours. From there it goes to the insurance company, which then sends the report to the commission; all this takes time and promptness is needed all along the line.

## SUGGESTION AWARDS



Theodore Van Veen



Joan Mann

The Suggestion Committee voted two awards to Post employes at the February 17th meeting. A five dollar award was given to Theodore Van Veen, accounting, who suggested a simplified method of maintaining controls on accounts receivable billings of The Post's broadcast division. The second award of ten dollars went to Joan Mann of national advertising. Two five button extension phones were installed in the national advertising department as a result of her suggestion. She pointed out the waste of motion and possible loss of business under the present system.