

# ShopTalk

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**Composing's Pennies and Roses**

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# The Problems of Cre

**P**lucking dust from the corners of 522,000 square feet... searching for silver and lead... storing a sea of paper from reporters' typewriters... it's all part of the story.

Keeping tidy at the newspaper presents the stuff of nightmares. Men and women of cleaning crews know that they will encounter silver, lead, tons of paper and no fewer than ten boxes of reporters' original manuscripts weekly. The story only begins here.

In the 522,000 square feet of The Post building there are spacious carpeted hallways, individual offices, and a big cafeteria where people eat, spill and drop crumbs. Hallways must be vacuumed; offices made to shine, and the cafeteria washed and polished. Furniture, including more than 2000 upholstered chairs, needs shampooing on a regular rotating basis. Furniture care, tile waxing and carpet shampooing—these tasks fall to the special projects team of Building Service.

The mechanical departments present cleaning realities of monumental proportions.

## Lure of Silver

At least, the engraving department, in addition to offering a challenge to its cleaners, offers pay dirt to the paper. The lure of silver...

Silver can be retrieved from engraving's used film. Edward Marshall, who's been a member of the staff for the last eight years, collects and saves every bit of scrap film possible. Each month Edward stores approximately 800 pounds of the precious film in cardboard barrels. Four or five scrap dealers buy the barrels of film for silver content.

In stereotyping the quest for metal continues. Scattered lead shavings abound in stereo. They must somehow get back into the lead pots to be used again. Retrieving them means sweeping and sweeping. Brooms find their way under the conveyor that carries plates to the pressroom elevator. Brooms search the floor, under and between



Edward Hooker, chief foreman, Building Service.



Marian Sutton is one of 12 women on the Building Service staff.



Morris Thomas, the service's general housekeeping dayside staff.

the Supermatic machines. Workers sweep shavings into special bins. On a Supermatic conveyor the shavings return to the lead pot.

Other lead must be skimmed. Once a week Simon Harris, generally assigned to stereo, helps skim lead pots of dross (waste lead that rises to the top of the pot) and places it in drums. Again scrap metal dealers assemble to buy the lead waste.

## Paper An Enemy

In the mailroom the enemy is paper—tons of it. When a conveyor machine jams, papers scatter all over the floor. The floor must be kept clear, however, so that forklift trucks can shuttle about. Building Service personnel are on the spot when machines are running to insure floors free of debris.

The dealers' shack, opposite the west loading dock, and the dispatcher's office in the shack, are also maintained and supplied by Building Service. Then there's that room on the second floor where approximately ten boxes a week of reporters' original copy is stored.

In addition, Building Service personnel police and maintain the loading dock, alley, and parking lots surrounding The Post.

## Billy Goats Help

Two Billy Goats (street vacuums) easily digest the vast feast of litter

which accumulates daily in these areas. And when old man winter provides the ground cover, the department clears these areas with its own snow plow.

In legend and fact newspaper people are not known as orderly folk. In one week Post people generate 30 bales of regular office trash, 120 cubic yards of garbage, and tons of supplement overruns and other papers. Dealers add to the chaos. Each night they contribute three tons of waste from their trucks. Building Service faces the need to bale and remove all this paper. An automatic machine in the basement bales the clean waste. A hand machine on the west loading dock bales office waste and garbage. Mike Ocetnik says the hand machine must be "as old as the White House." Again scrap dealers come to the rescue and buy the clean waste. The rest, which scrap dealers also buy, goes into a compacter and is hauled away once a week.

Who are these toilers of the night, and day, who keep us clean? Mike Ocetnik, building superintendent, and Norris Mann, night building superintendent, head the department. Assisting them are: Edward Hooker, chief foreman; John Austin, night shift foreman; Warren Pettis, night assistant shift foreman; Walter Galling, day shift foreman and Albert Redd, Jr., day assistant shift fore-

# aning a Newspaper



*Albert Redd, Jr. is assistant foreman of the day shift.*



*Dolphus Gaddy, general house-keeping, dayside.*



*Clifford Hamilton, assigned to Publications near the Composing room.*



*Charles Eberhardt, left, is assigned to rest rooms as a swing man, and Eric Nivens is assigned to Composing.*

man. Joseph McCree, Saul Taylor and Calvin Rice are general supervisors in the department. Supervisors handling special projects are Walter Fletcher (day) and Leroy Williams (night). Another 62 full-time and 5 part-time employees, including 12 women, complete the service staff, making life at The Post tidy and tenable.



*Walter Gatling, day shift foreman, chases lead shavings in Stereotype.*



*Leroy McConico is charged with care of public areas such as the lobby, and monitors supplies in Stereotyping.*



*A barrel of silver from Engraving . . . Used film from Engraving has a residue of silver which can be recovered. Metal dealers buy used film which has been scrupulously saved and put into barrels like this one by Building Service. In a month 200 troy ounces may be recovered.*

*(Photos by Harry Naltchayan)*



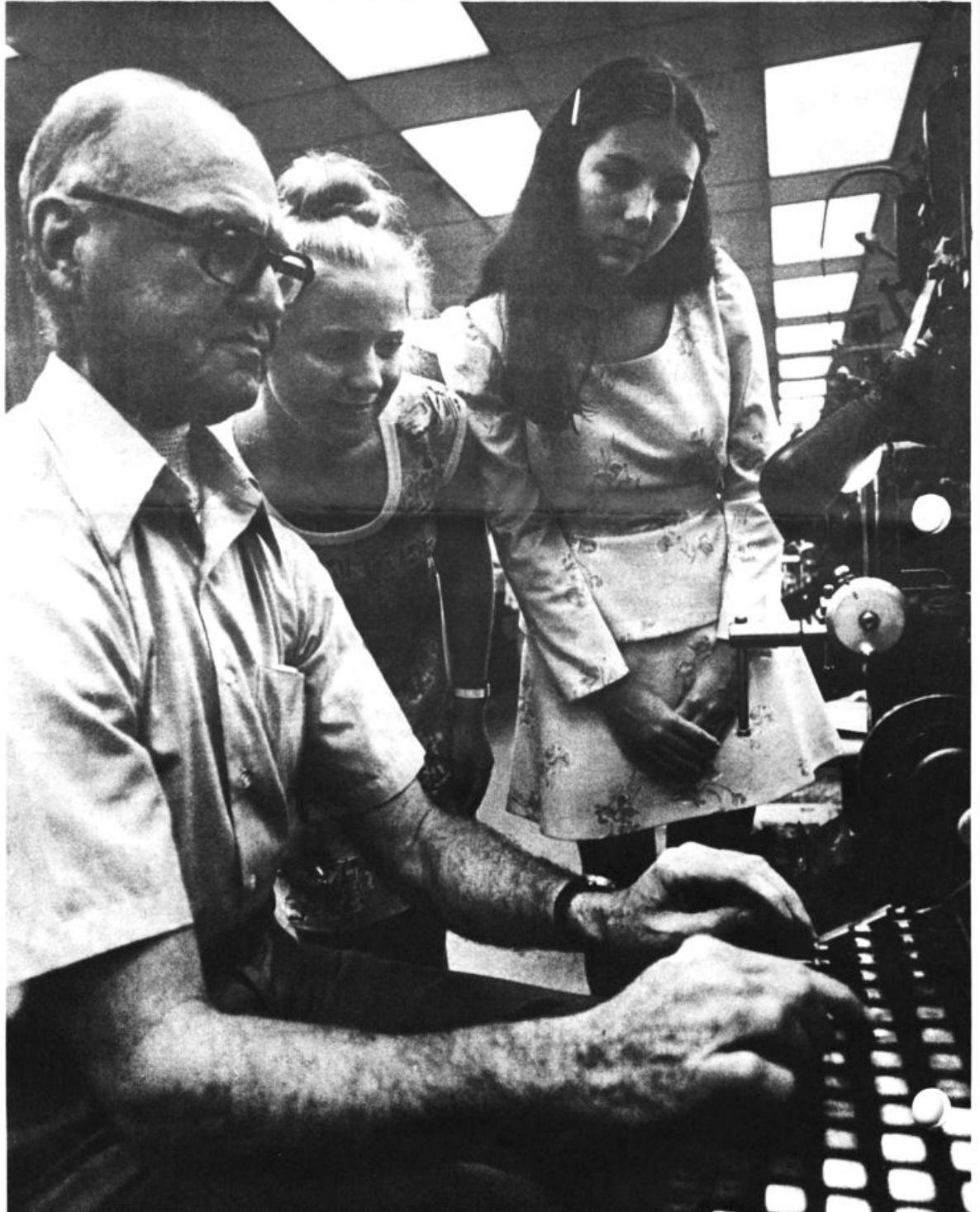
*Eric Nivens attends to fourth floor mopping just outside the Engraving department.*



*Marion Campfield removes a drum of lead dross near the Supermatic machine lead pot in Stereotyping.*



Harvey Lankford, Composing, demonstrates the workings of a linotype machine to high school students from West Virginia. Heather Russell, center, and Brenda Conway peer in fascination. Harvey often centers a bright new penny in a linotype slug bearing the person's name for young visitors. (See drawing at right.)



(Photo by Doug Chevalier)



# Serendipity and Bright Pennies in Composing

There's a spot in the Composing Room where almost any case of doldrums can be cured. The cure consists of a visit with Harvey Lankford who sits at his linotype, emanating only positive vibrations.

After he's made you smile a time or two, he'll then make a linotype slug with your name on it, and its center will shine with a new penny. It's a trick many linotype operators know, and it never ceases to delight the recipient. Lankford doesn't even ask for your thoughts in return for the penny.

He regularly makes the slugs for young visitors coming through The Post on the newspaper's scheduled tours. But you don't have to be young. He's made them for newly married couples, a few favored Post editors, and foreign visitors. The pennies are always supplied from a cache of bright coppers.

## Learned 40 Years Ago

"Someone taught me how to do these slugs 40 years ago when I was an apprentice," Lankford said. When he speaks Lankford must use a hand-held amplifier which he presses to his throat. This electronic wonder, which he calls a talker, produces a sound a bit like a scratchy phonograph record. However, the voice is easily audible, and Lankford says, "It's very loud on the telephone. So if I'm mad at someone, and want to tell them off, I use the telephone."

Use of the talker is necessary as the result of an operation Lankford had in October, 1968 for removal of his larynx—or voice box. It's ironic that a man who had never smoked should need a laryngectomy, but Lankford says in his usual positive fashion, "I wish it had happened 20 years sooner. . . People have been so nice. No one has said one unkind word to me since the operation. But I have no sense of smell anymore."

That, too, seems ironic since Lankford is a devoted gardener of about 100 gloriously scented rose plants—specimens of about 40

varieties. He takes his vacation in the early spring and spends it getting his rose garden at his Landover Hills, Md. home in shape.

Lankford's garden and yard sprout a number of feeders for the wild birds he loves and protects from marauding cats. "To work in your rose garden, and watch the wild birds at their feeders at dawn . . . by yourself . . . just roses and wild birds . . . There's no better feeling on earth," Lankford says.

## Roses for Giving

The compositor has a store of rose knowledge, such as: "Don't prune your roses in the fall; just cut them back a little." And, "I know the character of a rose as well as a horseman knows his horse's pedigree." And, "A rose was not made to sell; it hasn't filled its usefulness unless you give it to somebody."

Lankford belongs to a number of rose societies. "I've visited rose gardens in all the cities where I've lived." He has lived in a great many. Once he saw a list of 20 leading U.S. newspapers. In reading it, he found that he had worked as a compositor on 19 of them.

## 25 Years Ago

Lankford came to The Post 25 years ago from the Chicago Tribune,

and thinks, "It's wonderful to be a printer at The Washington Post. I stayed and got acquainted and liked it. I knew everyone from Eugene Meyer to the janitors. Actually I had worked for a time at The Post many years earlier before I came to stay—when it was in the old E Street building." During those 25 years Lankford has set, among other things, the race charts for the Sports section.

"I used to train the apprentice boys on the linotype," he recalled. "The Post had a way of getting nice boys, and I trained every one of them." He was also chapel chairman for his union from 1952-60.

Lankford, 60, was married 29 years ago to a U.S. Navy nurse whom he met during World War II, when he was a first sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. His wife, Frances, works in the Prince George's General Hospital. They have five grown children—one son, John, is a law student at the University of Connecticut, and another is still in college as an undergraduate.

Doldrums? They don't exist in Lankford's world of roses and bright pennies.



(Drawing by Lem Thomas, Advertising Art)

Pennies clad in a linotype slug like this delight Post visitors who see their names along the edge.

# Fishing For A Friend

Fishing for bass can be profitable. Especially is this true when the fishermen pursue their sport to raise money for a fellow employee who's had more than his share of bad luck.

Buddy Norman, Mail Room supervisor in the alley, and 13 other Post people devised a bass fishing tournament as a way to raise \$1,000 for Jimmy Bryant, who five years ago was told that he suffered with leukemia and had only a short time to live. He is under treatment at the National Institutes of Health.

"Jimmy works in The Post's computer or console room where papers are dispatched from the Mail Room," Norman said. "Jimmy's a fighter," he continued. "He has an artificial leg, too, but he's a courageous individual and until recently managed to work."

Norman said that in addition to Bryant's own problems, two of his four children suffer with a serious disease.

## Fishing A Pleasure

Fishing is one of the great pleasures in Bryant's life. An earlier fishing trip in South Carolina had been spoiled for Bryant by a recurrence of his illness.

Norman and 13 other Post people belong to the National Capital Bass Masters Club of which Norman is president. A fishing tournament seemed a logical way to have fun and raise money at the same time.

Landlubbers may not know that bass fishing is not something that's done in a casual way on a Saturday afternoon. There is a national organization of bass fishermen, called the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society, headquarters in Montgomery, Ala. Norman explains, "It's just like the pro golf circuit. There are tournaments. In addition, the society sponsors a bass research foundation. There's a Bass Master magazine, and there are state chapters and local clubs."

The National Capital Bass Mas-



(photo by Ken Feil)

Larry Bradley, left, secretary for the Virginia Bass Federation, presents Jimmy Bryant of The Post with a check—the proceeds of a bass fishing tournament.

ters Club to which The Post people belong is one of the 13 local clubs in Northern Virginia. There are 63 in that state.

## 87 Participants

Word of the tournament circulated throughout the state and 87 contestants showed up. Manufacturers of fishing equipment from as far away as Alabama and Tennessee donated boxes of assorted lures, worms and plugs, and a coveted \$200 depth finder as prizes. Some clubs sent money for the event.

Finally on June 14 the tournament was held at Lake Anna, near Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania county, Virginia. A bass tournament works this way: There are two men to a boat. In a given period of time

they catch as many bass as they can—various boats competing with one another. They must use artificial lures. At the end of the time period all catches are weighed in, and the two fishermen having the heaviest catch in their boat are judged the winners. Only fish measuring 12 inches or longer may be kept for weighing in.

Each fisherman pays \$10 to take part in the tournament, and that's how most of the \$1,000 for Bryant was raised. The check was presented to him before a group of his friends in the sixth floor conference room of The Post on July 24.

Best of all, according to Norman, Bryant felt well enough to return to his Post job in August.

## 20 Year Club Celebrates 20th Birthday

The Post's Twenty-Year Club is 20 years old this year. It added 36 new members to its ranks and staged a celebration September 4 at 6:40 p.m. in the ninth floor dining room.

At the party new members received gold jewelry, signifying their 20 years of service. Men received a tie clasp; women a pin and a bracelet charm. Al Otto's duplicating shop, under the direction of Logis Campbell, printed badges on gold cloth for the affair.

After cocktails on the ninth floor, club members ate a buffet dinner on the eighth floor Garden Court.

The Twenty Year Club was born in 1955. Employees of the time who had 20 years or more of service were invited to a cocktail party prior to the then-annual Christmas buffet. Philip L. Graham, publisher at the time, announced formation of the club at the party.

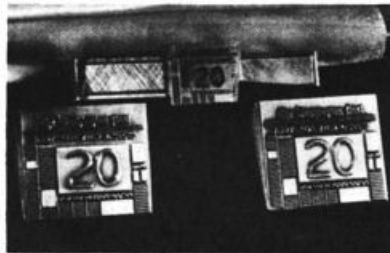
There has been a party every year since that time. It used to be held just before Christmas, but this proved inconvenient for members. Last year the party was held on October 4 in the ninth floor dining room, and 205 members came. Membership in 1974 numbered 199 active and 182 retired people.

New 20-year clubbers are: *Oliver Holmes* and *Mary Vest*, Accounting;

*Jon Komski*, Advertising Art; *Irvin Christian*, Building Services, *John Oliver*, *Frank Manzon*, *Charles McCarthy*, *Heber MacWilliams*, *William Benner*, *Monte Bond*, *Seaborne Holmes*, *Stuart Houpt*, and *Andrew Jacobson*, Circulation.

*Ronny Cowan*, Classified; *Harry Barrett*, *Charles Botsford*, *Maxine Henry* and *Donald Kennedy*, Composing; *Edward S. Kydd*, Data Processing; *Jake Lester*, Electrical Shop; *John Curran*, *Phillip D'Agostino*, *Frank Henry*, *John Lovell*, *Emilio Petrone*, *Thomas Rowe*, and *George Wilbur*, Mailroom.

*Maxine Cheshire*, *Phil Foise*, *Tom Kendrick*, *David Moy*, *Bernard Nosziter*, and *Morris Rosenberg*, News; *James Bullock*, *Willie Ferguson*, *Joseph Neff*, and *Beverly Pendergast*, Pressroom; *Jim Rogers*, Production; *Ralph Bevins*, *Theodore Peters* and *Arthur Roane*, Publications.



## Post Staffers Teach Young Journalists

Seventy-four high school newspaper editors from public and private high schools up and down the east coast came to Catholic University recently. They participated in a three-week summer course at the University's High School Journalism Institute.

James Rowe, economics reporter, William Elsen, night city editor and Rory Quirk, graphics editor, assisted the faculty at Catholic U. in team teaching, speciality lectures and workshop sessions. Executive editor Ben Bradlee took part in a question and answer session with the budding journalists.

## Compositors To Help in Tournament

A group of deaf employees of The Post Composing Room will help conduct the 32nd Annual National Basketball Tournament of Champions to be held from March 31 to April 3, 1976. Headquarters for this event will be the Sheraton Park Hotel. The host club is the Metropolitan Washington Association of the Deaf. Mrs. Katharine Graham is a member of the honorary committee.

Seven regional champion basketball teams and the host team will vie for the title. The tournament, which will be attended by approximately 3,000 deaf people, includes a reception, Hall of Fame luncheon, grand ball and sightseeing tours.

The American Athletic Association of the Deaf is the parent sports organization for the adult deaf. Two hundred associations of the deaf all over the nation are members. They stage various sports tournaments every year. In 1965 the association played host to the International Games for the Deaf. The event attracted about 10,000 athletes and fans from around the world.

Alexander Fleischman, Post Composing Room, is publicity consultant for the event.

## Post To Sponsor Hockey Match To Help Diabetics

The Washington Post will sponsor a hockey match between the Philadelphia Flyers and the Washington Capitals to benefit the Washington chapter of the American Diabetes Association.

The match will take place 7:30 p.m. September 24 at the Capital Centre in Landover, Md.

Bobby Clarke, Philadelphia Flyers star, is living proof that a diabetic can be a sports star. In 1974 he was named the most valuable player of the National Hockey League. The

(Continued page 8)



They say it in gold after 20 years for men, above, and for women.

## 6,000 Musicians to Render Post March

**Hockey** (Continued from page 7)

diabetes association the same year chose him as "athlete of the year."

As part of its sponsorship The Post will run a series of ads on the game offering readers a one dollar discount on box office prices which are: \$4, \$6.50 and \$8.50. To get the discount readers must send a coupon from the ads to the Capital Centre, which will handle all ticket sales.

Proceeds from the game will go to the Washington area affiliate of the American Diabetes Association. Deadline for honoring coupons at the discount rate will be September 17.

For two years the Philadelphia Flyers have been Stanley Cup hockey champions. The event is part of The Post's continuing program of community service through sponsorship of selected sports, cultural and entertainment events for the benefit of area charities.

### Tell Us Your News

Your news is important. Retirements, weddings, interesting hobbies, new houses, longevity, birth—all make good reading. Please share your interests.

For Shop Talk call:  
Martha McDowell,  
x7973, 7974

Strains of The Washington Post March will fill the air when more than 6,000 members of about 60 bands meet for the Annual Parade of Bands Competition at the University of Maryland on October 4th. The Washington Post will sponsor the event, and offer \$1,000 in prize money. Five-hundred dollars will go to the band winning first prize, while the other \$500 will be divided between second and third place winners.

The Post will also award a scholarship of \$500 to a current member of the University of Maryland Band.

The competition is part of the homecoming celebration for the University of Maryland when the university football team will play Syracuse. More than 40,000 spectators are expected.

Participating bands are largely from the Washington area, but some will come from as far away as New York and West Virginia.

Competition will begin at 9:30 a.m. The winning band will provide the principle entertainment for the half-time festivities. This will be followed by a mass rendition of The Washington Post March by all the bands.

## Accidents Down At The Post

Safety statistics for the first six months of 1975 show that there continue to be fewer accidents and injuries among Post employees than in previous years.

This welcome trend downward started in 1974, and is continuing in all categories.

Slips, falls, and lifting accidents continue to be the most common hazard. Supervisory staffs are advised to stress safety in these areas.

Thanks to you  
it's working



United  
Way of  
the National  
Capital Area

Give! Keep it working!

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