

# Shop Talk

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## E Street Revisited



Baseball fans gather around The Post's scoreboard during the 1933 World Series.

In a business geared to late-breaking news, expanding advertising lineage, new technology and innovation, it is easy to always look toward the future and forget the past. But one group that has not forgotten is the E Streeters, comprised of current and former employes in The Post's old neighborhood, a little stretch of street known as Washington's "Rum Row." Over where E and 14th Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue run together, one beloved but

decrepit building housed all the operations of The Washington Post for 57 years. On the steps of this building at a bankruptcy sale, The Post came under the leadership of Eugene Meyer. Under him, the paper grew in size and matured beyond the youth that had been sometimes misspent under earlier guardians.

Last Thursday, at the site of their old building, E Streeters gathered to commemorate Post history and to witness the dedication of a plaque honoring their past and their publisher.

Where The Post, popular saloons and sundry shops once stood is the enormous J.W. Marriott Hotel, the flagship of a worldwide chain that had its very humble beginnings in a hot dog stand just up 14th Street. Speaking to the E Streeters was Marriott's vice president for resorts and hotels, Al LeFavre. He paralled the growth of Marriott and The Post, two family-run companies that have become Washington institutions. The hotel will be proud to have the plaque mounted on its side, at the spot where the main door of The Post once stood.

LeFavre also announced that Marriott would contribute to the E Streeters Scholarship Fund, which will send a local student each year to the Blair Academy of journalism in New Jersey.

E Streeter Chalmers M. Roberts, a reporter for 23 years who wrote "The Washington Post: The First 100 Years," presided at the luncheon. Felix Cotten, another former reporter and president of the E Streeters, expressed his pleasure with another reunion. Roberts then introduced the woman whom the late reporter Edward T. Folliard "always called 'our boss lady,'" Post Company president **KATHARINE GRAHAM**. She said it was "great to be back on E Street again, though it is nearly impossible to recognize" any of the past in the plush, palatial Marriott. She recalled the excitement of leaving the old building in 1950, because the complaints about the building were "as omnipresent as they were understandable." She

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As shown in this 1905 photo, The Post building shared the neighborhood with several saloons, the Willard Hotel (large white building at left), and the Treasury Department (building with columns at far left).



The J.W. Marriott Hotel on the site of the old E Street building, with the Treasury Department and Willard Hotel at left.

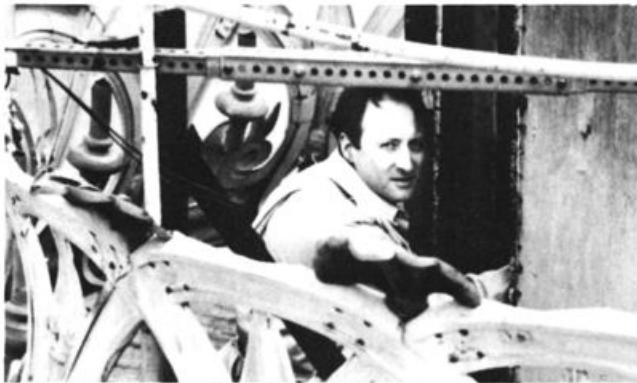
Photo by Ray Lustig

# Harbor Sights

In this country's history, it is a classic scene: A boat approaches New York Harbor, full of people from other lands who have been tossed by the sea and perhaps tormented by doubt during a long voyage to America. Soon they will embark, and be questioned by a customs agent or clasped by a cousin. But first, there is that one arresting moment, when the new arrival turns a weary but hopeful face upward toward the Statue of Liberty, to gaze on a noble countenance and an uplifted torch, unwavering symbols of enlightenment and freedom.

In 1984, the centennial of the statue's arrival in America, Post photographer **RAY LUSTIG** and reporter **LARRY MEYER** saw the statue from a wholly different perspective. They felt the torch shake as they were inside it, they looked down upon that solid face, and they saw the figure not as an imposing sign of a nation's benevolent strength, but as a metal structure badly in need of repair.

Lustig and Meyer were doing a story for the July 1 Magazine on the extensive work planned for Liberty over the next two years. They went to New York before any maintenance began, but after the workers' scaffolding was nearly completed. Prior to the trip, Lustig and picture editor **KEN FEIL** spent two days on the telephone, to get permission for passage within the statue, which is now closed above the pedestal.



**LARRY MEYER** sits in the platform of the torch.

After he spent so much time making arrangements with the scaffolding contractor and the National Park Service, Lustig figured on going through another series of queries and a long delay at the monument. He introduced himself to the assistant site superintendent, dutifully explained that he had a hard hat and a safety belt, and asked what restrictions he would have. Lustig laughed as he quoted the response, given in a "real gruff, New York" manner of speech: "I don't care what you do. Just don't fall off."

Lustig decided to heed the gentleman's advice. He and Meyer began their ascent, along with a film crew from the Charles Guggenheim Foundation, which is preparing a documentary on the statue for PBS. They took the elevator to the top of the base, then began the long climb up the circular stairway inside the body.

Visitors to the statue normally can go inside the crown and gaze through windows onto the Verazanno Narrows, with a very restricted view. Meyer and Lustig, however, proceeded past the crown, over to the arm, where they used a ladder in an almost 90-degree climb. They squeezed through the wrist, then arrived at the torch, which has a small circular platform outside. Climbing onto this, they had a fantastic, open view in all directions, which showed Manhattan, New Jersey, Ellis Island and the Hudson River.

"It was wonderful," Meyer said. He was 300 feet high, and able to gaze at sights like the World Trade Towers, which look

Photos by Ray Lustig



**RAY LUSTIG** took this photo of himself by using the self-timer on a camera. Behind him is the torch of the statue; behind that is the Manhattan skyline, including the World Trade Towers.

like tomato stakes in Lustig's photos. Lustig was very impressed, and enjoyed watching the activity of New York Harbor, one of the world's busiest ports. At first, the extreme height was a bit unnerving, but Lustig soon found it thrilling to be exploring the peaks of the statue and the scaffolding. "A lot of Americans don't get to do that," he said.

Most Americans don't, though many do visit the statue, some to see its majesty, some to see the sight their grandparents first saw in the New World. Some come to remember the poem learned in grade school that invites the "huddled masses, yearning to breathe free" to America, and dubs the statue the "Mother of Exiles."

The day that Meyer and Lustig visited, Mother Nature blew 40 mph kisses at the Mother of Exiles. This enabled Meyer and Lustig to understand why the torch is the focus of repairs; they agreed that it swayed quite noticeably in the wind. Meyer stayed on the torch, but Lustig decided to climb stairs and go onto the scaffolding, which was slightly higher than the statue itself.

The statue was sent as a gift in 1884 from anti-monarchist Frenchmen who admired the American republic. The French and American revolutions had occurred at almost the same time, but while democracy flourished in this country, it foundered in France.

The internal structure was designed by Gustave Eiffel, but the sculpture itself was done by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. Experts and engineers now think that some discrepancies in the two plans resulted in a severe weakening of the right arm. Part of the repair scheme involves disconnecting the torch and lowering it to the ground. There it will be accessible to visitors, but offer none of the spectacular vistas it provided Meyer and Lustig.



A worker is dwarfed by both the statue and the scaffolding.

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## E Street Revisited

remembered that the staff bid E Street "a teary farewell," then went off to the new building on L Street. There, "the complaints really started," with stiff necks due to air conditioning, and no



Retired printer George Kidwell enjoys **DAVE PEEBLES'** purple tie, and **JERRE LOWE** enjoys the kidding.

chance to crane those necks out the window for exciting events like the inaugural parades that had been easily visible from the old offices.

After Mrs. Graham spoke, Roberts narrated a slide show, complete with pictures of Graham, **AL OLSHINE**, **HERB LOCK**, **SUE OREMLAND**, **AL LEWIS**, and **MURREY MARDER** working in the old building. There were also pictures of the old baseball scoreboards hung outside the buildings. Reporters would collect reports of the Senators' games over the Western Union telegraph, then run outside to post the play-by-play. Crowds in the thousands would attend. Photos taken from behind show an all-male crowd, all in suits, all in hats, enduring the hot-as-all-hell summer weather in Washington, just to keep up with the beloved Senators.

Flipping through more photos in her office, AME/Administration **ELSIE CARPER** showed a few shots of antique fire trucks pulled up to the building. "It caught on fire all the time," she said. Though the front was a handsome stone design, the back of the building looked like a hodge-podge assembly of cardboard boxes—a "rabbits' warren," in Roberts' words.

Despite the working conditions, em-

ployment at The Post had its appeal. As Engraving's **JERRE LOWE** remembers, "it felt like a family." Carper, who came as a clerk in the library while a student at George Washington, immediately thought, "This is the most exciting place anyone could be in! And I never wanted to go anywhere else." Both Olshine and **DAVE PEEBLES** remember a special feeling of togetherness, despite the physical deterioration of the building. Olshine described the E Street staff as a "close-knit family." Remembering the competition among bowling teams and the camaraderie among departments, Data Processing's **BILL RINEHART** said, "We had a hell of a time." Carper hopes that any employees of the old building who are not part of the E Streeters will contact her.

Mrs. Graham mentioned "the spirit of E Street," that kept The Post publishing in difficult times. The lesson of E Street today is that The Post's current position in the lofty echelons of American journalism was not an overnight achievement, but a very gradual climb, powered by the drive of Eugene Meyer and by a gang of determined comrades who loved their paper. The Washington Post, an independent newspaper, is not independent of its past.

## Post Personalities

No one could begin to count the photo engravings that **PAT BEALE** has made in almost 32 years with The Post. But it is easy to tell that Beale, who retired on June 30, has etched a place in many hearts, especially those in his department.

For one thing, he has been unfailingly consistent. Engraving assistant general foreman **JERRE LOWE** just shakes his head over Beale's attendance record. "He's just always here," Lowe said. Beale and his cigar were always a reliable two-some on the afternoon Engraving shift. Amidst all the flurry, a little puff of smoke rose to signal his presence and his attention to perfect negatives and registration marks.

A lifelong resident of Capital Heights, Beale lives less than



**PAT BEALE** gets a chuckle from **FRANCIS NEULAND**.



Beale awaits one of his last negatives.

half a mile from his birthplace. He traveled just after WWII, spending three years in the Army in Texas and Hawaii. Afterwards, he returned to Washington, where his cousin worked for the Times Herald and there found a job for Beale. When he started as an apprentice copy scaler, he "didn't even know what engraving was." After two years, he moved to The Post, on Feb. 25, 1953.

In the early days, engravers used a zinc powder in the process of burning metal plates. Beale quickly got into the habit of keeping his hair short to keep the powder out of it; he has kept his distinctive style, with his hair cut to about the height of an 18-point headline. His hair style, along with his ever-present cigar (he smokes 10 a day), his chewing gum and his good nature, make him a memorable character. He has changed somewhat though; within the last 14 months, he has lost 40 pounds. Before that, he said, "I was as fat as I was tall."

Somewhere "a long time ago," he picked up the nickname "Momma," because he would shop and set up parties for the department. Now, in his retirement, he's looking forward most to being called Grandpa. His two-year-old grandson, Patrick Edward, has recently come to this country with his parents. Beale's daughter Margaret "married a sailor," and lived with him in Italy, where Patrick was born. Now they are back in the United States, just in time for Beale to spend time with his first grandchild and share the duties of taking him to McDonald's with Beale's younger daughter, Nancy.

Apart from that, Beale looks forward to taking his wife, Lillian, to visit her family in Amherst, Virginia. But he'll visit his old friends, too. After all, The Post has been "a wonderful place to work for 32 years," so he won't forget it overnight. Some of the magic of putting out a paper without fail, the "Miracle on 15th Street," is engraved pretty deeply in him.



## Post Scripts

**HEAD COVERAGE**— in the Composing department increases drastically on the Friday before the Fourth of July. The annual Hat Day tradition began when **HEINZ GUERTLER** remarked that anyone who wore a hat indoors "wasn't wrapped too tight." The next day, virtually the whole department showed up wearing their best derbies, caps and hard-to-identify lids. This year brought another great assortment, but Guertler's head was noticeably bare.



The Composing room staff salutes **HANS GUERTLER**.

**ORAL MORAL SUPPORT**— is offered for any employes who want to stop puffing on tobacco. Benefits' **BARBARA FOX** invites anyone still smoking to attend meetings every Tuesday and Thursday from noon-1 p.m. in the Sousa Room of the Northwest plant. The meetings will be held through Labor Day, with the only exception being July 10. Anyone interested can just appear, or call Fox at x6423.

**UNDER CONTROL**—The Post held a reception on Monday, June 25 for the new vice president/controller **ALAN SPOON**, who formerly was a vice president with The Washington Post Company, overseeing planning.



Accounting's **CHERRY DANIEL**, **MARTHA PROCTOR** and **IRIS MORTON** chat with new controller **ALAN SPOON**.

**THE NEW NUMBER**—for the Credit Union for hearing-impaired employes is x4499.

## Marketplace

**CHINCOTEAGUE**—Beach house for rent. Lovely contemporary, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, HBO, all amenities. Quiet, beautiful vacation spot. Many Post employe recommendations. Avail. by week, Sat-Sat, \$425/wk. 536-3346, evenings.

**SENIOR CITIZEN**—wants babysitting work, part-time. D.C.-Md. area. Excellent references. Call 526-2756 or V.Rodriguez, x7973.

**OCEAN CITY**—Sea Watch (115th & Coastal Highway). 2 bdrms, 2 baths, completely furnished. Overlooking ocean. Features include color TV, tennis, billiards, sauna, indoor and outdoor pools, etc. Sleeps 8. Avail. weeks of June 10, 17, and/or 24. \$500/week. Call E. Gunn, 829-1739 or 726-5879.

**PRINTING**—High quality, personalized service at discount prices. Wedding invitations, graduation and birth announcements, business cards and stationery, NCR and carbon forms, newsletters, resumes, one-day fast copy service, brochures, raffle books. For prices and information, call Erwin Sessler, expert printer, daily at 262-9430 or M-F, 7-8 p.m. at x6911.

**T-SHIRTS**—Lettering done on individual shirts. Ideal for birthdays and special occasions. Also, customized silk screenings (T-shirts, jackets, hats, uniforms, etc.) for group orders. Great prices. Call Mike or Linda after 7 p.m. at 474-5680.

**COMMODORE 64 COMPUTER SYSTEM**—All like new or new. Keyboard, disk drive, letter quality daisy-wheel printer (w/interface), 9" Amber monitor, 64 Programmer's reference guide. Plus, software that includes word processing, home inventory, home finance, public domain educational series: history, business, English, math, turtle graphics. Total label plus 7 games. \$1200/offer. Call Mike, 522-1453 after 8 p.m.

**OCEAN CITY**—Condo for rent. Bayside, on canal, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, w/d, full kitchen, color TV-HBO, completely furnished. Call x4492 or x4273. or evenings, 890-6517.

**BUCKET SEAT COVERS**—Tan, genuine sheepskin, brand new. Discount price. Call Steve, x4449 or 328-0746 after noon.

**DEWEY BEACH/REHOBOTH**—Beach house for rent. 3 bdrms, 2 baths. Sleeps 11. 2 blocks to beach. Su-F, \$250-\$450, depending on the week. Call Joanne, x6692 or evenings, 750-0864.

**CAPE COD**—Four bedroom house on Bass River in South Dennis for rent. \$450/week. Quiet neighborhood, ten minutes from beaches, lovely view, near bike path. Call x6472 or 337-1962 evenings.

**GULF SHORES AREA**—Orange Beach, Ala. Cottage with 2 bdrms, 2 baths, kitchen, den. Furnished. Waterfront with boat dock and pier. Cottage is larger than it sounds. \$350/week with \$100 deposit. \$400/week with \$100 deposit if renters do not want to clean the cottage when they leave. Renters furnish own linens. No more than 8 people at a time. 3 double beds, close to the beach. Call (205) 981-6679.

**ANTIQUe BRASS BED**—Lovely, large diameter, curved style, twin size. \$300. Dining room furniture: walnut table, 2 leaves, 2 side chairs, 1 arm chair. Excellent condition. \$150/offer. 685-1364, evenings and weekends.

**HOLIDAY SPA**—VIP membership. Lifetime pass, good at most locations, including K St. Call Carol Krucoff, x7535.

**BIKE**—Ladies Fuji Royale. Perfect condition. And a man's Rolex watch, stainless. Call Keith, 334-7085

**CHINCOTEAGUE**—Beautiful contemporary beach house for rent. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, HBO, phone, all amenities. Rents Sa.-Sa. Available weeks beginning 6/30, 7/14, 7/21 (Pony Penning Week), 8/4, 8/25. \$425/week. Call evenings, 536-3346.

**1971 VW SQUAREBACK**—Needs work, but runs well. \$600 or best offer. Call Cindi, x7535, evenings.

**FOR SALE**—One bedroom apartment, #406, Macomb House. Located at 2710 Macomb St., NW, at the end of a quiet street. Only five minutes walk from Cleveland Park Metro stop, shops. Overlooks Rock Creek Park and breath-taking foliage. New kitchen, lots of storage. CAC. Professionally managed. Includes off-street parking space. Realtor estimates the apartment's current value at \$79,500. Will reduce the equivalent of broker's fee to \$75,000. Please call Michael Dirda days at x7885 or evenings at 589-6412, before July 9. Tell your friends! This is a chance to own one of the most attractive one-bedrooms in Cleveland Park at a bargain price.

**PIANO**—Samick ebony baby grand, 5'1", 2 months old. Must sell immediately. \$5,000 or best offer. Call Kirk, 735-3230 days, or x6011 after 10 p.m.

**1981 PLYMOUTH K STATION WAGON**—4-door, standard shift. Asking \$3200. Call 765-2466, evenings and weekends.

**MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:** Noon on Friday prior to publication date. Please include your name, extension and home telephone number. Send ads to Shop Talk, seventh floor, or call x6803. Ads will run two weeks unless otherwise requested. One ad per employe, please!