

THE COLUMBIAN
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A collection of newspaper articles
concerning the Columbian, the pioneer
newspaper of the Pacific Northwest
founded at Olympia, Washington in
1852.

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July 1968

"A PRESS and materials have been shipped to Olympia for the purpose of starting a new paper at that place. Northern Oregon is attracting considerable attention that way. Several families leave this city on Monday next on the schooner Mary Taylor for the purpose of permanently settling at or near Puget Sound."

This item in The Portland Oregonian January 31, 1852, was not quite as blunt as one in its contemporary, The Oregon Statesman, which said only that "the Dryer press and hands" had left on the vessel.

Journalism north of the Columbia River was an untried enterprise at the time, but the press itself was a veteran of such undertakings. It had printed Portland's first paper, The Oregonian, and before that The San Francisco Star in 1846 and later The Alta California. It was the product of Adam Ramage, who went to Philadelphia in 1790 and is believed to have been the first builder of presses in America.

Ramage constructed this particular machine for use in Mexico, where it printed government pronouncements until 1834, then was transported to Monterey, Calif., to perform similar services. You still can see the old press on the second floor of the Washington State Museum at the University of Washington.

EVIDENTLY starting a paper on Puget Sound was fraught with obstacles, for seven months passed from the time the Mary Taylor unloaded the equipment until it went into operation in a one-story cabin at the corner of Second and Washington Streets in Olympia.

The primitive plant possessed only a couple of fonts of type for setting news and half a dozen of advertising display, all of which were worn from extensive use. For job work it had, beside the fonts of body letter, some long primer and nonpareil type and the letters which composed the name of the newspaper, "The Columbian." By disassembling these two words the printer obtained another word, "Notice," which headed all announcements emanating from the job department.

Owners of the plant were Thornton F. McElroy and J. W. Wiley, two men of considerable ability and widely different personalities. They are represented in the color illustration on Page 1 of this section, setting type and operating the press for the first issue

of their newspaper, 100 years ago this month.

McElroy, a Pennsylvanian, at 24 had set out for California with an ox team. When the team gave out and the party divided he went on to Oregon City in 1849 and continued to the gold fields on a sailing vessel. He was back in Oregon City the next year as a partner with John Fleming of The Oregon Spectator, remaining there until he decided to launch The Columbian.

McElroy has been described as a man of splendid physique, jolly, industrious, kind-hearted and generous, but a merciless joker. Honest and strict in all business matters, he was by way of being a pioneer banker, lending money at 2 per cent interest until regular banks were established.

HIS partner, Wiley, an Ohioan, 32 years of age, was a small man of great vitality. A talented writer, he learned printing before crossing the plains in 1851 and was employed on The Oregonian for several months until the press was sold. He was generous to a fault and what profits he did not give away to the needy he is said to have invested liberally at the bar of the Westbrook Saloon. He did not let his thirst interfere with business and always appeared the morning after a binge, ready for duty and the most sober of men.

Both journalists put in a frugal six months getting The Columbian started. At the end of the period Wiley said he would venture the assertion that not another newspaper in the United States or in the world had existed that long with greater economy.

NAMING of The Columbian was inspired by agitation for formation of a new territory to be known as Columbia. Editorially the paper was for

seeing this through; politically it professed to be neutral as to party lines, also as to religion.

Firing of a cannon welcomed the first issue on September 11. The front and last pages were made up of reprints of articles, such as "The Empire of Japan" from the National Intelligencer, a Brazilian adventure titled "Misfortunes of Jack Beckler," rules on writing for the press as published in The London Morning Post, clippings from Punch and the Cincinnati Nonpareil and the full text of D. R. Bigelow's oration delivered nearly two months before at Olympia's Fourth of July celebration, advocating the split with Oregon.

The two inside pages contained an account of the death of Henry Clay (more than two months old) an article by Hugh Goldsborough on Puget Sound, news items about a coal discovery, comings and goings of vessels, the wreck of the brig Eagle on Vancouver

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is with the...
North...
to their advantage or not.

**J. W. WILLY,
T. J. McELYOY.**

NO! YOU THAT WANT WORK!
I WILL give constant employment
to FORTY or FIFTY good ax-men.
Also eight sawyers to tend saw-mill.
Good wages given.

M. T. BIMMONS.
Olympia, Sept. 1, '82. 1lf

FOR SALE OR RENT.
A LARGE two story house on the
corner of Water and First streets,
in Olympia. The house is well calcu-
lated for a wholesale store. For terms
apply to

M. T. BIMMONS.
Olympia, Sept. 1, '82. 1lf

Olympia Bakery and Beef Market.
The undersigned would respect-
fully inform the public that
they are prepared to furnish Bread,
Cakes and Pies of every description,
on reasonable terms. Bulls and Porks furnish-
ed on the shortest notice.

Also Beef, Butter, Eggs,
WEED & HURD.
Olympia, Sept. 1, 1882. 1lf

FOR CHINA DIRECT!
THE splendid coppered and copper fast-
ened bark LOUISIANA, Alfred Dietz,
Master, will have immediate dispatch for HONG
KONG, having most of her cargo on board.
For freight or passage apply to the Captain on
board, or to Clearing Crosby.
Orders for China Goods on her return voyage
may be left with the shore named gentlemen.

Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

FOR SAN FRANCISCO!
THE clipper bark BRONTES, Consider
Thomas, Master, now loading, will
have immediate dispatch for the above port. For
freight or passage apply on board.
All orders for goods on return trip will be prop-
erly attended to.

Olympia, Sept. 6, 1880. 1lf

FOR LONDON DIRECT!
THE Ship JOHN BREWER, Thomas
O. Thomas, Master, daily expected to
arrive for a cargo of Spars and lumber now
ready for the English market, will have early de-
parture.

For freight, (small quantity), or passage, having
excellent accommodations, apply to
BIMMONS & GOLDSBOROUGH.
Olympia, Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

FOR SAN FRANCISCO!
PORTER'S LINE.
THE Ship PERSIA and brig JANE are
running regularly between Puget's
Sound and the above port. All orders for
goods promptly attended to. Address

WILLIAM PORTER,
San Francisco.
Sept. 11, 1882. 1lf

REAL ESTATE AGENCY.
I am undersigned, agent for and owners of
a lot in Olympia, and other growing
lots in Puget Sound, are prepared to sell or
lease the same. As property
is being brought into
the city...

with their partners.
For freight or passage apply on board.
W. M. SMITH.
Sept. 5, 1882. 1lf

NEW YORK MARKOOK HOUSE.
CHAS. C. TERRY & CO., thank-
ful for past favors, take this oppor-
tunity to inform their numerous friends
and customers that they still continue at
their well known stand in the town of
New York, on Puget's Sound, where they keep
constantly on hand and for sale, at the lowest prices,
all kinds of merchandise usually required in a new
country.

Vessels furnished with cargoes of Piles,
Square Timber, Shingles, &c.
New York, Sept. 1, 1882. 1lf

HENRY TOOMY.
HENRY TOOMY & CO.
LUMBER AND PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS,
Corner of Sansome and Merchant Streets,
SAN FRANCISCO.
Sept. 1, 1882. 1lf

"A FEW MORE LEFT."
PERSONS wishing to purchase some very ex-
cellent town lots in Olympia, on reasonable
terms, can be accommodated by calling on

A. M. FOE.
Olympia, Sept. 1, '82. 1lf

D. H. Bigelow.
BIGELOW & BROOKS,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Olympia, Thurston County, O. T.
1lf

SALMON BARRELS.
500 NEW BARRELS made expressly for
the Salmon trade, on hand and for sale
at the shortest notice by

ISAAC WOOD & SONS.
Olympia, O. T. Sept. 1, '82. 1lf

FOR SALE.
ONE large and substantial WAGON, with
double harness, all entirely new. Apply to

SIMPSON P. MOSES.
Olympia.
1lf

Geo. Abernethy. Hiram Clark. J. R. Robb.
GEO. ABERNETHY & CO.
MERCHANTS,
OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

P. A. MARQUAM,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW,
AND SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY,
Having located permanently in the city of Port-
land, will practice his Profession in the vari-
ous Courts of Oregon Territory.
Office—in Collin's Block, opposite the Colum-
bian Hotel.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

WARBASS & TOWNSEND,
GROCERS, AND DEALERS IN PRODUCE
GENERALLY.
Shipping supplied at short notice.
MONTICELLO, Con. R. R.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

WILLIAM H. STOWELL,
COMMISSION MERCHANT

CONSIGNMENTS SOLICITED.
REFERENCES:
F. C. Burnett, } San Francisco.
Wm. L. Smith, }
Peck, Bacon & Co.
Geo. Abernethy & Co., Oregon Territory.
F. W. Pollock, } Olympia.
A. M. Fox,
N. B. Strict attention will be given to con-
signments of Lumber, Salmon, Flour, and every
variety of produce.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

WM. SETON OGDEN,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
PORTLAND, O. T.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

HORSES! CUITANS!!
THE subscriber begs leave to in-
form his numerous friends and
the public generally, that he is al-
ways on hand, ready and willing to
accommodate the traveling community with very
superior saddle horses. Persons traveling between
Olympia and the Cowichan river will do well to call
at my stable in Olympia.

Charges moderate.
JOSEPH TEDO.
Olympia, Sept. 5, 1882. 1lf

GREGORY'S EXPRESS
TO OREGON,
TOUCHING Humboldt,
Trinidad, Klamath,
Astoria, St. Helens, Port-
land, Oregon City, by every
steamer going North.

Also to HONG KONG, China, touching at the
Sandwich Islands by American clipper built sail-
ing vessels.

To the Southern and Western States, by New
Orleans direct, and also to the North and Europe
by the semi-monthly steamers.

No connection with any other express company,
the subscriber having completed the most system-
atic and extensive express business in existence to
date and from the following Agents:

Agents:
New York, Messrs. Thompson & Hitechock.
Liverpool, " John W. Hart.
Sacramento City, " G. E. Clark.
Marysville, " Frank Rumlit.
Hoodland, S. F. " Ben. Rumlit & Co.
Pahama, " W. B. Oweny.
Portland, Oregon, " Alan. McKinty & Co.
Oregon City, " Leonard & Green.
Astoria, " Crosby & Smith.
Pope's Sound, " do do
Milton, " do do
Salem, " Wilson & Co.

JOSEPH W. GREGORY, Proprietor.
Office in the Fire proof Banking House, corner
of Montgomery and Merchant streets, San Fran-
cisco, California.
Sept. 6, 1882. 1lf

WELLS, FARGO & CO.'S
ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC
EXPRESS.

A JOINT STOCK COMPANY—Capital
\$300,000—Office in S. Drayman's new fire
proof block, Montgomery street, between Califor-
nia and Sacramento.

Henry Wells,
Johnston Livingston,
Elijah P. White,
J. W. Wells.

CLOTHING.
All of which will
be sold at a
discount of 25%
well to call before making their
purchases.
— A word to the wise is
Olympia, Sept. 7, 1882. 1lf

List of Le...
REMAINING in the Puget
Sound, June 30, 1882.
Asst. Hendrie Van, 2
Daker S. W.
Boucer M.
Charles Edward A.
Eckler J. S.
Frazee William L.
Garthic Zephaniah, 3
M. T.

DOCKETS AND PURS...
SAND'S SARS
IN QUART B
For Purifying the Blood
Secretly.
Rheumatism,
Slighter Ulcers,
Erysipelas,
Furuncles,
Piles, Scars,
Eczema,
Tetter, Itch, Gonorrhea,
The value of this medicine
is known, and every day the
number of patients who are
cured by it, is increasing.
It is a powerful and safe
remedy, and is the only
one that has been shown to
be effective in the treatment
of these diseases. It is the
only medicine that can be
taken without any harm to
the system, and it is the
only one that can be taken
by the most delicate and
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Island and the capture of several members of the crew by Indians, and editorials, one of which suggested holding another convention to push the proposed territory.

Some advertisements were run, among them the announcement of New York Markook House, the Charles C. Terry establishment at Alki Point. Rates were \$5 for three insertions of one square, 12 lines or less, with the charge for additional insertions set at \$1.

Authorized subscription agents listed were as follows: I. N. Ebey, Whidby Island; Henry C. Wilson, Port Townsend; Balch & Palmer, Steilacoom; W. W. Miller, Nisqually; F. D. Warbass, Cowlitz Farms; S. S. Ford, Sr., Chickeeles (Chehalis River), Charles C. Terry & Co., New York (Alki); D. F. Brownfield, New Dungeness; F. S. Holland, Oregon City.

A BID for subscribers, sprinkled with Chinook dialect words, appeared on Page 2 and read:

"The pioneer newspaper west of the mountains between the daddy of Oregon waters and Kamchatka (we don't expect any subscribers there, however, as they don't 'cumtux' our 'wauwau'). Walk up, gentlemen—a few chances for subscription left. Only five dollars a year. 'And-a-going! and-a-going!' Who bids? Ten copies, did you say? Thank you, sir. Sale closed. Be patient, gentlemen. Opens again tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock precisely."

The Columbian moved into better quarters in the M. T. Simmons store building after the customhouse was transferred to Port Townsend.

Wiley retired temporarily in March, 1853, and J. J. Beebe took his place until July. In September of the same year McElroy retired and Matt K. Smith was publisher, but in December both Wiley and McElroy were back at the helm, with A. M. Berry as publisher. Berry had been a printer with Thomas J. Dryer, both in California and on the Oregonian. Probably at his insistence the name was changed to The Washington Pioneer.

Berry died of smallpox in New Hampshire when he went east in 1854 to acquire some more printing equipment. The next partner in the firm was R. L. Doyle, who had appeared with a Washington hand press and a supply of new type. He was taken in, presumably to keep him from competing for public printing business. This was on February 4, 1854, when the name was changed again and the paper became The Pioneer Democrat.

The old press next printed Olympia's Overland Press. It was sold again and printed Seattle's first newspaper, The Gazette, in 1863, and in 1867 The Intelligencer, Seattle's first daily.

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Tacoman Prizes Copy of Pioneer Olympia Publication

Vivid accounts of everyday life in Washington 84 years ago are given in a remarkably preserved copy of the September 10, 1853, issue of The Columbian, which is the prized possession of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Lower, 834 South Oakes.

This pioneer paper was published every Saturday in Olympia by Editor T. F. McElroy and its very existence after so many years is proof that the pioneers did not use old newspapers to start fires or to cover pantry shelves.

With the issue owned by the Lowers the publisher started his second year. The paper was founded in 1852 and obviously enjoyed a large circulation throughout Thurston county, Steilacoom, Cowlitz Landing, Alki, Seattle, Cathlamett (this spelling is taken verbatim from The Columbian), Port Townsend, Whidby's Island, Chickeeles, Gehalis, Penn's Grove, Jackson's Prairie, Victoria, B. C., and Salem and Portland, Oregon.

The issue of the old paper is as easy to read as it is interesting. The paper is in good condition and the ink has not faded. In the upper right-hand corner is written in flowing script the name "Thomas M. Chambers." This was the person to whom the paper was originally addressed. At that time Thomas M. Chambers was postmaster at Steilacoom.

While Editor McElroy had to get along without the rapid worldwide radio and telegraph news service of today nevertheless the columns of The Columbian had foreign news, albeit it took some time to reach Olympia.

An item in this issue thanks Captain Coupe of the bark Success for "the files of the San Francisco papers to August 12, the date of his sailing." These no doubt included the copy of the San Francisco Herald which reported that Mexico mail is arriving in 13 days.

Dictatorship is nothing new and the Mexican report stated in part that "The news is of little interest (journalists were brutally frank in those days) Santa Ana has so effectively silenced the press that it confines itself to political events, and even those appear to be dictated by the government."

The Indian wars were brewing, but the front page of The Columbian is not devoted to any flaming accounts. Instead a considerable amount of space is used in moralizing. Some of these sermons in print are credited to other publications such as The Builder, so it is probable that the others were from the pen of Editor McElroy.

An almost column-length article from the Philadelphia Ledger gives one some advice on how to live to a great age. The American habit of always being on the go is deprecated along with his unfortunate predilection for "dissipation." The writer says "To kill oneself by a greedy haste after riches is as much a moral suicide as to destroy oneself by wine, by tobacco, by dining out, by late hours."

But the Indian trouble was not

entirely neglected. On page two we find an account headlined "The War In Oregon," which tells of burnings and killings on both sides and the arrest of three white men for allegedly selling arms to the hostile Rogue River warriors. The mood of the times is reflected in this incident—"A white man named Brown fired on one of 'Jim's' Indians (supposed to be a son of that chief) whom he found upon the road alone, and scalped him. The Indian underwent the operation of scalping without flinching, or exhibiting signs of life, and was left for dead. But Brown had not got out of sight with his scalp, before Mr. Indian got up and 'traveled,' having been stunned or playing possum—supposedly the latter."

On yet another page Captain Benjamin Alvord of the 4th Infantry at The Dalles of the Columbia warns emigrants and other white persons not to settle in the Indian country east of the Cascades, as no assent or consent "has been given by any of the organized and powerful Indian tribes."

They Stepped Out, Anyway

In spite of the Philadelphia Ledger writer's warning against shortening life with wine and tobacco and "dining out" these were evidently very popular with the territory's pioneers. Many varieties of tobacco were advertised by merchants in Olympia, Steilacoom, Portland and San Francisco.

In a sizable advertisement Joseph Cushman, of Olympia, offers among other things "malaga bunch raisins, old port, champagne and muscat wines, champagne cider, London porter, preserved meats, mill and cut saws, mill and other files."

The ladies and gentlemen of Olympia who wanted to risk "dining out" could do so at the Columbia hotel (also being advertised for sale as "the best property in Olympia") and the Washington hotel, also of that city. Private sleeping rooms were available and feed for one's horse.

F. A. Clarke advertised the merits of the Cowlitz hotel at Cowlitz landing. Mr. Clarke also transported passengers and freight up and down the Cowlitz river. His advertisement said that "the mail canoe leaves the Cowlitz landing every Thursday morning at 7 o'clock for Rainier and leaves Rainier every Tuesday morning at 6 o'clock for the landing."

Politics, alas, were very much the same. The issue contains announcement (by paid advertisement) of the candidacy for delegate to the U. S. Congress of James B. Johnson and M. T. Simmons of Olympia. Both assured the public that they were running because of the "solicitation of numerous friends." Mr. Johnson said he was a Democrat, while Mr. Simmons did not mention his political faith.

In his leading editorial Editor McElroy predicted quite correctly that the Puget Sound region had a bright future. He announced the hiring of M. K. Smith as the new editorial director and invited all and sundry to send in their subscriptions.

"Our books are always open for new subscribers," said he.

The citizens of the village of Olympia first read their own native, home grown newspaper on Sept. 11, 1852, when the Columbian made its first appearance.

The paper boy, delivering to 100% of the citizenry, would have run out of customers before he had made 15 stops. However, there were several families at Alki point who might subscribe, as their storekeeper, C. C. Terry, advertised in the Columbian, did any one of them want to serve that community as a blacksmith, let him answer the advertisement in the new Olympia paper.

Then, too, the energetic Smith's express might have carried the issues on any of its "weekly trips between Olympia and Port Townsend, stopping at Joe's point, Johnson's ranch, Nisqually, Steilacoom, New York, Whidby island and all intermediate points."

Propaganda Sheets

The first and, in fact, the later papers in Washington territory were frankly propaganda sheets.

The Columbian set forth that the money spent for pilotage and towage on the Columbia could be saved by coming to Puget Sound, some \$500 to \$800, a sum not to be lightly set aside.

The main propaganda purpose of the Columbian, says Meany, was to forward the division of Oregon. For this reason it was created and its editors, Messrs. J. W. Wiley and Thornton F. McElroy, never lost sight of that fact.

In urging the men to attend the meeting where separation was to be planned, the paper's leading editorial was headed, "Prepare, Prepare!" and printed in various sized type.

Come to Coupeville

Thomas Coupe, on Penn's cove

heard that there were new families at Portland who were penniless and did not know where to settle. He and his alert minded neighbors, including the Crocketts and the Ebeyes, chartered the J. T. Cabot and sent her to the Columbia with instructions to bring back as many immigrants as she could carry, "money or no money." All this was written up in the Columbian that winter.

And did this advertising campaign pay.

"By the close of 1853, Whidby island was one of the best settled portions of the territory. Thirty-five claims were filed during those two years.

The third number of the newspaper, Sept. 25, was a booster issue reviewing the progress in the territory, particularly at Olympia.

There was an "elegantly furnished hotel, of which E. Sylvester is the gentlemanly proprietor." The town already had two stores and a good hotel. Joseph Cushman was the manager of one store where "a full stock of implements of all kinds, as well as dry goods, groceries, crockery, boots and shoes is constantly kept on hand."

"The Indian canoe has been supplanted by our majestic brigs and schooners."

There was a sawmill at Olympia, a saw and grist mill as well as a hotel at Warbasport, and a mill on the Chickalees (Chehalis). Informal surveys were being made for a railroad to bring coal from the "Skookum Chuck to Olympia."

A Mr. Thatcher was to give a lecture on astronomy, and a phantasmagoria lantern exhibition, thought to have been the

first public entertainment in Olympia.

A report was printed saying that additional thousands of men women and children, enroute to the Northwest, had passed Fort Kearney, among them four men with wheelbarrows, several with push carts, while a few others carried all their worldly possessions, including pick and shovel, on their backs.

Fifty families had passed Cowlitz Landing, "among them several handsome representatives of female youth."

"There are lots of strangers in Olympia," continued the Columbian, "all the homes and boarding houses are full."

Good Roads Agitation

The "Columbian" continually agitated for good roads. It urged the citizens to "put their shoulders to the wheel," still a very graphic phrase in those days.

Memorials were sent to Congress, especially one prepared by Colonel Ebey, asking for \$30,000 to construct a road from Walla Walla to Steilacoom; also one asking for \$6,000 for a road from the latter place to Vancouver. These were for both military and civilian uses.

Another road of interest included the bridging of the Nisqually, not far from its mouth. The small bridges erected by private citizens "were invariably washed out or rendered useless by the shifting of the channel."

The Ramage Press

It may seem strange that a newspaper could be printed in so small a community. It was made possible by a series of circumstances which brought to this territory a small printing press which, while it might not have seen much better days, and certainly seen them in various places.

This was an old fashioned Ramage press, which George Himes, as quoted by Snowden, says he once used in his printer's wanderings.

This story has been mentioned here before, but is repeated in honor of Newspaper week.

The early governors of Mexico used the press to print their proclamations before 1834, when it was taken to Monterey, where for a time it served a similar purpose.

In 1846 it went to the new town

of San Francisco where the editors of the Star first used it, passing it on for the printing of the early numbers of the Alta California.

Its next stop was at Portland where it initiated the publication of the Oregonian.

From Portland it came north to make possible a newspaper in the precocious frontier town of Olympia.

This printing press was used in various newspaper offices in the territory and its journey would be interesting reading, but Mr. Himes' narrative ends at the Columbian's office.

By GORDON NEWELL

IT was just about this time of year, 103 summers ago, that the little coasting schooner *Mary Lane* worked her way through the mud-flats of Budd Inlet to make fast at the Olympia wharf with the most important cargo that had ever come to the far Northwest. Most of the frontier villagers who went down to the waterfront to watch the *Mary Lane* unloaded were probably unaware that they were witnessing an historic event, being more interested in the fresh supplies and fresh news she was bringing up from San Francisco.

Only two young printers, Thornton McElroy and J. W. Wiley paid much attention when the heavy crate containing a Ramage hand-operated printing press was swung up from the hold and deposited on the wharf. They were its co-owners, and with it they had brought the printed word to northern Oregon Territory—now the state of Washington.

The pioneer newspaper, the *Weekly Columbian*, was founded by McElroy and Wiley for the primary purpose of whipping up enthusiasm for a new territory to be formed of that part of Oregon lying north of the Columbia River. The publishers chose their stand well, for their subscribers and advertisers were all heartily in favor of the idea.

Achieved Objective

The first issue of the *Columbian* appeared on Sept. 11, 1852, and its efforts were not in vain. The historic Monticello Convention, held on the banks of the Columbia at the present site of the city of Longview, resulted in a memorial to Congress petitioning for a new territory—Columbia—to be carved from the northern half of Oregon. There was no particular opposition to the proposal, and the new territory was created the following year, 1853.

Congress didn't go along with the citizens in their choice of a name, however. Richard R. Stanton of Kentucky suggested that a District of Columbia and a Territory of Columbia would be confusing. He wanted to honor the Father of His Country—the territory of Washington was the result. The *Weekly Columbian* had achieved both its first editorial objective and the spot in history reserved for the first newspaper in Washington.

The newspaper had proven the power of the press to the people of the Northwest, and the newspaper had come to stay. The slow stamping of the little Ramage hand press was to swell into the clatter of a great network of news wires and the thunder of mighty power presses that now pour out more than 300 newspapers, large and small, in 200 Washington cities and towns.

Most important of all, to the historian, the coming of the press meant the coming of detailed history, for from 1852 to the present day the yellowed files of the *Columbian* and the newspapers that followed it provide a detailed, day by day chronology of the great and small events of a growing empire.

Little Press Busy

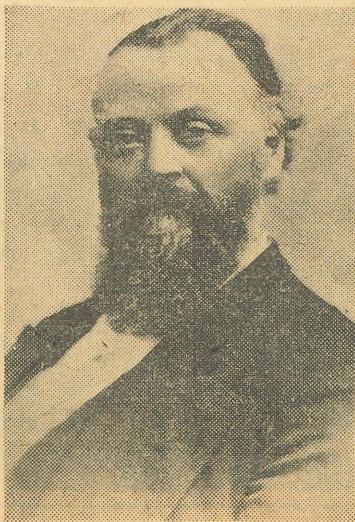
The *Columbian's* crude hand press had more than its share of

journalistic glory. It was already nearly a quarter of a century old when it arrived in Olympia, having been shipped around the Horn from New York to Mexico City. By 1834 it was hard at work in Monterey, Calif., where the Spanish governor used it for proclamations and official publications. It went to work for private enterprise in 1846, stamping out the *Californian*, the first newspaper in the state of California. Later in the year it was shipped to San Francisco and used to print the *Star*, the first paper in that city. These two pioneer journals were combined in 1848 as the *Alta Californian*, but the printing was still done by the little Ramage.

From San Francisco the hard-working press journeyed to Portland, where it turned out the *Oregon Spectator*, which later became the *Oregonian*. Prosperity brought a new printing plant to the *Oregonian* in 1852, and it was then that the old Ramage was purchased by McElroy and Wiley and embarked on the *Mary Lane* to go pioneering again—this time on the Pacific Coast's last frontier.

Publisher McElroy wrote back to his bride in Pittsfield, Ill. on Aug. 10, 1852, vividly picturing the local color of that frontier:

"I left Portland on Monday the 3rd inst., and after a pleasant passage of about four hours down the Columbia on the steamboat *Lot Whitcomb* arrived at the mouth of the Cowlitz River. I embarked in a canoe with two Indians on Tuesday morning for Warbassport, a trading post at the head of canoe navigation on this



First newspaper publisher in the Northwest was Thornton McElroy (above) who with J. W. Wiley brought a crude hand press to Olympia in 1852 and started printing a weekly paper. The tiny press played an historic role in bringing the printed word to California, Oregon and Washington.

river. The ascent is very slow on account of the many rapids. Despite the rapid current we reached the forks of the river, 18 miles from the mouth, before night. Next day at about 9 o'clock arrived at Warbassport.

Reaches Olympia

"From this place to Olympia the conveyance is on horseback. I procured a horse and rode 30 miles before night, over a fine farming and grazing country, very sparsely settled. On my way I met a gentleman and a lady on horseback. The lady was riding astride and seemed to be an expert in managing her horse as her husband. I hear that all the ladies in this part of Oregon have adopted this mode of riding. They follow the example of the Indian women in this respect. The next day I arrived at Olympia."

After McElroy and Wiley had set up their crude press they em-

barked on the somewhat exhausting duties of frontier newspaper men. They not only had to keep solvent by selling advertising and subscriptions, but also had to ferret out such news as there was and keep the printing plant in operation. There were, of course, no telegraphic dispatches, the out-of-town "news" being culled from the weekly issues of the *New York Tribune* or *Herald*, which came by mail steamer to the Isthmus of Panama, thence across and by another steamer to San Francisco. From there the tattered journals made their way as best they could by coast schooner to the Columbia and over the Cowlitz Trail to Olympia. East Coast news that was less than four months old was considered really "hot" by the young publishers of the *Columbian*.

In addition to all this, they had to set type and run the press, both by hand; make up the forms, make and wash rollers, edit the copy and distribute the paper when it finally made its slow and laborious appearance. All in all, it's no wonder that McElroy wrote a less buoyant letter to his bride in the autumn of 1853:

"Well, the first year of the *Columbian* has about closed. I am completely worn out by constant attention to business. Many times, I wish I had never left you and home. I am glad you are willing to follow my fortunes wherever I may go, and I do not doubt that you would be perfectly happy with me here."

Young McElroy's wife did join him in Olympia, where they stayed and prospered all their lives, but the pioneer editor soon turned to less trying enterprises than the newspaper business. The *Columbian* was sold to a Matt Smith, who operated it only a few months, after which it reverted to the sole ownership of Wiley. The owner changed the paper's politics from Whig to Democrat and changed its name to the *Pioneer*. Later it got a new printing press and a more impressive name—the *Washington Pioneer and Democrat*.

Historic Press

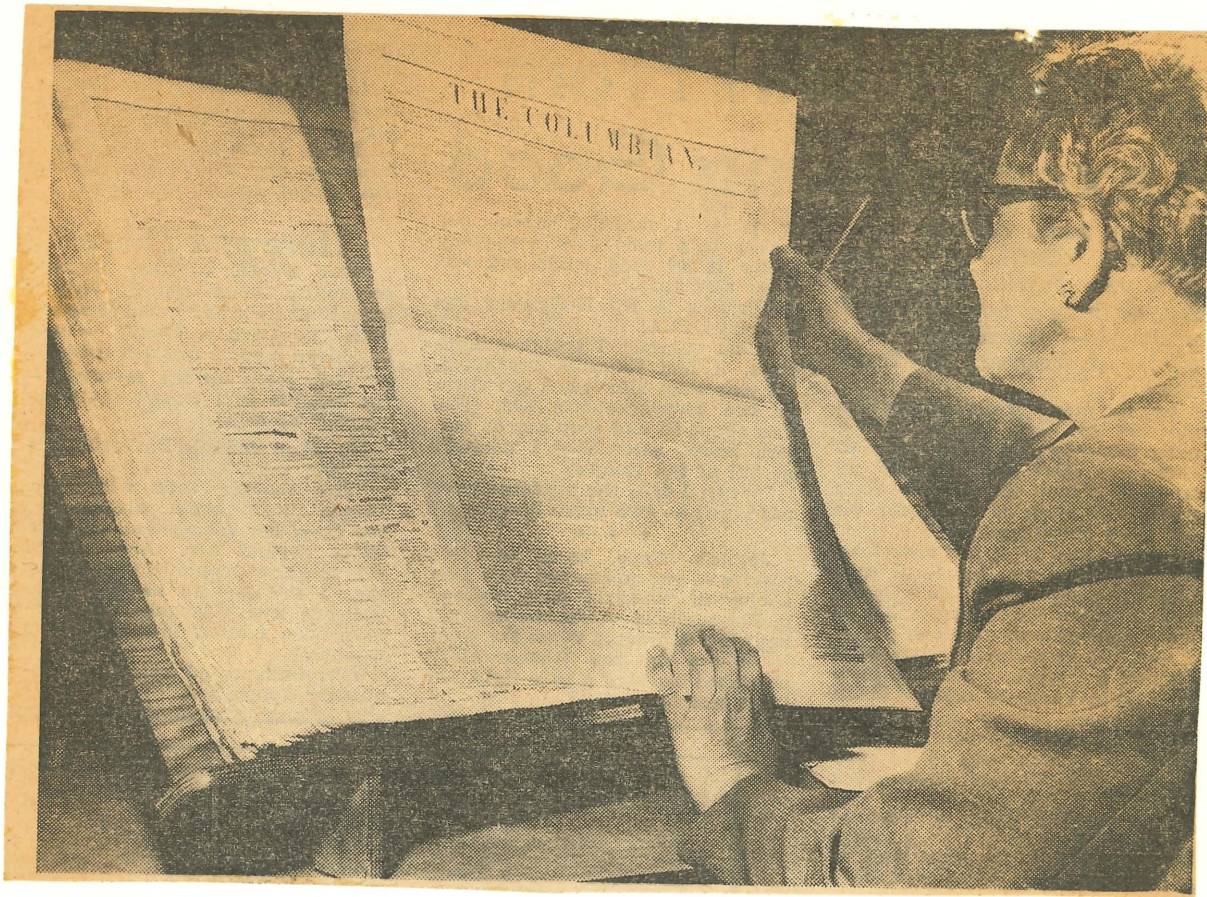
During her long career the little Ramage hand press changed her language and her politics more than once, but she was consistent in following the first waves of the pioneers to bring the printed word to the outposts of civilization. When her work at Olympia was done she went

at Olympia and voyaging down Puget Sound, stopping off at Steilacoom for a while to get the Puget Sound Courier started. Then, in 1863 the battered press turned up at Seattle, stamping out that city's first newspaper, the Gazette.

Probably the only reason the Ramage missed Tacoma in her wanderings was because there

was no Tacoma in those days. There was only a single log cabin and a tiny sawmill on the shore of a broad bay; not a large enough settlement to justify a hopeful newspaper, even by pioneer standards. During the first decade following the founding of Tacoma in 1873 many attempts were made to establish profitable newspapers, but it was not until 1880 when the Weekly Ledger, forerunner of the News Tribune, was founded that stability came to Tacoma journalism. By that time the little Ramage had pioneered in the publishing business at Whatcom (Bellingham) and Port Townsend, and had long been in dusty retirement.

Today you can see the oldest of West Coast newspaper old-timers enjoying well-earned rest and due honors at the Northwest Museum on the University of Washington campus. There's a lot of legend mixed up with fact in most Northwest history, but there's no doubt that the little Ramage hand press was a true pioneer. Small and clumsy as the old girl may look to modern eyes, she earned her place in history as the mother of journalism in every state and half the major cities of the Western Seaboard.



Looking over the first newspaper to be published in what now is the State of Washington is Miss Ruth M. Babcock, librarian at the Washington State Historical Museum, where it is kept with other historic documents. Miss Babcock is holding Vol. 1, No. 1, of the *Columbian*, published in Olympia, Sept. 11, 1852. The newspaper played an important part in the successful campaign to create Washington Territory out of what then was Oregon Territory. Lower picture shows the little Ramage hand press on which the *Columbian* was printed. En route to Olympia from New York it halted long enough in California and Oregon to print the first newspaper in those states. After it was supplanted at Olympia by another press, the little Ramage appeared at Steilacoom where it printed the first newspaper in Pierce County, and later in Seattle where it printed the first newspaper there.

As part of this paper's participation in American Newspaper week, The Times presents the first of a series of several exclusive features emphasizing the progress that has been made in the newspaper field, mechanically and editorially. Today is presented part of the first page of the "Columbian," first newspaper published in what is now the

state of Washington, and a model of perfection for that period. The photograph was made from the Columbian files in the Washington state historical library, one of the most valued and highly prized volumes dealing with Northwest history.

Another feature of newspaper week is the series of articles appearing on the editorial page in the column, "After Many Years," and dealing with the highlights and incidents of American newspaper history.

* * *
Compared to the "streamlined" newspaper of today, The Columbian, printed at Olympia, Puget's Sound, Oregon Territory, was not much to look at, but it was the first newspaper published in Oregon territory north of the Columbia river and had a great influence in bringing settlers to the new territory of Washington.

The paper was published by J. W. Wiley and T. F. McElroy, who announced the policies of the paper as follows:

"At the solicitation of a number of intelligent gentlemen north of the

Columbia river, who understand their own interests and appreciate the advantages to be derived from the publication of a newspaper in their vicinity, if properly conducted, have induced the undersigned to engage in the undertaking .

"We deem it both unnecessary and inexpedient to enter into a long list of promises. Let it suffice to say that if we are adequately maintained, we shall use every effort to advance the interests of the people, and by truthful representation of its superior advantages, endeavor to aid in the settlement of that very desirable portion of Oregon north of the Columbia river.

"But should not a due encouragement be given to justify an expenditure of labor, an alternative is presented in other and many inviting vocations on the Pacific coast where industry will be rewarded without the humil-

iation of an eternal solicitude for patronage.

"It will be our object at all times to promote the interests of all, unbiased by party or sectarian views and untrammelled by any man, set of men, party, clique or faction whatsoever. We will receive dictation from no source in the discharge of our

duty as journalists."

At the time the Columbian was started, it was supposed that when the north half of Oregon was made a separate territory it would be called Columbia. The publishers saw a considerable prestige in having that name but they missed the mark by a very close margin. In the bill for the creation of the new territory the name Columbia was designated. The bill

was ready for the vote on final passage when Senator Stanton of Kentucky called attention to the fact that no state in the union had been named for George Washington, father of his country and first president. That, said he, was a shameful oversight that should be corrected before the states and territories were all named. Congress obviously agreed with him, for his motion to strike out the word Colum-

bia wherever it occurred in the bill and substitute the name Washington was carried. That is how this state came by its name.

Regardless of the name, the Columbian did a splendid service in advertising the resources of this part of Oregon and did a great deal to induce immigrants to settle north of the Columbia river. Several special editions of the Columbian distributed in the east influenced a great many homeseekers to come to Puget Sound.

THE COLUMBIAN

OCT 2 1941

VOL. 1.

OLYMPIA, PUGET'S SOUND, OREGON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1852.

NO. 2.

THE COLUMBIAN.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, BY WILEY & McELROY.

J. W. WILEY. T. F. McELROY.

Terms—Invariably in Advance.

For one year, when sent by mail, or taken at the office, \$5.00; for six months \$3.00.

No paper will be discontinued, unless at the option of the publishers, until all arrearages are paid.

ADVERTISING.

One square, (twelve lines or less), three insertions, \$5.00; for every additional insertion, \$1.00. A liberal deduction to yearly advertisers.

The number of insertions must be distinctly marked on the margin, otherwise they will be counted till forbidden, and charged accordingly.

AGENTS.

The following gentlemen are authorized to receive subscriptions for "The Columbian":

- ISAAC N. EBEL, Whidby's Island;
- HENRY C. WILSON, Port Townsend;
- BALCH & PALMER, Steilacoom;
- W. W. MILLER, Nesqually;
- E. D. WARDASS, Cowlitz Farms;
- S. S. FORD, Sen., Chickeeles;
- CHAS. G. TERRY & Co., New York;
- D. F. BROWNFIELD, New Dungeness;
- F. S. HOLLAND, Oregon City;
- A. A. DENNY, Seattle;
- S. D. HOWE, Penn's Cove, Whidby's Island;
- JOHN R. JACKSON, Jackson's Prairie, Lewis county.
- A. M. POE, Poe's Point.
- S. S. WILLIAMS, Washington City.

MISCELLANEOUS

Emigration to the United States.

Oppression has been, in all ages, a fertile source of emigration. The Israelites, of Egypt...

and as fast as they can, to this country.—America is the land of their hope and friends, and they stretch out toward it their arms.

So long as despotism holds its secure reign in Europe we may expect an annual increase in the number of immigrants. Let them come! In the name of Freedom and Humanity we bid them—Welcome! There remains with us very much land to be possessed. We have superabundant territory, and will soon have more. We want population. The oppressive governments of the old world are working our advancement. By their harsh measures, they are sending us legions of active, strong men to till our soil, hew down our forests, drain our marshes, people our vast solitudes, construct our canals, build our railroads, erect our cities, increase our greatness. They are thus adding immensely to our wealth and general prosperity.

One of our New York papers lately made an estimate of the value of emigration as "an accession to our stock of labor and living capital," and concluded that it exceeds in value all the gold dust imported from California. The calculation runs thus: A full-grown healthy man, of twenty-one years of age, looking merely at the result of his labor and the likelihood of his living to the average length of human existence, is worth a thousand dollars. The whole emigration to this port, 30,000 a month, may therefore be safely put down as worth five hundred dollars each. This average being taken as the basis of an estimate, we have an amount of value added to the capital stock of this country equal to fifteen millions of dollars monthly. These emigrants generally bring with them some little property in money, which may be safely averaged at ten dollars per head; this would give a sum of...

made acquainted with the theory and working of our social system, will be American in heart, American by birth, and from among them will arise some of our best citizens and most illustrious statesmen. Only one thing have we to dread: an ignorant and irreligious population. If, with our common schools and our various facilities for moral education, we have either of these, the fault as its punishment will be our own. While despotism keeps its victims ignorant that it may preserve them weak and defenceless, liberty can only exist in connection with knowledge and a sense and love of right.—[New York Metropolitan]

How to grow Rich.—Hunt, in the last number of his Magazine, says:

When a man takes more pleasure in acquiring money than in expending it, he has taken the first step towards wealth. A farmer will receive a few grains of an improved species of corn, which he will not eat, but will plant them, and replant the product from year to year, till his few grains become hundreds of bushels.

Money is increasable by analogous processes, and success is within the power of any man who shall attain to ordinary longevity. If a man at the age of twenty years can save from his earnings twenty-six cents every working day, and annually invest the aggregate at compound legal 7 per cent interest he will at seventy, possess \$32,000. Many men who resort to life insurance, can save several times twenty-six cents daily, and accumulate several times the above sum long before the age of seventy.

Nearly all large fortunes are the result of such accumulations; hence the men who amass great fortunes are usually those only who live long. The last few years of G. Astor's life increased their wealth.

Being Rich.—What's the use in being rich? In particular, what's the use in my getting rich? My wife says to me, every time I get to work on a good job, "Jim, why don't you try and lay up a little money?" says she. And I try to distil into her mind the evil of riches. There was poor Mr. Astor, worked hard to accumulate property, and when he had piled up a lot of it, he was pestered to death to take keer of it. Then there was a poor rich Mr. McDonough, in Louisiana, nigh about starved himself, and had only one suit of poor clothes, for the sake of buying all the land that jined him. I reckon I've ate and drunk about as much good stuff as Mr. McDonough did in his life, with all his property. I live kinder independent like. Nobody asks me to endorse notes, or to go bail for anybody.—No tenth cousins come to my house expecting to live like fightin cocks at my expense. Nobody asks me to subscribe a thousand for Kershoot. Nobody asks me far money for party puposes. In fact, I get treated at other people's expense every election, and now what's the use of my scabbin round, year in and year out, just to cumulate a few hundred thousand dollars? My wife would like to have me do it, I know, so that she might dress in silks; but kalliker is good enough for any woman. I enjoy myself just as well as though I was rich. Don't I see all the petty pictures around here for nothing? And all the watches and rings placed in the other side of that plate-glass, I can enjoy as well as if I owned 'em. I have new patterns put out for me to look at almost every day, and I don't have to worry nights about their getting stole.

Your rich men go to great expense and trouble to keep their coaches, and great lazy fellows to drive 'em, but when I want to ride to the South End, or to any other city, I just hire with one of those...

Letters of Acceptance OF GENERALS SCOTT AND PIERCE.

BALTIMORE, June 22, 1852.

Sir: I am instructed by the Whig National Convention to inform you of your unanimous nomination as the Whig candidate for the office of President of the United States.

I enclose a copy of the resolutions passed by the Convention, expressing their opinions upon some of the most prominent questions of national policy: and, with sincere wishes that you may be elected and for the permanent settlement of principles of the whig party,

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. G. CHAPMAN, of Maryland, President of the Whig National Convention. To Major General WINFIELD SCOTT.

WASHINGTON, June 23, 1852.

To the Honorable J. G. CHAPMAN.

President of the Whig National Convention:

Sir: I have had the honor to receive from your hands the official notice of my "unanimous nomination as the Whig candidate for the office of President of the United States;" together with "a copy of the Resolutions passed by the Convention expressing their opinions upon some of the most prominent questions of National policy."

This great distinction, conferred by a numerous, intelligent, and patriotic body, representing millions of my countrymen, sinks deep into my heart, and, remembering the very eminent names which were before the Convention in amicable competition with my own, I am made to feel oppressively the weight of responsibility belonging to my new position.

Not having written a word to procure this distinction, I must, after it had been conferred, abstain from any further letter.

honor to remain, sir, with great esteem, your most obedient servant.

WINFIELD SCOTT

Gen. Pierce's Letter.

Washington June 22, 3 p. m.

The Union publishes the following letter from FRANKLIN PIERCE, accepting the Democratic nomination for the Presidency.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to acknowledge your personal kindness in presenting me, this day, your letter officially informing me of my nomination by the Democratic National Convention, as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

The surprise with which I received the intelligence of my nomination was not unmingled with painful solicitude, and you is proper for me to say the manner in which it was conferred was peculiarly gratifying.

The delegation from New Hampshire, with all the glow of State pride and with all the warmth of personal regard, would not have submitted my name to the Convention, nor would they have cast a vote for me under circumstances other than those which have occurred.

I shall always cherish with pride and gratitude the recollection of the fact that the voice which first pronounced for me, and pronounced alone, came from the mother of States—a pride and gratitude rising above any consequences that can betide me personally.

May I not remark it as a fact pointing to the overthrow of personal jealousies, and looking to the permanent life and vigor of the Union, cemented by the blood of those who have passed to their reward—a Union wonderful in its formation, boundless in its hopes, amazing in its destiny.

I accept the honor with profound gratitude, and with the most obedient devotion.

The voice of a free people rings out through its newspapers. And from its earliest beginnings Olympia has enjoyed the benefits of lively publications dedicated to the development of one of the world's most desirable dwelling places.

On September 11, 1852, the residents of this hamlet by the Sound enjoyed issue number one of the first newspaper printed in Washington Territory. Since that noteworthy day when James W. Wiley and T. F. McElroy published their periodical, The Columbian, Olympians have been fortunate in having excellent, colorful coverage of their own robust history.

In addition they have received prompt news of important events occurring in the state, the nation and principal cities across the sea. And as the world's vast waters, for better or for worse, became less of a transportation obstacle, readers here learned through their newspaper of odd-sounding remote jungle islands in the Pacific and desolate desert oases where Olympians helped to write the complicated story of a conglomerate people, known as Americans, fighting to keep their heritage of democracy.

Reflecting the growing pains of a virile community, the history of the journals of Olympia has the same restless tone as the tides that wash the city's shores. Bitter squabbles surrounded most of the important decisions made as Olympia grew from a settlement to a modern city. Editors have found themselves called on the same day "ink-stained wretches" and "sterling journalists" by opposing camps. But even the bitterest foes of the penmen seldom found reason to question the courage of the writers who chronicled the development during its first hundred years.

Providing a weekly gazette in the early 1850s for a sparsely populated area was no easy venture. And the Columbian, like many another publication in this turbulent young capital, passed through many hands.

* * *

Editor Wiley quit the firm on March 5, 1853 after a political dispute with McElroy. J. J. Beebee became co-publisher and editor, but stayed only until July. In September Mat K. Smith became a partner with McElroy. This combination also had its difficulties and early Winter found Wiley once again seated in the editor's chair. He shared control of the periodical with A. M. Berry, who had been the first printer on The Portland Oregonian. On December 3, 1854 these men changed the name of their newspaper to The Pioneer.

The two new owners soon had another problem. They kept a wary eye on a printer named Reuben L. Doley who shortly after arriving in Olympia announced that he would publish a newspaper to be named The Northwest Democrat. When printing machinery for the rival firm arrived here in January, 1854, the other publishers went into a quick huddle. As a result, Doley abandoned his

scheme, joined the old firm and the new journalistic product became known as The Pioneer-Democrat.

George B. Goudy joined the publishing concern December 16, 1854. Seven months later he became the proprietor, with Wiley staying on as editor. Two years later Wiley

and Edward Furste became The Pioneer-Democrat owners. But by May 7, 1858, Wiley was out again and Furste was in full control of the firm. He was succeeded on November 23, 1860, by James Dodge, who was the publisher until the first Washington newspaper gave up the ghost on May 31, 1861.

In the meantime, however, John Miller Murphy had arrived in Olympia to prepare for an illustrious career destined to span a full half century.

Murphy came to this settlement in the Summer of 1852 with his brother-in-law, George A. Barnes, who opened a store in which Murphy clerked while gaining an education. His principal instructor during the next few years was Bernard Cornelius, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, who had more than twenty years of teaching experience before he opened a school here on May 8, 1854.

In 1857 Miller went to the village of Portland, Oregon, to learn the printing trade as an apprentice. He joined with a gentleman known as Alphabetical Coons to publish the first newspaper in Vancouver, Washington, on June 30, 1860. Miller left The Chronicle three months later and returned to Olympia to start his own publication. His type and a press, purchased in San Francisco for \$1,000,

arrived the following November.

Miller's equipment was a far cry from the present modern machinery which provides you with The Olympian six days a week. His hand press would imprint fewer than 100 single sheets an hour as compared with the thousands of impressions which now roll every sixty minutes from powerful printing devices fed by a continuous roll of paper.

Nor would the pioneer publishers have believed that ninety years later expert craftsmen in the Olympian's commercial department would be turning out large-scale printing jobs in a matter of hours. Automatic feed presses, one of the state's best lithograph machines, and cleverly designed typesetting machines are comparatively recent tools used to provide speedily for customers of The Olympian the inexpensive printing products which assist them in their business enterprises.

* * *

Miller placed his few cases of type and a machine known as a Number Two Washington Hand Press in an office at Main and First Streets. He obtained the services of two men to aid with the printing. One was Elisha Treat Gunn, who had published The Puget Sound Courier at Steilacoom from May 19, 1855, until April 1, 1856, and who founded The Olym-

pia Transcript in 1868. The printer's devil was Robert Frost, who later became a well-known resident of Olympia. On Saturday, November 17, 1860, the first issue of The Washington Standard was distributed in Olympia.

Fifty years later—on Saturday, November 19, 1910—Miller was honored at a testimonial dinner. The program, arranged by the State Press Association, honored the man who directed the Standard through a half century of uninterrupted publication.

Speaking to a large audience assembled in the Olympia Young Men's Christian Association building, Miller pointed out that Olympia was indeed the cradle for Washington's newspapers. He said:

"At the date when The Standard began publication there was no Seattle nor Tacoma. The former was known as Alki and was the site of Yesler's Mill and hall, John Collins' hotel, Jake Pinnell's dive and probably a small store or two. Tacoma was known by its one mill and new Tacoma had not been born.

"Seattle had no newspaper until a printer named S. L. Maxwell started a small publication called The Gazette. His plant was small and for several years much of his job work and other printing was done in Olympia on the Standard presses.

"Mr. Maxwell was succeeded by J. R. Watson, from Olympia. Afterwards Samuel L. Crawford, a graduate of The Standard, became part owner of The Post-Intelligencer and aided that paper's evolution to the size and dignity of a metropolitan newspaper.

"The first paper printed in Tacoma was also from Olympia, The Daily Tribune, transplanted from this city after several years' service here, by Charles Prosch and his sons."

It was recalled at this same meeting that I. V. Mossman, a well known Olympian for many years, had a hand in the publication of the first newspaper in Eastern Washington. This periodical was The Washington Statesman which first appeared in Walla Walla in December, 1861.

* * *

The Standard was one of the leading weeklies which, after several false starts, brought about the development of Olympia's top-flight daily newspaper. Briefly this was the history of the publications:

The Evening Olympian was born on February 16, 1889. It sprang from a demand by worried Olympians that they receive daily news of the nefarious scheming by other coast cities to snatch the seat of government from the town.

When this uproar—which included one lawgiver's suggestion for a floating Capitol to be towed from town to town—subsided, the first daily newspaper here folded.

Within two years, however, Olympia had two vigorous daily publications. One was The Evening Tribune and the other The Morning Olympian. The two carried on a bitter feud during the early 1890s. Changes of management were not uncommon. The fight was resolved on March 7, 1893, when The Tribune was absorbed by the Olympian.

Washington has had a free and fighting press since its birth a century ago. Historians believe firmly that no factor has had a greater influence than the press on the development of Washington State.

It was in great measure the influence of the Columbian, first newspaper published north of the Columbia River, that brought about the splitting of Oregon Territory and the beginning of Washington Territory.

The Columbian was established in Olympia—later to become the Territorial capitol—on September 11, 1852. According to its initial editorial announcement the newspaper was started "at the solicitation of a number of intelligent gentlemen living north of the Columbia." It was operated by J. W. Wiley and Thornton F. McElroy, and printed with an ancient press brought to Olympia on a sailing vessel. That press now is the property of the University of Washington.

The Columbian's publishers promised "devotion to the interests of Oregon in general and to the territory north of the Columbia in particular."

An historical meeting was called in November, 1852, in Monticello, at which a group of pioneer men signed a memorial to Congress that resulted in the creation of Washington Territory. The original site has been washed away by angry flood waters of the Cowlitz River.

In its September 18 issue that year the Columbian had pushed vigorously for the north territory. It was pointed out that while all the "garden spots" south of the Columbia were occupied, in the territory north of the river there were "thousands of acres of the choicest lands, unoccupied and waiting for the subduing hand of the agriculturist."

Puget Sound, declared to be the safest harbor in the world, was spot-lighted as having facilities capable of serving ships from the markets of all nations on the globe.

The Columbian predicted the lumber trade of the world would focus on Puget Sound and that because of its strategic location Congress eventually would establish the nation's greatest Navy yard on the sound. Another forecast was that Puget Sound soon would become the terminus of a major transcontinental railroad.

The support pledged by the Columbian spurred the debut of Washington Territory and later the state. Long before statehood became a reality the Columbian had faded from the scene. But its proud traditions have been passed along at a heritage to subsequent newspapers.

Today Washington State boasts 21 daily newspapers in its major cities. Communities such as Seattle, Spokane and Yakima have two dailies each. And there are approximately 150 "hometown weeklies" in the state. Official combined circulation of the daily newspapers is approximately 1,000,000.

A highlight in state newspaper history is the organization of Washington State Press Association in Tacoma in the Summer of 1887. The event was a feature of Tacoma's celebration of the arrival of the first Northern Pacific transcontinental train over the Cascade

Range switchback on July 3. Leaders in the organization included R. F. Radebaugh, Tacoma Ledger publisher; Charles Hobart, publisher of the Yakima Republic; and Edwin N. Fuller, publisher of the Yakima Commercial.

Formation of the press association aroused the newspapers to aggressive interest in the achievement of statehood. This was its first goal; and statehood was realized two years later.

Since Olympia was the state capitol, papers of that city took a distinctive place in the field from 1889 until the early 1890s. In a

dominating position as the administration organ was the Olympian which was financed by a group of Olympia businessmen in 1891. Sharing honors with the Olympian was the Washington Standard, established in 1860 by John Miller Murphy and published by Murphy for more than 50 years.

A new personality emerged in the publishing field in the early 1890s in the person of S. A. Perkins. He acquired the Tacoma News and the Ledger, and promptly became a vital figure. The aggressive Perkins expanded and soon acquired papers in Bellingham, Everett, Aberdeen and Olympia. He disposed of the Everett and Aberdeen publications and accepted the challenge of publishers in Bellingham and Olympia for control of the field.

In Bellingham, Perkins won a contest with Colonel Alden J. Blethen, who wanted to make his Seattle Times the center of a chain in the Northwest. Perkins was victorious also in Olympia. He still owns the Bellingham and Olympia newspapers.

Seattle papers attained little stature until Leigh S. Hunt took control of the Post-Intelligencer three years before statehood in 1886 and gave this publication a metropolitan showcase. The P-I was one of the newspapers which had a role in shaping the policies of the new state and was credited with great assistance in making Watson D. Squire the first U. S. senator. Hunt lost control in the panic of the '90s.

After the paper had gone through a series of dark experiences, John L. Wilson purchased it in 1899. He borrowed the down payment from his friend, James J. Hill, famed as a railroad builder.

A succession of ownerships followed after Wilson's death until the paper was purchased by William Randolph Hearst in 1921. Application of Hearst policies and unlimited financial backing opened a new field for the Post-Intelligencer. It still is a member of the Hearst group.

In the fashion of the P-I, the Seattle Times suffered from a succession of ownerships and inadequate financing until it went into the hands of Blethen in 1896. Blethen transformed the Times into one of the leading journals of the Pacific Coast. It still holds a high place in journalism under succeeding members of the Blethen family.

Spokane's newspaper history begins with the establishment of Spokane Falls Review by Frank N. Dallam in 1883. The Review had

a stormy time of it until 1893 when it was bought by W. H. Cowles, who had started the Spokesman in 1890.

A year later Cowles joined the two papers and the Spokesman-Review has continued since that time to dominate the field in the Inland Empire. The Chronicle, established in 1881, finally came under the same ownership.

Suspension of the Scripps newspaper, the Spokane Press in 1936, left the field there to the Cowles papers.

Washington as a state was three years old when E. W. Scripps, founder of the newspaper chain bearing his name, entered the field in Seattle with the Star. Three years later Scripps started the Spokane Press and in 1903 began publication of the Tacoma Times. These newspapers ceased publication several years ago and Tacoma's only newspaper today is the News-Tribune.

In addition to the newspapers in the state's three key cities, there are non-metropolitan dailies in many other communities, each a leader in its field. These cities include Aberdeen, Anacortes, Bellingham, Centralia, Ellensburg, Everett, Longview, Mount Vernon, Olympia, Pasco, Kennewick, Port Angeles, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima.

Our First Newspaper

We are indebted to the Olympia office of the Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington for the reminder that the newspapers of Washington will observe their own special centennial on Sept. 11.

On Sept. 11, 1852, James W. Wiley and Thornton F. McElroy published the initial issue of the Columbian, first newspaper to be printed north of the Columbia river. Its dateline read "Olympia, Puget Sound, Saturday, Sept. 11, 1852." It gave no recognition to Oregon territory of which the area was then a part. It dedicated its influence solely to the settlement and development of the territory north of the Columbia. Its first editorial demand was for independent territorial status.

The equipment for the paper was brought from Portland in the schooner Mary Taylor in the summer of 1852. The press was an old Ramage, so called because it was constructed by Adam Ramage, who went to Philadelphia in 1790 and is believed to have been the first builder of presses in America. This particular press had a remarkable history. It was used in Mexico for the printing of pronouncements until 1834; when it was moved to Monterey, Calif., for a similar service. In 1846, it was moved to San Francisco, where the Star and, later, the Alta California were printed on it. When Thomas J. Dryer established the Portland, Oregonian, this same old press printed the first issue on Dec. 4, 1850. After serving the Columbian, it printed the first paper in Seattle and pioneered in other towns. It is now a prized relic in the University of Washington museum.

The first issue of the Columbian announced that it would be published every Saturday at "\$5 per year by mail or taken at the office." Another announcement declared: "Neutral in politics. Devoted to the interests of Oregon, and the territory north of the Columbia river in particular." Agents for the paper were announced as follows: "Isaac N. Ebey, Whidby's island; Henry C. Wilson, Port Townsend; Balch & Palmer, Steilacoom; W. W. Miller, Nisqually; E. D. Warbass, Cowlitz Farms; S. S. Ford Sr., Chickeeles; Charles C. Terry & Co., New York (first name of Seattle); D. F. Brownfield, New Dungeness; F. S. Holland, Oregon City." The reading matter in that first issue included: An article of two columns by W. D. Porter, taken from the National Intelligencer; an adventure story entitled "Misfortunes of Jack Beckler"; "The Battle of Plattsburg," one column, and five columns were devoted to the printing of the oration by D. R. Bigelow, delivered in Olympia on the previous Fourth of July.

There were 42 advertisements in the issue and several of them were illustrated with symbols such as house, tree, cow, ship, shoe, horse and steamboat. In the third issue there is an article headed, "To the Residents of Northern Oregon," advocating the election of delegates to a convention to petition for the organization of the proposed new territory of Columbia. This cause was followed up vigorously in the following issues.

In March, 1853, Wiley retired from the paper. He was succeeded by J. J. Beebe, who remained in the firm for four months, retiring on July 13. On Sept. 17, McElroy retired and Matt. K. Smith took charge of the paper. On Dec. 3, J. W. Wiley and A. M. Berry appear as publishers with Wiley as editor. The name of the paper was then changed to Washington Pioneer and soon afterwards to Pioneer and Democrat.

The Allied Daily Newspaper memorandum points out that the press in this past century has grown many hundred fold. "Washington state now has 24 daily newspapers, more than 150 weekly newspapers of general circulation and scores of foreign language and special publications," it reports. "Daily newspaper circulation alone is near the million mark. News from the farthest reaches of the world speeds to these papers over wires and through the air within minutes after an event. So great has been the mechanical developments that words flow into electrical impulses to machine and to type almost as rapidly as the words can be spoken. So fast are the presses that a single issue of a metropolitan daily produced within a few hours would require months to stamp out an Adam Ramage's old press which brought the Columbian into existence."

By LEROY HITTLE

OLYMPIA.—P—The printer leaned over the type case, squinting as he picked out the individual letters for a news item.

A sailing vessel had been wrecked on the coast of Vancouver island. The survivors had been harassed and threatened by Indians.

The time: 100 years ago.

The place: The print shop of The Columbian, the first newspaper published in what is now the state of Washington.

Newspapers throughout the state pay tribute to The Columbian this week as they observe newspaper centennial.

James W. Wiley and Thornton F. McElroy published the first number of The Columbian in Olympia Sept. 11, 1852, on an old Ramage hand press, probably one of the first built in America.

It was a far different paper than those published today.

It had no blaring headlines; no

news pictures. Photoengraving had not yet been developed. The only illustrations were the hand-carved wood block in the advertisements. They depicted the items for sale: A house, a boat, a horse.

Page one was devoted to a scholarly discussion of the empire of Japan, a feature story on the misfortunes of an Irish sailor in Brazil, a number of short essays, and an item about a young lady in Cincinnati who whipped a couple of professors.

News items that would have been on page one by today's standards were carried on page two, along with the editorials.

One of the stories told about the wreck of the sailing vessel *Eagle* on the coast of Vancouver a month earlier.

News traveled slowly, coming by sailing vessels, an occasional overland mail sack, a passing canoe. There were no highspeed tele-

types to bring the world's news in words and pictures to the papers.

The crew of the vessel went ashore where Indians threatened their lives and stripped them of everything they had, The Columbian reported.

The crew escaped in a whale boat, but when they landed at another point two of them were taken prisoner by the Indians. Subsequently a trading vessel came by, rescued the crew and effected the release of the two held by the Indians.

Editorially, the first issue of "The Columbian" listed itself as "neutral in politics." This was short-lived. As the paper changed owners, its politics shifted from neutral to Whig to Democrat.

It always fought, however, for independent territorial status of the area north of the Columbia river.

Territory Created

Wiley retired from the paper in March of 1853. He didn't know it at the time, but on the second day of that same month the new territory had been created.

It was named Washington, however, instead of Columbia as he had proposed.

The power of the press was demonstrated in Washington 100 years ago by the success of The Columbian in obtaining territorial recognition.

The press has grown many hundred-fold in the past century.

Washington state now has 24 daily newspapers, more than 150 weeklies and scores of special publications. Daily newspaper circulation alone is near the million mark.

News and pictures from the farthest reaches of the world are delivered to the papers by highspeed teletypes and wirephoto machines within minutes after an event happens.

Modern presses are so fast that a single issue of a metropolitan daily paper, produced within a few hours, would require months to stamp out on the old hand press that printed The Columbian 100 years ago.