

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 189, Pages 5641 - 5670

This is correspondence to and from newspaper editor and publisher Frederick W. Brinkerhoff. The bulk of letters date from the 1940s and 1950s. His first newspaper job was with the Ottawa Herald, after which he worked for the Fort Scott Republican, Chanute Sun, Chanute Tribune, Kansas City Star, Pittsburg Headlight, and the Pittsburg Sun. Brinkerhoff was also vice-president and a director of Stauffer Publications as well as director of Capper Publications Inc., the Topeka State Journal Company, and Newton Publishing Company. In addition, he was vice-president of the KSEK Broadcasting Company in Pittsburg. Brinkerhoff was well known as a journalist, serving as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1935 and as chairman of the Kansas Associated Press in 1946-1947. He also served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize jury for editorial writing in 1950 and 1951. In 1956, he received the William Allen White award to a Kansas editor for journalistic merit. Active in community affairs, Brinkerhoff was a member of the board of the Pittsburg Public Library, served as chairman of the Pittsburg Industrial Commission, and was on the board of directors and served a term as president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was also active in Republican party politics. Brinkerhoff was interested in the history of the state and served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1944. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and grouped alphabetically by individuals with whom Brinkerhoff was in frequent contact, including Roy F. Bailey, Arthur Capper, Rolla Clymer, Harry W. Colmery, Harry Darby, Jess C. Denious, Myron George, Merl Huffman, Clyde M. Reed, Richard W. Robbins, Andrew Schoeppel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

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Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE FOUNDATION

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

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January 18, 1954

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg Sun and Headlight
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

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Assistant to Director

MAURICE C. LUNGREN

At 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 10, the William Allen White Foundation will hold its annual meeting at the University of Kansas, and we hope that you, as a trustee of the Foundation, can be with us. Grove Patterson, editor-in-chief of The Toledo Blade and a close friend of Mr. White, will deliver the fifth annual William Allen White Lecture at 4:00 p.m. in Fraser Theater.

This year's meeting of the board is especially significant because of one item of business that is to be taken up and because of recognition by the Foundation, at the luncheon, of a Kansas newspaperman who has served his profession and state well for more than half a century.

The item of business has to do with proposed co-sponsorship by the Foundation of a Journalistic Historical Center, plans for which are enclosed for your consideration prior to the February 10 meeting. The University of Kansas proposes to transform the William Allen White Memorial Reading Room of the Journalism Building into such a center and is proposing that the Foundation employ an archivist to catalogue, display and add to the collections. The executive committee of the Foundation approved the plan at a special meeting last November 21, subject to approval by the full board. Already this School has several collections that are either unique or stand well to the front in their fields: The Albert T. Reid Collection of Original Cartoons, the Robert Gilbert Collection of Magazine First Editions, the George Matthew Adams Collection of William Allen White First Editions, and William Allen White memorabilia. The room plan provides for placing of the portrait of Mr. White in a nicely-lighted position of prominence, and the Washington Hand Press, presented to us in 1952 by Ferd Voiland, state printer, would stand in a central location as a symbol of the historical function of the center.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

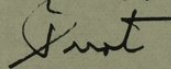
January 18, 1954
- page two -

On November 21 the executive committee voted to present a scroll or plaque each year to a living Kansas editor in recognition of his service to Kansas journalism. The committee felt that the first annual award should go to Charles M. Harger, editor of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle for more than 50 years and the first person appointed as a journalism instructor at the University of Kansas (1904). Mr. Harger will be 91 on January 23. The committee agreed that recognition of Mr. Harger should be made February 10 and therefore approved such recognition on the assumption that the board as a whole would approve. Mr. Harger will be with us and will be honored at the 12:30 luncheon in the Memorial Union Building. Enclosed is some biographical information.

Another important item on the agenda will be election of Foundation officers. I shall mail my annual report to you in advance of the meeting, and in this report I shall point up other business that should be discussed.

Please let me know as soon as possible whether you can be here February 10. The business meeting will open at 10:00 a.m., and the convocation will be over about 5:00 p.m. If you wish hotel or motel accommodations we shall be glad to make arrangements.

Cordially yours,



Burton W. Marvin, Director,
Dean, School of Journalism

BWM:jah
Enclosure

P. S. Enclosed reference to Mr. Harger is confidential and not for publication.

Thanks for accepting. I'll send you a copy of our biographical data.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

The Pittsburg Headlight

EVENINGS
EXCEPT SUNDAY

Established 1887

THE PITTSBURG SUN

MORNINGS
EXCEPT MONDAY

Established 1915

THE PITTSBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY

F. W. BRINKERHOFF
EDITOR AND MANAGER

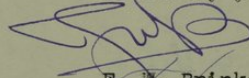
Pittsburg, Kansas
Feb. 1, 1954

Henry Jameson
Reflector Chronicle
Abilene, Kas.

Dear Hank:

I may not make use of it, but I would like to have for atmospheric purposes a little description of Mr. Harger's home. It never was my pleasure to visit him but some way or other I got the impression that it was an unusual place with a literary flavor. Undoubtedly he has a large library. I think you get the point that I might want to make a statement or two which would involve the home.

Sincerely yours,



F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Yes, Mr. Harger's home has a literary flavor. One entire side of the living room is made into book cases and other books and magazines and files fill one side of what used to be his den.

It is a comfortable large home, with a huge fireplace. The home is maintained just as it was when Mrs. Harger died about 8 or nine years ago. Mr. Harger lives there alone, with a housekeeper coming in each day.

He putters around and quite often pretends to fix his own breakfast, but for the most part he takes his meals at the hotel coffee shop, where the girls usually bring him what they think he ought to have, or what they know he likes, without even asking him to order from the menu. He quite often fusses at them about their choices, but usually eats it. They delight in "mothering" him.

For your information: Mr. Harger's eyes and hearing are failing quite rapidly. He can't do much reading any more, except with a reading glass. He scans the headlines and pictures but that's about all. A girl at the office reads his personal mail. He follows the news by radio. He comes to the office for a while each morning and afternoon; still dictates many editorials.

But in his presence--say he is still active, no doubt the oldest active editor in Kansas. He was 91 two weeks ago.

HANK

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

ROY F. BAILEY
218-219 JOURNAL BUILDING
SALINA, KANSAS



MARION R. KREHBIEL
502 NORTH SECOND AVENUE
NORTON, KANSAS

BAILEY-KREHBIEL NEWSPAPER SERVICE, INC

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February 2, 1954

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff
The Headlight and Sun
Pittsburgh, Kansas

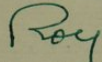
Dear Fred

Although I am ashamed to admit it, I am unable to tell you very much about the Harger house. What disturbs me most is the fact that I have been there many times, but evidently left my reporter's instincts at home.

You probably did not want me to go snooping around, so my guess is Hank Jameson is the victim you seek. He has lived in Abilene many years, can keep a secret, and knows the ins and outs of the Harger house as well as the inner workings of Charlie's mind and habits.

Finally, if you do not want to make a direct approach to Hank, I will be glad to do it for you. Since you did not give me a dead line, I am assuming that there is plenty of time. If that is not the case, you can phone, wire, or write me immediately, and I will get in touch with Hank, probably at home, if there is any danger that Charlie might overhear the conversation. In any event I suggest that you tell us what you want. About all I know is that he lives in a large two story frame house in the best residential district. It sports the large porch, has a large living room, and a hall which leads to the stairway and the usual closet. There is a den or a library in the back, but I have not paid enough attention to be sure which. With warm personal regards.

Sincerely



Roy F. Bailey--vj



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

OFFICE OF
THE DEAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE
THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

January 13, 1954

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Publisher,
The Sun and Headlight,
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

On Wednesday, February 10 the William Allen White Foundation will present its first annual award to a Kansas newspaper man for service to Kansas journalism. The award is to be presented to Charles M. Harger, Publisher of the Abilene Reflector Chronicle and the first man to serve as a Journalism teacher at the University of Kansas. This was agreed upon at a meeting of the Foundation Executive Committee in November, and at that time it was agreed that we should ask you to make the presentation on behalf of the Foundation and Kansas editors. Here is the program for the day:

At 10:00 a.m. the Foundation Board will assemble for its annual meeting in the Memorial Reading Room of the Journalism Building. At this time the Board will discuss plans for changing the room into a Journalistic Historical Center. You will be receiving a perspective of the room within a few days to give you an idea of what we have in mind.

At 12:30 a luncheon will be held in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union Building. After the meal Rolla Clymer is to speak for fifteen or twenty minutes on a triple theme: the Kansas Centennial, plans for a Journalistic Historical Center, and the fact that William Allen White passed on just ten years ago. We feel that the historical theme is very much in order and that it therefore is appropriate that this first annual award should be made to Charles M. Harger at this luncheon immediately following Rolla's address. We hope you will consent to perform this pleasant task, and if you are able to do it I shall send to you immediately some biographical material regarding Harger if you wish to have it on hand in preparing your remarks. As to the length of your remarks, all I can say is we will give you free reign for there will be plenty of time allowed for the occasion.

At 4:00 p.m. Grove Patterson is to deliver the annual William Allen White Lecture. We felt that it was particularly appropriate that Patterson should be invited to give the talk this year because of the close relationship between him and William Allen White.



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

January 13, 1954
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We all do hope you can be with us on Wednesday, February 10 and that you will consent to present the award to Mr. Harger. We are planning this as a surprise to Harger, and Henry Jameson has promised that he will get him here.

Cordially,

Burton W. Marvin,
Dean

BWM:jah

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

AGENDA: WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE FOUNDATION, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 1954

10 a.m. — Meeting of board in William Allen White Memorial Reading Room, Journalism Building, Alvin S. McCoy, president, presiding.

Reading of minutes — Karl Klooz, secretary-treasurer.

Reading of minutes of special meeting of executive committee on Nov. 21, 1953 — Dean Marvin

Report by Dean Marvin as director of the Foundation

Discussion of plans for historical center

Report on awards proposals — Dean Marvin (substituting for John P. Harris, chairman of awards committee, unable to attend).

Financial report — by Clyde M. Reed Jr. (substituting for Dolph Simons, chairman of finance committee, unable to attend).

~~Agenda item removed from agenda for this meeting~~

Consideration of proposal to re-appoint Maurice Lungren as assistant director.

Consideration of program for second annual William Allen White Editorial Conference on Saturday, May 15, 1954.

Election of officers for two years, Feb. 1954 to Feb., 1956.

Other business: Washington breakfast, proposed for Friday morning, April 16, at the Statler. ~~in session~~

12:30 p.m. — Luncheon in Kansas Room, Union Building. Dean Marvin presiding.

Address — Rolla A. Clymer

Presentation of award to Charles M. Harger by Fred W. Brinkerhoff.

Remarks by Charles M. Harger.

All Day — display of Reid, Adams and Gilbert collections in Journalism Building, Memorial Union Building and Museum of Art.

4 p.m. — Annual William Allen White Lecture, Fraser Theater, Grove Patterson, editor-in-chief, The Toledo Blade. "Newspapering As It Seems To Me."

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

C. M. HARGER, Editor
H. B. JAMESON, Business Manager

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABILENE DAILY REFLECTOR-CHRONICLE
ABILENE, KANSAS
February 12, 1954

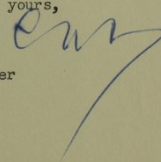
Mr. Fred Brinkerhof
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

I do not know how to thank you for your address the other day, which included some complimentary remarks for myself. I was quite overwhelmed by the action of the organization and I have not quite recovered from the good wishes that have poured in. Your address was a model and I am sure that everybody enjoyed it including myself. Thank you again Fred for what you have done for me.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Harger



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

R-C PUBLISHERS, INC.
C. M. HARGER, PRESIDENT
H. B. JAMESON, SECRETARY

OFFICIAL PAPER
DICKINSON COUNTY
CITY OF ABILENE

ABILENE DAILY REFLECTOR-CHRONICLE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

C. M. HARGER, EDITOR
H. B. JAMESON, BUSINESS MANAGER

Abilene, Kansas

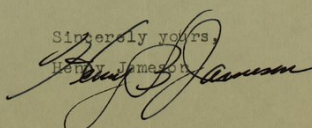
Feb. 12, 1954

Dear Mr. Brinkerhoff:

Mr. Harger really enjoyed the day very much; is still talking about how wonderful all of you were to him. He has long been quite hard to handle in the matter of self-praise, but once I got him cornered on this--he was highly pleased. He stood the trip well and was indeed in good form at the mike. He is a most remarkable speaker. He has periods when his memory is fuzzy but he was having a "good" day Wednesday. Thanks again to you for your wonderful remarks; he certainly did appreciate it coming from you.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Jameson



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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*[W.A. White award -
to C.M. Harger, 1954]*

KANSAS NEVER HAS BEEN A CONTENTED STATE POLITICALLY. HARMONY, ABOUT WHICH POLITICIANS TALK SO EARNESTLY AND FOR WHICH MANY HOPE SO FERVENTLY, AND SOME PRAY, OCCASIONALLY IS ACHIEVED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. SELDOM DOES IT SURVIVE THE FROSTS OF EARLY NOVEMBER IN THE EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS. NOR DO WE FIND ANY PARTY LINES IN THIS DELIGHTFULLY NEWSWORTHY AND INTERESTING PERMANENT CONDITION. FOR THIS THE CAPTAINS AND THE KINGS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY SHOULD BE PIOUSLY GRATEFUL.

KANSAS AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY GREW UP TOGETHER. KANSAS DRAMATIZED THE ISSUE WHICH GAVE THE PARTY ITS FIRST VICTORY. WHEN THE CIVIL WAR ENDED, THOUSANDS OF UNION VETERANS HEADED FOR KANSAS. THIS WAS ROBUST CONFIRMATION OF THE SOUND PRINCIPLE THAT IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE. THEY JOINED 20,000 KANSAS VETERANS WHO HAD RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.

AMBITIOUS REPUBLICAN LEADERS GOT BUSY. FOR 25 YEARS THEY RAN THINGS EXCEPT FOR ONE BRIEF INTERLUDE WHEN HARMONY

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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CAME AFTER AND NOT BEFORE NOVEMBER. FINALLY WE ENTERED THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT. DROUGHTS AND GRASSHOPPERS HELPED SET THE STAGE FOR DISTRESS. FARM PRICES WERE LOW AND TAXES WERE HIGH--FOR THAT DAY. MORTGAGES WERE TAKING FARMS. TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS MULTIPLIED.

AND THEN THE REVOLUTION. SOME OF THE ABLEST RABBLE ROUSERS THE COUNTRY HAS SEEN WENT ABOUT THEIR WORK. MARY ELIZABETH LEASE, JERRY SIMPSON AND WILLIAM A. PEFFER--TO NAME A REPRESENTATIVE FEW--ORGANIZED THE ANGRY FARMERS, AND WITH THEM THEIR FRIENDS AND CREDITORS IN THE TOWNS. THEY PUT THE BLAME FOR THE KANSAS MISERY ON THE "MONEY POWER." THEY IDENTIFIED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS THE SOLE AGENT OF THE "MONEY POWER." LIGHTS BURNED NIGHTLY IN HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL HOUSES AS THE ORATORS OF THE POPULIST REVOLT AND THE FARMERS ALLIANCE ORGANIZATIONS CARRIED ON. HUGE RALLIES IN THE TOWNS WERE ADDRESSED FOR HOURS ON THE EVILS OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE REPUBLICANS. IT WAS MAIN STREET AGAINST WALL STREET. MOST OF THE LEADERS HAD BEEN REPUBLICANS AND,

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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OF COURSE, MOST OF THOSE WHO JOINED.

THE KANSAS REPUBLICANS FOUGHT BACK WITH MORE DIGNITY THAN PUNCH. THEY RELIED ON THEIR PAST--OR THEY WERE TOO SCARED TO FIGHT. THE POPS TURNED UP AFTER THE ELECTION OF 1890 WITH A MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON JOINT BALLOT. THEY UNSEATED THE ILLUSTRIOUS INGALLS. TWO YEARS LATER THEY ELECTED THE GOVERNOR, THE STATE SENATE, POSSIBLY THE HOUSE, AND MOVED INTO COURTHOUSES ALL OVER KANSAS.

DISCONTENT WAS NOT CONFINED TO THE POPS. MANY REPUBLICANS WERE DISTURBED ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP. OLD CAPTAINS, THEN AS EVER, HATED TO CONCEDE ANYTHING WAS WRONG WITH THEIR METHODS. THEN, AS IN LATER DAYS, THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO CHANCE A LOSS OF POWER BY ACCEPTING HELP OF YOUNGER OR NEWER LEADERS. WHEN SOME OF THE YOUNGER REPUBLICANS OF THE EARLY NINETIES SUGGESTED ACTION, THEY WERE BRUSHED OFF--OR SO THEY THOUGHT. THE HUMILIATION OF 1892 SIGNALLED THE PLAY. A GROUP OF YOUNGSTERS DECIDED TO FORM A CLUB AND HAVE A DINNER AND SOLVE THE PARTY PROBLEMS, ALL IN

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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DEFIANCE OF THE ELDER POLITICIANS. THIS CLUB, NOW 61 YEARS OLD, WAS TO BE AT ONCE AN INSTRUMENT OF PROTEST AND A MEANS OF SALVATION FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN THE MINDS OF SOME OF THE FOUNDING SONS, IT COULD BE A PRIVATE GATEWAY TO PUBLIC OFFICE.

ONE OF THE FOUR "YOUNG TURKS," WHO POOLED THEIR GRIEVANCES AND THEIR WISDOM IN THAT WINTER OF 1892-1893, MADE PLANS FOR A BEEFSTEAK DINNER FOLLOWED BY FIFTEEN SPEECHES, GUARANTEED THE HOTEL 50 GUESTS AND SENT OUT THE INVITATIONS, WAS THE PLUMP AND BUBBLING TOPEKA CORRESPONDENT OF THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL. HE WAS WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, SOON TO BE 25 YEARS OLD AND TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS BEFORE EMPORIA AND THE GAZETTE. ONE OF THE OTHERS WAS THE SLENDER AND CALM EDITOR OF THE ABILENE REFLECTOR. HE WAS CHARLES MOREAU HARGER WHO WAS TO BECOME 30 A WEEK BEFORE THE BANQUET. WHITE AND HARGER HAD A HOT ARGUMENT OVER A NAME FOR THEIR NEW CLUB. WHITE PROPOSED THAT IT SHOULD BE NAMED THE "ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF HELL RAISERS." HARGER,

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ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY APPROVING THE PURPOSE THE SUGGESTED NAME CLEARLY INDICATED, WANTED A MORE DIGNIFIED NAME AND WON THE ARGUMENT. BOTH HEADED THE KANSAS DAY CLUB. NOW, 58 YEARS AFTER HIS PRESIDENCY, MR. HARGER IS THE DEAN OF PAST PRESIDENTS WITH A DOZEN YEARS ADVANTAGE OVER HIS NEAREST COMPETITOR.

THE LITTLE DEBATE 61 YEARS AGO BETWEEN THESE MEN WHO WERE DESTINED TO BECOME FAMED COUNTRY NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND DISTINGUISHED KANSAS CITIZENS PREVIEWED THEIR CAREERS. ON THE WITNESS STAND BEFORE THE KANSAS SENATE IN THE INVESTIGATION DEALING WITH AN ABSURD POLITICAL FIASCO WHICH HE HAD DISCUSSED EDITORIALY IN CHARACTERISTIC MANNER, DISPLEASING TO SOME STATESMEN, AND PRESSED HARD BY AN EMINENT CROSS-QUESTIONING SENATOR, MR. WHITE SAID: "WHEN I SMELL SMOKE I YELL FIRE." BUT WHEN MR. HARGER SMELLED SMOKE HE SENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THEY CHOSE TO TRAVEL DIFFERENT ROUTES TO THE SAME OBJECTIVE.

BORN IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, OF ENGLISH ANCESTRY AND

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GRADUATE OF AN EASTERN SCHOOL, MR. HARGER STILL HAD NO DIFFICULTY BECOMING A KANSAN--A VIGOROUS, ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVE KANSAN. HE WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER IN HIS EARLY MANHOOD. THEN, IN 1888, HE BECAME A CUB REPORTER ON THE REFLECTOR, IN HIS HOME TOWN, THE FAMED ABILENE WHICH THEN HAD TWO DAILY AND FOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS. SHORTLY HE BECAME EDITOR. HE IS STILL EDITOR--A WORKING NEWSPAPER MAN.

ALMOST 50 YEARS AGO A DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM WAS SET UP HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY. IT WAS TO BECOME THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. MR. HARGER WAS A FOUNDER, DIRECTOR AND A TEACHER, TRAVELING HERE FROM ABILENE WEEKLY TO LECTURE TO THE SMALL CLASS AND SUPERVISE DIRECTION--A TASK TO WHICH HE HAPPILY GAVE TIME FOR FIVE OR SIX YEARS. THE CONTRIBUTION HE MADE SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY WAS NOT ONLY A SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STUDENTS BUT TO KANSAS NEWSPAPERS.

FROM HIS EARLY PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS, INCLUDING THE KANSAS DAY CLUB MANEUVER, ONE MIGHT HAVE GATHERED THAT

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THE YOUNG ABILENE EDITOR HAD POLITICAL AMBITIONS--THAT HE HOPED TO BE CHOSEN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG. IN THE 60 YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, MR. HARGER HAS HAD THE KEENEST INTEREST IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PARTY COUNCILS. HE HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF ON MEN AND ISSUES WITH CLARITY AND COURAGE. HE HAS KNOWN EVERY MAN OF IMPORTANCE ON THE KANSAS STAGE AND MOST OF THEM HAVE WELCOMED THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT CAME IN HIS APPROVAL. IT HAPPENED THAT HE COULD VIEW FROM ABILENE AT CLOSE RANGE MOST OF THE FACTORS THAT AFFECTED POLITICAL THOUGHT IN KANSAS. THERE WAS NO BETTER GRANDSTAND FROM WHICH TO WITNESS THE POPULIST UPRISING. THEN HIS SECTOR PRODUCED LEADERS OF POLITICAL CAUSES. ABILENE NEVER WAS NEGLECTED IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. IT HAS BEEN A PERMANENT SPOT ON THE KANSAS POLITICAL MAP. SO WHEN ONE OF THE ABILENE BOYS WHO HAD EARLY GUIDANCE FROM MR. HARGER MOVED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE LAST YEAR, ABILENE WAS PROUD BUT NOT EXCITED. THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO MORE EARNEST ADVOCATE OF THAT DEVELOPMENT THAN

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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THE EDITOR OF THE ABILENE REFLECTOR. BUT HE WAS NOT
EXCITED. DURING ALL THE SOUND AND FURY THAT ACCOMPANIED THE
GREAT TRANSITION, MR. HARGER WAS THE SAME CALM AND MODEST
MAN HE HAD BEEN, REFUSING TO MARCH OUT IN FRONT AND INSISTING
THAT OTHERS TAKE THE BOWS.

WITH ALL HIS INTEREST IN POLITICS, THIS MAN, WHO COULD
HAVE HAD MUCH, ACCEPTED ONE KANSAS POLITICAL OFFICE--
MEMBERSHIP ON THE STATE BOARD RUNNING THE STATE'S PENAL
INSTITUTIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. BUT KANSAS REMEMBERS WITH
LASTING GRATITUDE THAT HE SERVED THE STATE FOR THIRTEEN
YEARS ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS--THE BOARD HAVING CHARGE OF
THIS UNIVERSITY AND THE OTHER BIG STATE SCHOOLS. WHAT HE DID
FOR HIS STATE AND ITS PEOPLE IN THAT CAPACITY ALONE WOULD
GIVE HIM A CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN KANSAS HISTORY. HIS SUPERB
GRASP OF THE FUNCTIONS AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE SCHOOLS,
HIS KEEN APPRAISAL OF ADMINISTRATORS AND HIS GENUINE
DEVOTION TO HIS DUTIES RESULTED IN A SERVICE THE VALUE OF
WHICH CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED. HIS APPOINTMENT HAD

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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POLITICAL ORIGIN BUT HE SERVED AS A CITIZEN.

A LIST OF THE DISTINCTIONS THAT HAVE COME TO MR. HARGER EXTENDING OUTSIDE THE ABILENE SECTOR IS A LONG ONE. HE WAS PRESIDENT AND IS A DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. AS KANSAS CHAIRMAN HE CONDUCTED THE CAMPAIGN FOR BELGIAN RELIEF FOLLOWING THE FIRST WORLD WAR. HE HAS HELD MEMBERSHIP ON COUNTLESS IMPORTANT CITIZEN GROUPS. NO OTHER KANSAN TODAY HAS SUCH A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

REVERTING TO THE POLITICAL PHASES FOR A MOMENT, IT IS TRUE THAT MR. HARGER SERVED TEN OR A DOZEN REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BEGINNING IN 1908. THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE THAT MR. HARGER'S NEWSPAPER INSTINCTS PROMPTED HIM TO TAKE THIS JOB. HIS WORK PLACED HIM THERE WHERE NEWS WAS BEING MADE--AND PRESIDENTS SOMETIMES.

MR. HARGER HAS HAD NO HANKERING FOR THE POWER, PREROGATIVES OR PERQUISITES OF POLITICS. THERE HAS BEEN

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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NO SELFISHNESS IN HIS ACTIVITIES POLITICAL. HIS VIEWS
HAVE BEEN HIS OWN. WHEN HE FIRES HIS GUN HE USES HIS OWN
POWDER. HE KNOWS A NITWIT OR A FRAUD WHEN HE SEES ONE. HE
NEEDS NO HELP IN DETECTING FLAPDOODLE. HE CAN SPOT A
HYPOCRITE FROM AFAR AND LOCATE A DEMAGOGUE BY THE ODOR. ON
THE OTHER HAND, HE IS EQUALLY PROFICIENT IN IDENTIFYING
ABILITY AND INTEGRITY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. HE NEVER BASES
HIS OPPOSITION ON INDIGNATION OR HIS SUPPORT ON PREJUDICE.
WHETHER BY TONGUE OR PEN, HE IS NOT WASTEFUL OF WORDS IN
PRAISE OR IN CONDEMNATION.

MR. HARGER IS A COUNTRY EDITOR. WHEN HE WENT TO
ABILENE AND THE REFLECTOR HE WENT THERE TO STAY. HE
REMAINED BY CHOICE. HE COULD HAVE GONE TO OTHER FIELDS.
HE COULD HAVE HAD VASTLY GREATER AUDIENCES. HIS MATERIAL
REWARDS WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE LUXURIOUS. BUT, LIKE HIS CLOSE
FRIEND DOWN AT EMPORIA, WHO HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCES, HE
SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT OFF ALL TEMPTATIONS. HE KNEW HIS
NEIGHBORS AND THEY KNEW HIM. HE WALKED THE STREETS AMONG
FRIENDS. HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THEIR WELFARE AND IT

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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WAS NOT A SELFISH INTEREST. WHEN MISFORTUNE STRUCK SOMEONE,
HE WAS THERE TO OFFER SINCERE SYMPATHY. WHEN FORTUNE SMILED
ON ANOTHER, HE WAS ON HAND WITH HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS. WHEN
THERE WAS A JOB TO BE DONE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TOWN, THE
EDITOR LENT A HAND--AND FOR LONG YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE
GUIDING HAND. IF EVER A COMMUNITY HAS BEEN BLESSED BY THE
UNSWERVING LOYALTY OF AN ABLE MAN, THAT COMMUNITY IS ABILENE.

THE COUNTRY EDITOR IS NECESSARILY CONSPICUOUS.
EVERYBODY KNOWS HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS NEWSPAPER. HE
IS, IN MODERN SLANG, "ON THE SPOT." HE DOES NOT--CANNOT--
WORK IN MAGNIFICENT ANONYMITY. WHEN IN THE COURSE OF TELLING
THE TRUTH HIS NEWSPAPER PRINTS SOMETHING THAT REVEALS THE
WEAKNESS OR THE SINFULNESS OF SOME PERSON, THE EDITOR
TAKES THE FULL FORCE OF THE ANTAGONISM CREATED. THE WOUND
MAY NEVER HEAL. THE ACCUMULATED SCARS IN ABILENE THROUGH
64 YEARS MAY RUN INTO A LARGE TOTAL. THEY MAY REPRESENT
A MISTAKE NOW AND THEN. BUT MAINLY THEY RECALL AN HONEST
DUTY FAITHFULLY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY EDITOR WE HONOR TODAY.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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BUT BEING "ON THE SPOT" HAS ITS REWARDS FOR THE COUNTRY EDITOR. FOLKS KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KINDLY THINGS THAT ARE DONE, FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY YOUNG AND OLD, FOR NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY, FOR EDITORIALS IN BEHALF OF THE TOWN. AND SOME OF THEM ARE BOUND TO COMMEND HIM.

ALL OF THESE THINGS, AND MORE WITHOUT NUMBER, MR. HARGER KNOWS OUT OF HIS RICH EXPERIENCE AT ABILENE. HE MET THEM FACE TO FACE LONG AGO. BUT HE STILL IS THE COUNTRY EDITOR AT ABILENE. SOME YEARS BACK MR. HARGER, RECALLING HIS EXPERIENCES, COMMENTED THAT A COUNTRY EDITOR WHO PRINTS ALL THE SCANDALS HE KNOWS WOULD KEEP HIS COMMUNITY IN CONSTANT UNHEAVAL. THEN, HE WROTE THIS SPARKLING GEM WHICH EVERY EDITOR MIGHT PROFITABLY KEEP ON HIS DESK, REFERRING TO THE COUNTRY EDITOR:

"HE FINDS THERE IS NO LASTING REGARD IN A SNEER, NO SATISFACTION IN GRATIFYING THE IMPULSE TO SAY THINGS THAT BRING TEARS TO WOMEN'S EYES, NOTHING TO GLOAT OVER IN

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

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OPENING A WOUND IN A MAN'S HEART. IF HE DOES NOT LEARN THIS AS HE GROWS OLDER, HE IS A POOR COUNTRY EDITOR."

ALTHOUGH HIS LOVE FOR HIS HOME TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE IS PREDOMINATING, MR. HARGER HAS BEEN NO HERMIT. HIS LITERARY WORK, INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAGAZINES, BROUGHT HIM NATIONAL NOTE LONG AGO AND REQUIRED ABSENCES FROM ABILENE. HE HAS SEEN HIS OWN COUNTRY AND MUCH OF THE WORLD. SCHOLARLY, CULTURED, WIDELY INFORMED, BUT MODEST, UNAFFECTED, HUMAN-- THERE WE HAVE CHARLES MOREAU HARGER, COUNTRY EDITOR AND GORGEOUS CITIZEN.

MR. HARGER, BY DIRECTION OF THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE FOUNDATION AND ON BEHALF OF IT AND THE NEWSPAPER EDITORS OF KANSAS, I HAND YOU, THEIR SENIOR WORKING CONTEMPORARY, THIS SIMPLE BUT SINCERE EXPRESSION OF THEIR AFFECTION FOR YOU AS AN EDITOR AND FRIEND AND THEIR GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR THE HONOR YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO KANSAS JOURNALISM THROUGH YOUR SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR STATE AND ABOVE ALL, BY YOUR DEVOTION TO YOUR HOME COMMUNITY.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE FOUNDATION

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

March 6, 1956

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Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Publisher
Pittsburg Sun and Headlight
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

For the past few years, there has been a feeling in some quarters that much would be gained by a thoughtful conference involving journalists, educators in schools of journalism, and general educators. The purpose would be to examine education for journalism in our time.

It has been proposed that the William Allen White Foundation sponsor such a conference of national scope, and I am writing to you, as president of the Foundation, to get your reaction to the proposal.

Professional journalists, editors and publishers meet in various groups several times yearly in discussion mainly of the technical aspects of the profession. As a part of these meetings the matter of trained manpower for the journalistic profession is frequently discussed. Educators in the field of journalism meet annually and oftener for the purpose of analyzing and exchanging thoughts regarding college and university training for journalism. Finally, presidents of colleges and universities continually concern themselves with the directions their educational effort should take, and in these times particularly as regards education in the professional schools.

The William Allen White Foundation executive committee believes that the time is ripe for a thoughtful, unhurried examination of the philosophy and direction of journalistic education in the United States in the mid-twentieth century. The Foundation understands, however, that one cannot intelligently review and discuss this matter without making inquiry into the purposes, needs and directions of professional journalism.

The Foundation accepts at the outset the fundamental thesis that both educators and practitioners have real stakes in the course which journalistic education should and will take.

In brief, then, the Foundation is considering the sponsorship of a conference, to last several days, and to which would be invited leaders in journalistic education, publishers, editors, reporters and a limited number of college presidents. The conference would therefore have a limited membership, and it is proposed

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

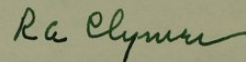
that it would be run on the basis of a small seminar discussion groups with the hope that the ultimate by-product would be a monograph for general distribution.

The purpose of the conference would be to examine two basic questions: (1) "Where goes journalism in the twentieth century?" and (2) "How can higher education most effectively support and influence this movement?"

If there is general acceptance of the idea that such a conference would serve a useful purpose at this time, the Foundation would propose to bring together a small group to plan and organize the conference, such a group to consist of educators in journalism as well as practitioners. The charge to such a group would be primarily the insistence that no one is interested in "just another conference" but rather in something of real and searching significance. The hope, then, would be that substantial funds could be found to finance this effort so that the only limitation would be human imagination and capacity.

However, before the Foundation goes further it wishes to make perfectly certain that there would be real interest on the part of William Allen White Foundation board members concerning need and participation in such a conference. For this reason I am sending you this letter and hope that you will very candidly send me your comments.

Very sincerely,



Rolla A. Clymer, President
William Allen White Foundation

P.S. Will you please send your reply to Dean Burton W. Marvin, Director, William Allen White Foundation, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas? He will relay responses to me.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

11-4-59

To: Fred Brinkerhoff,
W. T. Beck, Dolph Simons

Gentlemen,

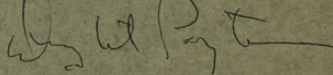
Burt Marvin informs me it is time to get in gear with selection of the men to receive the citation for journalistic merit from the field of Kansas editors.

Your acceptance being taken for granted, herewith I do name and appoint the three above-mentioned veterans of the citation heights to make the selection this year.

A deadline of December 1 is set for the selection. Please notify Burt and myself.

Best regards

Dwight Payton



P.S.-- Fred, I see I named you first, so why don't you take the chairmanship lead for me.

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE LAWRENCE DAILY JOURNAL-WORLD

DOLPH SIMONS, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

November 5, 1959

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
The Pittsburg Publishing Co.
Pittsburg, Kansas

Dear Fred:

A note from Dwight Payton asks me to serve on a committee under your chairmanship to select the editor for the Citation next year. I am pleased to be given the assignment and to have the privilege of working with you and Will Beck.

As soon as you send the instructions, I will get busy.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dolph
Dolph Simons

DS:df



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 6, 1959

Dolph Simons
Journal-World
Lawrence, Kas.

Dear Dolph:

Thanks awfully for the invitation to your dinner. I stick closely to home but I must be in Kansas City, Kas., for an all day meeting of our fellows Sunday, Nov. 15. I am planning now to get to Lawrence for your buffet which I assume will be around 6 o'clock and go on from there to Kansas City. It will be a delight to be with the McKelways again and, of course, with Marie and you and the other folks you will have as guests.

Pearl, of course, cannot be there. But she is interested in knowing that I will be there.

With kindest regards to all the Simons tribe.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

WILLIAM T. BECK
HOLTON, KANSAS

November 6, 1959

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Mr. Dolph Simons

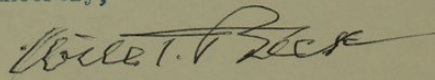
Dear Comrades:

Without an expressed preference, here are
some suggestions for the citation that come to mind.
Maybe you can expand the list, or shrink it:

Oscar S. Stauffer	Roy A. Roberts
Whitley Austin	Lou Valentine
John P. Harris	A. Q. Miller
Clyde M. Reed, Jr.	A. L. Shultz
Alvin S. McCoy	Hub Meyer, Jr.
Dan Anthony III	Marion Ellet
Eugene Lowther	John Roberts
Drew McLaughlin, Sr.	
John D. Montgomery	
Marcellus Murdock	

As a member of the committee, I will be
at your command.

Sincerely,



Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 7, 1959

W. T. Beck
Holton, Kas.

Dear Bill:

I was glad to receive your letter and the list. If the three of us happen to get together soon, we can talk the matter over. Otherwise, the thing for us to do is for each of us to make out a list of half a dozen and then by the process of elimination we can get results. But I hope we can talk it over before we come to that.

Pearl is making slow progress but I am thankful it is progress. Her illness naturally has handicapped my activities a great deal. But I hope to be able to get around a little more now.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Nov. 7, 1959

Dwight Payton
The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City 1, Okla.

Dear Dwight:

All right, I will take the assignment. Already I have letters from Simons and Beck. We will get busy on this job and attempt to come up with results in due time.

I have been handicapped a great deal this year because of the illness of Mrs. Brinkerhoff. She suffered two strokes in January and was in hospitals here and at Kansas City for three months. She is making progress toward a good measure of recovery although it is very slow, as I anticipated. So I get away from Pittsburg very little.

I hope you are having a happy time down there and I am sure you are. Why don't you clip me some of your handiwork occasionally.

I have a deep interest in the Oklahoma highway commission. I have served for many years as president of the Kansas US69 Association and we have been in touch with the Oklahoma association. The attempt of the present Kansas commission to give US69 a black eye and have a road from Ottawa south to the Oklahoma line on the interstate system to connect with a new Oklahoma road from Tulsa to the state line was given a setback by the Oklahoma commission. Governor Edmondson and the commission refused to be lured into the Kansas commission's game. The Tulsans could not swerve the governor from his allegiance to US69.

If it becomes convenient you might tell Mr. E. K. about my report on Mrs. Brinkerhoff.

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWE:ls