

I HAVE read a good many columnists in my time, some with approval and some with aversion, notwithstanding which I do not know the etiquette in connection with the debut (a word that I have always disliked) of a columnist. Should I bow from the waist with a self-conscious smile or jump overboard into a deep pool in the hope that I may be able to swim ashore, but knowing surely that if I do not a lot of people will be edified? Well, here goes, feet first, since I do not know how to dive.

In this first column I propose to set up the standards by which I shall hope to govern my writing.

First: My intention is to adhere to the truth, and to have no pretensions to infallibility and if I make a mistake, I will admit it. I have always believed that confession is good for the soul, particularly the confession of mistakes.

Second: I do not intend to pull my punches. I have never operated on the theory that a pulled punch is better than no punch and it is too late to stop now.

Third: Unless compelled by events, I shall not use this column to promote a third party. In this country, except in special circumstances, a third party has been about as useful as an extra man on a honeymoon.

Fourth: I alone will be accountable for whatever I may say, whether you, or even the editor may like it or not. I shall not be displaced, and I may neither be expurgated nor amended, although I can not deny that I have been expurgated and amended, but I will not print under my name anything that I may not have said, and I shall not write a little vaguely, but not necessarily to please.

Now, having enumerated the principles to which I aspire to adhere, let me discuss somewhat further the first one which really is closest to my heart. Jefferson said of newspapers: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

High Living Standard
Truman Says U.S. Future Bright

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman said today America is on the threshold "of an era in which we can enjoy the highest standards of living this nation has ever dreamed of."

"That standard," the Chief Executive said in a message to the American Retail Federation, "means good careers for business, for workers and for farmers."

Ralph McGill Reporting
Important Series In The News Deals With Palestine Problem

Beginning tomorrow, The News will publish a series of five articles on Palestine by the distinguished editor of The Atlanta Constitution, Ralph McGill. Mr. McGill spent many months in Germany, studying the plight of the Jews fleeing the Nuremberg trials, inspecting the DP camps, and talking with survivors. He then went to Egypt to study the Arab nationalist movement, and then he went to Palestine.

George Stephens, developer of Myers Park and co-founder of the American Trust Co., and one of the city's early builders, died today at a hospital in Asheville, where he had lived since 1921. He was 73 years old.

Utility Act 'Death Sentence' Valid

Funeral Tomorrow
George Stephens, City's Builder, Is Dead At 73

George Stephens, developer of Myers Park and co-founder of the American Trust Co., and one of the city's early builders, died today at a hospital in Asheville, where he had lived since 1921. He was 73 years old.

North American High Court Rules That Clause Legal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court today upheld constitutionality of the "death sentence" clause of the Public Utility Holding Company Act.

Wire Sent To UNO Premier Of Iran Backs Up Envoy

NEW YORK (AP)—Premier Ahmad Qavam of Iran today gave unqualified support to Hussein Ala, his Ambassador here, in a telegram direct to the United Nations Security Council.

Greek Left-Wing Beaten

ATHENS (AP)—Leaders of the Conservative Populist Party claimed a victory today in Greece's Sunday elections and declared the rise of the left-wing parties.

Typhoon Sweeps Marianas Isles

PEARL HARBOR (AP)—Widespread but minor damage was reported by the Navy today after a typhoon of the season swept the Marianas Islands and headed for the Philippines.

End Of Price Checks Urged Declares Meat Black Market Running Wild

WASHINGTON (AP)—An attorney for small packers told the Senate Agriculture Committee today that the black market in meat has broken down and the black market is running wild.

Announced By Wedemeyer
In China Theater To Be Deactivated

SHANGHAI (AP)—Deactivation of the United States Army in the China theater May 1 was announced today by Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer upon instructions from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

System Paralyzed
Detroit Trolley-Bus Strike On

DETROIT (AP)—A wage dispute involving 5,200 street car and bus drivers tied up Detroit's municipal street railway system today and forced hundreds of thousands of workers to find private transportation to get to their jobs.

Akron In Strike Grip

AKRON, O.—(AP)—The streets of this rubber capital of 300,000 population were lined with workers striking today as a result of a CIO transport workers' strike.

In Far North

NEW YORK (AP)—Two "very sharp" earthquakes, about 100 miles apart, were recorded on the Fordham University seismograph at the Rev. Joseph J. Lynch reported.

'Very Sharp' Quake Shocks Are Recorded

NEW YORK (AP)—Two "very sharp" earthquakes, about 100 miles apart, were recorded on the Fordham University seismograph at the Rev. Joseph J. Lynch reported.

Weather

Official Weather Bureau Forecast
Fair and warmer today and tonight. Tuesday partly cloudy and milder. Wednesday cloudy with showers.

Professor Maxwell's Advance Prediction

The News presents Professor Maxwell's advance prediction of the weather for the week ending April 7, 1946.

400,000 Go Out Of Pits Over Lack Of Contract
Steel Companies Will Be Hit

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A work stoppage by the nation's soft coal miners, backing up the traditional "no contract" major steel company, the P. L. Flintknecht Works, began today for 400,000 workers whose collective bargaining contract expired at midnight.

Calvin settled over the coal strike. President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America announced that he would have a meeting with the steel industry to discuss the coal strike.

The beginning of the work stoppage found members of the union ready for a holiday anyway—their annual celebration of April 1 in honor of John Mitchell, one of the union's most powerful leaders. Actually, the effects of the strike therefore will be felt well into the future.

President Lewis' principal demand was that the industry establish a health and welfare fund for miners to be created from an assessment on each ton of coal produced. The fund would be administered by the union. The operators balked. The National Coal Association also balked at the assessment. The result was a "no contract" strike.

The union's demand for a welfare fund is not new. A year ago Lewis said the industry should set up a fund to pay for the health and welfare of miners. The operators balked. The National Coal Association also balked at the assessment. The result was a "no contract" strike.

Thousands of employees were late to jobs in major rubber plants, auto factories and in stores. Automobiles jammed thoroughfares as owners normally relying on buses and street cars drove to workstations.

Some concerns, including the E. F. Goodrich Co., arranged share-the-ride plan to ease the transportation tie-up which started off early last night as a contract covering about 60 bus and trolley operators of the Akron Transportation Co. expired without a new agreement in last-minute negotiations.

Actually transportation did not halt until the end of the work shift, 2 A. M., when operators took cars and buses to the barns. With no further negotiations scheduled immediately, both the Transport Workers Union and the Akron Transportation Co. issued statements saying they were willing to meet for discussions looking toward settlement of the wage dispute.

Father Joseph S. Jollat of the University said the quake was at least 6,000 miles distant, in an undetermined direction, and would be of destructive intensity if it occurred in any populated area.